

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
J S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
ASSAM UNIVERSITY
SILCHAR-788011, INDIA

DECLARATION

I, Anjan Shee, Ph.D Scholar, bearing Registration No. Ph.D- 2488/14 dt. 24.03.2014, hereby, declare that the thesis titled **STATUS OF KARBI AND KUKI WOMEN IN CACHAR DISTRICT OF ASSAM** is a record of work done by me and to the best of my knowledge the contents of this thesis haven't been a basis for award of any degree to me or anybody else. The thesis has not been submitted to any other university/institute and therefore, it is submitted to Assam University for award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology.

Place: Assam University, Silchar
Date: 30th December 2016

(Anjan Shee)
Ph. D Research Scholar

PREFACE

The study entitled **Status of Karbi and Kuki Women in Cachar District of Assam** explores the status of women from the Karbi and Kuki villages of Cachar district. The study is based on the data collected by administering structured interview schedule to respondents and field observations in the Karbi and Kuki villages. The study is divided into nine chapters.

The first chapter **Introduction** introduces the study. It discusses the research problem, reviews the existing studies on the status of tribal women, and presents the methodological strategy consisted of theoretical framework, types and sources of data, the universe and the units of study, techniques and tools for data collection and data analysis. The second chapter, **Field of the Study**, discusses the geographical location, ethnic composition, tribal population, etc. of Assam, Cachar district and the Karbi and Kuki villages of the district. The third chapter is **The Respondents: Their Communities and Customs** which describes religion, marital status, age at marriage, family, education, occupation, monthly income etc. The fourth chapter titled **Decision Making and the Women** analyses the decision making roles and extant of decision making among the Karbi and Kuki women in various activities of daily life. The Fifth chapter **Economic Status of the Women**, analyses the status of Karbi and Kuki women in terms of occupation, monthly income, savings, nature of expenditure etc. The sixth chapter, **Political Status of the Women**, examines the patterns of participation in various political activities among the Karbi and Kuki women. The seventh chapter, **Health Status of the Women** analyses various aspects related to their health status like sex ratio, restriction and obligation, number of pregnancies per mother, mode of treatment, mortality etc. The eighth chapter, **Education, Communication and Status of the Women**, analyses the level of education, dropouts, educational discrimination, use of mobile phone etc. among the Karbi and Kuki women. The final chapter **Summary, Findings and Conclusion** summarizes the research, draws the major findings and concludes of the study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Thesis entitled **Status of Karbi and Kuki Women in Cachar District of Assam** has been carried out under the supervision and valuable guidance of Dr. Ruma Debnath, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Assam University. My respectful gratitude goes to her for providing valuable suggestions, comments and painstaking effort in the study. Her constructive attitude motivated me at every step of my research work, without which it would not have been possible to bring out the study in the present form.

I must express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor. G. Ram, Head of the department Sociology, for his immense support to complete this challenging task within the given time frame. His generosity helped me to keep the entire research in right perspective. It is my immense pleasure to thank Mrs. Kamla Devi wife of Prof. G. Ram for her moral support which I received whenever visited the residence of Prof. G. Ram.

I convey my deepest gratitude to Professor Tapadhir Bhattacharjee (former Vice Chancellor, Assam University) and Professor Rama Prasad Biswas (Former H.O.D. English Department of Assam University) for their immense support from the very inception of the study.

It is my immense pleasure to thank Professor Gopalji Mishra, Professor Gitika Bagchi, Professor B.K. Behera, Dr. Humayun Bokt and the other esteemed teachers of the Department of Sociology for making valuable suggestions during the seminars in my research. Apart from this, I am grateful to all non-teaching staff of the Department of Sociology for providing extensive cooperation.

I convey my sincere thanks to all the respondents for their cooperation during the data collection for the study. My deepest gratitude to Late Debesh Chakraborty, the most dedicated volunteer of Ram Krishna Mission Silchar, for introducing and accompanying me in most of the Karbi villages. My special thanks are for Mr. Holison Hanse and Mr. Chungzakhup Khochung, who were practically guided me in all the Karbi and Kuki villages respectively. My work always received a constant boost from Shib Sankar Dutta Roy during the entire fieldwork; I convey my heartfelt thanks to him.

It is a great opportunity to express my gratitude to those who have helped and encouraged me in various ways in carrying out this study. I extend my special thanks to Dr. Monoj Kumar Singh, for his extensive support during the formulation of the research project. My sincere thanks are to Dr. Debasish Purkayastha and Dr. Joydeep Goswamy for providing immense support all through the study. I also thank to Mr. Sandip Choudhury, the proprietor of M/S. S. Cube and the staff for their sincere and painstaking effort in printing the thesis.

Also, I convey my gratitude and thanks to Mrs. Kalpana Singh, and Dr. Moumita Singh along with other family members of Mr. Monilal Singh for their boosting morale during the writing of the work.

Last but not least, my heartfelt respect love and affection to my family members, relatives, friends colleague and well-wishers for their encouragement and moral support. Especially my mother - Jyoti Kona Shee, my brother –Prallhad Shee, my wife – Babita Shee, my sister – Shilpi Roy Choudhury, Nandita Shee, Jhuma Kar, Uma Roy Choudhury, my kids - Angshika and Anuraj along with my nephew Pranjal for their moral support and sacrifices they extended. I therefore humbly acknowledge their unflinching support and encouragement.

Place: Assam University, Silchar

Anjan Shee

Date: 30thDecember, 2016

CONTENTS

	Page No
Declaration	i
Certificate	ii
Preface	iii
Acknowledgement	iv-v
List of Tables	vii-x
Maps	xi
Chapter I : Introduction	1 - 27
Chapter II : Field of the Study	28-55
Chapter III : The Respondents: Their Communities and Customs	56-104
Chapter IV : Decision Making and the Women	105-128
Chapter V : Economic Status of the Women	129-151
Chapter VI : Political Status of the Women	152-176
Chapter VII : Health Status of the Women	177-200
Chapter VIII : Education, Communication and Status of the Women	201-220
Chapter IX : Summery, Findings and Conclusion	221-261
Bibliography	262-269
Appendices	270-289

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title of the Tables	Page
2.1	: Rural-Urban Distribution of Land in Assam.	30
2.2	: Rural-urban Distribution of population in Assam.	30
2.3	: Sharing of Tribal population of Assam in to major Tribal Groups.	31
2.4	: Distribution of Population of Assam by religion.	32
2.5	: GaonPanchayat wise distribution of Different Development Blocks of Cachar District.	34
2.6	: CD-Blocks, Sub-division & Circle in Cachar District.	35
2.7	: Revenue Circle & Revenue villages of Cachar District.	35
2.8	: Sex wise and Block wise total population and tribal population in Cachar District.	36
2.9	: Division of Clans into Sub clans of Karbi Tribe.	38
2.10	: Block wise and Gaon Panchayat wise distribution of Karbi and Kuki villages of Cachar District.	40
2.11	: Location of Karbi village with respect to Silchar town and their Distances	42
2.12	: Location of Kuki Villages with respect to Silchar town and their distances	43
2.13	: Boundaries of Karbi villages.	45
2.14	: Boundaries of Kuki villages.	46
2.15	: Distances of Educational Institution from Karbi Villages (in kms).	47
2.16	: Distances of Educational Institution from Kuki Villages (in kms).	49
2.17	: Distance of Economic/Commercial Institutions from Karbi Villages In Cachar District (in kms).	50
2.18	: Distance of Commercial Institutions from Kuki Villages (in kms).	51
2.19	: Average distance (km) of Tribal Villages from Financial Institutions.	52
2.20	: Distance of Health Institutions from Karbi Villages (in kms).	53
2.21	: Distance of Health Institutions from Kuki Villages (in kms).	54
3.1	: Religion among the Karbi and Kuki Respondents.	57
3.2	: Kinship Terms Used in the Karbi and Kuki Tribes.	58
3.3	: Clans among the Karbi Respondents.	60
3.4	: Clans among the Kuki Respondents.	61
3.5	: Age Groups among the Respondents.	62
3.6	: Types of Family among the Respondents	.64

3.7	: Family Size among the Respondents.	65
3.8	: Marital Status among the Respondents.	68
3.9	: Age-at-Marriage among the Respondents.	70
3.10	: Traditional Dress among Karbis by Sex and Age.	74
3.11	: Traditional Dress among Kukis by Sex and Age.	76
3.12	: House Types among the Respondents.	78
3.13	: Types of Latrine among the Respondents.	80
3.14	: Sources of Light in the Houses of Respondents.	81
3.15	: Sources of Cooking Fuel among the Respondents.	83
3.16	: Educational Qualification of the Family Members of the Karbi Respondents.	84
3.17	: Educational Qualification of the family members among the Kuki Respondents.	85
3.18	: Language Known among the Respondents (other than mother tongue)	86
3.19	: Land holding Size among the Respondents' Families.	88
3.20	: Primary Occupations among the Respondents.	89
3.21	: Respondents Monthly Family Income.	91
3.22	: Household Items in the Respondents' Families.	93
3.23	: Transport Vehicles among the Families of the Respondents.	94
4.1	: Participation Level of the Respondents in Decision Making for Domestic Expenditure.	106
4.2	: Extent of Decision Making for Domestic Expenditure among the Respondents.	107
4.3	: Participation of Women in Decision Making for Investment.	108
4.4	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making for Family Investments.	110
4.5	: Participation of the Respondents in Decision Making for Family Saving.	111
4.6	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making for Family Saving.	112
4.7	: Participation of Women in Decisions for Family Borrowing.	113
4.8	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making for Family Borrowing.	114
4.9	: Participation of the Respondents in Family Decision for Children's Education.	115
4.10	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making for Children's Education.	116
4.11	: Respondents' Participation in Decision Making for Treatment.	117
4.12	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making in Treatment.	118
4.13	: Participation of the Respondents in Decision Making for Vote casting.	119

4.14	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making for Vote Casting.	120
4.15	: Participation of the Respondents in Decision Making for Land Use.	121
4.16	: Extent of the Respondents' Decision Making for Land and Crop Selection.	122
5.1	: Employment Status of the Respondents.	130
5.2	: Primary Occupations of the Respondents.	131
5.3	: Monthly Income of the Respondents.	133
5.4	: Gender Variation of the Respondents' Wages.	134
5.5	: Modes of Wage Payment among the Respondents.	135
5.6	: Livestock Wealth in the Respondents' Families.	137
5.7	: Livestock Ownership in the Respondents' Families.	138
5.8	: Livestock Rearing in the Respondents' Families.	139
5.9	: Sellers of Livestock/ Animals in the Respondents' Families.	140
5.10	: Income from Livestock among the Respondents' Families.	141
5.11	: Modern Institutional Agency for Saving among the Respondents.	142
5.12	: Types of Saving Account among the Respondents.	144
5.13	: Income Spending of the Respondents.	145
5.14	: Principal Items of Expenditure among the Respondents.	146
5.15	: Economic Security Providers of Widows in the Respondent's Families.	147
6.1	: Participation of the Respondents in Gram Sabha Meetings.	153
6.2	: Distribution of respondents on the basis of Awareness about Panchayat Schemes.	154
6.3	: Respondents' Satisfaction about the Role of Gaon Panchayat in Village Welfare.	156
6.4	: Level of Satisfaction among the Respondents over the headman's Role.	157
6.5	: Respondents' Awareness and Satisfaction about the Traditional Village Administration.	159
6.6	: Respondent's Awareness about Tribal Welfare Organization.	160
6.7	: Attitude of Respondents' Family towards Women's Political Participation.	162
6.8	: Role of Family among Respondents in Exercising Their Voting Right.	163
6.9	: Women's Participation in Political Discussions in their Families.	164
6.10	: Political Party Membership among the Respondents.	166
6.11	: Purpose of Exercising Voting Right among the Respondents.	167
6.12	: Factors Influencing Vote Casting among the Respondents.	169

6.13 : Level of Vote Casting among the Respondents.	170
7.1 : Sex-wise Distribution of Population among the Respondent's Family.	178
7.2 : Mortality in Respondents' Families in the last 10 Years.	179
7.3 : Infant Mortality in the Families in the last 10 Years.	180
7.4 : Maternal Mortality in their Families in the Last 10 Years.	181
7.5 : Number of Pregnancies among the Respondents. (completed and incomplete reproductive cycle)	183
7.6 : Health Worker's Visit to the Respondents' Villages.	185
7.7 : Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Awareness of Family Planning.	186
7.8 : Habit of Washing Hands after Coming Out from Latrine among Respondents.	188
7.9 : Modes of Treatment among Respondents.	189
7.10 : Restrictions upon Women during Mensuration and Pregnancy in Respondents' Families.	190
7.11 : Consumption of Nutritious Food during Pregnancy in Respondents' Families.	191
7.12 : Reasons for Not Taking Nutritious Food during Pregnancy.	192
7.13 : Family Attitude towards Pregnant Women's Health among the Respondents'	193
7.14 : Awareness about Diseases among the Respondents.	194
8.1 : Distribution of respondents on the basis of their Educational Level.	202
8.2 : Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Dropout.	204
8.3 : Reasons for School / College Dropout among the Respondents.	205
8.4 : Patterns of Discrimination in Children's Education in the Families of the Respondents	207
8.5 : Mode of Acquiring Mobile Phone among the Respondents.	208
8.6 : Types of Mobile Phone Set among the Respondents.	209
8.7 : Type of Using Cell-phone by the Respondents'.	209
8.8 : Nature of Payment of phone Bill among the Respondents.	210
8.9 : Monthly Expenditure of Mobile-Phone among the Respondents.	211
8.10 : Types of Television Sets in the Respondents' Families.	212
8.11 : Types of Channels Watched by the Respondents.	213
8.12 : Purchasers of Television Set among the Respondents .	214
8.13 : Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Time Spent to Watch Television.	215

MAPS

