

Chapter-III

Background of the area select for the study

This chapter includes the historical background of the Development Blocks along with a brief introduction of the both Tinsukia and Dhemaji district.

Tinsukia District is one of the 33 districts of Assam. The district's geographical boundary is covered by the Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh is on the east; the Brahmaputra, the Dibang and the Dhemaji district are on the west, the slopes of hilly tracts of Arunachal Pradesh is on the north and Dibrugarh district and Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh are on the south. Tinsukia district covers a total area of 3790,00 sq.km¹. The district consists of 3 (three) sub-divisions i.e. Tinsukia, Margherita and Sadiya. There are 7(seven) Blocks in Tinsukia District; 5 (five) Blocks under Tinsukia subdivision i.e. Kakopathar , Hapjan , Itakhuli , Guijan , Saikhowa and one each under Margherita subdivision i.e. Margherita and Sadiya Subdivision i.e. Sadiya. 5 (five) Legislative Assembly Constituencies (L.A.C) i.e. 122-Tinsukia LAC, 123-Digboi LAC, 124-Margherita LAC, 125-Doomdooma LAC and 126-Sadiya LAC falling in the district .The district have 88 village panchayats, 1162 inhabited villages, 7(seven) Anchalik Panchayats, 4(four) revenue circles. Moreover there are 6(six) fire service stations, 1(one) I.T.D.P, 11 police stations, 7(seven) police outposts.

3.1.1 Basic information about four Development Blocks of Tinsukia District:

Table-3(i)
General information of Tinsukia & its four Development Blocks

Sl No	Contents	Kakopathar Development Block	Itakhuli Development Block	Hapjan Development Block	Guijan Development Block
1	Name of the Block	Kakopathar Development Block	Itakhuli Development Block	Hapjan Development Block	Guijan Development Block
2	Year of Establishment	1962	1995	1962	1995
3	Number of G P under the Block	15Nos	9Nos	16Nos	9Nos
4	Total number of Village under the Block:	251Nos	107Nos	195Nos	104Nos
5	Total Area	486.76	198.84	406.79	168.60
6	Distance from the District Head Quater	50Km	15Km	14Km	12Km

Source- Source- Block Development Office, Kakopathar / Itakhuli / Hapjan/ Guijan , Tinsukia District;2014

The research study is conducted in four Development Blocks of Tinsukia district of Assam. These are namely-Kakopathar Development Block, Itakhuli Development Block, Hapjan Development Block and Guijan Development Block .The Kakopathar Development Block is situated in the eastern part of Assam surrounded by the Arunachal Pradesh and Saikhowa Development Block is in the north, Margherita Block is in the south, Arunachal Pradesh is in the east and Hapjan Block is in the west. This Block was established in 1962 and covers a total area of 832,00 sq.km.² The Block is situated by the side of National Highway No 52 to Arunachal Pradesh; and 40 k.ms away from the headquarter of Tinsukia District. The Block has 15-village panchayat and 251 villages.

The Itakhuli Development Block is situated in southern part of Tinsukia district. It is surrounded by Arunachal Pradesh from the east and south, Margherita Block from the north, Guijan Development Block from the West. This Block has an area of 198.84 sq.km. The Block was established in 1995. It is situated 15 Km away from Tinsukia district headquarter. The Block has 9 village panchayats and 107 villages.

With an area of 406.79 sq.km Hapjan is one of the largest block in the Tinsukia district³. Hapjan Development Block Surrounded by Kakopather Development Block from the east Guijan Development Block from the south & west and The mighty Brahmaputra river from the north and from the west. The block was established in 1962. The Block is situated from 14 Km away from the headquarter of Tinsukia district. The Block has 16-village panchayats and 195 villages..

The Guijan Development Block is established in 1995. It has an area of 168.60 sq.km. It is situated in the western part of the Tinsukia district. It is surrounded by Kakopather Development Block from the east, Dibrugarh district from the west, Hapjan and Kakopather Development Block from the north. The Block is situated from 12Km away from the headquarter of Tinsukia District. The Block has 9 -village panchayats and 104 villages.

3.1.2 Demographic status of four development Blocks of Tinsukia district:

Table-3(ii)

Demographic status of Tinsukia district and its four Delopment Blocks

Demographic status.	Sl.No	Contents	Tinsukia District	Kakopathar Development Block	Itakhuli Development Block	Hapjan Development Block	Guijan Development Block
	1	Total Population	1,327,929	214,707	124,263	211,137	124,113
	2	Male Population	680,231 (51.22%)	109,036 (50.78%)	63,086 (50.76%)	106,483 (50.43%)	63,472 (51.14%)
	3	Female Population	647,698 (48.77%)	105,671 (49.21%)	61,177 (49.23%)	104,654 (49.56%)	60,641 (48.85%)
	4	S.T population	82,066 (6.17%)	12,972 (6.04%)	2,083 (1.67%)	3,203 (1.51%)	6,257 (5.04%)
	5	S.C population	37,688 (2.83%)	2,613 (1.21%)	1,869 (1.50%)	2,251 (1.06%)	7,343 (5.91%)
	6	Number of Literate Population	798,322 (60.11%)	123,005 (57.28%)	69,812 (56.18%)	104,918 (49.69%)	74,453 (59.98%)

Source- "District Census Handbook- Tinsukia", census 2011

The data of table 3(ii) reveals that the total population of Tinsukia district is 1,327,929. The number of male population is 680,231 (51.22%) while number of female population is 647,698 (48.77%). The Scheduled Tribes (ST) population consists 82,066 (6.17%) and Scheduled Caste(SC) population consist 37,688 (2.83%). The literacy rate of Tinsukia district is 60.11%.

The total population of Kakopathar Development Block is 214,707 out of which 109,036 (50.78%) are male and 105,036 (49.21%) are female. The number of S.T population is 12,972 (6.04%) while S.C population is 2,613 (1.21%). The number of literate people in the block is 123,005 (57.28%).

The Itakhuli Development Block has a population of 124,263. Out of which 63,086 (50.76%) are male and 61,177 (49.23%) are female. SC population of the Itakhuli Development Block is (1.50%) while ST Population is 2,083 (1.67%). The literacy rate of the Block is 56.18%.

The Hapjan Development Block has a population of 211,137, out of which 106,483 (50.43%) are male and 104,654 (49.56%) are female. The number of S.T Population is 3,203 (1.51%) and 2,251 (1.06%) are S.C people. The number of literate people in Block is 104,918 (49.69%).

The total population of Guijan Development Block is 124,113, out of which 63,472 (51.14%) are male and 60,641 (48.85%) are female. The number of S.T population is 6,257 (5.04%) while S.C population is 7,343 (5.91%). The number of literate people in the Block is 74,453 (59.98%) .

The Dhemaji district is situated in the northern part of the bank of the river Brahmaputra. The district is surrounded by Arunachal Pradesh to the north and the east, Lakhimpur district in the west and the river Brahmaputra in the south. The district has a geographical area of 3,237.00 sq.km⁴ . The district has two sub-divisions -, Dhemaji and Jonai. Consisting of 5 blocks i.e Dhemaji, Morkongselek, Bordoloni Sisiborgaon, and Machkhowa, 5 Anchalik Panchayats 65 village panchayats, 1150 revenue villages and 6 police stations. The Legislative Assembly constituencies are 113 Dhemaji (ST) LAC and 114 Jonai (ST) LAC. The headquarter of the district is at Dhemaji.

3.2.1 Basic information about three Development Blocks of Dhemaji district:

Table-3(iii)

General information of Dhemaji & its three Development Blocks

Sl.No	Contents	Dhemaji Development Block	Machkhowa Development Block	Bordoloni Development Block
1	Name of the Block	Dhemaji Development Block	Machkhowa Development Block	Bordoloni Development Block
3	Year of Establishment	1956	1990	1991
4	Number of G.P under the Block	15Nos	5Nos	13Nos
5	Total number of Village under the Block:	263Nos	51Nos	202Nos
6	Total Area	471.63 sq.km	76.87 sq.km	463.82 sq.km
7	Distance from the District Head Quater	1km	9km	17km

Source- Block Development Office, Bordoloni/Dhemaji/Machkhowa ,Dhemaji District;April,2015

The Dhemaji Development Block was established in 1956. It has an area of 471.63 Sq.km. It covers 15 village panchayats and 263 villages. The geographical boundary of Dhemaji Development Block is covered with the hills of Arunachal Pradesh from the north, Bordoloni Development Block in the west, Sisiborgaon Development Block in the east and Lakhimpur and Machkhowa Development Block in the south.

The Machkhowa Development Block was established in 1990. The boundary of Machkhowa Block consists of Dhemaji Development Block in the north, Sisiborgaon Development Block in the east, Lakhimpur district in the west and the river Brahmaputra in the south. The Machkhowa Development Block has an area of 76.87 sq.km. It comprises of 5 village Panchayats and 51 villages. The distance of the Machkhowa Development Block from the district head quater is 9 km.

The Bordoloni Development Block was established in 1991 . It has an area of 463.82 sq.km. The Boundary of the Bordoloni Development Block is covered by Arunachal Pradesh from the north, Lakhimpur District from the west and south and Dhemaji Development Block in the east. The Block has 13 village Panchayats and 202 villages. The Distance of the Bordoloni Development Block from the district head quater is 17 km.

3.2.2 Demographic status of three development Blocks of Dhemaji district

Table-3(iv)

Demographic status of Dhemaji district and its three Development Blocks

Demographic status.	Sl.No	Contents	Dhemaji District	Dhemaji Development Block	Machkhowa Development Block	Bordoloni Development Block
	1	Total Population	686,133	127,104	29,575	112,710
	2	Male Population	351,249(51.19%)	64,597(50.82%)	14,825(50.12%)	56,881(50.46%)
	3	Female Population	334,884(48.80%)	62,507(49.17%)	14,750(49.87%)	55,829(49.53)
	4	S.T population	325,560(47.44%)	42,580(33.50%)	13,410(45.34%)	53,697(47.64%)
	5	S.C population	44,225(6.44%)	8,023(6.31%)	1,932(6.53%)	7,441(6.60%)
	6	Number of Literate Population	423,028(61.65%)	88,599(69.70%)	19,422(65.67%)	72,327(64.17%)

Source- "District Census Handbook- Dhemaji", census 2011

The total population of Dhemaji district is 686,133 . The number of male population 351,249 (51.19%) while number of female population is 334,884 (48.80%). The S.T population in the district is 325,560 (47.44%) and the S.C population is 44,225(6.44%). The literacy rate of Dhemaji district is 61.65% .

The Dhemaji Development Block has a population of 127,104, out of which 64,597 (50.82%) are male and 62,507 (49.17%) are female. The total Schedule Caste population of the Dhemaji Development is 8,023 (6.31%) while Schedule Tribe Population is 42,580 (33.50%). The literacy rate of the Block is 88,599 (69.70%).

The total population of Machkhawa development Block is 29,575, out of which 14,825 (50.12%) are male and 14,750 (49.87%) are female. The number of S.T population is 13,410 (45.34%) while S.C population is 1,932 (6.53%). The number of literate people in the block is 19,422 (65.67%).

The Bordoloni Development Block has a population of 112,710 out of which 56,881 (50.46%) are male and 55,829 (49.53%) are female. The number of S.T Population is 53,697 (47.64%) and 7,441 (6.60%) are S.C people. The number of literate people in the Block is 72,327 (64.17%).

3.3 Climate:

Tinsukia District has a humid sub tropical climate with pre-winter and Monsoon season.⁵ The summer season exists during the months of March to May and these months experience a maximum temperature of around 31°C and minimum of 24°C. The Monsoon season starts from June and stays till September. This period experiences heavy rainfall. The winter season remains from October to February. Temperature ranges from a maximum of 24°C to minimum of 11°C during this period.

Dhemaji is located near the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh. The climate of Dhemaji is characterized by Pre Humid with high rainfall, mild summer and winter and falls under cool to warm Pre-Humid Thermic Agroecological Sub Zone⁶. The annual rainfall of the district ranges from 2600mm to 3200mm. Rainfall starts from April and stays till September. The maximum temperature varies from 39.9°C in summer and minimum 5.9° C in winter.

3.4 Education:

According to census 2011, the literacy rate of Tinsukia district is 60.11% while the literacy rate of Dhemaji district is 61.65%. Regarding the average literacy rate of Development Blocks Dhemaji district has advantage position with 66.51% while it is 55.78% in case of Tinsukia

Table-3(v)
Educational Status of Tinsukia &Dhemaji

District	Tinsukia				Dhemaji		
Development Blocks	Kakopathar	Itakhuli	Hapjan	Guijan	Dhemaji	Machkhowa	Bordoloni
Percentage of Literacy	57.28%	56.18%	49.69%	59.98%	69.70%	65.67%	64.17%
Avg Literacy Percentage of the Development Blocks	55.78%				66.51%		
Literacy Percentage in the District	60.11%				61.65%		

Source- "District Census Handbook- Dhemaji", census 2011

Below are the numbers of government /provincialised educational institutions of two districts

Table-3(vi)
Statistics of Educational institutions of Tinsukia and Dhemaji district

District	Tinsukia					Dhemaji		
Educational Blocks	Kakopather	Hapjan (Itakhuli/ Hapjan/Guijan)	Margherita	Sadiya	Tinsukia Urban	Dhemaji	Murkongselek	Bordoloni (Machkhowa / Bordoloni)
LP School	307	295	206	114	39	506	171	170
MV + Sr.Basic School	3	2	2	1	-	22	-	5
ME /UP School	58	41	39	23	12	160	41	47
High school	106					146		
Higher Secondary School	19					13		
Provincialised colleges ⁷	9					12		
Total	1274					1287		

Source-‘Information on block-wise school/teacher/enrolment’<http://www.ddeassam.gov.in>

There are 5(five) Educational Blocks in Tinsukia District i.e Hapjan, Kakopather, Margherita, Sadiya and Tinsukia Urban. Two of the studied area i.e Itakhuli and Guijan comes under Hapjan Educational Block. Likewise Dhemaji District has 3(three) Educational Blocks. The Machkhowa area comes under Bordoloni Educational Block. Moreover there are a large number of private educational institutions that helps in uplifting the education scenario in the two districts.

3.5 Economy

In Tinsukia, 80.06% lives in rural areas while only 35.40 % of them depend on Agriculture⁸. Mainly, Tinsukia is famous for its tea production. Multinational companies like

TATA, Williams & Magor, and Waren Tea Ltd are doing good business in the district. Likewise Hindustan Uniliver Limited has also a plant in the district, which provides an earning source for the local youths. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) of Digboi is a significant industry that also boosts the district economy a lot. Beside tea, a large number of businesses dealings in garments, wood related products, electronics, timber, coal and hardware for tea industry form the base of its Economy.

92% of total population of Dhemaji lives in rural areas and 85% of the total population depends on agriculture⁹. Sericulture, fishing, cattle rearing and driftwood business are also practiced in smaller scale. It is the worst flood affected district of Assam. Every year flood destroys a bulk of the agriculture proceeds and people take refuge in camps. Sand deposition and other adverse effects of chronic floods on fertile agriculture have made even affluent farmers land-less.¹⁰ Apart from agriculture people engaged in service sectors- e.g Government jobs, school teachers, office employees etc. Now a days the various schemes of Central and State government in rural areas provide ample opportunities of employment for the people of the district

References-

1. Census of India,2011
2. Block Development Office, Kakopather Tinsukia District;2014
3. Block Development Office, Hapjan, Tinsukia District;2014
4. <http://www.dhemaji.nic.in>
5. <http://www.wikipedia.tinsukia.com>.
6. <http://www.dhemaji.nic.in>

7. <http://www.dheassam.gov.in>
8. District Statistical Handbook, Census 2011 and Cultivator and agricultural labour
9. District Statistical Handbook, Census 2011 and Cultivator and agricultural labour
10. <http://www.onlineassam.gov.in>