



## INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC AMENITIES IN DEORI VILLAGES:-A CASE STUDY OF SADIYA SUB-DIVISION, ASSAM

**Dr. Surjya Chutia**

Associate Professor Tinsukia College Tinsukia, Assam

### KEYWORDS :

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Infrastructure can be defined as a kind of structure which is built to provide services in the economy. Infrastructure can be classified into economic and social infrastructure. Economic infrastructure includes energy, transport and communication, science and technology etc. On the other hand social infrastructure consists of education, health, housing conditions, sanitation, safe drinking water and other civic amenities. Development and expansion of infrastructures are the basic need for economic development of an area. Inadequacy of social infrastructure and lack of personal hygiene have the major causes of many fatal diseases in many rural areas of Assam. Health surveys in different parts of India reveals that about 70% of the morbidity and mortality among rural population can be attributed to the direct and indirect effects of poor environment in the villages (Santhanam, 1989). It is also a matter of concern that health and hygiene status of the schedule tribe population continue to be lower than the non-tribal population in terms of all parameters. The tribal people are generally living close to nature more and they are influenced more by socio-cultural and environmental dimensions in their health practices

The Deoris are one of the plains Schedule Tribes of Assam, who have been able to maintain their old tradition, culture, religious believes and practices intact, in spite of various socio-political trials and tribulations through the ages. Ethnically they are affiliated to the Indo- Mongoloid group and their 'Deori language' also belongs to the Tibeto-Burman of the great family of Sino-Tibetan languages. The tribe comprises of four main divisions (Khel), namely- the Dibongiya, the Tengapaniya, the Borgoya and the Patorgoya. Each of the divisions is termed as 'goyan' or 'khel' and said to be originated from a particular river's name. The Deori people who were living on the bank of rivers Dibang, Tengapani, Borgong and Patsadia or Patarsal were respectively known as Dibongiya, Tengapaniya, Borgoyan and Patorgoyan. The Patorgoyan group is not traceable at present. It is presumed that the members of this group might have been amalgamated with the other existing groups of Deoris or with other communities. Only the people of Dibongiya khel can speak their own language. But they too use Assamese Language and script for intercommunity communication. As per 2011 census, the total Deori population in Assam was 43750, comprising of 21938 male and 21812 female population. They are mainly concentrated in the districts of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh & Jorhat.

#### 1.1 SADIYA SUB-DIVISION:

'Sadiya' is one of the most remote and backward sub-divisions of Assam. The sub-division of Tinsukia district is situated at the estuary formed by the mighty river Brahmaputra and Dibang rivers. It's headquarter is called as Chapakhowa, about 12 km distance from the Brahmaputra river. As per 2011 census total land area of the sub-division is 789.95 sq km and the total population is 102434. The total male population is 52572 and female population is 49862 which show the sex ratio as 948 female per 1000 male population in the sub-division. About 23.79% population is schedule tribes and 2.9 % is schedule caste in the sub-division. As per the 2011 census, the literacy rate of the sub-division is 74.69%, where male literacy is 82.4% and female literacy is found to be 66.59% only. It shows that there is a big gap between male literacy and female literacy in the sub-division. The total number of inhabitant villages of the sub-division is 170 in 2011 census, out of which 16 villages are Deori villages. A village is considered to be Deori village if the percentage of Deori households in the village is about 50% or the above.

#### 1.2 OBJECTIVE :

The present paper is an attempt to examine the infrastructure facilities and basic amenities in Deori villages as like- housing conditions,

drinking water facilities, latrine facilities, food intake pattern, hygiene behaviour etc. The paper is prepared mainly on the basis of field study data collected from the three main Deori villages of the Sadiya sub-division in 2015 through an interview schedule.

#### 1.3 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY:

Three Deori villages of the Sadiya sub-division having high moderate concentration of Deori population have been purposely selected as the sample villages for the study. About 30% of the Deori households of the sample Deori villages have been randomly selected for the intensive study. The three sample Deori villages are-

- 1) Chunpura Deori gaon (in north from the Chapakhowa centre)
- 2) Kapoupathar Deori gaon (in west from the Chapakhowa centre)
- 3) Bura-Buri Deori gaon (in east from the Chapakhowa centre)

The total Deori household of the three sample villages is 460 and the total sample Deori household is 138. So the study is confined into 138 sample Deori households of the sub-division. The paper is prepared on the basis of primary data collected from the 138 Deori households of the three sample Deori villages of the Sadiya sub-division in 2015 through an interview schedule. The data so collected have been analysed by using appropriate statistical tools and tables to examine the actual conditions.

#### 2.0 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

The total number of sample Deori households surveyed in the study is 138, where the total population is 860, comprising of 438 male and 422 female populations. The sex ratio is found to be about 963 (females per thousand males) which is far better than the state's sex ratio (i.e, 935) as per 2001 census. The following table no-1 shows the village-wise distribution of surveyed households with sex wise population.

**TABLE NO 1**

Village-wise distribution of Surveyed Households with Sex wise Population

Sample Villages	Total Deori Household	Surveyed Household	Male	Female	Total population
Chunpura Deori gaon	125	38	141	135	276
Kapoupathar Deori gaon	155	46	130	129	259
Bura-Buri Deori gaon	180	54	126	127	325
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>860</b>

Source : Field Work, 2015

#### 2.1 AMENITIES IN THE SAMPLE VILLAGES:

In order to assess the basic amenities in the sample villages, few indicators such as –schools, post office, hospitals, government fair shop etc. have also been observed in survey and the results are given in the following table no-2.

**TABLE NO-2**

Infrastructural facilities available in the sample villages

Sample Villages	LP school	ME school	High school	HSS/ College	PHC	Govt shop	Bank/ PO
Chunpura Deori gaon	01	01	NIL	NIL	NIL	01	NIL
Kapoupathar Deori gaon	01	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	01	NIL

Bura-Buri Deorigaon	01	01	NIL	NIL	NIL	01	NIL
---------------------	----	----	-----	-----	-----	----	-----

Source: FieldWork,2015

From the table no-2, it is clear that each and every sample village has a LP school, two villages have ME school. But there is no high school and higher secondary school in the sample villages. No bank branch, PHC and sub-post office is set up in the villages till now. On the other hand, one govt. fair shop is found in each sample village. It can be concluded that basic infrastructural facilities need to be developed in the Deori villages of the Sadiya.

## 2.2 HOUSING CONDITIONS:

Housing condition is an important determinant of fertility as well as mortality levels of a population. Housing condition includes all the basic facilities of a house such as- source of drinking water, latrine facility, source of lighting, source of cooking, separate bath room etc. These variables can also be regarded as the indicators of the level of modernization and socio-economic development of a society. Housing conditions of the sample households are shown in the following table no-3

**TABLE NO 3**  
Distribution of Households by Housing Condition

Housing Condition	Type of Facility	No of Households	Percentage to the total sample Household
Type of House	Pucca	17	(12.32%)
	Semi Pucca	46	(33.3%)
	Kutchha	75	(54.38%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
Source of Drinking Water	Separate Water Tape	10	(7.25%)
	Separate Tube well	79	(57.24%)
	Common Tube well	32	(23.19%)
	Common Wall	17	(12.32%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
Latrine	Pucca (sanitary)	21	(15.22%)
	Kutchha	96	(69.56%)
	Open	21	(15.22%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

Source: FieldWork,2015

It appears from the table no-3 that the housing condition of the surveyed population is far from satisfactory as most of the households do not enjoy the basic amenities of life such as pucca house, pucca latrine and pure drinking water. The hygiene behaviour of the surveyed Deori population is detrimental to their good health. It is found that only 12.32% of the sample households have pucca house, 33.3% have semi pucca and the remaining 54.38% have kutchha house. It is also observed that only 15.22% of the households have sanitary latrine. As there are no public latrine facility, a large portion of the population (15.22%) go to open fields and nearby jungle for latrine which is very unhygienic. Another fact is that they don't use scientific method of purification of drinking water which is the source of many serious diseases among them.

## 2.3 SOURCE OF LIGHTING AND COOKING:

**TABLE NO 4**  
Distribution of Households by source of lighting and cooking

Sources	Type of Facility	No of Households	Percentage to the total sample Household
Source of Lighting	Electricity	17	(12.32%)
	Kerosene	121	(87.68)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
Source of Cooking	Fire wood	95	(68.84%)
	Kerosene Stove	7	(5.07%)
	LPG	32	(23.19%)
	Coal/others	4	(2.90%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

Source: Field Work,2015

It is observed from the table no-4 that only 12.32% households have

electricity facility which is significantly low as compare to the state average. In Assam as a whole, 26.4% households have electricity in urban areas and 21.1% in rural areas (census report 2001, India, Assam, part-III). Again, fuel consumption pattern is also an indicator of the development level of a society. It is clear from the table that still 68.84% households use fire wood as their source of cooking; only 23.19% is using LPG as their cooking fuel.

## 2.4 PERSONAL HYGIENIC BEHAVIOUR:

To measure personal hygiene pattern among the Deoris, some indicators such as daily bath, daily brush, washing hands before meals, cutting of nails and cleaning of mattress etc. have been included in the interview schedule. It is found in door to door survey that out of total surveyed population, 59.9% takes bath regularly (daily), 64.6% population have brush teeth daily. It is worth to mention here that brush means cleaning teeth by any means. About 70.8% Deori people washes their hands before any meal, while remaining 29% takes food by dirty hands which are absolutely unhygienic. Nearly 32% surveyed people cut their nails weekly. Only 15% of the population washes their mattress and cloth regularly. During field study of the sample villages, it is also found that most of the families were little conscious of personal hygiene. Use of common towels, and drinking cups/glass, carelessness about handkerchief, imperfectly washed dishes and hand soiled with nasal secretion were prevalent practices. Diffusion of some infectious diseases could possibly be related to such unhygienic habits.

## CONCLUSION:

The findings of the study show that health and hygiene status of the Deoris are lower than those of some other population groups of the state and national average in many aspects. The major determinants of the nutrition and health status of the Deori population are education, income and awareness. Education, health and medical facilities should be increased and special campaigns should be organized to create awareness about hygiene behaviour among the Deori people. The problems faced by the Deoris have to be examined carefully and need based development programme should be implemented with proper monitoring specially in the field of education, economy and health in priority basis.

## REFERENCES

- Census of India 2011, series 19, Directorate of Census operation, Assam.
- Borah KC(2006)ed.'The Bodos: A Demographic Profile', published by the department of a. Economics, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh under SAP printed at b. Unique Offset, Santipara Dibrugarh, Assam, p-22, 27.
- Deori Saranan (2002) 'Religious Practices of the Deoris', Bina Library, Guwahati.
- Deori Shashidhar (2007) 'A Hand Book on Deori Culture', Printed at Epitome Offset, North a. Lakhimpur, Assam, .
- Konwar Arpana (1997)'Bhasa-Sahityar Bibhid Chinta'(in Assamese), Banalata, Dibrugarh, a. 1st edition,
- Sharma Thakur GC (1972) 'The Plain Tribes of Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar and a. Nogaon', Tribal Research Institute, Shillong, p-30.
- Sinha BB (1982) 'Society in Tribal India', BR Publishing Corporation, Delhi..
- Sengupta S (2003) ed. 'Tribes of North East India', Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi.
- 3.office of the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs quoted in www.indiabudget.net.in