

## Chapter 2

### FIELD OF THE STUDY

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The present chapter portrays a brief profile of the study area and describes certain main features of Karbi and Kuki tribes in Cachar district of Assam. Assam is located in the North-Eastern region, composed of hills and mountains and spread over seven states and is popularly known as seven sisters. But now the region is called as the region of Eight Jewels, i.e., eight states of easternmost part of India; namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Sikkim. Sikkim is the Himalayan state and the new member of the region, which became the part of the region in 1990 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_India) accessed on 22 September, 2016 at 7.30 am). Assam is the major state of North-East India located in the Himalayan range. Among these states, except Assam, all other states are very small. The geographical area of the region is 262,230 kms and comprising 8% of the Indian geographical area. The North-Eastern region is geographically located between 20<sup>0</sup> and 22<sup>0</sup> north latitudes and 89<sup>0</sup>46' and 97<sup>0</sup>5' east longitudes ([www.neportal.org/northeastfiles/northeast](http://www.neportal.org/northeastfiles/northeast) accessed on 22 September, 2016 at 7.50 am). The region is surrounded by the international borders on its four sides: China in the north, Myanmar in the east, Bangladesh in the South-west and Bhutan in the northwest ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_India) accessed on 22 September, 2016 at 7 am). The all eight states of the region are officially recognised under North East Council that was constituted in 1971 for taking special care of the region. For all-round development of this region, a separate ministry in the Government of India, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) was set up in 2001 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_India) accessed on 22 September, 2016 at 5.40 am). According to the census of India report 2011, the total population of north-eastern region of India is approximately 40 million which comprises 3.1% of Indian total population. Again, the total area of the region is 262,320 square kms (Census report of India, 2011, [www.yourarticlelibrary.com/indias-geographical-location-and-extent-withmaps/2508](http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/indias-geographical-location-and-extent-withmaps/2508) accessed on 22 September, 2016 at 8.20 pm).

North East India is known for its diversified cultural heritage including tribal population. It is the habitat of more than 130 major tribal communities in respect of population, found both hills and plains, constituting one third of the total Indian tribal communities. Each tribal community has its distinct language, dress, food habits, customs and tradition, festivals etc. Among the states, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland are the tribal dominated states. However, all the states of the region have a good number of tribal groups: viz., in Assam-16 main tribes, Arunachal Pradesh-26 tribes; Manipur-34 different tribal communities, whereas, in Nagaland-16 major tribes, Tripura- 19 different tribal communities, and 4 major tribal communities are found in Sikkim (<http://www.google.co.in> accessed on 22/09/2016 at 6.45 am). However Assam has total 29 scheduled tribes (accessed from <http://tribal.nic.in> on 28.11.2016 at 7.30 pm). The tribal communities belongs to various religious group; viz., Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Animist etc. Besides, North-eastern states have a good number of nontribal communities like Assamese, Bengali, Manipuri, Punjabi, Bhojpuri, Bihari and others. Assam has more diversity of population than any other state of the region. A brief account of population in Assam is given here.

### **The Assam State**

Assam is the major state of North eastern state popularly known for its undulated blue hills, green forestry, tea gardens, temples and mighty snow. Assam is located between 24<sup>08'</sup> N to 27<sup>0</sup> 56' N latitudes and 89<sup>0</sup> 42' E to 96<sup>0</sup> E longitudes. It is bounded by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh on the North, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram on the south, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland on the east and Bangladesh and West Bengal on the west. While the two rivers Brahmaputra and Barak divide the state into two major regions; viz., Barak Valley and Brahmaputra Valley regions separated by Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong hill range (Das, 2012). Assam has 35 administrative districts, 30 districts are belongs to Brahmaputra valley whereas 03 districts are located in Barak valley and two districts; namely Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong are hill districts. Assam comprises 2.39 per cent of India's land with an area of 78,438 square kms. Assam is mainly agricultural state and hence its economy mainly depends on agriculture. The maximum land of the state is in rural area. The

following table shows the distribution of Assam's land into rural and urban sectors:

Table 2.1  
Rural-Urban Distribution of Land in Assam  
(Percentage and Parentheses)

Category of Land	Area (in kms.)
Rural	77476.23 (98.77)
Urban	961.77 (1.23)
Total	78,438 (100)

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2010 accessed from <http://shodhgagna.ac.in> on 21.05.2015 at 7.18 am.

The above table reveals that Assam is having rural predominance. Almost all (98.77%) of the total land is in rural area, and a very small portion (1.23%) of the land is in urban area.

Assam is the most populous state in North East India. The population of Assam is 31,169,272: male- 15,954,927 (51.19%): and female- 15,214,345 (48.81%). The sex ratio is 954 females per thousand males. The maximum population of Assam is also mainly rural based. The following table shows the sex wise rural-urban distribution of population of Assam:

Table 2.2  
Rural-urban Distribution of Population in Assam  
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Sl. No.	Area	Male	Female	Total
1	Rural	13,689,739 (85.80)	13,090,777 (86.04)	26,780,516 (85.92)
2	Urban	2,265,188 (14.20)	2,123,568 (13.96)	4,388,756 (14.08)
Total		15,954,927 (100)	15,214,345 (100)	31,169,272 (100)

Source: [www.censusindia.gov.in/vital\\_statistics/SRC\\_Report/11chap%204%20-%202011](http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRC_Report/11chap%204%20-%202011) accessed on 5.9.2016, at 6pm.

The above table reveals that most (85.92%) of the people are living in rural areas and the rest (14.08%) are living in urban areas. In the rural area,

female (86.04%) population is more than the male (85.80%), but in urban areas, the male population (14.20%) is more than female population (13.96%).

Assam is generally called Mini India or India in miniature, due to its diversified cultural heritage. It has a long history of migration of people of different linguistic and racial groups like Proto-Austroloid, Mongoloid, Aryo-Mongoloid, and Aryo-Mongoloid-Dravidian since prehistoric period.

After Independence, due to division of greater Assam, various ethnic groups also remain in the divided part. Still, Assam is a safe habitat of various ethnic groups. Ethno-linguistically, three major racial groups are found in Assam viz., (i) Austro-Asiatic, (ii) Tibeto-Chinese and (iii) Indo-European (Taher 1993). Of the 29 scheduled tribes of Assam, there are 23 tribal groups which have 0.00033% to 40.09% of population Assam (total 97.67%) in Assam with 14 hill tribes and 09 plain tribes (Das, 2012). The following table shows the share of tribal groups of Assam in the tribal population of the state (Das, 2012):

Table 2.3  
Sharing of Tribal population of Assam in to major Tribal Groups

Sl. No.	Name of the Tribe	Share in total tribal population (%)
1	Chakma	0.075
2	Dimasa	3.35
3	Garo	0.64
4	Hajong	0.008
5	Hmar	0.437
6	Lusai	0.09
7	Karbi	10.68
8	Naga	0.66
9	Deori	1.22
10	Pawi	0.027
11	Hojai	0.08
12	Synteng	0.1
13	Barman	0.48
14	Bodo	40.09
15	Khasi-Jaintia	0.38
16	Kuki	0.85
17	Lakher	0.00033
18	Man	0.022
19	Sonowal-Kachari	7.01
20	Tiwa	5.02
21	Mising	17.80
22	Mech	0.27
23	Rabha	8.14

Source: Das, Madhusree. 2012 Tribal Women of Assam, EBH Publishers (India), Guwahati-1.

The above table shows the (97.67%) share of 23 tribal groups in the total tribal population of Assam. Bodo is the largest tribal group of Assam with sharing of over two fifths (40.09%) of the total tribal population of the State, largely settled in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD). With about one fifth (17.80%) of total tribal population, Mising forms the second largest tribal group inhabiting mainly Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Jorhat districts of Assam. Karbi tribe is the third largest tribal community mainly inhabiting Karbi Anglong district and a small portion in Dima Hasao district of Assam containing over one tenth (10.70%) of the total tribal population of Assam. Rabha having about one tenth (8.14%) of the tribal population become the fourth largest tribal community of Assam inhabiting largely Kamrup, Drrang and Nalbari districts. Sonowal-Kachari tribe is the fifth major tribal group having (7.01%) of the tribal population, settled mainly in the districts of upper Assam. The remaining tribal groups Tiwa (5.02%), Dimasa (3.35%), and Deori (1.22%) share about one tenth (9.59%) of the population and they are scattered in the districts of Morigaon (Tiwa), Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong (Dimasa) and Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, and Tinsukia (Deori) (Das, 2012). However, 16 tribal communities have a remarkable existence in Assam according to the population(ranging from 0.1% to 40.09%).

Assam is a heterogeneous state, composed of several ethnic groups belonging to tribal and non-tribal communities of various religions like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and several animism. The following table shows the religious composition of people in Assam.

Table 2.4  
Distribution of Population of Assam by Religion

Religious group	Population	Percentage
Hindu	17,296,455	64.89
Muslim	8,240,611	30.92
Christian	986,589	3.70
Buddhist	51,029	0.19
Sikh	22,519	0.08
Jain	23,957	0.09

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2010; accessed from [www.populationcommission.nic.in/content/934\\_1Densityofpopulation.aspx](http://www.populationcommission.nic.in/content/934_1Densityofpopulation.aspx), on 12.3.2015 at 5.40 am

The above table speaks that Assam is a Hindu dominated state where over three fifths (64.89%) of the total population belongs to Hindus. The Muslim population is almost half of that of Hindus constituting about one third (30.92%) of total population in the state. Besides, people belonging to Christianity constitute 3.70% and others constitute less than 1% of the total population of the state.

### **The Cachar District**

Cachar is the largest (in area and population) district in Barak Valley. Majority of the people in the district are Bengali linguistic and Hindu. Muslims constitute the second largest population in the district. Located in the southern part of Assam, Cachar district is the gateway of three important North-eastern states; viz., Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur. The district has an area of 3786 sq. km. It is bounded by Borail and Jaintia hill ranges in the north, Mizoram in the south, Manipur state in the east and Hailakandi (another district in Barak valley), and Bangladesh in the west. It locates between  $92^{\circ}24'$  and  $93^{\circ}15'$  east longitudes and  $24^{\circ}22'$  and  $25^{\circ}8'$  north latitudes.

Silchar is the district headquarters town, 342 Kms from the state capital Dispur ([www.assamgov.in/cachar](http://www.assamgov.in/cachar) accessed on 18.02.2015 at 7.05 am). It divides into 2 sub-divisions (Silchar and Lakhipur) and 15 development blocks. Bengali is the official language in Barak valley including the Cachar district and sylheti, a dialect of Bengali is mother tongue of majority of the people. Apart from Bengali, there are the people of Manipuri, Dimasa, Rongmei Naga, Khasi, Pnar, Hmar, Mizo, Karbi, Kuki, tea tribes, Hindi speaking, Bhojpori, Bihari and Assamese communities.

In ancient period, Cachar was ruled by Kachari kingdom and in 1830 the British annexed Cachar. After that, greater Haflong area with the entire North Cachar Hills district included as the extended part of Cachar district. But after independence in 1951, North Cachar Hills became a separate district and recently it has been renamed as Dima Hasao district. After separation of North Cachar,

Cachar district had three sub-divisions; viz., Silchar, Hailakandi and Karimganj. But in 1983 Karimganj and in 1989 Hailakandi achieved the status of new districts. Presently, Cachar district has two sub-division; viz., Silchar and Lakhipur. Silchar town has Silchar Municipal Board and Lakhipur town has Lakhipur Town Committee. The rural area has 15 development blocks and 163 Gaon Panchayats in the district. Development block wise number of Gaon Panchayats is given in the following table:

Table 2.5  
Gaon Panchayat wise distribution of Different Development  
Blocks of Cachar District

Sl. No.	Name of Development Block	No. of Gaon Panchayrt
1	Sonai	15
2	Narsingpur	16
3	Rajabazar	10
4	Silchar	12
5	Udharband	14
6	Salchapra	08
7	Lakhipur	07
8	Borkhala	13
9	Katigorah	10
10	Binnakandi	09
11	Banskandi	08
12	Palonghat	09
13	Barjalenga	10
14	Tapang	07
15	Kalain	15
	Total	163

Source: [www.cachardistrict.nic.in](http://www.cachardistrict.nic.in) accessed on 05.05.2016 at 6.15 am.

From the table reveals that Narsingpur Block is the largest Block with 16 Gaon Panchayats followed by Sonai and Kalain development blocks with 15 Gaon Panchayats each whereas Lakhipur and Tapang blocks have the least numbers of Gaon Panchayats. There are five revenue circles in the two sub-divisions of the district. Sub-division wise distribution of development blocks and revenue circles is given in the following table:

Table 2.6  
CD-Blocks, Sub-division & Circle in Cachar District

Sub-divisions	Name of Block	Name of Circle
Silchar	Sonai Dev. Block	Sonai Circle
	Narsingpur Dev. Block	
	Palonghat Dev. Block	
	Rajabazar Dev. Block	Lakhipur Circle
	Silchar Dev. Block	Silchar-Sadar Circle
	Udharbond Dev. Block	Udharbond Circle
	Salchakra Dev. Block	Silchar-Sadar Circle
	Borkhola Dev. Block	Silchar-Sadar Circle
	Katigora Dev. Block	Katigora Circle
	Borjalenga Dev. Block	Silchar-Sadar Circle
	Tapang Dev. Block	Silchar-Sadar Circle
	Kalain Dev. Block	Katigora Circle
Lakhipur	Lakhipur Dev. Block	Lakhipur Circle
	Binnakandi Dev. Block	Lakhipur Circle
	Banskandi Dev. Block	Lakhipur Circle

Source: <http://www.cachar.nic.in/adminatpresent.htm>, accessed on 05.05.2016 at 6.15 pm.

The above table reveals that, in 15 development blocks, 12 are under the Silchar Sub-division, and only three under Lakhipur sub-division. Thus Silchar has four fifths (80%) of the development blocks. Besides, so far as tribal villages and tribal population are concerned Silchar sub-division has more than Lakhipur.

The following table shows revenue circles and revenue villages therein:

Table 2.7  
Revenue Circles & Revenue Village in Cachar District

SL No.	Name of Revenue Circle	No. of Revenue Villages
1.	Silchar Revenue Circle	232
2.	Udharbond Revenue Circle	83
3.	Katigora Revenue Circle	147
4.	Lakhipur Revenue Circle	151
5.	Sonai Revenue Circle	203
	Total	816

Source: <http://www.cachar.nic.in/adminatpresent.htm> accessed on 05.05.2016 at 6.18 am.

The table reveals that Silchar revenue circle is the largest one in the district with 232 revenue villages, followed subsequently by Sonai circle with 203 revenue villages and Lakhipur circle with 151 revenue villages. Udharband is the smallest revenue circle with 83 revenue villages, followed by Katigora with 147 revenue villages.



Tribal people are scattered over the all 15 development blocks of the district. The block wise distribution of tribal population in the district shown in the following table:

Table 2.8  
Sex wise and Block wise Total Population and Tribal Population in Cachar District (Percentage in parentheses)

Sl. No	Name of Dev. Block	Total Population			Tribal Population		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Katigorah	52885 (6.66)	49619 (6.54)	102504 (6.60)	77 (0.92)	72 (0.85)	149 (0.88)
2	Salchapra	38786 (4.88)	36710 (4.83)	75496 (4.86)	9 (0.11)	12 (0.14)	21 (0.12)
3	Borkhala	65491 (8.25)	61092 (8.05)	126583 (8.15)	561 (6.70)	595 (6.99)	1156 (6.84)
4	Kalain	78779 (9.92)	74423 (9.80)	153202 (9.86)	389 (4.64)	363 (4.26)	752 (4.45)
5	Silchar	69680 (8.77)	67281 (8.86)	136961 (8.82)	151 (1.80)	142 (1.67)	293 (1.73)
6	Udharband	72077 (9.08)	68254 (8.99)	140331 (9.03)	425 (5.07)	383 (4.50)	808 (4.78)
7	Tapang	30648 (3.86)	28950 (3.81)	59598 (3.84)	146 (1.74)	167 (1.96)	313 (1.85)
8	Sonai	70971 (8.94)	68463 (9.02)	139434 (8.98)	11 (0.13)	13 (0.15)	24 (0.14)
9	Barjalenga	48121 (6.06)	45395 (5.98)	93516 (6.02)	125 (1.49)	130 (1.53)	255 (1.51)
10	Narsingpur	83159 (10.47)	81127 (10.68)	164286 (10.58)	1862 (22.22)	2088 (24.51)	3950 (23.38)
11	Palonghat	43333 (5.46)	41584 (5.48)	84917 (5.47)	559 (6.67)	576 (6.76)	1135 (6.72)
12	Banskandi	30097 (3.79)	29488 (3.88)	59585 (3.84)	24 0.27()	23 (0.27)	47 (0.28)
13	Binnakandi	36351 (4.58)	35610 (4.68)	71961 (4.63)	19 (0.23)	30 (0.35)	49 (0.29)
14	Rajabazar	49327 (6.21)	47262 (6.22)	96589 (6.22)	3553 (42.40)	3455 (40.56)	7008 (41.48)
15	Lakhipur	24527 (3.09)	24020 (3.16)	48547 (3.12)	468 (5.59)	469 (5.51)	937 (5.55)
Total		794232 (100)	759278 (100)	1553510 (100)	8379 (100)	8518 (100)	16897 (100)

Source: Census of India Report 2011 accessed on 05.05.2016 at 6.21 pm.

The table speaks that Narsingpur block has the largest population with over one tenth (10.58%) of total population followed by Kalain about one tenth (9.86%) of the total people while, Lakhipur has the least population with only

3.12%. So far as tribal population is concerned, Jaypur Rajabazar Block ranked the highest tribal populated Development Block (7008 persons) followed by Narsingpur Development Block with 3950 persons. Salchapra is the lowest tribal populated Development Block with only 21 persons followed by Sonai with 24 tribal persons among the 15 Development Blocks of Cachar district of Assam.

### **The Karbi and Kuki Tribes**

Karbi and Kuki are the two prominent ethnic groups of Assam belonging to Kuki- Chin linguistic subgroup. Karbis are mainly settled in Karbi Anglong district and also found in some pockets of Nagaon, Sonitpur, Kamrup, Dima Hasao and also in very small areas of Cachar district in Assam. They are also found in Meghalaya and Nagaland but their presence in these states is marginal. On the other hand, Kukis are settled in Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. In India they are found in six out of eight states in North Eastern region (except Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim) (Haokip, 2013).

Karbi are ethnically of Mongoloid origin, having a dialect belonging to the Tibeto-Burmese, particularly, Kuki-Chin sub-group of language. (Bhattacharjee1986). Various groups speaking Tibeto Burman languages originally inhabited Western China near the Yang-Tee-Kiang River and bank of Hawang-Ho River. It is said that from this region, these people went down in various areas nearer to the bank of river Brahmaputra. The Karbi people along with others belonging to this group entered India and Burma through this region. Another group of Karbi people migrated in greater Assam from central Asia. It is also believed that in the long past Karbi people in large numbers inhabited in entire Kajiranga region, on the bank of the river Kapili and Kalang, the undivided Assam. But during the Kachari reigns, Karbis were pushed out from these regions by the solders and then onwards, these people could have settled in the isolated hill top. Besides, a group of Karbi people entered the Ahom kingdom also, in course of time they were tremendously tortured by Burmese invaders and to get rid of these regular threats, Karbi people had to choose deep forests and top hills for their safe habitation. On the other hand, a few Karbi people migrated to lower Assam. The Karbis of Assam are also known as “Mikir” and considered as hill tribe. But according to Karbi history, the word “Mikir” is wrongly associated

with Karbi. Karbi people consider this as a matter of disgrace for the whole community and thus Karbi people never allow to call themselves as ‘Mikir’. The Karbi is divided into three groups, viz., Amri, Ranghang, and Chinthong ([www.assamjournal.com/2011/karbi-tribe-of-assam](http://www.assamjournal.com/2011/karbi-tribe-of-assam) accessed on 11.12.2014 at 5.20 am). The Karbi has five clans and each clan has a number of sub-clans which are given as the following table.

Table 2.9  
Division of Clans into Sub clans of Karbi Tribe

Name of Clan	Number of sub clans
Terang (Hanjang)	7
Teron (Krojang)	6
Enghee (Ejang)	30
Ingti (Lijang)	7
Timung (Tungjang)	30
Total	80

Source: <http://karbi.net/kinship/clans> accessed on 05.03.2016 at 8.00 pm.

This table reveals that Enghee (Ejang) and Timung (Tungjang) are the largest clans with having 30 sub-clans each followed by Terang (Hanjang) and Ingti (Lijang) clans with 7 sub-clans. Teron (Krojang) is the smallest clan group with having only 6 sub-clans. Karbi people belonging to all 5 clans have been living in Cachar district.

Among the tribal groups in Assam, the Karbi constitutes more than 10 per cent of the total tribal strength and is placed third largest tribal group just below the Bodo and Mising (Das, 2012). On the other hand, Kuki is a community composed by various ethnic groups found in several states of North east India, Burma and Bangladesh. In India, Kuki people are largely inhabited in Karbi-Anglong, Dima-Hasao district of Assam, several districts of Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur Hills. The term ‘Kuki’ is a foreign term applied by the outsiders for identifying the groups of people found in these regions without having any knowledge regarding their difference of custom, tradition and other character. According to few scholars, Kuki is a Bengali word meaning the ‘Hill people, or ‘high landers’. But it is also true that the term Kuki is a colonial generic term for the group of tribal people living in the particular regions of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and few districts of Assam. People of these groups used to migrate from these areas particularly from eastern regions of

Asia to the different parts of Northern-eastern region of India at the different points of time. This process has been in operation since the British rule and various socio-economic factors are responsible for that. So, 'Kuki' is not an indigenous term. The terms Kuki, Chin, Mizo, Zomi etc. are synonymous. In India, these groups of people are classified as Kuki whereas in Burma they more popularly use 'Chin' as their race (Kamkhenthang, 2013). But the people who use any of the above term living in different regions in order to establish their identity never use these terms as synonymous. The terms Kuki, Mizo or Chin has ethnic as well as linguistic connotation. The people using any of these terms to denote their race belong to a linguistic sub-family of Tibeto-Burman group. Hence, due to ethnic relationship and linguistic affinities, the people of Kuki communities are identified as Mongoloid racial stocks of the Astro-Asiatic group of Tibeto-Burman linguistic family which also used to denote the different tribes that come under the unique nomenclature. The word 'Chin' which is basically used to denote various hill tribes of Chin state of Myanmar has the meaning of a fellow, friend, close person or companion.

Thus, Kuki is a generic term used for a number of groups who have migrated from Central Asia through Myanmar into India. Hence, in India they are well identified as Kuki, but in Myanmar they are called Chin. In Indian Kuki community, there are two groups evolved according to their arrival in North-eastern region particularly in Assam. Groups of people who were seen in this region since 15<sup>th</sup> century are called Old Kuki, but the groups whose arrival are assumed to be in the last part of 18<sup>th</sup> century and after that are classified as New Kuki. Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India published a list of 37 tribal groups belongs to Kuki community. It includes i. Baite, or Bietes, ii. Changsan, iii. Changloi, iv. Dounghel, v. Gamlhou, vi. Gangte, vii. Guite, viii. Hanneng, ix. Haokip or Haopit, x. Haolai, xi. Hengna, xii. Hongsungn, xiii. Hrangkhoh or Rongkhoh, xiv. Jongb, xv. Khowchung, . xvi. Khawthlang or Khothalong, xvii. Khelma, xviii. Kholhou, xix. Kipgen, xx. Kuki, xxi. Lienthang, xxii. Lhanganm, xxiii. Lhoujem, xxiv. Lhouvum, xxv. Lupheng, xxvi. Mangjol, xxvii. Misao, xxviii. Riang, xxix. Sairham, xxx. Selnam, xxxi. Singson, xxxii. Sitlhou, xxxiii. Sukte, xxxiv. Thado, xxxv. Thangew, xxxvi. Uibuth, xxxvii. Vaiphei ([www.nchills.nic.in/N C HILLS- kukis.htm](http://www.nchills.nic.in/N_C_HILLS-kukis.htm). accessed on 06.08.2015 at 4.31 pm).

Thus, Karbi and Kuki are the major tribal communities of Assam in respect of population. In Cachar district, the Karbis mainly dwell in 13 villages of Kalain and Borkhola development blocks while Kukis are the inhabitants in 17 villages of Udharband, Rajabazar, Lakhipur, Binnakhandi, and Borjalenga development blocks. The block wise and Gaon Panchayet wise distribution of the Karbi and Kuki villages is shown in the following table:

Table 2.10  
Block wise and Gaon Panchayat wise distribution of Karbi and Kuki villages of Cachar District

Name of the Tribe	Name of Dev. Block	Name of G.P.	Sl. No.	Name of <i>Punjee</i> or village	
Karbi	Borkhala	Hatichera	1	Rupachera	
		Subong	2	Madhurapar (Boundary)	
	Kalain	Kalain		3	Konapara Grant
				4	Boalchera
				5	Boalchera Poila number
		Kalibari		6	Sindhura 4 Number
				7	Sindhura 9 number
				8	Damcherra
		Paikan	9	Ichachera	
		Gumra	10	Manai Hellot	
		Digarkhal	11	Menam	
		Kushiarkul		12	Nij-Ratachera
				13	New Malidhor
(A) Total	2	8	13		
Kuki	Udharband	Kumbha	1	Haibung	
			2	Akai (Songpijang)	
			3	Songhlu	
	Borjalenga	Nayabil		4	Taranathpur(Balichuri)
				5	Nagathal Forest Village
		Loharband	6	Naxa Tilla	
		Bagbahar		7	Luipui (Bagbahar Pt.V)
			8	Old Bagbahar	
	Binakandi	Dilkhush	9	Tupidor	
	Lakhipur	87 Digli Lakhichera		10	Lalpani HaokiPunjee
				11	Kharzol
			12	Saihmar	
	Joipur Rajabazar			13	Phaizol
				14	Zoar Lalpieng Punjee
			15	Bethel	
			16	Toulpi	
			17	Ngente	
(B)Total	6	7	17		
Grand Total	8	15	30		

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table reveals, of the 15 development blocks, Karbi villages are confined to only in two viz.; Barkhala and Kalain whereas, Kuki villages are found in five development blocks; viz., Udharband, Barjalenga, Binnakandi, Lakhipur and Joypur-Rajabazar. Both Karbi and Kuki register their existence in seven development blocks in the district. But at the Gaon Panchayat level, Karbi people are found in eight Gaon Panchayats whereas Kukis are found in six Gaon Panchayats throughout the district.

As the tribal villages of Cachar district are located generally either at the hilltop or foot hills, most of the habitations of Karbi and Kuki communities are located in remote areas with very poor communication.

The communication system of entire Cachar district in general is undoubtedly poor. Except a few VIP roads and Mahasarak, most of the motorable roads are not all weather roads. The road condition of most tribal villages are very poor. The roads for most of the tribal villages are generally of three types; (i) the pacca or black top roads (ii) semi-pacca motor able roads and (iii) non-motor able road. Non motor able roads are generally used by pedestrians to reach a village. But during rainy season the kachcha or semi-pacca roads become worse than the non-motorable road. The following two tables (2.11 and 2.12) show the location of the tribal villages with respect to the Silchar town and also respective condition of roads.

Table 2.11  
Location of Karbi Villages with respect to Silchar Town and their Distance

Name of Village	Road Route Passing via	Distance of Silchar Town (in kms.)	Road Type and Distance (in kms.)		
			Motorable		Non- motorable path (for pedestrians only)
			Pacca/ Black Topped Road	Semi-Pacca /Kachcha	
Rupachera	Lalbag, Hatichera	23	16	03	04
Madhurapar (Boundary)	Subong,Dolu	27	18	05	04
Konapara Grant	Kalain	33	30	02	01
Boalchera	Kalain	36	30	03	03
Boalchera 1 Number (Dishagool)	Kalain	37	30	03	04
Sindhura 4 Number	Kalain	35	30	03	02
Sindhura 9 Number	Kalain	37	30	05	02
Damcherra (Ailathal)	Kalain	38	30	5	03
Ichachera	Digarkhal, Kalain	44	36	04	04
Manai Hellot	Gumra, Kalain	41	35	02	04
Menam	Digarkhal, Kalain	39	36	--	03
Nij-Ratachera	Jalalpur, Kalain	41	36	04	01
New Malidhor	Malidor, Kalain	47	30	17	--
Total- 13 Villages		477	387	55	35
Average Distance / Length of Road or path		36.7	29.8	4.2	2.7

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The above table reveals that the average distance from Silchar to Karbi Punjees or villages is 36.7 kms. Rupachera Karbi (Mikir) Punjee under Hatichera Gaon Panchayet of Borkhala Development Block is the nearest Karbi village from Silchar town with approximate distance of 23 km on the Silchar-Borkhala road (Mahasarak) whereas, New Malidhor of Kushiarkul Gaon Panchayet under Kalain Development Block is the farthest village, 47 kms away from Silchar town on the Silchar-Shillong road. However, the average non-motorable road for

reaching each Karbi village is about 2.7 Kms. New Malidhor is the nearest village from motor able road followed by Nij Ratachera and Konapara grant (within one km from the motorable road). Sindhura No.4 and Sindhura No. 9 of Kalibari Gaon Panchayet under Kalain Development Block are about 2 kms away, whereas Boalchera and Damchera are located about 3 kms from motorable road. However, Rupachera, Madhurapar, Boalchera, Ichachera and Manai Helat are the farthest Karbi villages about 04 kms each from motorable road.

Each Kuki villages is located far away from Silchar town. The following table shows the location for communication to each village and its distance from road along with its condition:

Table 2.12  
Location of Kuki Village with respect to Silchar Town and their Distance

Name of Village	Road Route Passing Via	Distance of Silchar Town (in km)	Road and Distance in K.M		
			Motorable		Non- motorable path (pedestrians only)
			Pacca/ Black Topping	Semi-pacca /Kaccha	
Haibung	Tikal ONGC ghat, Salganga	33	24	03	06
Akai (Songpijang)	Ichachera, Kumbha	41	28	08	05
Songhlu	Dwigun, Kumbha	40	28	08	04
Taranathpur (Balichuri)	Taranathpur, Borjalenga	30	24	04	02
Nagathal Forest Village	Taranathpur, Borjalenga	38	32	02	04
Naxa Tilla	Lwerband, Dwarband	39	30	05	04
Luiptui (Bagbahar Pt.V)	Bagbahar T.E, Dwarband	36	30	3.5	2.5
Old Bagbahar	Dwarband	38	30	05	03
Tupidor	Jiribum	77	69	05	03
Lalpani HaokiPunjee	Fulertal	51	51	00	00
Kharzol	Jirighat	58	51	04	03
Saihmar	Jirighat	55	51	04	00
Phaizol	Harinagar	52	46	04	02
Zoar Lalpieng	Harinagar	50	49	00	01
Bethel	Harinagar	53	49	00	04
Toulpi	Harinagar Mollong	66	46	14	06
Ngente	Harinagar, Mollong	63	60	00	03
Total 17 villages		820	698	69.5	52.5
Average		48.2	41.1	4.1	3.1

Source : Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.



The table reflects the location and communication facility of Kuki villages. The average distance of each village from Silchar town is about 48 kms and on an average, each village is located approximately 3.1 kms from the motorable road. Of the 17 Kuki villages, Taranathpur (Balichuri) of Noyabil Gaon Panchayet under Borjalenga Development Block is the nearest Kuki Punjee, about 30 Kms from Silchar town on the Silchar-Dwarband road, followed by Haibung of Kumbha Gaon Panchayet under Udharband Development Block, 33 kms on the Silchar-Kumbha road, whereas Tupidhor is the extreme Kuki village located near the Assam-Manipur border, about 77 kms from Silchar town on the Silchar- Jiribam (Manipur) road. But kachcha road and road for pedestrians to reach a Kuki location are also not in good condition. However, Lalpani Haoki Punjee of 87 Digli Lakhichera Gaon Panchayet under Lakhipur Development Block is the only Kuki village located in road side, followed by Zoar Lalpieng Punjee of 87 Digli Lakhichera Gaon Panchayet under Joypur Rajabazar Development Block which is 1 km from Silchar-Harinagar road. Toulpi of 87 Digli Lakhichera Gaon Panchayet under Joypur Rajabazar Development Block is located in the toughest location as compared to other Kuki villages. It is about 20 kms from the main road, ie., Silchar-Harinagar-Molong road with which it is connected by a 6 km tough non motorable road. Akai of Kumbha Gaon Panchayet under Udharband Development Block, 13 kms from the pacca motorable road on the Silchar-Kumbha-Ichachera road, then 5 kms non-motorable narrow road through hillocks to reach Akai punjee.

### **Boundaries of the Karbi and Kuki Villages**

Boundary of a place determines the exact geographical location and proper understanding of a village. The following table shows the boundaries of various Karbi villages:

Table 2.13  
Boundaries of Karbi Villages

Name of Villages	Direction of the Village			
	North	South	East	West
Rupachera	Lalbag	Madhura par Karbi Punjee	Amaranagar	Dolu
Madhurapar (Boundary)	Lalbag	Borail Hill	Amaranagar	Subong
Konapara Grant	Gumra	Borail Hill	Kalain	Kreigpark
Boalchera	Majanta T.E	Borail Hill	3 No. Khasia Punjee, Sindhura T.E	Boalchera Pt. 1 Karbi Punjee, Putichera Khasia Punjee
Boalchera Poila number (Dishagool)	Majanta T.E	Borail Hill	Majanta T.E	Putichera Khasia Punjee
Sindhura 4 Number	Borail Hill	Sindhura T.E	Sindhura 9 Number Karbi Punjee	Sindhura T.E
Sindhura 9 Number	Borail Hill	Sindhura T.E	Damchera Karbi Punjee	Sindhura 4 Number Karbi Punjee
Damcherra (Ailathal)	Ailathal Nunchuri Khasia Punjee	Borail Hill	Borail Hill	Sindhura T.E
Ichachera	Digarkhal	Borail Hill	Manai Hellot	Kreigpark T.E
Manai Hellot	Kreigpark T.E	Ichachera River	Boalchera Karbi Punjee	Kreigpark T.E
Menam	Rajpur	Lakhichera Khasia Punjee	Digarkhal	Jalalpur T.E
Nij-Ratachera	Jalalpur	Meghalaya	Vaikam Khasia Punjee, Malidhor	Karawala Grant, Bangladesh
New Malidhor	Jalalpur T.E	Borail Hill	Digarkhal	Boleswar River, Meghalaya

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table tells that Maximum Karbi villages are located in the hill side and nine are bounded by Borail Hill range. However, Nij Ratachera, one of the oldest Karbi village of the district is located near the Bangladesh-India International border whereas, New Malidhor, the highest populated Karbi village located near Meghalaya border.

The following table shows the boundaries of all Kuki villages of Cachar district:

Table 2.14  
Boundaries of Kuki villages

Name of Village	Direction of the Village			
	North	South	East	West
Haibung	Tikal	N.C.Hills	Kumbha	Tikal
Akai (Songpijang)	N.C.Hills	Ichachara	N.C.Hills	Kumbha
Songhlu	Dwigun	N.C. Hills	N.C.Hills	Kumbha
Taranathpur (Balichuri)	Nayabil	Nagathal	Durby, Paloi	Dwarband
Nagathal Forest Village	Taranathpur (Balichuri)	Bilaipur, Hailakandi	Dholai	Dwarband
Naxa Tilla	Nagathal Forest Village	Hailakandi	Pratappur, Vairentee, Mizoram	Old Bagbahar
Luipei (Bagbahar Pt.V)	Dwarband	Mizoram	Bagbahar Murabasti	Lala, Hailakandi
Old Bagbahar	Loharband	Bilaipur, Hailakandi	Naxa Tilla	Hailakandi
Tupidor	Fulertal	Chandikhal	Manipur	Dilkhush
Lalpani Haoki Punjee	Kharzol	Jirighat	Saihmar	Fulertal
Kharzol	Phaizol, Horinagar	Lalpani, Jirighat	Saihmar Punjee	Fulertal
Saihmar	Horinagar, Joypur	Jirighat	Manipur	Fulertal
Phaizol	Harinagar	Saihmar Punjee	Manipur	Joypur
Zoar Lalpieng Punjee	Bethal Punjee	Phaizol Punjee	Manipur	Harinagar
Bethel	Toulpi Punjee	Diglong	Manipur	Harinagar
Toulpi	N.C.Hills	Harinagar	Manipur	N.C.Hills
Ngente	N.C.Hills	Harinagar	Toulpi	N.C.Hills

Source : Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table reveals that seven villages are located near inter-district border area whereas seven villages located near interstate border area. The village Luipei (Bagbahar Part.V) located both in inter-district and inter-state border area. Only two other don't share their boundaries with any other district of Assam or with any other state.

The above tables point out that Karbi villages are located in hilly terrain which generally extends up to Cachar – Dima Hasao (N.C. Hills) district boarder having various Karbi locations. E.g. .New Malidhor Karbi village is located in the Assam-Meghalaya boarder and Nij Ratachera, the older Karbi Punjee of Cachar is 1.5 km from Bangladesh boarder. Besides, except a few tribal

locations, Kuki villages or Punjees are located in hilly areas. Most of the Kuki villages are located in the border areas of Dima Hasao and Hailakandi district of Assam with Mizoram and Manipur state of North-East India.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Existence of educational institutions like Anganwadi Kendra (AWK), Lower Primary Schools (LPS), Upper Primary Schools (UPS), High Schools, Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges etc in the area influences the educational status of that area and the people of that area. But as most of the tribal villages have less population, therefore only a few of these villages have any such educational institution. The following two tables show the existence of such institutions in terms of distance from the center of the villages:

Table 2.15  
Distances of Educational Institutions from Karbi Villages (in kms)

Name of the Village	Distance from the Educational Institutions								
	AWK	Government School				Private School/ Coaching centres		College	University
		LPS	UPS	High	HS	Free	Commercial		
Rupachera	03	03	09	09	09	00	09	12	42
Madhurapar (Boundary)	00	00	04	09	09	00	09	16	46
Konapara Grant	00	00	04	04	04	--	03	03	52
Boalchera	00	00	04	06	06	00	06	06	55
Boalchera Poila Number (Dishagool)	0.5	0.5	03	03	06	--	06	06	56
Sindhura 4 Number	03	03	10	10	10	--	10	10	54
Sindhura 9 Number	00	00	07	07	07	--	07	07	57
Damcherra (Ailathal)	00	00	08	08	08	--	08	08	57
Ichachera	00	00	04	04	04	00	14	14	63
Manai Hellot	00	00	06	06	06	00	09	09	60
Menam	00	00	03	03	03	--	11	11	58
Nij- Ratachera	00	00	05	05	05	--	08	14	60
New Malidhor	00	00	02	10	10	--	00	17	66
Average Distance	0.5	0.5	5.3	6.5	6.7	--	7.7	10.2	55.8

AWK = Anganwadi Kendra, LPS = Lower Primary School, UPS = Upper Primary School, HS = Higher Secondary

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table indicates the location of educational institutions and their distance from Karbi villages. Due to the advantageous location, 13 Karbi villages have L.P schools and the rest have LPS at a distance of 0.5 km to 3 km. The average distance of each lower primary School and Anganwadi Kendra is 0.5 km. But most of the L.P Schools are newly formed or upgraded L.P. School (from venture stage or from Education Guarantee Scheme School, under Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan). On the other hand, five villages have coaching centres voluntarily run by the NGO like Kalyan Ashram and Ram Krishna Mission Sevashram. The motivation for establishing these centres in the interior tribal villages is to educate tribal people. Three villages have upper primary schools within a range of 3 kms from each village. One village has private English medium school within its territory whereas 5 villages have high schools within a distance of 5 kms. One Karbi village has a college (Satya Ranjan College, Kalain) within three kms from their location where as 5 villages have this college within 8 kms of their location.

Most of the Kuki villages are located in the remote area. Therefore, they have less number of L.P schools than Karbi villages. The following table shows the distance of educational institutions from the Kuki villages.

Table – 2.16  
Distances of Educational Institutions from Kuki Villages

Name of the Village	Distance from the Educational Institution (in kms)								
	AWK	Government/Venture School				Private School/Coaching centres		College	University
		LPS	UPS	High School	HS School	Free	Commercial		
Haibung	03	03	04	14	21	Nil	22	22	52
Akai (Songpijang)	04	03	05	08	17	Nil	17	17	60
Songhlu	03	00	04	07	16	Nil	16	16	59
Taranathpur(Balichuri)	00	00	04	04	09	Nil	05	28	10
Nagathal Forest Village	00	00	06	06	11	Nil	05	30	12
Naxa Tilla	00	00	04	04	04	Nil	00	34	14
Luiptui(Bagbahar Pt.V)	00	00	07	07	09	Nil	05	34	14
Old Bagbahar	00	00	06	06	12	Nil	05	24	15
Tupidor	00	00	20	20	20	Nil	00	26	91
Lalpani HaokiPunjee	00	00	00	02	04	Nil	00	06	70
Kharzol	05	02	05	05	07	Nil	07	09	77
Saihmar	00	00	03	02	05	Nil	05	06	74
Phaizol	05	05	07	07	07	Nil	00	07	71
Zoar Lalpieng Punjee	05	05	05	09	18	Nil	03	20	69
Bethel	07	07	07	11	20	Nil	06	22	72
Toulpi	06	00 v	15	19	29	Nil	13	31	85
Ngente	03	00 v	14	18	28	Nil	13	30	82
Average	2.4	1.5	6.8	8.8	13.9	--	7.2	21.3	54.5

AWK – Angan Wadi Kendra, LPS – Lower Primary School, UPS – Upper Primary School, HE School – High English School, HS – Higher Secondary, V – School in Venture Stage.

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table shows that 9 Kuki villages have Lower Primary schools and 8 have Anganwadi Kendra in their own villages. Two lower primary schools in Toulpi and Ngente are at venture (running voluntarily by the villagers) stage. The average distance of the villages to the Anganwadi Kendra and L.P. Schools is 2.4 kms and 1.4 km respectively. 4 villages have private English medium schools within their habitation and students are getting proper education with minimum fee for Montessori method. Lalpani Haoki Punjee have U.P school within their habitation, whereas 8 Kuki villages have UP schools within a distance of 5 kms. The average distance of UP schools from the Kuki villages is 6.8 kms. Five Kuki villages have high schools within a distance of 5 kms from their respective village. The average distance of High School from the Kuki villages is 8.8 kms.

## ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The existence of economic and commercial institutions in a village or within its reach largely determines the economic status of the rural population. Agriculture, vegetable vender, and collection and marketing of forest products are the main occupations of most of the Karbi and Kuki families. Hence the institutions like Post Office, bank, market etc. are very important for the rural life. The following two tables highlight the distance to these institutions from the tribal villages in Cachar district:

Table 2.17  
Distance of Economic/Commercial Institutions from Karbi Villages in Cachar District (in kms)

Name of Village	Name of Institutions		
	Post Office	Bank	Market
Rupachera	04	12	04
Madhurapar (Boundary)	04	09	09
Konapara Grant	03	03	03
Boalchera	06	06	06
Boalchera Poila Number (Dishagool)	04	04	07
Sindhura 4 Number	02	05	05
Sindhura 9 Number	04	07	07
Damcherra (Ailathal)	03	08	08
Ichachera	06	06	06
Manai Hellot	06	06	06
Menam	03	03	03
Nij-Ratachera	05	11	05
New Malidhor	01	09	09
Average	3.9	6.8	5.9

Source : Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table reveals that banks are located at the farthest distance (on average 6.8 kms) from Karbi village among the various commercial institution, followed by market (on average 5.9 kms) and Post Office (on average 3.9 kms). Only four Karbi villages namely, Konapara Grant, Boalchera Poila number (Dishagool), Sindhura 4 Number, and Menam Karbi village have banks within 5 Kms from them. Rupachera (12 Kms) has the farthest distance from any bank, followed by Nij-Ratachera (11 Kms), Madhurapar and New Malidhor (9 kms each), Konapara and Menam Karbi villages are located within only 3 kms of distance from any bank. Then there are Rupachera (4 kms.) and Sindhura, Nij-

Ratachera (5 kms), New Malidhor and Madhurapar Karbi villages are situated at the farthest distance from any market in the Karbi habitations of the Cachar district. Post Office is the most important financial institution. New Malidhor has Post Office within 1 km of distance, followed by Sindhura 4 No (2 kms) and Konapara Grant, Damchera (Ailatal) and Menam (3 kms away). Ichachera and Monai Helot Karvi villages are located at the farthest distance from any Post Office (about 6 kms).

Kuki villages are located even more interior as compared with the Karbi villages. The following table reflects the average distance of commercial /financial institutions from the Kuki villages:

Table 2.18  
Distance of Commercial Institutions from Kuki Villages (in kms)

Name of Villages	Name of Institutions		
	Post Office	Bank	Market
Haibung	12	13	10
Akai (Songpijang)	16	20	17
Songhlu	13	20	14
Taranathpur(Balichuri)	01	09	04
Nagathal Forest Village	03	11	06
Naxa Tilla	02	05	05
Luipui (Bagbahar Pt.V)	05	08	05
Old Bagbahar	03	06	05
Tupidor	20	20	03
Lalpani HaokiPunjee	01	02	02
Kharzol	05	05	05
Saihmar	02	05	04
Phaizol	02	05	05
Zoar Lalpieng Punjee	05	05	05
Bethel	07	07	06
Toulpi	15	15	15
Ngente	14	14	14
Average	7.5	10	7.4

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table reveals that, banks are far away (average 10 kms away) from the Kuki villages while Post Office and market are found at a distance of average 7.5 kms, and 7.4 Kms from their habitations respectively. Lalpani Haokip Punjee is within 2 km of range, followed by Shaimar, Phaizol, Kharzol, Zoar and Naxatilla having banks within average distance of 5 km from their villages. Akai, Sanghlu



and Tupidhor villages are far away (approximately 20 kms) from any bank followed by Toulpi and Ngente (15 kms and 14 kms respectively). On the other hand, Taranathpur (Balichuri) is located within 1 km from the nearest Post Office followed by Naxatilla, Lalpani, Shaimar and Phaizol (within 2 kms) and Old Bagbahar , Nagathal (within 03 kms). However, Tupidhor is the farthest kuki Village (about 20 kms. away) from its nearest Post Office, followed by Akai (16 kms) and Toulpi (15 kms). Kuki villages are also far away from the market for selling their products and for purchasing the necessities. Lalpani has market within 2 kms from the village, followed by Tupidhor (3 kms.), and Taranathpur (4 kms) whereas Akai is the farthest Kuki village having market (Kumbha) about 17 kms away from the village, followed by Toulpi (15 kms. away) and Ngente (14 kms. away).

Thus all important financial institutions viz., Post Office, bank and market are far away from the both Karbi and Kuki habitations. The average distances of Karbi and Kuki villages from these financial institutions from the habitations are shown in the following table:

Table 2.19  
Average distance (km) of Tribal Villages from Financial Institutions

Group of Tribal Villages	Average distance		
	Post Office	Bank	Market
Karbi	3.9	6.8	5.9
Kuki	7.5	10	7.4

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table shows that Karbi villages are located nearer than the Kuki villages in respect of the financial institutions like Post Office, bank and market. Banks are located farthest than other financial institutions from both Karbi and Kuki villages. The average distance of Karbi villages (6.8 kms) is about two-thirds of the average distance of Kuki (10 kms) villages from the institutions. The average distance of Post Offices from Karbi villages (3.9 kms) is about half of the distance from that of Kuki (7.5 kms) villages. However, the average distances of market from Karbi villages (5.9 kms) is about four-fifth of its average distance from Kuki (7.4 kms) villages.

## HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

Existence of health institutions is a vital determinant of the health status of a village. The following two tables highlight the distance of health institutions from the tribal village. Let it first be examined in the Karbi villages:

Table 2.20  
Distance of Health Institutions from Karbi Villages (in kms)

Name of Village	Name of the Institution		
	Sub-Centre	PHC/ BPHC	SMCH
Rupachera	08	14	29
Madhurapar (Boundary)	03	09	33
Konapara Grant	03	03	39
Boalchera	06	06	42
Boalchera Poila number (Dishagool)	03	07	43
Sindhura 4 Number	03	05	41
Sindhura 9 number	05	07	43
Damcherra (Ailathal)	05	08	44
Ichachera	04	08	50
Manai Hellot	06	09	47
Menam	03	09	45
Nij-Ratachera	05	05	47
New Malidhor	06	17	53
Average	4.6	8.1	42.8

PHC = Public Health Centres, BPHC = Block level Primary Health Centres  
Source: Field Survey Conducted during June 2014 - December 2015.

The table reveals that Silchar Medical College and Hospital is 29 to 53 kms (average 42.8 kms) from the Karbi villages in Cachar district. However, BPHC or PHC is about 3 kms to 17 kms away (average 8.1 kms) far from the Karbi villages. Health Sub-centres are comparatively close to Karbi villages and are located within 3 kms to 8 kms of distance from the Karbi villages.

The following table indicates the distance of health Institutions from Kuki villages:

Table 2.21  
Distance of Health Institutions from Kuki Villages (in kms)

Name of Village	Name of Institution		
	Sub-Centers	PHC/ BPHC	SMCH
Haibung	9	19	39
Akai (Songpijang)	13	30	47
Songhlu	12	29	46
Taranathpur(Balichuri)	07	07	26
Nagathal Forest Village	09	09	28
Naxa Tilla	07	07	32
Luipui (Bagbahar Pt.V)	05	05	33
Old Bagbahar	05	05	34
Tupidor	20	20	83
Lalpani HaokiPunjee	02	02	57
Kharzol	05	05	64
Saihmar	05	05	61
Phaizol	05	05	58
Zoar Lalpieng Punjee	05	05	56
Bethel	08	08	59
Toulpi	21	21	66
Ngente	18	18	69
Average	9.2	11.8	50.5

Source: Field Survey Conducted During June 2014 - December 2015.

The table speaks that Silchar Medical College and Hospital is 32 to 83 Kms (average 50.5 kms) from the Kuki villages in Cachar district. However, BPHC or PHC is about 2 to 30 kms away (average 11.8 kms) from the Kuki villages. Health Sub-centers are comparatively close to Kuki villages than the other two health institutions. Health sub-centers are located within 02 Kms to 20 Kms of distance ranges from villages (average distance 9.2 kms).

Thus the distance of the Karbi villages to the of major health institutions is comparatively less than that of Kuki villages.

So, from the discussion, it is clear that, Cachar district is not the tribal dominated district of Assam but the existence of such people in all 15 development blocks of the district are found. Karbi and Kuki are also not the major tribal communities of Cachar district. Karbi people of Cachar district are mainly settled in 13 different villages of Borkhala and Kalain development

blocks. People of Kuki community are scattered in 17 different villages under 5 development blocks namely Udharband, Borjalanga, Binnakandi Lakhipur and Joypur Rajabazar. Both Karbi and Kuki villages are far from Silchar town with poor communication. Karbi villages are located near the Silchar-Shillong road and hence, the communications along with other facilities of these villages are better than the Kuki villages. Whereas, most of the Kuki villages are located in the extreme point of the district or in the inter district or interstate border areas. Thus, for the remoteness of habitations, Kuki villages are comparatively far away from the Government recognised educational institutions, whereas, few private English medium (Montessori) schools are available in the reach. The commercial institutions in Kuki villages (market, bank, Post-Offices) are also in far flung areas in comparison with Karbi villages.

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