5.1. Employment situation

5.1.1 Before studying the conditions of employment and unemployment as existed in the villages at the time of our survey, a general picture of the employment situation of the villages will be given. From this detailed classification of the economically active as well as inactive population can be known. The table below gives as the data regarding this aspect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic activity</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economically Active Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gainfully employed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Employer</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Employee</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Self-employed</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Unemployed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Without full time employment &amp; seeking employment for the first time</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) without full time employment, not seeking employment for the first time</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Economically Inactive population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) House workers</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Children, student, old &amp; retired persons, ill, infirmed &amp; handicapped.</td>
<td>2337</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5.1 (Contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic activity classes</th>
<th>A</th>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
<th></th>
<th>C</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Persons living on independent income from rent, remittance, pensions etc.</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Persons living on charity, inmates of institutions &amp; others.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>4351</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>5416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A for Garigaon, B for Hatigaon and C for Sijubari.

The first thing which strikes as in the table is the low proportion of economically active population in all the three villages. Thus the ratio of the economically active to economically inactive population was 35.0 to 65.0 in Garigaon, 44.0 to 56.0 in Hatigaon, 46.0 to 54.0 in Sijubari and 36.1 to 63.9 in all villages jointly. Thus the ratio of economically active population is very low in all these three villages, although it is the lowest in Garigaon followed by Sijubari. This points to the fact that the economic activity of these villages is kept at a low key. This ratio also shows that the there was a large number of unproductive population who are dependent for their livelihood on a small number of productive population in these villages. Since the family income has to be shared by all the members of the family earning or non-earning there was a low average income per capita and hence a low standard of life in general.
Because of this higher dependency burden, the capacity to save is limited and hence limited are the prospects of a rise in the economic conditions of the villagers in general.

Among the economically active population again, it can be seen that the number of gainfully employed was quite large as compared with the number who remained unemployed. This is more or less true in the case of all these three villages. Therefore, it seems that the incidence of unemployment does not pose much of a problem in these village. But if we take into account regularity of employment and hours of actual work put in, then a large magnitude of disguised unemployment or under-employment would appear to have been concealed in among the employed population. This aspect has been dealt with in a latter section of this chapter.

Among the gainfully employed people, the proportion of employer was very insignificant pointing to the fact that there were only few big farmers, industrialists or businessmen could keep other people on their payroll. Employees were mostly service holders of different grades and those who worked as paid staff in the shops and agricultural farms. This proportion was the highest in Hatigaon (27%), followed by Sijubari (10%) and Garigaon (3%). However, self-employed category registered the highest proportion among the gainfully employed. Of the total population their ratio was 12% in Garigaon, 10% in Hatigaon and 29% in Sijubari. Most of the self-employed people belonged to agricultural sector and only a few were occupied
in selfowned shops and small manufacturing units like wood works, cane or bamboo works and family looms. The predominance of self-employed people among the economically active population is mainly a rural characteristic and since of the three villages, Garigaon and Sijubari showed the predominance of earners who are self-employed, it can be reasonably presumed that these villages are rural in character upto that extent. Further, among the economically active population, a small number of unpaid family workers also is included. They generally work on the family farm or shop and are not paid in the way ordinary employees are paid. Their proportion is quite small varying from 1.6% to 4%.

About the unemployed people of the village, it can be said that their proportion is not very significant — it is 11% of the total population in Garigaon and only 4.4% in Hatigaon and 3.0% in Sijubari. Among these unemployment people, a larger section in the case of all three villages were seeking employment for the first time, that is they were fresh entrants to the labour market.

Now, of the total number of economically inactive population, by far the greater proportion was registered by children, students, old and retired persons etc. Their high proportion was caused mainly by the predominance of juvenile population in the village population. Thus this proportion was estimated to be 49.2% (of the total population) in Garigaon, 36% in Hatigaon and 34% in Sijubari. Next in importance comes houseworkers who
formed 10.8%, 17.0% and 18.0% of the total population of Garigaon, Hatigaon and Sijubari respectively. The other categories of the economically inactive population is not significant.

5.1.2 Economic Activity — Classification of population by religious group and income group.

We will now further study the economic activity status of the people of the three villages first by religious classes and then by income groups. This will give us an insight into community-wise and income group-wise variations in the economically active and inactive population. The following table will present these data.
Table 5.2: Community-wise and income group-wise distribution of economically active and inactive population. (in per cent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Economically active</th>
<th>Economically inactive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Community-wise Hindu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Income-group wise (average monthly household income)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) (- 75)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) (75-125)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) (125-175)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) (175-250)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) (250-500)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) (500 &amp; above)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making the field ready for sowing
Garigaon

Transplantation operation — Garigaon

Carrying harvest home - Garigaon

Drying paddy ears - Sijubari
Thus from the above table it can be seen that so far as the community-wise distribution of economically active and inactive people is concerned, there is almost no difference in this respect between Hindus and Muslims of Garigaon. However, in the case of Hatigaon village and in respect of economically active, the proportion of Hindus (48%) exceeded that of Muslims (40%). Since Sijubari is completely a Muslim village, the question of such a comparison does not arise.

Coming to the income group-wise classification of the people of these villages, it is quite clear that the proportion of economically active population in all the three villages is relatively high. As we go up the income scale, a downward trend in the proportion of economically active population is clearly discernible. The reasons for this trend are not far to seek. Since the economic conditions of the lower income group of people are very precarious, most of the family members including children had to labour hard even to eke out a living at the subsistence level. But this problem does not arise in the case of the families of the higher income brackets which can afford to send their children to school and keep their womanfolk at home.

5.1.4 Duration of Employment:

In this section, we will give the data regarding the duration of employment of the gainfully employed persons of the
villages under review and then regarding their operational skills. This will throw light on the nature of employment the occupied persons of these villages have and also on the functional efficiency of a section of them as workers which come from their hereditary and acquired skills.

The following table presents the related statistics regarding the duration of employment of the gainfully employed persons of Garigaon, Hatigaon and Sijubari.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Occupied persons according to duration of employment and nature of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of Employment</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Permanent</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Semi-permanent</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Temporary</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Seasonal</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Daily</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table it can be seen that so far as the duration of employment is concerned, there are wide differences among the different types of employment within a village and among the villages. Thus in the case of Garigaon daily employment accounts for as high as 33% of the total number of occupied persons as against 25% seasonal, 17% temporary, 10% semi-permanent and 15%
only permanent. On the other hand, Hatigaon village gives a slightly different picture in respect of duration of employment of occupied persons. Here the proportion of permanent employees is quite high (40%) compared with other types of employment which show more or less same proportion — thus semi-permanent showing 15%, temporary 10%, seasonal 18% and daily 17%. The predominance of permanent employment in the village Hatigaon is due to the high proportion government employees among the total occupied persons.

However, in the case of Sijubari village again, the relative proportions of the different types of employment shows a different and unbalanced picture. Thus in Sijubari, seasonal type of employment shows by far the highest proportion (45%), followed by employment on daily wage basis (25%), temporary type (17%) and then permanent (8%) and semi-permanent type (5%).

If we take all the three villages jointly, it can be seen that the types of employment in order of duration of work came to daily- 31%, seasonal- 26.4%, temporary- 16.5%, permanent- 16.1% and semi-permanent- 10%. The high proportion of workers on daily wage basis is a very disturbing and unhappy aspect of the employment situation of villages, as it largely causes the economic vulnerability of a large section of the people. Because of the uncertain nature of this type of employment, many of the households have had to live in economic insecurity and penury. This present state of employment situation has been caused by
the gradual ruin of traditional sources of employment provided by agriculture and forest and slow development of modern sources of employment like industry, trade, commerce, transport and services and also slow growth of education and skill formation. These causative factors are particularly applicable to Sijubari village and to a great extent of Garigaon village where most of the agriculturists have become seasonal workers, as the diminutive size of cultivable land cannot provide them employment on a permanent basis. In most cases, the income from agricultural operations had to be supplemented by some other economic activities. Economic viability of the daily wage-workers has been further diminished by the lack of work. Most of them are engaged in agricultural operations which are by nature seasonal. In the village Garigaon, quite often they are found to seek some gainful work in the nearby brick-kilns or in road building works or are engaged by the inmates of university campus for performing odd jobs. In the case of Sijubari village, the scope of employment of its daily wage-workers is not so wide. In this village during the off-season of agriculture, finding an employment becomes very difficult and sometimes they had to put up with the state of hunger and destitution.

5.1.5 Operational Skills:

In this section the data regarding the various skills possessed by the people of the villages have been given. In the first table the proportions of persons possessing no skill have
been shown by age-group for the three villages and in the next three tables the number of persons possessing different skills as percentage of all persons and as percentage of persons aged 15 and above for the villages — Garigaon, Hatigaon and Sijubari have been shown separately. It may be mentioned here that only those skills which are relevant in these villages have been shown. These skills are tailoring, pottery making, weaving, carpentry, rope-making, net-making, well digging, thatching, cane and bamboo work, welding and vehicle mechanic, laboratory assistant, nursing, vaccinators and other health workers etc.

Table 5.4: Percentage of persons possessing no skill by age-group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-group (Years)</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 and below</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-19</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>93.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>86.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 and above</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 and above</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>90.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all ages</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table shows that the proportion of persons possessing no skill was the highest in Sijubari which is a completely Muslim village followed by Garigaon and Hatigaon.
Thus the percentage of persons possessing no skill of persons of all ages was 94.2 in Sijubari, 92.5 in Garigaon and 90.6 in Hatigaon and in the case of 15 years and above age-group, this percentage was 90.6, 88.4 and 86.8 for Sijubari, Garigaon and Hatigaon respectively. All these figures show that the proportion of skilled persons was the highest in Hatigaon (9.4%) followed by Garigaon (7.5%) and the proportion of the skilled persons was the lowest in Sijubari (5.8%). This relative position of these villages applies also to the percentage of no-skill persons for the age-group of 15 years and above. There are also inter age-group differences in the proportion of persons possessing no skill in all these villages. Thus in the case of Garigaon, the largest percentage of no skill persons belonged to the age-group 11 and below (100%), followed by the age-groups 12-19 (92%), 20-34 (89.3%), 35-49 (86.8%) and 50 and above (82.5%). In other words, as the age-group becomes higher and higher, the proportion of no skill persons becomes lower and lower. This shows that the concentration of the traditional skills is larger among the people of higher age-groups and smaller among the people of lower age-groups. This is mainly because of the fact that the old and traditional skills no longer hold any attraction for the new generation, as in the changed economic conditions, they do no longer serve as a base for a viable occupation and in the context of the change in the occupational distribution of the people, at least some of these skills have become almost redundant. For example, the skills like pottery making, weaving, well digging,
thatching etc. have become irrelevant. Because more and more people are now using metallic utensils than the old and traditional earthen wares. Moreover, manufactured clothes are now widely used in place of hand woven clothes because of their availability, variety and cheapness and as a result, weaving has become more or less a dying skill. This is also the case in regard to the skills like well digging and thatching because of the fact that even the villagers now do not like to dug wells, rather, they will instal tubewells for getting drinking water and water for plants and vegetables and not only the well-to-do but persons with reasonable means of the village also try to make tin-roofed houses, if not R.C.C. buildings, in place of thatched houses. On our observation it has been found that the number of tin-roofed houses has increased remarkably during the last few years.

In the case of Hatigaon village some minor differences can be observed. Although in the case of this village also, greater concentration of the skilled persons is found to be in the higher age-group of people, get the relative proportions of the skilled persons in the higher age-groups are haphazard and irregular unlike Garigaon. Moreover, unlike Garigaon again, even in the lowest age-group (11 years and below) also, 2.6% of the population (all juvenile) have been found to possess some skill. This skill refers to mainly weaving which has been learnt and practised by the small girls of many of the original tribal villagers.
Sugarcane grower happy with his produce - Garigaon

A woman vendor - Sijubari

A vendor from Sarthebari in the village Garigaon to sell brass & bell metal utensils

Sugarcane crashing in progress - Garigaon

A village quack - Garigaon
When we take up the case of Sijubari, it can be found that like the village Garigaon, the relative percentage of persons with skill increases as the age-group becomes higher and higher. This again shows the concentration of the traditional skills among the older generations and the gradual decadance and irrelevance of these skills in the present changed circumstances. It may be mentioned that many of the forces and factors which explained such a trend in Garigaon can with more or less equal strength be applicable to Sijubari also.

Now a detailed account of persons possessing different skills in terms of percentages of the total population and of the persons belonging to the age-group of 15 years and above has been presented separately in the following three tables for the three villages — Garigaon, Hatigaon and Sijubari.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Persons possessing the skill as percentage of all persons</th>
<th>Persons aged 15 years &amp; above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tailoring</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pottery making</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Weaving</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Carpentry</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rope-making</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Net-making</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cane &amp; bamboo work</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Well digging</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Thatching</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Rice-husking</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Welding &amp; vehicle mechanic</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Laboratory assistant, nursing, vaccinator and health workers</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All skilled persons</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5.6: Percentage of persons possessing different skills amongst the total population and amongst the persons of age 15 years and above (Hatigaon)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Persons possessing the skill as percentage of all persons</th>
<th>Persons aged 15 years &amp; above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tailoring</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pottery making</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Weaving</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Carpentry</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rope-making</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Net-making</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Well-digging</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Thatching</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Rice-husking</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Welding &amp; Vehicle</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mechanic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Laboratory assistant,</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nursing, vaccinators and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Driving automobile</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All skilled persons</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Persons possessing the skill as percentage of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>all persons</td>
<td>Persons aged 15 years and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Tailoring</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pottery making</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Weaving</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Carpentry</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rope-making</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Net-making</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Well-digging</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Thatching</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Rice-husking</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Welding &amp; Vehicle mechanic</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Laboratory assistant, nursing, vaccinators and other health workers</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All skilled persons</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the enlisted skills, most of them are of the traditional and hereditary type. Moreover, some of these skills are also caste-based like the pottery making. However, there are some modern skills also recently acquired by the members of the younger generation of the village like welding and vehicle mechanic, health workers like vaccinators, pharmacists, clinical laboratory assistants etc. It is also to be noted that all the enlisted skills do not serve as base for a whole-time occupation. Thus the skills like rope-making, net-making and to some extent, weaving also are not generally used for making a living. They are used mainly as the source of secondary and subsidiary income. About the weaving, it can be said that it is a household skill of almost every Assamese family and the womenfolk of the villages particularly of the original Hindu families acquire this skill hereditarily. They generally make the clothes for daily use in the family looms mainly for the purpose of domestic use and only sometimes, a few surplus items are sold out to others for augmenting family income.

In the village Garigaon the notable skills of importance as determined by the proportions of their possessors — first relating to all persons and secondly, relating to persons aged 15 years and above are tailoring (1.5% & 2.0%), weaving (1.2% & 2.4%), carpentry (1.0% & 1.3%) etc. Rice husking by 'Dhenki' as a skill can still be found on a large scale among the women of the village particularly of the low income-group. It is also significant to note that recently a few non-
Girl weaving bedsheet - Hatigaon

Villageman on way to market to sell their handmade cane & bamboo products - Sijubari

Spinning at leisure time - Garigaon

Collecting firewood from the nearby forest - Sijubari
traditional and modern skills have been acquired by some of the village youths who are either plain illiterates or drop-outs of the schools and have been attracted to the fast developing and profitable automobile repairing business of welding and mechanics. Some of the village people possessing some sort of educational qualifications have been working as laboratory assistants, nurses, vaccinators, compounders etc. However in the entire village up to now, there is only one medical and engineering graduate. It is also noteworthy that in a big and thickly populated village like Garigaon, there is no barbar, blacksmith and goldsmith. In order to get the work of these classes of artisans, the village has to depend on the nearby market. In the village Hatigaon, almost similar skills with more or less same relative importance are possessed by the local and original people. Among the more important skills, mentioned may be made of tailoring (1.8% & 2.0%), pottery-making (1.6% & 1.8%), weaving (2.6% & 3.2%). Other traditional skills as mentioned in the table can be considered as minor. However, it is noteworthy that some of the villagers have recently acquired the modern urban skills like welding and vehicle mechanics (0.2% & 0.6%), laboratory assistants, nursing, vaccinators etc (0.6% & 0.9%) and also automobile driving (0.2% & 0.6%). This has, no doubt, been caused by the influence of the nearby urban economy.
Lastly in the case of the Sijubari village, operational skills of the people show some peculiarities. In this village there are persons possessing only traditional skills e.g., tailoring (1.2% & 1.8%) carpentry (1.4% & 2.0%), thatching (1.0% & 1.7%), rice-husking (1.6% & 2.0%). Other skills are only minor. This village is conspicuous by the absence of the traditional potters. Moreover, like in Garigaon and Hatigaon, there is no one possessing such modern and urban skills like motor mechanics, driving and health-workers. This shows that so far as modern skill formation is concerned, Sijubari village has received only little stimulus from the nearby urban economy.

5.1.6 Residence and Places of Work:

Places of work in relation to the places of residences is very significant for the gainfully occupied persons of a place. We cannot expect that places of work and residences will always be the same. These may be sometimes identical or adjacent particularly in the case of farmers having cultivable land very near their residences or small shop-keepers who set up their shops in a front room of their residential houses etc. But generally we find that the places of work and residences are different. It may be mentioned in this connection that the scatter or difference between places of work and residences is caused by several factors — the most important of which are spatial dispersion of population, location of employment — generating industrial or business concerns, location of market
centres or centres of other economic activities. Thus if the population is widely dispersed in a place, there is bound to be differences in varying measure for many occupied persons between places of work and residences. On the other hand, if the industrial or commercial firms or the centres of other economic activities are situated very near the places of residence, then no distance has to be covered and no time is involved in going to and coming from the places of work daily.

Moreover, apart from the location factor, the amount of time involved in covering the distance between the places of work and residence depends also upon the type of conveyance used. If the workers as commuters use fast moving vehicles like bus, station wagons, scooters and motor cycles, then naturally long distances also can be negotiated within a short time. On the other hand, if one has to go on foot or bi-cycle, then, then much more time will be required to cover even shorter distances.

In case when distances involved are more or less nil, no time is lost in movement to and from the places of work. As a result, there is not much of stress and strain involved and the workers can devote more time to enjoy family life and leisure. On the other hand, if long distances are to be covered, more time will be involved in daily movement causing more strain and fatigue and less enjoyment and pleasure.

In the following table proportions of occupied persons in the three villages by the length of distances covered for
work are presented for the broad occupational classes.

(a)

Table 5.8: Percentage distribution of persons in gainful employment by village, individual occupation and farthest distance travelled for work during last three months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance travelled (Km)</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hadigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cultivator

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>51.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Labourers

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other gainful workers

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All gainful occupations

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thus in the case of the village Garigaon, so far as the cultivators are concerned, only 7.5% of the earners work within one kilometre of their residence, 12.8% of the earners have their field of work between 1 and 2 Kms and 14.9% in the area beyond 2 Kms. Thus most of the cultivators of Garigaon have their farm lands in areas away from the village. Some of the cultivators cultivate land in Dispur area as share croppers which is about 20 Kms from the village of Garigaon. Their dependence on outside land is due to the acquisition of their farm lands for establishing the Engineering College and University Complex and also sale of farm land to outsiders for residential purposes. The distance of the places of work can also be found in the case of labourers including the agricultural labourers. Thus only 4.2% of all earners work as labourers within 1 Km of their residence, while 8.9% have to work in places between 1 and 2 Kms and 11.6% beyond 2 Kms. In the case of other gainful occupations which include sales workers, professional, administrative and clerical and other services, the same pattern can be observed. Thus in this category, only 5.5% work within 1 Km of area, 20.8% between 1 to 2 Kms and 13.8% beyond 2 Kms. This pattern is also reflected in the all gainful occupations where 17.2% of the earners only can work within a radius of 1 Km, while 42.5% between 1 and 2 Km and 40.3% beyond 2 Kms.
When we take the case of Hatigaon, a different pattern regarding the distances of the places of work can be observed. Thus in the case of cultivators, 10.2% of all earners work within 1 Km of their residence, 7.5% work between 1 to 2 Kms and only 2.0% beyond 2 Kms. In the case of labourers 10.1% work within 2 Kms and 2.0% beyond 2 Kms. In the case of the other gainful workers, 25.7% within 1 Km, 28.5% between 1 to 2 Kms and only 14% beyond 2 Kms. This relative position is also shown by the all gainful occupations where 38.9% can work near their residence, 43.1% a little farther — between 1 to 2 Kms and only 18.0% in places at a distance of more than 2 Kms.

The village Sijubari also has shown the similar pattern as in Hatigaon. Since major portion of the cultivable land lie very near their dwelling houses, the cultivators of this village do not have to go far for their work. Thus 30.0% are found to work within 1 Km of their residences, 15.2% between 1 to 2 Kms and only 6.1% beyond 2 Kms. The same trend is observed in labourers where 10.0% find work very near their houses, 13.5% little farther and 4.6% quite far. The other gainful workers show same position — 5.9% near, 11.3% little farther and 3.4% quite farther and when we take the whole earners, 45.9% among them work within 1 Km of their residences, 40% between 1 to 2 Kms and 14.1% beyond beyond 2 Kms of their dwellings.

Now in the following table we will present the proportions of occupied persons in these three villages by the amount of time involved in the movements for work for the broad occupational classes.
### Table 5.8: Percentive distribution of persons in gainful employment by villagers, individual occupation and time taken in a single trip in going to or coming from the place of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time taken</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Patigaon</th>
<th>Siibaad</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No time</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15 minutes</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5-1 hour</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 1 hour</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varying time</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No time</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15 minutes</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5-1 hour</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 1 hour</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varying time</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>107.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other gainful workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No time</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15 minutes</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5-1 hour</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 1 hour</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varying time</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table shows the proportion of persons taking different amount of time in the movements forward and backward for work. First, we take the case of Garigaon. In this village, we find that in the class of cultivators, only 3.0% of all the earners take no time in reaching the places of work, 7.6% take 1 to 15 minutes, 11.0% take 15 to 30 minutes, 7.5% take 30 minutes to 1 hour, 4.1% take more than 1 hours and 2.1% take varying time. This mainly applies to those cultivators who have cultivated land in different places far and near. It can be noted that this sort of time distribution follows roughly the characteristics of a normal distribution, that is, more or less middle time class (15-30 minutes) shows the largest frequency (proportions of earners) and the proportions of earners in the lower and the upper time classes are lower. This type of time distribution can be seen in the other types of occupational classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Taken</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Minbhar</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No time</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15 minutes</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-1 hour</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 1 hour</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varying time</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total              | 100.0    | 100.0    | 100.0   |       |
and in the case of all gainful employed persons where it can be found that 40.0% of the earners take 15-30 minutes and as we go up and down in the time scale the proportions of earners show declining trend.

However, in the case of both Katigaon and Dijubari, the highest proportions of earners in all the classes of occupations take only 1 to 15 minutes to go to and come back from the place of work. In both these villages the time distribution of earners show a skewed distribution. Since the larger frequencies of earners are concentrated in the lower time classes, the time distribution is skewed to the right or positively distributed. The distribution of all gainful occupations in both the villages is a typical case. Thus in all gainful occupations in the village Katigaon 11.7% of all the earners take no time in reaching and returning from the work site, while 40.5% take 1-15 minutes, 33.3% take 15-30 minutes, 6.0% take 0.5-1 hour, 3.2% take above 1 hour and 3.1% of the earners do not show any fixed time. In this category, Dijubari shows that 30.6% of the earners take 0 time, as much as 51.4% take 1-15 minutes, 17.1% take 15-30 minutes, 7.0% take 0.5-1 hour and only 2.9% taking varying amount of time.

If we make an inter-village comparison of the time taken in the movements both ways for the different classes of occupations, it can be found that in all these classes, while Katigaon shows that quite a sizeable proportion of workers-
have to spend longer time daily for reaching and returning from the work site, Karigaon and Sijubari on the other hand, show the opposite picture. In both these villages, smaller number of people take longer time or larger number of people take shorter time.

This pattern of time distribution of earners has been determined by the distances to be covered between places of residences and work. Since a large proportion of workers in Karigaon have to negotiate a longer distances, the time factor involved would naturally be longer. But in Karigaon and Sijubari, since the places of work are situated quite near the village, time involved is relatively shorter.
5.2 Unemployment Problem

5.2.1 In voluntary unemployment meaning thereby a situation where there are persons who are economically active but without any gainful employment — permanent or temporary, full time or part time, regular or seasonal and who are seeking such a gainful employment is an endemic problem of the Indian villages. This problem assumes some peculiar characteristics in the background of an Indian village, because of its predominantly rural and caste-structured society where most of the occupied persons take the form of family labour and self-employment. This is in contrast to the employment characteristics of the industrialised modern economy of the urban sector derived from the factory employment or employment in organised sector in the peculiar production relations of the urban economy. Therefore, the concepts or situations like full employment, technological unemployment or under-consumption unemployment which are common in an urban economy are not relevant in a rural economy. The predominant form of rural unemployment is the structural unemployment caused by the backwardness and rigidity of the socio-economic structure of the rural economy. Because of these structural differences of these two types of economy, the ratio of unemployed persons to the total number of economically active population is quite small in the rural area compared with the urban area. Pure unemployment does not pose much of a problem in the villages,
but what is hidden in the apparent employment is the high magnitude of disguised unemployment and under employment.

In this section different aspects of the unemployment problem of the villages under study have been dealt with to find out to what extent the characteristics of the rural unemployment are prevalent in these villages at the outskirts of an expanding city or in other words, to observe if there is any change in the unemployment characteristics taking place as a result of the urbanisation process going on in these peripheral villages.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that it is very difficult to arrive at a reasonably correct figure of the unemployed persons in the villages due to the prevalence of a high magnitude of disguised unemployment. This problem has been discussed in the later part of this chapter. Moreover, there are generally two types of unemployed persons — the new entrants to the labour market, that is, those persons who seek jobs for the first time and those who once had employment and lost it and are seeking jobs for the second time. However, we have not collected detail data of these two types separately. The figures of unemployment shown in the following tables represent both these types. Again in the measurement of employment and unemployment, the more meaningful base would be the economically active population (population below 15 years of age) who form the total working force. If we take this base
then the estimated figure of unemployment will be less than if the total population is used as the base. In our study we have used the working force as the base.

5.2.2 Unemployment by age-groups

In the following table, we have presented the number and proportions of unemployed persons in the different age groups of population in the villages — Garigaon, Hatigaon and Sijubari.

Table 5.9: Distribution of unemployed persons in different age groups of population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age groups</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-55</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-45</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-35</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-25</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have already shown (See Table No. ) that in village Garigaon, of the total population 11% are the
unemployeds. The proportion of unemployeds was only 3% in Hatigaon and 10.3% in Sijubari. As is shown in the above table proportion of the unemployed persons is higher in the lower age-groups and lower in the higher age-groups. As a matter of fact the proportion of unemployed persons gradually decreases as the age-group increases. This is true in the case of all these villages. Thus in the village Garigaon, out of 534 total unemployeds only 2.8% are more than 55 years of age, whereas, 9.0% are in the 45-55 age group, 21.0% in 35-45, 22.2% in 25-35 and 45.0% in 15-25 age-groups. In the village Hatigaon out of only 12 unemployeds, while there is no unemployed aged above 55 years, 7.6% are in 45-55, 16.7% in 35-45, 25.7% in 25-35 and 50.0% in 15-25 age group. Moreover, in Sijubari village, there is no unemployed above 55 years of age and in 45-55 age group and only 11.2% belongs to 35-45 age-group, 33.3% to 25-35 age-group and 55.5% to 15-25 age-groups. If we take all these three villages together, it can be seen that the age-group-wise proportions are more or less the replica of those of the Garigaon village, as the number of unemployed persons in Garigaon is by far the largest among the three. Both the absolute unemployment number and unemployment ratio of Garigaon far exceeded those of other two villages. Thus while the number of unemployed persons was a high as 534, it is only 12 in Hatigaon and 9 in Sijubari. Therefore, henceforward in the rest of this chapter we will restrict our study of the unemployment problem only to the village Garigaon except
In a few cases.

In regard to the age-groupwise proportions of unemployeds, it can be remarked that the incidence of smaller ratio of unemployeds in the higher age-groups and higher ratio in the lower age-groups is quite natural because of the fact that most of the people get occupied in some gainful work before they become quite old and on the other hand because of natural rise in population and labour force and slow rate of employment generation, there will be more and more job seekers in the younger age-group.

5.2.3 Unemployment by literacy standard

In the table below we will present the figures of the unemployeds in the different standards of literacy by age-group for the village Garigaon,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-Groups (Years)</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Lower Secondary</th>
<th>Higher Secondary</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
<th>Post-Graduate &amp; Technical</th>
<th>Total Literate</th>
<th>Total Unemployed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above 55</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-55</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48 (9.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-45</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>112 (21.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-35</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>119 (22.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-25</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>240 (44.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>289</strong></td>
<td><strong>156</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>245</strong></td>
<td><strong>534</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed (%)</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45.9 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in brackets indicate percentages of the total.

In the above table it can be seen that if a division is made between illiterate and literate unemployed persons of the village Garigaon, it is found that illiterate unemployeds form 54.1% of the total number of unemployed persons as against 45.9% literate unemployeds. This lower ratio of literate unemployeds in the village Garigaon is mainly due to slow growth of education and availability of jobs of the few educated persons.
in the nearby N.F. Railway headquarter and the University. Among the literate unemployed, it can be observed that lower the literacy status, higher is the unemployment ratio. Thus of the total unemployed persons of the village, the proportion of graduate unemployed was only 0.4% and this percentage was 1.3 in the case of intermediate, 5.8% in the case of higher secondary, 9.2% in the case of lower secondary and 29.2% in the case of primary. The higher percentage of illiterate unemployed in the village Garigaon is due to the shrinkage of the area of cultivable land and the general apathy of the local people towards hard physical labour. In regard to the high proportion of unemployed in the low standards of literacy, it can be said that it has been caused by the lack of appropriate skills for the available jobs and the increasing numbers of job seekers in this educational category who more often than not have to compete with the illiterate unemployed for the low grade occupations. In the case of the persons of higher literary standards, securing a job is not much of a problem, as their number is very few and these few are absorbed in the nearby University or Railway Offices. So much so that we do not find any unemployment among the few post-graduate and technical and professional degree or diploma holders of the village.

If we observe the age-groups of the unemployed persons in different literacy standards, it can be seen that the ratio of literate unemployed as compared with that of illiterate
unemployed has shown gradual increase as we move from higher age-group to lower age-group and upto the age-group of 25-35. Literate unemployed ratio was more than illiterate unemployed ratio and in the 15-25 age-group the relative position reversed, that is, literate ratio has become more than illiterate ratio in respect of unemployment. It is only in this age-group we find educated unemployment upto graduate standard. The main reason for this change in ratio is the receipt of education of various levels on a much wider scale by the members of the younger generation as compared with those of the older generation.

5.2.4 Unemployment by Community:

We will now study the relative magnitude of unemployment of the villages by the two main religious communities — Hindus and Muslims. Although Sijubari is an entirely Muslim village, it has also been taken into account in the present study. The following table presents the relevant statistical data regarding communitywise unemployment for the three villages.
### Table 5.1(a): Distribution of unemployed persons by community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Muslims</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garigaon</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>1162%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatigaon</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sijubari</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>129%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>1396%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The two figures in the brackets indicate percentages of the total unemployed persons and the total earners respectively.

The above table throws light on some important aspects of the unemployment situation of the villages by community. Thus taking the case of Garigaon, it can be seen that while the proportions of Hindus and Muslims in the total population are 29.5 and 70.5 respectively\(^1\) and the proportions of Hindus and Muslims in the total earners are 30.8 and 69.2 respectively,\(^2\)

1. See Table 3.1 of Chapter 3 of this thesis.
2. See Table 4.4 of Chapter 4 of this thesis.
the proportions of Hindus and Muslims in the total number of
unemployed persons are 35.5 and 64.5 respectively. Thus proportion-
ately there are more Hindu unemployed persons than Muslims in
the village Garigaon. This may be explained by the fact that
while Muslims of the village Garigaon have less educational
qualifications than the Hindus and a high proportion of them
is engaged in agriculture, petty business and other odd jobs
which act as some sort of a shock absorber in the rough and
irregular\textsubscript{path} of employment. On the other hand, the Hindu
inhabitants of the village having more educational attainments
generally prefer office or sedentary jobs which may not be
immediately available to the required extent. This may be the
main reason for the slightly higher proportion of Hindu unemp-
loyed in the Garigaon village.

When we take the Hatigaon village, it can be seen that
the proportions of Hindus and Muslims out of the total popula-
tion are 35.3 and 14.7 respectively. But as against these,
the proportions of Hindu and Muslim unemployed in the total
unemployed persons of the village are 70 and 30 respectively.
Thus in the case of Hatigaon proportionately there are more
Muslim unemployed than justified by their proportion in the
total population.

When all the three villages are taken together, the
proportions of Hindu and Muslim unemployed bear close simila-
rity with those of the Garigaon village, because of its superior
numerical strength.
5.2.5 Unemployment by income groups

We will now discuss the unemployment situation of the three villages by the different income groups. For this purpose six income groups have been used — (rs.) 0-75, 75-125, 125-175, 175-250, 250-500 and 500 and above. These income groups can be broadly divided into 3 income classes — poor, middle and rich. For the purpose of this study the income group upto rs. 250 (monthly) has been considered as poor, from rs. 250 to rs. 500 as middle and above rs. 500 as rich. The relevant data regarding this aspect are presented in the following data.
Table 5. Unemployed persons by income groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Upto 75</th>
<th>75-125</th>
<th>125-175</th>
<th>175-250</th>
<th>250-500</th>
<th>Above 500</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Garigaon</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hatigaon</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sijubari</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>219</strong></td>
<td><strong>39.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
<td><strong>27.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>106</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the table it can be seen that just like in the case of unemployment by age-group, in the case of unemployment by income-groups also, the same trend can be found. Thus the number and proportion of the unemployed are lower in the higher income-groups and higher in the lower income-groups. As seen in the table, in the case of the village Garigaon, the proportion of unemployed persons in the income-group of upto Rs. 75 was as high as 39.5%. However, this percentage is 27.5 for Rs. 75-125 income group, 18.9 for Rs. 125-175 income group, 11.0 for Rs. 175-250 income group and only 3.0 for Rs. 250-500 income group and there is no unemployed person in the income group of above Rs. 500. Similarly, in the case of Hatigaon village, out of the total number of unemployeds, 41.7% belongs to the income group of upto Rs. 75, 33.3% to Rs. 75-125 group and 25.0% to Rs. 125-175 group. It is remarkable that in this village there is no unemployed person beyond the income group of Rs. 125-175. Sijubari village shows the more or less similar characteristics.

Thus in this village out of the total unemployed persons 33.3% fall in the income-group of upto Rs. 75, 44.4% in Rs. 75-125 income-group and 22.2% in Rs. 125-175 income-group and here also there is no unemployed persons above the income-class of Rs. 125-175. As in earlier cases the relative proportions of unemployeds in the different income classes for all the three villages jointly bear close resemblance with those of the village Garigaon because of its numerical strength.
If we further analyse unemployment data of the villages by the different broad income strata, it can be found that in the village Garigaon about 97 percent of the unemployed persons belong to the poor stratum and only 3 percent belong to the middle stratum and there is no unemployment among the rich section. Again, in the case of Hatigaon village, the entire unemployed persons belong to the poor stratum and there is no unemployed in the middle or higher income strata. This is also the case in the Sijubari village where all the unemployed persons belong to the poor stratum. Thus it is obvious that for the middle and upper income groups because of their educational attainments and availability of jobs relative to their number, obtaining an employment is not much of a problem. Thus for Garigaon many of the educated persons have been able to secure jobs as clerks, peons etc. in the nearby railway and University offices. Some of them have succeeded in doing the function of contractor for many of construction and repair works in the University. In Hatigaon and Sijubari also the few educated youngmen have been able to find reasonably good white collar jobs in the nearby vast secretariate establishment and other offices of the Government of Assam. Therefore, the unemployment problem in these villages is mainly concentrated among the poorer section of the people. This problem has been created not only by their rising number, but also by the shrinkage of agricultural activities, lack of educational qualifications, skill and training and also hatred for works
which require hard manual or physical labour. Thus although
a large chunk of the uneducated and unskilled surplus labour
force could have been engaged as labour in earthfilling and
road building and repair works, house construction works the
scope of which is ever widening in the rapidly expanding city
of Gauhati, but because of a general apathy for such works,
cheap labour from other states like Bihar, Orissa and Andhra
Pradesh and also local immigrant population had to be engaged
for the purpose. Again, there is also rising scope for such
manual transport operatives like rickshaw pulling, thel
pulling etc. But till now only a few have come forward to
take up such works. As for example, there are about 25 rick-
shaws that run in the greater university township, but out
of them only 3 are run by the local youths and the rest are
run by the Bihari people. Therefore, in this case it is not
the lack of employment opportunities, which is the main
reason of the incidence of unemployment among the unskilled
people of the lower income classes of the village Garigaon,
but the hatred for hard physical work. These people prefer
low grade office jobs like Peon, Chowkidar, Mali, Hostel
bearer etc, which give them regular income although the rate
of pay is very modest. The job preferences of the people of
Garigaon village have been elaborately dealt with in the
next section.
5.2.6 Job preferences of the unemployed

In the course of survey regarding employment-unemployment situation in the village, information was gathered from the unemployed as to their individual choices regarding employment. These information reveal certain important characteristics regarding the job preferences of the unemployed people of the village of Garigaon. We have taken only the village of Garigaon for the analysis of this problem, as the absolute number of unemployed persons in other two villages is too small to be of any significance. First the job preferences of the unemployed by the different age-groups in both industrial and occupational classes will be analysed and then a study will be made regarding job preferences by different literary groups. The table below presents the data regarding the first aspect.
**Table 5.12 : Types of Employment sought by different age-groups (Garigaon)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial Classes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Agriculture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Manufacturing</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Construction</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Trade &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Transport &amp; Communication</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Repair services</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Other services</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Others</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>240</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupational Classes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Farmers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Labourers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sales workers</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Professional, adm, clerical etc.</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other gainful occupation</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Others</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>240</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table clearly shows that most of the unemployed persons of Garigaon (taking all the age-groups together) displayed their predilection for services and least for agriculture. Thus 47.6% of the unemployed people sought different services as employment as against only 1.9% for agriculture. This percentage was 17.6 for trade and commerce, 10.5 for construction, 8.6 for transport and communication, 6.2 for manufacturing etc, when we compare the choices of jobs of different age-groups it can be found that in most of the age-groups, services were the predominant choice. However, apart from services many people upto the age of 45 years showed their preference for such economic fields like manufacturing, construction, trade and commerce and transport and communication. Among the unemployeds above 45 years of age, a few only showed interest in agriculture and trade and commerce.

The same pattern of choices can be observed in the case of the different occupational classes. Thus about 52% of the total unemployeds of the village sought professional, administrative, clerical and other office jobs, 21.2% liked to be sales workers and 17.4% wanted jobs of the category of other gainful occupations. There was minimum liking for such occupational classes as farmers and labourers. Now if we analyse the choices of the different age-groups, it can be found that majority of the unemployed persons in the younger age-groups showed their preference for 4th and 5th category of occupation.
There were also a sizeable number of unemployeds of the younger age-groups who preferred to be sales workers. But there was none in the younger age-group who showed their liking for the occupations of farmers and labourers. Thus it is clear that majority of the unemployed persons of Garigaon like to obtain regular and permanent office jobs and different professions. On the other hand, agricultural works and works of labour involving hard physical effort were naturally rated very low.

The following table gives the data of job preferences by different literary groups.
Table 5.13: Types of Employment sought by different literary groups (Garigaon)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industrial Classes</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Lower Secondary</th>
<th>Higher Secondary</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
<th>Post-graduate</th>
<th>Tech. &amp; Professional</th>
<th>Total Literate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Agriculture</td>
<td>10 (1.9)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10 (1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Manufacture</td>
<td>19 (3.6)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16 (3.0)</td>
<td>33 (6.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Construction</td>
<td>28 (5.2)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34 (6.4)</td>
<td>56 (10.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Trade &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>59 (11.0)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44 (8.2)</td>
<td>94 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Transport &amp; Communication</td>
<td>28 (4.3)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25 (4.7)</td>
<td>46 (8.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Repair Services</td>
<td>12 (2.2)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10 (1.9)</td>
<td>22 (4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Other Services</td>
<td>128 (24.0)</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>139 (26.0)</td>
<td>254 (47.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Others</td>
<td>10 (1.9)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9 (1.7)</td>
<td>19 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>239 (54.1)</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>245</strong></td>
<td><strong>245</strong></td>
<td>534 (100.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Lower Secondary</td>
<td>Higher Secondary</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>Post-graduate</td>
<td>Tech. &amp; Professional</td>
<td>Total Literate</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>7 (1.3)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7 (1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers</td>
<td>9 (1.7)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Workers</td>
<td>67 (12.5)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46 (8.6)</td>
<td>113 (21.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, adm., clerical etc.</td>
<td>124 (23.2)</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150 (28.1)</td>
<td>274 (51.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other gainful occupations</td>
<td>60 (11.2)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33 (6.2)</td>
<td>93 (17.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>22 (4.1)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16 (3.0)</td>
<td>38 (7.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>239 (54.1)</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>245 (45.9)</td>
<td>534 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the brackets indicate percent.
From the above table it can be seen that the relative proportions of illiterate and literate unemployeds in the village Garigaon were 54.1 and 45.9 respectively. In the case of the industrial classes, most of the illiterate unemployeds sought employment in different services. Thus out of 289 illiterate unemployeds, 128 or 44.2% preferred services, 59 or 20.4% preferred trade activities, 28 or 9.7% construction works and only 10 or 3.5% preferred agricultural works. The choice for services was more prominent in the case of unemployeds of all literary classes and nobody opted for agriculture. The next best choice was for trade and commerce, construction and manufacture etc. In regard to relative proportions of choosers for the different industrial classes, there is a strange similarity between illiterate and literate unemployeds in the village Garigaon.

In regard to the distribution of choice among the different occupational classes, it can be found that by far the largest number of illiterate as well as literate unemployeds sought fourth category of occupations which are mainly office jobs. None of the literate unemployeds showed preference for the occupation of farmers and labourers. Among the illiterate unemployed persons also, only a very few sought such occupations. Apart from the fourth category of occupations, sales workers and other gainful occupations also held attraction for quite a sizeable section of unemployed — both illiterate and literate. In regard to the distribution of choices
among the occupational classes also, there are similarities between illiterate and literate unemployeds of the village Garigaon.

Thus on the basis of the analysis of the above table it is clear that the choice of the majority of the unemployeds of the village — both illiterate and literate — was for service occupations and office works and comparatively preference for occupations involving physical exertion, risk-taking and enterprise like occupations of farmers, labourers, sales-workers etc.

5.3 Incidence of under-employment (Unemployment within employment)

5.3.1 Under-employment is an incidence in which a worker may be apparently employed, yet in actual practice he is redundant for the work in which he is engaged, as he is not essential to maintain the existing level of production. In such cases, the capacity or potentiality of workers are not fully used. The incidence of under-employment is commonly found in the agricultural sector of a backward economy, where because of scarcity of land and increasing pressure of population on land, many of the engaged persons in agriculture are actually surplus and as a result, their marginal productivity is very small or almost nil. Moreover, because of the seasonality of the agricultural operations, agricultural workers find work only during some particular seasons and during off seasons they have to remain almost idle due to the absence of
additional or alternative productive works causing the incidence of under-employment. The situation of under-employment is mostly found in the case of self-employed persons in other types of works such as shop-keepers, vendors, hawkers, transport operators and also service holders who, because of lack of adequate demand or market, they had to work at a very low level and also due to non-availability of suitable jobs, many of them had to accept inferior jobs.

On our survey of employment — unemployment situation of the villages under study, a large measure of under-employment has been discovered among the employed persons. In order to reveal their characteristic additional data regarding this aspect have been collected. In the following pages a study of this problem in these villages will be made on the basis of some tables incorporating the field data.

Table 5.14: Magnitude of under-employment and full employment (within employment)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Employment</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Under-employed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Caused by non-availability of work</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) due to sickness</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Voluntary</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fully Employed</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>81.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1162 100.0 105 100.0 129 100.0 1396 100.0
The table above clearly shows that when we take all the three villages together, the ratio of under-employed to fully employed within the total number employed were 30.6 to 69.4 and out of the total under-employed, by far the major portion became partially employed because of the non-availability of suitable full time work. The other two causes — sickness and volition resulted in under-employment only in a few cases.

It is noteworthy that there are significant inter-village differences in regard to the extent of under-employed. Thus, while Garigaon showed 29.4 per cent of the total number employed in the village as under-employed, the percentage was as high as 50.4 in Sijubari and as low as 19.0 in Hatigaon. The proportions of the under-employment in these villages have definitely been influenced by the relative importance of agriculture and self-employment in these villages. The dependance on agriculture is the highest in Sijubari followed by Garigaon and Hatigaon. However, in regard to the source of under-employment, the villages showed the same factor as the main source — non-availability of work. The other two sources were minor in all the three villages.

5.3.2 Distribution of under-employed persons by age-group

The extent of under-employment in the villages in the different age-groups will now be studied. The following table provides the relevant data.
Table 5.15: Distribution of under-employed by age-groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-group (Years)</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-25</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-35</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-45</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-55</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 55</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When we look at the above table, it can be seen that in the case of all villages taken together, 28.3% of the unemployed belonged to 15-25 years age-group, 31.6% to 25-35 age-group, 22.5% to 35-45 age-group, 12.2% to 45-55 age-group and only 5.4% to the group above 55 years. Thus the incidence of under-employment is higher in the lower age-group. A similar pattern can be found in the case of the individual villages with slight variations. Therefore, the age-distribution of under-employed shows that it is the younger generation of earners particularly, who have been faced with the problem of finding full time jobs commensurate with their qualifications and abilities.

5.3.3 Distribution of under-employment by literary classes

We will now discuss the number and proportion of under-employed in the three villages in the different literary groups. The table below presents the data regarding this aspect.
Table 5.16: Distribution of under-employeds by literary standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literary status</th>
<th>Garigaon</th>
<th>Hatigaon</th>
<th>Sijubari</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Secondary</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Secondary</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-graduate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical &amp; Professional</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total literate</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total illiterate</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is evident in the table above that the under-employed persons in all the villages were concentrated mainly within the illiterate group and a small portion in the low grade literary groups — primary and lower secondary. Taken all the villages together, it can be seen that as high as 73.8% of the total under-employeds were illiterate, 19.9% were of primary standard and 4.2% lower secondary standard, 1.6% higher secondary standard and 0.5% only of intermediate standard. There was no under-employed among graduates, post-graduates and technical and professional degree holders. This pattern of classification can also be found in the case of the village Garigaon. In the case of the other two villages...
there was no under-employed in the literary classes above lower secondary. The main reason for this phenomenon is the negligible number of literate persons of higher strata in these villages for whom finding a full time job did not prove to be much of a problem.

5.3.4 Duration of under-employment

So far we have studied the problem of under-employment of the villages in terms of number of persons. In this section we will make an attempt at an estimate of the period of under-employment or in other words, magnitude of under-employment in terms of time. The following table supplies the relevant data.

Table 5.17: Distribution of under-employed according to the class intervals of number of days work was not done in a year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class internal of days of no work</th>
<th>Under-employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 180 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121-130 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5.17 (Contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class internal of days of no work</th>
<th>Under-employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-120 days A</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-90 days A</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-60 days A</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 30 days A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: A</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1. A stands for Garigaon, B for Hatigaon, C for Sijubari and T for Total.
2. These data relate to one year before the date of survey.
From the above table it can be seen that in all the villages the under-employed persons in varying numbers went without any work for different periods within a year. Thus from our survey it has been found that in the village Garigaon, 7.3% of the under-employed had no work for more than six months, 12.5% had no work between 4 to 6 months, 22.3% between 3 to 4 months, 36.5% between 2 to 3 months, 17.3% between 1 to 2 months and only 4.1% had no work for period less than a month. Thus the classification of workless days in the Garigaon shows the characteristics of normal distribution in which the central classes of workless days (61-90 days) account for the largest number of under-employed, and the frequency of under-employed becomes lower in the upper and lower classes of workless days. This pattern of distribution is found not only in the village Garigaon, but also in the villages Hatigaon and Sijubari and in the case of all villages taken together.