

DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF TEMPLE'S NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES, ASSAM, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Neighbourhood of the temple area includes both geographic (place-oriented) and social (people-oriented) components. Generally, neighbourhood is a geographically localized group of people within a city or rural area. The neighbouring villages of Madan kamdev temple area are Gopeswar village, Katnipara village, Bhitarkhola village, Bhitarkhola N.C. village, Barmola village and Alipub village. Neighbourhoods are often social communities with significant face –to-face communication among members. Both primary and secondary data have been collected for this study. Main objective of this study is to know the demographic social and economic characteristics of the villages. Primary survey data have been collected from the villages.

Keywords: *Demographic, social and Economic Characteristics*

INTRODUCTION

Demographic characteristics reflect the quality of human population and level of socio-economic development of any region. Demographic characteristics of the Madan Kamdev temple's neighbouring villagers which include their gender, age, marital status, and age composition etc. reflect the physical characteristics of human being and level of socio-economic development of the area. These demographic characteristics are important to understand the mindset of the villagers and their social development. The neighbouring villagers of Madn Kamdev Temple follow their traditional culture, traditions, and social practices but in recent time outside elements start penetrating into the villages. Another significant change which may be noticed among the villages of the study area is in their conversation. The young generation of the Nepali and Bodo community almost forgotten their own tribal dialects and have accepted Assamese as their medium of conversation. Many villagers can now talk Hindi and English language which was rare at the past. This is because of television they can understand Hindi and also English language. The all neighbouring villages have now lost their own societies and now a mix society developed in the study region. Due to the influence of urbanization the village society has now changes and the former traditional village society now became modern society.

In the field of household industry weaving of cloth are seen to be common practice of village women but now changes have take place because mill cloths are now easily available. Due to the modernization and urbanization the villagers both male and female are found of wearing modern dress like shirts, jeans, coats, tops etc. Many older Male still maintains their old traditional dress and they wear Gamosa, Dhoti and Kamis. The traditional ornaments are also being replaced by fashionable ones in the study villages.

The village people live in thatched house, Assam type kutcha house and pucca house. But now villagers like to prefer to live in pucca house. In the study area many houses have drawing room, dining room, bed room etc. which were unthinkable at the past. These facilities prove the modernity and social change among them. Now some of the villagers have modern facility like television, computer, tape recorder, Sofa, refrigerator, carpet etc. They use electricity for cooking. Change in respect of dress pattern, food habit, house type, occupation etc. are common in the villages of the neighbouring villages of the Madan Kamdev Temple. But the rate of socio-economic development is not equal with the degree of social change among them.

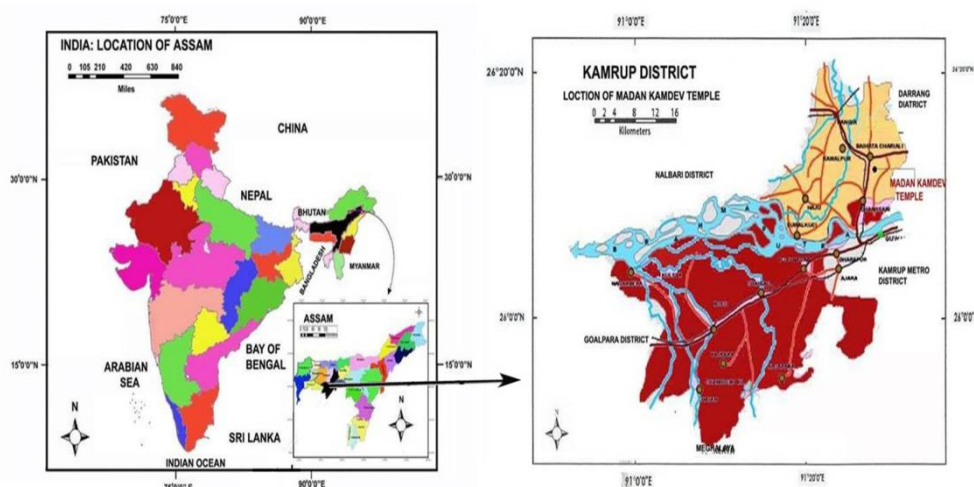
OBJECTIVES

Based on the background outlined above, the main objectives for the study are

- (i) To understand the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the villages in the temple's neighbourhood.

STUDY AREA

Madan Kamdev temple and neighbouring villages are located under Kamrup district of Assam. It covers an area of 17.39 square kilometers and supports a population of 4,698 (2011) persons. Study region lies approximately between $26^{\circ}17'56.05''$ and $26^{\circ}20'32''$ north latitudes and $91^{\circ}43'26.93''$ and $91^{\circ}45'51.55''$ east longitudes. The area is bounded on the north by National Highway (N.H.15), on the south by Mainasundari village, on the east by N.H.31 and on the west by the Bamunigaon village.



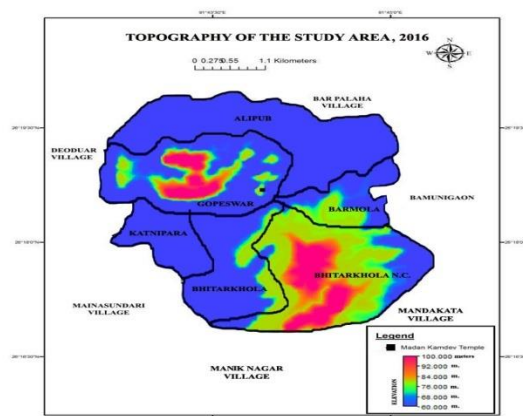


Fig.1: Location of the study area

METHODOLOGY

Madan Kamdev temple area has been selected for this study in order to investigate the changing social milieu associated with temple and neighborhood perception. The present study is based on both primary as well as secondary data. The socio-economic conditions of the neighbourhood villages and visitor perception have been studied on the basis of direct field experiences and surveys through well-designed schedule (Appendix I and II). Neighbouring villages which are located 2km. buffer zone from the temple are Bhitarkhola N.C. village, Barmola village, Gopeswar village, Katnipara village, Alipub village and Bhitarkhola village. Required base materials for the study are collected and complied from source like Survey of India's toposheets with scale 1:50,000, satellite images, atlases, etc. Required literatures were reviewed to expand essential conceptual structure and appropriate methodology to carry out the work from accurate perspectives.

The secondary data have been collected from government source like the Directorate of Archaeology, Assam to get information about the historical and geographical background of the study area. Meaningful quantitative, cartographic and computer techniques and software (like Arc GIS 10.2.1, MS Excel, SPSS etc.) are applied in processing and representing the data in the form of tables, maps and diagrams.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Population Growth

There has always been positive growth rate of population in the study area since 1991. However, Barmula village is an exception where the growth was negative because people migrated from this village to other village. In the study area the percentage decadal growth of population in 1991-2001 varied from a low of -17.25 in Barmula village to a very high 53.69 in Gopeswar village. During 2001-2011 Bhitarkhola village has recorded the height growth rate of population (41.48) followed by Gopeswar village, Bhitarkhola N.C. village, Alipub village and Katanipara village.

Table 1: Trends of Growth of Population (1991-2011)

Village	Population			Decadal Growth	
	1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
				Per cent	Per cent
Bhitarkhola N.C.	60	69	84	15	21.73
Barmola	176	165	153	-17.25	-7.27
Gopeswar	149	229	324	53.69	41.48
Katanipara	614	778	920	26.71	18.25
Bhitarkhola	671	938	1,487	39.79	58.52
Alipub	1,035	1,409	1,730	36.13	18.55

Source: Calculated on the basis of data from Primary Census Abstract, Census of India 199, 2001 and 2011.

Dependency Ratio

Dependency ratio is an important demographic index to understand the pressure of children and older person (non-working group) upon the adult person (Working group). In the study area dependency ratio is found to vary from one village to another village. Depending on fertility and life expectancy the dependency ratio is found to vary from 45.30 per cent in the Bhitarkhola N.C. village to 54.78 per cent in Gopeswar village. In Barmula village dependency ratio is 53.32 percent while in Katanipara, Bhitarkhola and Alipub village dependency ratio are 46.71, 50.94 and 49.09 per cent respectively.

Table 2: Age Dependency Ratio among the neighbouring villages of the Madan Kamdev Temple, 2016

Village	Age group			Age Dependency Ratio
	0-14 years	15-59 years	60 and above years	
Bhitarkhola N.C.	24 (25.81)	64 (68.82)	05 (05.37)	45.30
Barmula	40 (28.99)	90 (65.22)	08 (05.79)	53.32
Gopeswar	106 (29.12)	236 (64.84)	22 (06.40)	54.78
Katanipara	280 (28.48)	670 (68.16)	33 (03.36)	46.71
Bhitarkhola	467 (29.19)	1,060 (66.25)	73 (04.56)	50.94
Alipub	533 (29.30)	1,220 (67.07)	66 (03.63)	49.09

Source: Field survey, 2016. Figures within brackets indicate the percentage to the total population

Spatial variation in the levels of socio-economic development among the neighbouring villages

The socio-economic development of the different neighbouring villages of Madan Kamdev Temple has been observed to vary according to their work.

Table 3: Variations in the Level of Socio-Economic Development of the neighbouring villagers of Madan Kamdev Temple

Villages	Literacy rate (X ₁)	sex ratio (X ₂)	Level of Education (HS) (X ₃)	Nuclear Family (X ₄)	Income for more than rupees 10,000 (X ₅)	number of literates (X ₆)	dependency ratio (X ₇)	Composite Z- Score value
Bhitarkhola N.C.	81.72	860	6.58	61.11	55.56	76	45.30	-2.98
Barmula	75.36	604	13.46	68.75	46.87	104	53.32	.12
Gopeswar	64.83	857	1.69	41.66	38.89	236	54.78	-1.12
Katanipara	68.46	810	6.97	64.50	45.00	673	46.71	.89
Bhitarhola	80.44	714	13.45	68.52	35.29	1,287	50.94	1.4
Alipub	69.93	831	10.74	58.04	33.79	1,272	49.09	6.59

Source: Primary survey, 2016

The composite value say that the Alipub village is socio economically more developed than other villages.

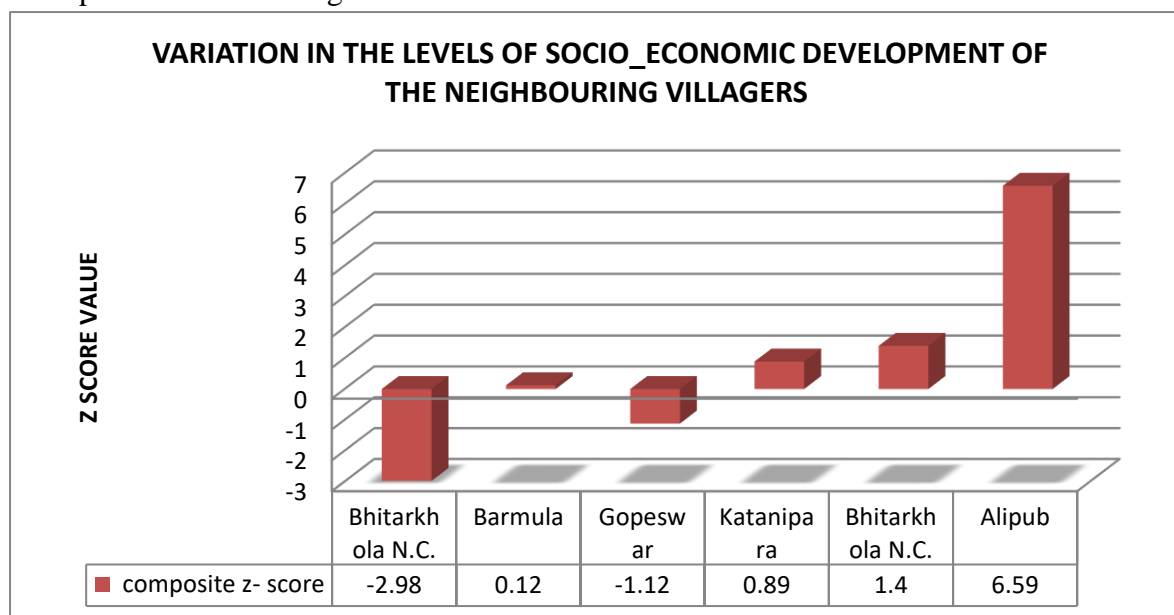


Fig.:2 Variation in socio economic development

There are social variation among the villages. Alipub village is highly developed and Bhitarkhola N.C. village is low developed in terms of social condition.

Table 4.: Variations in the Level of Social Development of the neighbouring villagers of Madan Kamdev Temple

Villages	Literacy rate (X ₁)	sex ratio (X ₂)	Level of Education (HS) (X ₃)	Nuclear Family (X ₄)	House Type (PUcca) (X ₅)	number of literates (X ₆)	CComposite Z- Score value
Bhitarkhola N.C.	81.72	860	6.58	61.11	55.56	76	-4.32
Barmula	75.36	604	13.46	68.75	46.87	104	.56
Gopeswar	64.83	857	1.69	41.66	38.89	236	-1.9
Katanipara	68.46	810	6.97	64.50	45.00	673	1.2
Bhitarhola	80.44	714	13.45	68.52	35.29	1,287	2.1
Alipub	69.93	831	10.74	58.04	33.79	1,272	5.12

Source: Primary survey, 2016

CONCLUSION

The life-style of man never remains same over time. Ever since man appeared on the surface of the earth in this present anatomical form and mental endowment, there has been continuous change in his life-style, sometime slowly and sometime rapidly. In a society change comes in the natural course of social evolution. It is associated with transformation of socio-cultural practices in a community or society. The degree and direction of this change may of course vary depending on the socio-cultural context. For a change to be termed as development, it must occur continuously in a desirable and desired direction. The development of a society varies from place to place and time to time. Social development is greatly influence by social composition of population, social interaction and other actors. This part is considered to understand the socio-economic change and development of the study area.

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