

CHAPTER-V

Role of the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils

5:1 A brief overview of present scenario of literacy, work participation and nature of work participation of the Tiwas and the Rabhas in Assam:

The Demand for political autonomy by the Tiwas and the Rabhas in Assam is not only a political issue, but it has its root in the overall socio-economic conditions of the Tiwa and the Rabha society in Assam. The leaders of the Tiwa and the Rabha communities very often have expressed a feeling of deprivation which, according to them, leads to the social and economic backwardness of their societies. In this chapter we will try to present a brief analysis of present state of conditions in terms of literacy and work participation, nature of work participation of the Tiwa and the Rabha communities with the data of the 2011 census report and in that perspective we will try to analyze the functioning pattern of both the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils.

5:1:1 Present scenario of literacy rate of the Tiwa and the Rabha Communities in Assam:

To understand the social condition of a community or society, the Literacy of the people can be considered as an important criterion. The Census report of 2011 shows a healthy trend in literacy rate among the Tiwa and the Rabha communities in Assam. However, the female literacy in both the Communities is very low.

Table: 5:1: Population, literacy rate and illiterate persons and percentage of all the STs, the Tiwas and the Rabhas as per the Census Report 2011:

Tribes	Population		Literacy		Illiteracy	
S/T in Assam	3884371		2403972 (61.8%)		1480399 (38.1%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	1957005	1323962	1323962 (55%)	1080010 (44.9%)	633043 (42.7%)	847356 (57.2%)
Tiwas	182663		116146 (63.5%)		66517 (36.4%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	91340	91323	63381 (54.5%)	52765 (45.4%)	27959 (42%)	38558 (57.9%)
Rabhas	296189		195342 (65.9%)		100847 (34%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	148887	147302	106312 (54.4%)	89030 (45.5%)	42575 (42.2%)	58272 (57.7%)

(Source: Census Report 2011, Office of the Director of Census operations, Assam, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005)

From the above data it is observed that the literacy rate of the Tiwas is 63.5%, thus, a large number of people (36%) in the Tiwa community are illiterate. Among the literates 54.5% are male and 45.4% are female. Thus, it shows that the female literacy is very low.

On the other hand, among the Rabhas, the literacy rate is 65.9%. In the Rabha community also a large number of people (34%) are illiterate. Among the literates 54.4% are male and 45.5% are female. It shows that in the Rabha community also female literacy is very low.

If we compare the literacy rate among the Rabhas and the Tiwas, in the Rabha community the literacy rate is slightly higher than the Tiwas (Rabhas>Tiwas: 65.9%>63.5%). In both the community the male literacy is higher than the female. The female literacy is almost same in both the community.

Thus, from the above analysis it can be assumed that in both the communities, the majority population is literate. But the female illiteracy is more alarming in case of both the

Communities. This needs some special policy measures to make the females educated for the advancement of all the section of peoples in the Tiwa and the Rabha societies in Assam.

5:1:2 Present scenarios of work participation of the Tiwa and the Rabha Communities in Assam:

In Assam, the Census Data of 2011 shows that the working population among all the ST population is very low (43.9%) and a large number of population is registered as non-workers (56%). In the work participation among the ST population, the female percentage is very low (39.2%). Following table shows the working and non-working population among the ST and the Tiwa and the Rabha communities of Assam.

Table: 5:2: Population and percentage of workers, non-workers of all STs, the Tiwas and the Rabhas of Assam:

Tribe	Total population		Working Population		Non workers	
ST	3884371		1708763 (43.9%)		2175608 (56%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	1957005	1927366	1038350 (60.7%)	670413 (39.2%)	918655 (42.2%)	1256953 (57.7%)
Tiwa	182663		80892 (44.2%)		101771 (55.7%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	91340	91323	51068 (63.1%)	29824 (36.8%)	40272 (39.5%)	61499 (60.4%)
Rabha	296189		139662 (47.1%)		156527 (52.8%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	148887	147302	85859 (61.4%)	53803 (38.5%)	63028 (40.2%)	93499 (59.7%)

(Source: Census Report 2011, Office of the Director of Census operations, Assam, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005)

From the Table it is observed that it is only 44.2% of the people in the Tiwa community are the workers. Among the working population the male are dominant (63.1%). A large number of people in the Tiwa community are registered as non-workers (55.7%). Among the nonworking population the female are dominant (60.4%).

On the other hand, among the Rabhas, 47.1% people are workers and 52.8% population is registered as non workers. In the working population among the Rabhas, the male are dominant over the females (61.4%). It means that in the Rabha society a large number of people don't have any work which signifies that a large number of people are economically poor. In the non working population, the percentage of females is very high 59.7%. It implies that, majority portion of females in the Rabha society are economically not self sufficient.

If we compare the data among both the communities, the Rabhas has the more working population over the Tiwas (Rabhas>Tiwas: 47.1>44.2%). In both the societies, male are dominant over the females in work participation. On the other hand, in both the societies a large number of people are registered as non-workers. The percentage of non-working population is high in the Tiwa society than the Rabha society (Tiwas>Rabhas: 55.7%>52.8%). In both the communities the females have the higher percentage over the males in the non-working population.

From the above analysis it can be assumed that in both the Tiwa and the Rabha societies, major portion of the people are not economically self-sufficient. The problem is more acute among the females. Most of the females in the Tiwa and the Rabha society are non-workers.

5:1:3 Nature of work participation of the Tiwa and the Rabha Communities in Assam:

In the above analysis we have found that more than half of the population in the Tiwa and the Rabha societies are non-workers. Among the Workers, it is important to examine the nature of work participation to understand the economic conditions of the people. Following table shows the nature of work participation among the Tiwas and the Rabhas in Assam.

Table: 5:3: Nature of work participation of the Tiwas and the Rabhas as per the Census Report 2011:

Tribe	Worker	Main Worker				Marginal Worker			
Tiwa	80892	51432 (63.5%)				29460 (36.4%)			
		Cultivator	Agriculture Labour	Household Industry	Other Work	Cultivator	Agriculture Labour	Household Industry	Other Work
		32701	5489	1778	11464	8995	13078	2683	4704

		(63.5%)	(10.6%)	(3.4%)	(22.2%)	(30.5%)	(44.3%)	(9.1%)	(15.9%)
Rabha	139662	92488 (66.2%)				47174 (33.7%)			
		Cultivator	Agriculture Labour	Household Industry	Other Work	Cultivator	Agriculture Labour	Household Industry	Other Work
		56316 (60.8%)	10719 (11.5%)	2958 (3.1%)	22495 (24.3%)	13152 (27.8%)	18500 (39.2%)	4960 (10.5%)	10562 (22.38%)

(Source: Census Report 2011, Office of the Director of Census operations, Assam, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005)

The Table shows that in both the Tiwa and the Rabha societies, among the working populations, majority people are main workers.

In the Tiwa society 63.58% working people are main workers. Among these main worker, 63.58% people are the cultivator and 10.6% people are agriculture labour. In other sectors of work the figure is not so significant. It means that, in the Tiwa society, among the working population, agriculture is the main occupation for most of the people.

On the other hand, in the Rabha community, 66.2% of working populations are main worker. Among these main workers 60.8% populations are cultivators and 11.5% populations are agriculture labour. Thus, in the Rabha society too agriculture is the main occupation for majority of the working population.

If we compare the level between both the communities, the Main Working population in the Rabha community is larger than the Tiwa community (Tiwa < Rabha: 63.5% < 66.2%). But in both the community, among the main workers, almost same percent of workers are cultivators (Rabha < Tiwa: 60.8% < 63.5%).

From the above analysis of data, it can be assumed that, in both the Tiwa and the Rabha communities, their economic condition is mainly dependent on the agriculture sector. It is a well known fact that, in Assam the agricultural sector is not so developed today. Thus, the Tiwa and the Rabha people are not economically self-sufficient, since most of them are dependent on agriculture.

5:1:4 Comparative analysis of the literacy and the working conditions of the Tiwas and the Rabhas between the two census years 2001 & 2011:

To understand the trend of socio-economic development in the Tiwa and the Rabha societies of Assam, we have analysed the Census data of two Census years 2001 and 2011. From the analysis of the data we will be able to understand the trend of socio-economic changes during last decade.

Table: 5:4: Comparative analysis of the literacy and working conditions of the Tiwas and the Rabhas between the two census years (2001 & 2011):

Tribe	Population		Literacy (population & percent)		Workers (population & percent)		Main workers (population & percent)		Marginal Workers (population & percent)		Non workers (population & percent)	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Tiwa	170622	182663	87928 (61.8%)	116146 (63.5%)	72546 (42.5%)	80892 (44.2%)	47082 (27.5%)	51432 (28.1%)	25464 (14.9%)	29460 (16.1%)	98076 (57.4%)	101771 (55.7%)
Rabha	277517	296189	15645 2 (66.7%)	195342 (65.9%)	113982 (41%)	139662 (47.1%)	76594 (27.5%)	92488 (31.2%)	37388 (13.4%)	47174 (15.9%)	163535 (58.9%)	156527 (52.8%)

(Source: Census Report 2011, Office of the Director of Census operations, Assam, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005)

- The table shows 7% growth of population among the Tiwas and 6.7% among the Rabhas in Assam during the two census decade.
- From the table it is observed that, among the Tiwas, between the two census periods there is very minimal increase in the Literacy Rate (from 61.8% to 63.5%). On the other hand, among the Rabhas the Literacy rate is decreasing (from 66.7% to 65.9%).
- In the observed table, it is shows that between the Two Census periods, there are slightly improving trend in the working population in both the Communities. Among the Tiwas the Working population has increased from 42.5% to 44.2% and consequently the Non- Working population decreased from 57.4% to 55.7%. Similarly among the Rabhas the Working population increased from 41% to 47.1% and the Non-Workers decreased from 58.9% to 52.8%.

From the above analysis of Data between the two Census periods, it can be stated that though there is trend of improvement in the observed areas yet it is not achieving the

significant level. Hence from the analysis of the data, we can draw the conclusion that a significant population is socially and economically suffering from backwardness.

5:2 Roles of the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council towards the Socio-economic Development of the Tiwas and the Rabhas:

From the above analysis of the Census data, it is understood that there are ardent needs of robust developmental strategy to improve the overall socio-economic life of the peoples of the Tiwa and the Rabha community in Assam. In these perspectives, the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils have a bigger role to ensure development of their peoples.

It has already been discussed in the preceding Chapter that the Government of Assam had constituted the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils in Assam, ensuring self- rule for the protection of their identity and equal development. As of now, these Councils have been functioning for more than 18 years since its inception. In this Chapter we will try to discuss the role played by the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils taking in to account of the financial grants received by these Councils from the State Government as Development Fund since its inception and the nature of the various developmental schemes undertaken and implementation of such by the Councils during recent times.

5:2:1 Financial grants received by the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils since 1995:

Although the Autonomous Council Acts of 1995 had earmarked the source of funds for the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils yet they are mostly dependent upon the State Government's grants and aids for their functioning. The funds received from the Government of Assam by both the Council are shown below-

5:2:1-A Funds Received by the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council against the development schemes so far are-

So far the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) received Rs. 1,96,32,38,351.00 (Rs one hundred ninety six crore, thirty two lacs, thirty eight thousand three hundred fifty one) in the Plan Head meant for the various development schemes.

Moreover the Council has been receiving an amount of 13,87,66,823.00 (Rs thirteen crore, eighty seven thousand lacs, sixty six thousand eight hundred twenty three) under the Non-Plan Head meant for the salary and other allowances of the Council officials. The year wise financial grants are:

Table 5:5: Funds received by the RHAC since 1995 onwards:

Financial Year	Funds Received under Plan Head for Development Schemes
1995-96	No Grant
1996-97	3,05,11,994.00
1997-98	2,59,60,472.00
1998-99	1,81,26,525.00
1999-2000	1,15,58,158.00
2000-01	1,76,28,000.00
2001-02	2,20,04,000.00
2002-03	1,52,07,495.00
2003-04	3,70,62,620.00
2004-05	3,96,79,087.00
2005-06	9,45,00,000.00
2006-07	11,34,00,000.00
2007-08	12,50,00,000.00
2008-09	17,60,00,000.00
2009-10	22,98,00,000.00
2010-11	Nil
2011-12	29,11,00,000.00
2012-13	33,77,00,000.00
2013-14	37,80,00,000.00

Total 196,32,38,351.00

(Source- Secretariat Office of the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council, Dudhnoi, Goalpara, Assam)

5:2:1-B Funds Received by the Tiwa Autonomous Council under the Plan Head against the development schemes so far are-

The Tiwa Autonomous Council (TAC) so far received an amount of Rs.209,55,16,429.00 (Two hundred and nine crore, fifty five lakh sixteen thousand four hundred twenty nine) in the Plan Head for undertaking various development programmes in the Council areas. The year wise grants are in the following-

Table: 5:6: Funds received by the TAC since 1995 onwards-

Financial Year	Funds Received under Plan Head for Development Schemes
1995-96	No Grant
1996-97	3,02,00,000.00
1997-98	2,50,00,000.00
1998-99	1,60,00,000.00
1999-2000	1,10,00,000.00
2000-01	1,70,00,000.00
2001-02	2,15,00,000.00
2002-03	1,50,30,000.00
2003-04	3,60,00,000.00
2004-05	3,80,00,000.00
2005-06	9,40,00,000.00
2006-07	10,30,50,000.00
2007-08	8,50,00,000.00
2008-09	17,06,00,000.00
2009-10	22,27,00,000.00
2010-11	23,91,00,000.00
2011-12	28,21,00,000.00
2012-13	31,31,00,000.00
2013-14	37,61,36,429.00

Total: 209, 55, 16,429

(Source- Secretariat Office of the Tiwa Autonomous Council, Marigaon, Assam)

5:2:2 Nature of development schemes of the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils:

As per the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council Acts of 1995, the General Councils shall have executive power over 34 subjects. Various Schemes have been undertaken by the successive Councils aimed at the overall socio-economic development of the peoples of the respective Council area. The nature of development schemes prepared by both present Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Council are-

Table: 5:7: The nature of development schemes of the TAC during 2010-2015:

Name of the Sector	Name/ Nature of the scheme
Cottage Industry	Distribution of sewing Machine/Grants-in-aid & training to the educated youth for making bamboo-cane items, repairing of motorcycle, cutting & Knitting for embroidering and etc.
Animal Husbandry	Construction/ Repairing of Sub-Veterinary centre. Piglets and Grants-in-aid to Self-Help Groups
Forest other than Reserved Forest	Construction of boundary wall with Iron Ground and plantation of valuable trees/Rubber plantation etc.
Agriculture	Distribution of 5H.P. power pump set/Power Tillers/ sprayer machines among the cultivators.
Rural Roads & Bridge	Construction/Repairing of roads and bridges in the rural area within TAC area.
Sericulture	Distribution of cotton yarn among the poor weavers within TAC area
Education	Construction of school building of LP, ME & High School and appointment of 30 no. of school teachers of Tiwa Language.
Cultural Affairs	Distribution of grants in aid to cultural team and distribution of traditional Dhol/Tal and construction of cultural Bhawan
Soil Conservation	Construction of agricultural bandh, Bamboo palasaiding and earth filling and plantation of valuable trees.
Co-operation	Distribution of cotton yarn
Fisheries	Distribution of grants-in-aid to the educated youth/individual for development of fish tank within TAC area.
P & RD	Distribution of CGI sheet among the poor people/ any construction.
Handloom & Textiles	Distribution of yarn, construction of weaving centers and etc.

PHE	Distribution of hand tube well set/ ring well
Minor Irrigation	Distribution of 5 H.P. power pump sets among the cultivators/ construction of irrigation culvert/irrigation bandh and deep tube well.
Social Welfare	Distribution of grants in aid to physically handicap ailing persons
Sports & Youth Welfare	Distribution of Football/ volleyball/Carom board. Construction of pavilion at various playgrounds within TAC area.
Library Services	Construction/Repairing of Library at various institutions/Library etc.
Urban development	Construction/Repairing of roads, construction of waiting shade at urban area within TAC area.
Tribal Research	Distribution of grants in aid to Tiwa Elite persons & distribution of Steel Almirah for preserving of books to the Educationist & school etc.
Land & Land Revenue	Construction of Guest house, Waiting shade, cycle stand and boundary wall of various institutions
Publicity and Public Relation	Printing of New year calendar & Diary and hoarding, supply of exercise book etc.
Tourism	Construction of Turan/waiting shade within TAC area.
Transport	Distribution of bicycle and waiting shade
Tribal Welfare (WPT & BC)	Construction and repairing of various public Bhawan, school buildings, roads, foot bridges and grants in aid to various organizations and individuals.
Other development works	Distribution of woolen blankets/ CGI sheets to the poor peoples within TAC area.
Market Fair	Construction of market shade
Lotteries, theatres Dramatic Performance	Construction of cultural bhawan
Health and Family welfare	Construction/Repairing of Health centers, distribution of generators to the health centers and distribution of blankets.
Food & Civil supply	Distribution of relief materials among the flood affected people within TAC area/Distribution of spray machines within TAC area.

Source- collected from the Secretariat office of the TAC, Morigaon

Table: 5:8: Nature of the development schemes of the present Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (2014 onwards):

Major Heads of Schemes	Sub heads of schemes	Details of Schemes
Agriculture & Allied activities-	Soil Conservation	a) Plantation work within the Council areas. b) RCC check dam cum water harvest, construction -of embankment with boulder pitching, water d-istribution canals etc.
	Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	-a) Schemes for grants-in-aid for setting up Piggery, Poultry, Duckry, Goatary etc. b) Holding of training programme on Husbandry c) Repairing of Veterinary Dispensary etc.
	Fisheries	a) Setting up of Fish cum Pig culture b) Development of fishery tank unit. c) Awareness cam and training on Pisciculture. d) Distribution of bicycle with Fish Box
	Co-operative	a) Construction of co-operative office building. b) Co-operative farming, Horticulture/ small tea garden, Banana, Rubber plantation etc. c) Grants- in aid of tractors, power tillers, yarn for income generation etc.
	Agriculture	a) Crop husbandry & Agricultural Extension and training b) Construction of Vermicomposed unit. c) Small agricultural Bundh/Water harvesting canal for agriculture d) Construction of training hall at dudhnoi, Boko etc.
Rural Development	Land records and revenue	Direction and Administration
	Panchayat and Rural development	a) Small community development schemes. b) Distribution of bedding materials, cooking utensils, solar LED lantern etc. c) Construction/improvement of village approach road, construction of community hall etc.

Irrigation and Flood Control	Minor Irrigation	<p>a) Flow irrigation schemes, Lift Irrigation Schemes, Deep/ shallow tube well schemes, small irrigation schemes etc.</p> <p>b) Construction of concert check dam & earthen canal embankment etc.</p> <p>c) Distribution of power pump set etc.</p>
	Flood Control	a) Repairing/Reclamation/Renovation of flood control schemes/ canal/ tuffing works/protection bundhs etc.
Industry & Minerals	Cottage Industries	<p>a) Training programme for food processing</p> <p>b) Margin Money grants to Handicraft units etc.</p> <p>c) Grants-in-aid to improve equipments</p> <p>d) Construction of Industrial Estate/ Commercial and Trading center, Exhibition, Skill development programmes etc.</p>
	Handloom & Textiles	<p>a) Development of SHGs /Co-operative societies etc.</p> <p>b) Distribution of fly shuttle looms accessories, yarn etc.</p> <p>c) Construction of integrated handloom training cum production centers</p> <p>d) Holding exhibition of handlooms products etc.</p>
	Sericulture	<p>a) Development and expansion of Eri Silk Industry, Development and expansion of Muga Silk Industry etc.</p> <p>b) Construction of Cocoon preservation godown with up-to-date facilities.</p> <p>c) Development and expansion of Mulberry silk industry, skill upgradeation by providing Motorised cum pedal operated Eri spinning and Muga rearing machine etc.</p> <p>d) Distribution of improved Eri-Muga rearing kits etc.</p>
Transport	Rural Roads and Bridges	Construction/repairing/strengthening of rural roads & bridges within Council area.
	Transport	a) Construction of waiting shed at different

		places in the Council area, procurement of deluxe busses etc. b-) Grants-in-aid for auto/small vehicles to the Martyr/BPL families.
Environment	Forest other than reserved forest	a) Creation of Nurseries and plantation in RHAC area. b) Construction/ Creation of Forest camp. c) Distribution of GCI sheet, Big size charging search light, Solar LED lantern etc.
General Economic Services	Tourism	a) Direction & Administration b) Development of Chandubi Tourist Project, Development of Kulsi, Bir Parusuram, Dodan Bir, Tukreswari Dewalaya, Parbati Pahar, Deepor Bil Tourist Spot, Rangjuli Dol, Aithan etc.
	Food & Civil Supplies	Construction of Go-down and procurement of furniture, assistance to farmers etc.
Social Services	I) Primary Education	a) Grants-in-aid for infrastructure development to the L.P.& M.E. schools b) Repairing of L.P./M.E. school building c) Construction/Repairing of toilet in L.P./M.E. school
	II) Adult Education	Grant- in-aid of Teaching and Learning Material & books etc.
	III) Higher Education	a) Construction/Repairing of Buildings, Toilet, Bi-cycle stand & grants-in-aid for Other Teaching Learning Material in the Higher Education Institutes in RHAC area. b) Cash incentive of Rs. 1,00,000/(One Lakh) for ST and Rs 50,000/(Fifty Thousand) for others to the rank holders among the top 10 students in the HSLC and HSSLC Examinations from RHAC area. c) Cash incentive of Rs. 20,000/- or a Lap Top to the top 12 students appearing in the HSLC and CBSC examination from the RHAC area. d) One time Scholarship for the candidates of RHAC area who have cleared All India Competitive Examinations. e) One time incentive of Rs. 2,00,000/- to the

		<p>High Schools/Higher Secondary Schools/Colleges producing rank holders (among top 10 students of the State).</p> <p>f) Infrastructure facilities/assistance to educational institutes for improvement of Science Education.</p> <p>g) Construction of Girls Common Rooms in the High Schools in the RHAC area.</p>
	IV) Sports & Youth welfare	<p>a) Development of playground & construction of Mini Stadium/ Pavilion etc.</p> <p>b) Distribution of Sports goods and accessories.</p> <p>c) Holding of Youth Development camp</p> <p>d) Organisation of rural sports competition</p> <p>e) Sports incentives for the talented sports persons.</p>
	V) Cultural Affairs	<p>a) Construction of Cultural Bhawan, Permanent Cultural stage etc.</p> <p>b) Grants-in-aid to the senior/ailing Artists.</p> <p>c) Publish of books on Folk Culture, Development of cultural activities/holding workshops and seminars etc.</p> <p>d) Conferring Award in the name of Rabha Cultural legend Rajen Pam (Rs.50,000).</p>
	VI) Public Health Engineering (Drinking Water)	Pure drinking water supply schemes, Spot water source schemes i.e Mark-II, TARA pump, RCC Ring Well etc.
	VII) Urban Development	Improvement, Reparation, Construction of Urban Roads, Drainage system, Construction of Public toilets, installation of Dustbins etc.
	VIII) Health & Family Welfare	<p>a) Holding Awareness camp</p> <p>b) Grants-in-aid of medical equipments to the PHC, CHC etc.</p> <p>c) Distribution of Bedding Materials to the BPL families etc.</p>
	IX) Social Welfare	a) Rehabilitation grants to physically handicapped persons, Scholarship to physically handicapped students (Middle & High School) etc.

		<p>b) Supply of Nutritious food for Anganwadi Centers etc.</p> <p>c) Distribution of bedding materials, Yarn, Cooking Utensils, Rickshaw etc. to the BPL families, organizations etc.</p> <p>d) Construction grant for house building of Rs 100,000/ per family for 20 BPL families per year.</p>
	X)Museum & Archaeology	a) Construction of Museum Hall, acquisition and preservation of ancient monuments.
	XI)Tribal Research	<p>a) Holding of training camp and workshop, book publication on Tribal culture</p> <p>b) Rajen Rabha Memorial Award of Rs. 50,00/</p>
	XII) tribal welfare	<p>a) Construction of Tribal Rest House, Community Hall, Repairing/Rennoation of Village link roads etc.</p> <p>b) Modernization of Agriculture, Promotion of Horticulture</p> <p>c) One time educational scholarship for the BPLTribal students who passed out HSLC examination. (Rs.5000/per student to the 500 students in a year)</p>

Source: *The Office of the Secretariat of the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council, Dudhnoi, Goalpara.*

5:2:3 Implementation of the development works of the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council found in the selected study areas:

From the above analysis it is found that the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils have been undertaking various developmental schemes for the overall development in their areas. In this study, we have visited some areas of the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils to take the opinion of the Voters regarding some issues set for the Study. During the Survey we are also trying to find out an impression of the Developmental Schemes undertaken by the Council in the selected area as well as in its adjoining areas. During the visit we have observed following developmental works undertaken by the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils.

❖ **Implementation of development work in the Tiwa Autonomous Council area-**

- a) One Tiwa Krishti Bhawan (House constructed for the practices of Tiwa Culture) at Baropujia (area is located near the Solmari Tiwa Autonomous Council constituency).
- b) The Borghar (where religious practices by the Tiwa community were performed) in all 4 villages were newly constructed by the funds received from the Council.
- c) Construction of boundary wall of a Namghar in Damal village under the Damal Tiwa Autonomous Council constituency.
- d) Two village road constructed by the Tiwa Autonomous Council was noticed in Jonbeel and Solmari Tiwa Autonomous Council Constituency.
- e) People have informed about the distribution of small pump sets amongst the few cultivators by the Tiwa Autonomous Council.
- f) Similarly the people have informed about the distribution of Yarn for weaving from the Tiwa Autonomous Council among the weavers.
- g) Some villagers have also informed about the distribution of “*Teen Paats*”(aluminium sheets used in roofing of the House) by the Tiwa Autonomous Council for roofing the houses among few poor families.
- h) In the Chahari constituency people have informed us that the Tiwa Autonomous Council has provided Desk and Benches in some schools basically in the primary schools.
- i) We have noticed one ambulance provided by the Tiwa Autonomous Council in the Damal area.

❖ **Implementation of developmental work in the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council area:**

- 1) During our visit for the field data collection in the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council area, we have noticed two newly constructed village roads by the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council.
- 2) Villagers have informed about the distribution of the Bicycle from the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council among the poor students.

- 3) In the Dakshin Bongaon Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council constituency area, people have informed about distribution of water pump-set among the poor farmers for agricultural purposes.
- 4) We have noticed the Construction of a multi-purpose open Stage at Dudhnoi by the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council.
- 5) People have informed about distribution of School Bags for the poor students in the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council area.
- 6) In the Boko Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council constituency, people have informed about distribution of “*Teen Paat*” (aluminium sheets used in roofing of the House) for roofing of the House of the poor families.
- 7) In the Dudhnoi area, some women have informed about the one time financial aid from the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council for weaving Rabha Ethnic dresses.
- 8) The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council organized textile fare at Dudhnoi to showcase the Rabha ethnic dresses.
- 9) The Villagers have informed that the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council onetime financial grant for the Self-help groups of the Women in the Rabha Hasong area.
- 10) In the Moirapur village under Silputa Constituency, we have noticed ongoing of construction work of a community hall funded by the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council.

From the above observations it can be stated that the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils have been implementing some community development schemes in their respective areas. But from the observations, it is seen that, they are lacking the schemes aiming at creation of the community assets which will bring sustainability among the peoples. Rather they are mostly implementing the populist welfare schemes. This is probably due to the fact that through such populist schemes they can easily earn popularity among the common voters of their respective areas. Moreover, it is to be mentioned that, some people have informed about the corrupt practices taking place in implementation of the schemes.

They have mentioned about a nexus between the Council authorities and the contractors/suppliers involved in the project implementations.

During the visit to the Council offices the Functionaries of both the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils have expressed various hindrances in the functioning of the Councils. Such are shortage of funds, delay in fund release, lack of manpower etc. The Council authorities have informed that the Funds are allotted by the State Government against the schemes submitted to the Government (through the department of Welfare of Plain Tribes and Backward Classes, Government of Assam). The Government fixed the total amount to be granted for all the Autonomous Councils in Assam in a separate head in the annual State budget. They informed that there are no uniform criteria for fund allocations for the Autonomous Councils. In the Fund allocations, party considerations play an important role.

They alleged that the funds allotted for the Council are not sufficient for the development of the people in the Council area. Funds are not allotted according to the population in the Council area. The Councils are not empowered to collect the Revenue from the sources which were made at their disposal in the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council Act 1995. Therefore, for the funding of the development work of the Council, they are entirely dependent on the State Government. They also alleged that there is delay in the fund release due to bureaucratic red tapism in the State Government administration. According to them financially and administratively they have no autonomy.

Lack of manpower is another serious problem for the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils. For the implementation of their developmental work they have to depend upon the line departments of the State Government. But they don't have the monitoring authority over the officials involved in carrying out the functions of the Councils.

From the above analysis, we have found that even after the constitution of the Tiwa and the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Councils, the socio-economic conditions of the common masses of the Tiwa and the Rabha communities are not remarkably improved. Also we have been informed by the Council authorities of both the Councils that they are functioning under various limitations.