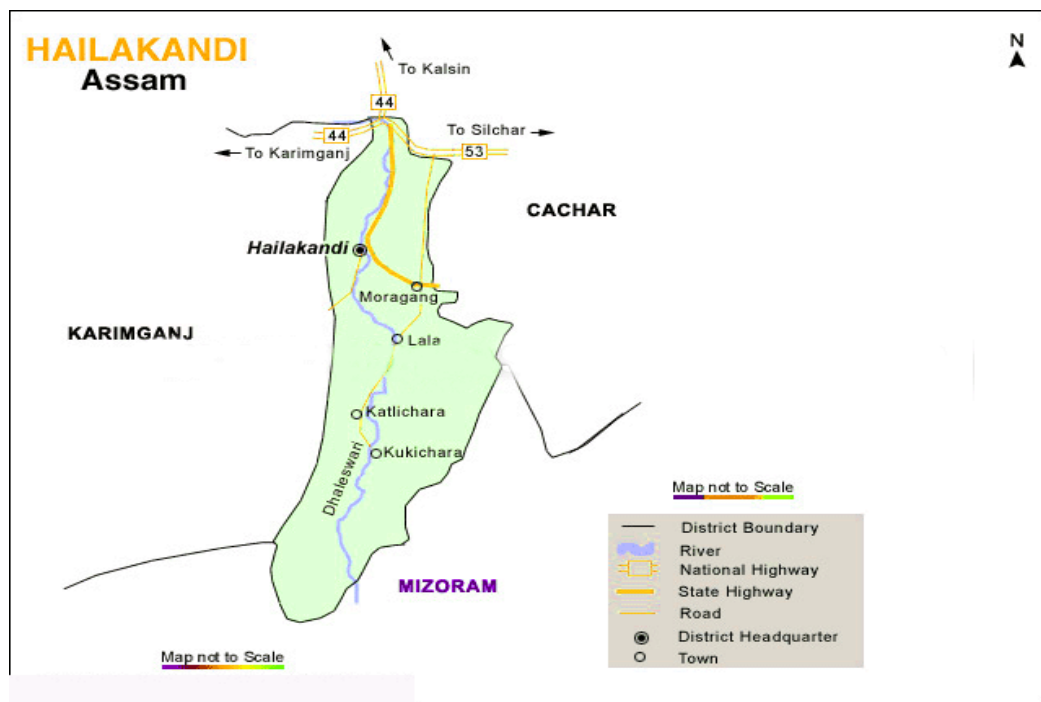


CHAPTER-III

Profile of Hailakandi

Declared as 24th district of Assam in 1989 by a Government of Assam Notification No. AAA.98/89/Pt/I dt. 29/09/1989, Hailakandi is one of the fastest forward marching districts in the Barak Valley Region of Assam. Several myths are associated with the name 'Hailakandi'. In Barak Valley dyke is constructed for protection of people and land from flood. This dyke is colloquially pronounced as 'Ail' or 'Hail'. In the Bodokachari language 'Kandi' means temporary paddy land and this is how the district came to be known as 'Hailkandi' and then as 'Hailakandi'. According to some historians the district got its name from the 'Kuki' word 'Halam' means a small state and the word 'Kundia' meaning a plot of land for temporary ploughing. Another myth associated with the name of the district is Sali Paddy is grown abundantly as a staple food crop and from 'Sailkandi' the district came to be known as Hailakandi.

Map: 3.1, Physical Map of Hailakandi District



Area and Location

The Hailakandi District is situated in the southernmost part of Assam. State capital Guwahati is located at about 330 kilometre from the district. With a geographical area of 1327 Sq. Km, the district is bounded by river Barak and Cachar district in Northeast, Mizoram state in south and east and Karimganj district in west. Interstate border is stretched over 76 km in south-east. Hailakandi was the one of the oldest sub-division of the state which was constituted as Civil Sub-division on 1st June 1869. On 1st October 1989 it emerged as civil district with same territorial jurisdiction of earlier sub-division.¹

Administrative Division

The district Hailakandi consists of only one sub-division namely Hailakandi with four (4) revenue circles- Hailakandi, Algapur, Katlicherra & Lala, and five (5) development blocks namely Hailakandi Dev Block, Lala Block, Katlicherra Dev Block, Algapur Dev Block and South Hailakandi Dev Block. There are three towns viz. Hailakandi (M.B.) and Lala (T.C.) and H.P.C. Township (C.T.) in the district. The total number of villages in the district is 331 of which 327 are inhabited as per 2011 Census. There are 62 Goan Panchayats in the district.

Population

As per 2011 census, demographic profile of the district shows that 59.0 percent of total population in the district belongs to minority community. Muslim population in district was 52 percent as per 1991 census which increased to 57.62 percent in 2001 and to 60.31 per cent as per 2011 census. About 7.30 percent population in district lives in urban area, which is lower than state average of 14.10 percent. Population

density in district is 497 and district ranks 11th in this respect among the districts of Assam state. Population density of the district is significantly higher than state average at 398 persons according to 2011 census.

Table: 3.1 Total population of Hailakandi District

Residence	Person	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Other
Total	542872	223191	312849	5424	
Rural	498787	188332	303882	5227	
Urban	44085	34859	8967	197	

Source: Census of India, 2011

Population distribution by religious minority groups in rural area of the district is shown in the table below. Out of total minority population in the district, Muslim comprises 96.86 percent. Percentage of total Muslim population in rural Hailakandi is estimated to be 60.92 percent.²

Table: 3.2 Religious distribution of rural population of Hailakandi District

Total Minority	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Other	Not State
310446 (62.24%)	303882 (60.92%)	5227 (1.04%)	9 (0.001%)	569 (0.11%)	45 (0.009%)	576 (0.11%)	147 (0.02%)

Source: Census of India, 2011

Decadal variation of population in the district has shown that there has been a steady increase in population of the district since 1931. Immediate post independence period witnesses high growth of population mainly due to influx of refugee from erstwhile east Pakistan. High growth of population in post-independence period changed demographic profile of the district.³

Table: 3.3: Decadal variation of population in Hailakandi

Year	1901-1911	1911-1921	1921-1931	1931-1941	1941-1951	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011
Hailakandi	16.09	7.59	7.08	10.29	17.48	27.23	23.61	45.94	20.89	21.44
Assam	16.99	20.48	19.91	20.40	19.93	34.98	34.95	53.26	18.92	16.93

Source: *Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2011*

Sex ratio

An important indicator of gender equality is number of female per thousand male. As per census 2011, Hailakandi district has a sex ratio of 946 female per 1000 male, which is less than state average at 954. On other hand child sex ratio for (0-6 year) is 948 as per 2011 census. Sex ratio for rural area in the district is lower than district average. Buddhist has a sex ratio not only higher than that of district in rural area but also a highest sex ratio across religious and social groups, followed by Hindus. This indicates that gender disparity/discrepancy within Buddhist and Hindus is less prominent than other religious groups inhabiting in rural area.

Table: 3.4: Sex ratio by religion for rural and total population in Hailakandi

District

Religion	Total	Rural
All religion	935	933
Hindu	944	939
Muslim	929	930
Christian	915	918
Buddhist	976	955

Source: *Census India 2011*

Literacy Rate

As per 2011 census, literacy rate in the district (75.26 percent) is higher than state average of 73.18 percent. Again female literacy rate is significantly lower than male literacy rate in both rural and urban area. However, gender differential in literacy rate is more prominent in rural area of the district. District occupies 11th place in the districts ranking of literacy rate.

Table: 3.5: Literacy rate by Sex and Area in Hailakandi

Place	Population Total			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Hailakandi	75.26	81.61	68.54	57.05	66.05	47.33	94.67	97.14	92.19
Assam	73.18	78.81	67.27	59.82	68.71	50.37	88.47	91.81	84.94

Source: Census of India, 2011

As per census data 2011, religious distribution of literacy rate in the district reveals that Hindus have a literacy rate of 59.43 per cent, Muslim 54.95 per cent and Christian of 46.87 per cent, which show that access to and attainment of education for Muslim and Christian have been much slower. Female literacy rate for Muslim and Christian is significantly lower than male literacy rate and also state average. This clearly indicates poor educational attainment among Muslim and Christian female in the district.

Table: 3.6: Literacy rate by religious groups and place of residence

Religion	Residence	Literacy rate		
		Person	Male	Female
Hindu	Rural	59.43	66.78	51.67
Muslim	Rural	54.95	65.94	43.41
Christian	Rural	46.87	53.76	39.75

Source: Census of India, 2011

This low level of literacy and consequent educational attainment has its bearing on employment and livelihood opportunities of Muslim and Christian. Main reason for educational backwardness of Muslim is poverty due to which children are forced drop out after first few classes. This is particularly true for Muslim girls. Little children are expected to provide for their families by working in *karkhana* (small workshop), as domestic help or by looking after their sibling while their mothers go to work (Sachar Committee Report, 2006). Opportunity costs involved in sending children to school is also too high for poor and illiterate parents. Community-specific factor for low educational achievement is that Muslim do not see education as necessarily translating into formal employment (Sachar Committee Report, 2006).⁴

Workforce

Distribution of workforce in the district as per census 2001 data show that out of total rural population, 33.42 per cent are total workers while 66.58 per cent are non-workers. Cultivators comprise 37.50 per cent, agricultural workers comprise 15.33 per cent, 3.32 per cent are household industry workers and 43.85 per cent are other workers.

Table: 3.7: Distribution of workers by religious groups in total rural workers

Religions	Total Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	House hold industries workers	Other workers	Non workers
All groups (Rural + Urban)	179881 (33.1%)	62747 (34.88%)	25690 (14.28%)	5728 (3.18%)	85716 (47.65%)	362991 (66.86%)
Rural workers	33.42	37.50	15.33	3.32	43.85	66.58
Rural Hindu	38.83	26.88	12.65	4.0	56.47	61.16
Rural Muslim	29.86	45.18	17.66	2.83	18.68	70.14
Rural Christian	42.16	66.01	10.39	1.63	21.96	57.83
Rural Buddhist	48.33	80.73	6.18	0.36	12.73	51.67

Source: Census of India 2001

Work participation rate in rural district among religious groups reveals that Muslim (29.86%) work participation is not only lowest among religious groups but also lower than district average (33.42%). High proportion of non-workers in rural district indicates distressed livelihood opportunity and it is particularly more severe for Muslim (70.14%). Low literacy rate of Muslim is a major deterrent for getting gainful livelihood opportunity. Classification of workers shows that cultivators are major workers in rural area.

Education and Health

The district has 1019 primary educational institutions, 253 middle school, 48 high school, 11 higher secondary (+2) school and 02 degree college. Educational level of population in the district is abysmally low. Of total population with some educational attainment, 1.9 per cent is just literate without any attainment level, 33.6 per cent receive education below primary level, 26.7 per cent attain education up to primary level, and only 13.9 per cent complete Metric/H.S./Diploma course. Corresponding figure for graduation and above is only 3.1 per cent. Poor educational attainment in district also reflects poor quality of employable human resource and low work status for vast majority of work force.

The district has one civil hospital, one CHC, 9 PHC, 02 state dispensary, 04 medical sub-centre and 103 FW sub-centre. An important indicator of health status is sex ratio especially of children in age group of 0-6 year. Child sex ratio in the district as per estimate of census 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boy while rural child sex ratio is 924. A comparative picture across religious groups shows that Buddhist has the highest child sex ratio in the district at 1068 followed by Muslim (935).

Table: 3.8: Child sex ratio in Hailakandi by religious groups

Religion	Total	Rural
All Religion	927	924
Hindu	912	907
Muslim	935	933
Christian	896	881
Buddhist	1068	1088

Source:- Census Report 2011

In so far as the status of RCH is concerned 17.8 per cent of girls get married below age of 18 year. In respect of maternal health, 14.9 per cent of pregnant women receive full antenatal care, 22.8 per cent had institutional delivery and 23.5 per cent undergone safe delivery. As reported by RCH 2002-04, as many as 61.3 per cent of women suffered from post-delivery complication.

Natural Resource Base

Hailakandi district shares features of Assam in Northeast with conducive agro climatic regions, categorised on full basis of homogeneity in agro-characteristic and favourable for cultivation of various crops. Major proportion of geographical area of the district is put into agricultural use. Net area under different crops in the district works out 44,670 ha (33.6%) of which 36500 ha (82%) is used for paddy cultivation and 5920 ha (13.4%) for tea plantation. Development of farm forestry by bringing wasteland into use is of great significance. It not only fulfils fuel and wood requirements of people but also ensure supply of raw material for forest-based industries besides maintaining ecological balance. Forest resource base of Hailakandi district comprise of 2 reserve forests viz., inner live reserve forest and Katakhal reserve forest. It has a total of 27 forests of which area in the district total

geographical area is 55.8 per cent (74115 ha). Hindustan Paper Mill situated at Panchgram depends on bamboo of forests as their raw material.

Table: 3.9: Land Utilisation pattern in Hailakandi district (2001-02)

Total area	Not available for cultivation	Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land	Fallow land	Net area sown	Total cropped area	Area sown more than once
132700	12241	7663	2825	46027	64878	18851

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006

Economy

Although economy of Hailakandi district is agrarian in nature, tertiary sector is dominant in terms of its income share and employment generation. The sector contributes about 45 per cent of total income in Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) while primary sector and secondary sector contribute 42 per cent and 13.55 percent respectively. Per capita Net District Domestic product is about Rs. 1343. Industrial base of the district is agro based. The district has a total number of 275 registered SSI units as permanent and 286 units as provisional. Total number of units registered since announcement of NE Policy was only 76. Moreover, it has also one medium and large industry.

In organised sector, tea is the main industry of the district. It has 19 tea gardens with an area of about 5920 ha. Tea industry is employing more than 1,30,642 persons as per 1991 census, production of tea was 87.62 tones. Hindustan Paper Mill situated at Panchagram comes to the second place where large number of people gets employment opportunity. Predominant income generating activity for the district is through agricultural sector and its allied enterprises. Economic condition of Hailakandi is good. Tea, rice, timber, bamboo, cane, stone, sand, natural gas etc. are major products (Sachar Committee)

Plantation and Horticulture

Northeast states of the country as a whole and Assam in particular are endowed with highly productive soil, suitable climate and enough water besides rich forest wealth. It is ideally suited to produce whole range of plantation crops, fruits and vegetables, flowers and herbs. Hailakandi district is situated at tip of Assam bordering Mizoram also shares feature of Assam with conducive agro-climatic condition, favourable for growing wide varieties of horticulture crops. The area, production and productivity of horticulture crops in the district in year 2005-06 are given in the following table.

Table 3.10: Area and Production of Horticulture

Crops	Area covered (Hect)	Production (MT)	Productivity (Kg. Ha)
Areconut	2700	4189	175
Coconut	190	8160	60
Pineapple	265	3763	14203
Orange	51	496	9555
Papaya	70	1344	19205
Banana	1200	14892	12410
Black pepper	5	8	1600
Rubber	450	467	104
Tea	5920	9854	1642

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006

Livestock and veterinary facilities

In essentially agrarian economy of Assam, livestock is an important contributor to NSDP. Dairy and poultry farming can augment income and increase purchasing power. Traditionally, dairy farming is a subsidiary occupation of the farmers of the district. Total milk production in the district was 172, 56,409 litres during 2005-06.

Total livestock and poultry population of the district as per livestock census 2003 is given below.

Table: 3.11: Livestock and Poultry population in Hailakandi district

Livestock	Hailakandi	Assam
Cattle Indigenous	137942	7979326
Cattle crossed Breed	14472	440321
Buffaloes-Indigenous	25303	617109
Buffaloes – Crossed breed	1596	60560
Sheep	10780	154597
Goats	61714	2986913
Pigs	4554	1543489
Horses and Ponies	28	11642
Fowls	457160	14757979
Ducks	162234	6888679

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006

Though the district has climatic condition conducive for poultry farming, particularly commercial broilers, activity has not made any significant progress. Veterinary facility in the district are not well developed. The district has only 5 veterinary dispensary, 3 block veterinary dispensary and 18 artificial immunisation centre (Statistical Hand Book, Assam, 2006).

Sericulture

Agro-climatic condition of the district is suitable for sericulture. Sericulture is gaining popularity in the district as a source of additional income. There are 240 sericulture

villages and about 291 families engaged in such activity. Present status of development is as follows.

Table: 3.12: Status of Sericulture in Hailakandi District

Activity	No. of Families involved	Yield of cocoons (MT)	Production of Yarn (MT)	Area under silkworm food plants (Ha.)	No. of Reeling Units
Eri	236	5	3.76	134	N.A.
Muga	21	5*	Nil	122	Nil
Mulberry	34	Nil	Nil	5	Nil

Note: * in 000 nos.

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam 2006

Infrastructure and connectivity

Availability and access to infrastructure is one of the major factors responsible for economic and social development across space and communities. Of all infrastructure facilities, transport and communication; power and energy; and banking are considered essential sectors.

Transport and communication

Transport connectivity of the district comprises of road and railway. The district has a total of 70 km of national highway, 46 km of state highway, 331 km of rural road besides 64 km of railway (mg). The district has two national highways (NH-53 and NH- 154) passing through it. Katakhal, Hailakandi and Lala are three railway stations. Road length (P.W.D) per 100 Sq. km of geographical area is 29 km in the district, which is much lower than state average of 48 km. Besides, average share of road length per lakh population is also dismally low at 72 km, while state average is 141 km. As shown in the table below, only about 22 per cent of PWD roads are surfaced; having 78 per cent of un-surfaced roads in the district. This indicates mat access and availability of good road connectivity in the district is very low.

Tale: 3.13 : P.W.D. Road in Hailakandi district (in Km.)

District/ State	Total	Surfaced	Un surfaced	State Highway	Major District Road	Rural Road	Urban Road
Hailakandi	391	86	305	46	8	331	6
Assam	34761	8424	26337	2820	3839	26907	1194

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam 2006

Power and energy

Next to transport and communication, power is another basic infrastructure that is essential for economic growth. Of total village in the district about 82% are reported to have power supply (census of India, 2001). However, consumption of electricity for commercial and industrial purpose is not available while only a little more than 4% of the villages have electricity connection for agricultural use. The district has a total demand of 5.5 MW of power per day while supply is only 4.0 MW. Gap in demand and supply indicates that inadequacy of power supply is one of reasons for slow pace of rural electrification as much as also slow pace of industrialisation.

Banking

Access to credit and banking facilities is an important indicator for socio-economic development. Total number of reporting offices of scheduled commercial banks in the district stand at 25, of which 17 rural branch and 8 semi-urban branch. Population coverage of banking service is estimated to be 21,715 persons per bank office. Credit - deposit ratio in the district stands at about 29% (as on December 2005) and lower than stipulated norm of 60%.

Basic amenities

The table below provides a synoptic view of the basic amenities of the district.

Table: 3.14: Distribution of Amenities in inhabited villages in Hailakandi district

Amenities	Numbers (Percentage)
Total inhabited village	327
Total Households	97856
Safe Drinking water facility	308 (94.2%)
Electricity (Power supply)	268 (81.9%)
Electricity (Domestic)	263 (80.4%)
Electricity (Agriculture)	14 (4.3%)
Primary school	308 (94.2%)
Middle School	206 (63%)
Secondary /Sr. Secondary school	60(18.3%)
Medical facility	110 (33.6%)
Primary Health Centre	8 (2.4%)
Primary Health Sub-centre	7 (2.1%)
Post, telegraph and telephone facility	135(41.3%)
Bus service	141 (43.1%)
Paved approach road	115 (35.2%)
Un-paved approach road	288 (88.1%)

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam 2006, Census of India 2001

Besides housing standard of rural people, standard of living is also judged based on availability of certain basic community institutions in rural locality along with easy access to these. Safe drinking water, facilities for basic education and health, and social security are some of important elements of these basic requirements. In respect of amenities in rural areas, there are facility wise variations. With a total of 97856 households, Hailakandi has 327 inhabited villages.⁵

Human Development Index

Hailakandi is one of the worse performing districts in terms of development in basic human capabilities in three fundamental dimensions viz., a long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living, as indicated by its HDI value of 0.363 (11th rank) which is lower than the state average of 0.407. The district occupies 9th place in terms of income while 14th place in terms of both education and health in district

wise rankings. The human poverty index calculated in 1999 indicates that 27 per cent of total populations in the district are in poverty. ⁶

Table: 3.15: Human Development Indicators, Assam and its Districts, 2001
Ranked by HDI Value

Rank/ District	HDI Value	Income Index	Education Index	Health Index
1. Jorhat	0.650	0.564	0.722	0.664
2. Kamrup	0.574	0.573	0.701	0.450
3. Golaghat	0.540	0.409	0.650	0.564
4. Karbi Anglong	0.494	0.491	0.535	0.457
5. Morigoan	0.494	0.562	0.551	0.371
6. Dibrugarh	0.483	0.162	0.654	0.636
7. Sibsagar	0.469	0.242	0.702	0.464
ASSAM	0.407	0.286	0.595	0.343
8. Cachar	0.402	0.266	0.634	0.307
9. Barpeta	0.396	0.385	0.527	0.279
10. Tinsukia	0.377	0.082	0.571	0.479
11. Hailakandi	0.363	0.234	0.563	0.293
12. N.C.Hills	0.363	0.211	0.650	0.229
13. Sonitpur	0.357	0.071	0.552	0.450
14. Nagoan	0.356	0.179	0.583	0.307
15. Kokrajhar	0.354	0.145	0.474	0.443
16. Nalbari	0.343	0.076	0.641	0.314
17. Lakhimpur	0.337	0.154	0.657	0.200
18. Goalpara	0.308	0.146	0.536	0.243
19. Karimganj	0.301	0.078	0.620	0.207
20. Dhemaji	0.277	0.026	0.622	0.186
21. Bongaigoan	0.263	0.103	0.557	0.129
22. Darrang	0.259	0.057	0.514	0.207
23. Dhubri	0.214	0.102	0.454	0.086

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Assam.

The Need for a Human Development Report for Assam

The dimensions of development have not been studied systematically so far for the State. Good governance and equitable access, to income, basic services and sustainable development are areas meriting attention.

To plan for these goals, an assessment of the present status is imperative. This Human Development Report for Assam provides a basis for such an assessment. An assessment such as this offers a starting point for comparison – across districts, and with other States of the country. Such a report provides a benchmark – of current status at the State and at the district level. It is therefore a level to be improved upon. Just as it is important to know where we want to go, it is important to know where we stand, and how far we still have to go. Objective assessments and analysis generate informed debate, a vital element in participatory planning.

Comparisons – across districts, and other sub-State units afford a basis for prioritisation of scarce resources, towards areas and groups of people that are disadvantaged and therefore in need of special attention.

In contrast to traditional planning and review, the emphasis in this report is on the assessment of outcomes, not inputs. The focus is on educational attainment, not on buildings or the number of teachers, on indicators of health, not on the number of health centres, doctors and nurses, on achievements not on expenditures, on tangibility not on sanctions. It therefore focuses on efficiency and on impact, and encourages systemic accountability. There are undoubted achievements and successes of communities, people, and individuals within the system, as well of approaches, programmes and schemes. Highlighting such programmes, initiatives and best practices provides models for others to emulate and improve upon.

A Human Development Report helps to put people in focus. It supports alternate paradigms of development that are participative, decentralised, and community centred. It is a reminder that Government functions for the people.

Table: 3.16: Human Development Index, Assam 2003

Districts ranked by HDI, in descending order	Literacy (2001)%	Combined Enrolment Ratio (1991)	Education Index	Infants Mortality Rate	IMR Index	Per Capita NSDP (2000- 2001) at 1993-94 constant Prices	Income Index	HDI Index	HDI Rank
Jorhat	77.91	60.73	0.722	47	0.664	11222	0.564	0.650	1
Kamrup	74.69	60.8	0.701	77	0.450	11424	0.573	0.574	2
Golaghat	70.36	54.31	0.650	61	0.564	8021	0.409	0.540	3
Morigaon	59.46	46.39	0.551	88	0.371	11152	0.562	0.494	4
Karbi Anglong	58.83	42.8	0.535	76	0.457	9588	0.491	0.494	5
Dibrugarh	71.21	53.72	0.654	51	0.636	4713	0.162	0.483	6
Sibsagar	75.33	59.92	0.702	75	0.464	5602	0.242	0.469	7
Cachar	68.42	53.34	0.634	97	0.307	5897	0.266	0.402	8
Barpeta	57.35	43.51	0.527	101	0.279	7616	0.385	0.396	9
Tinsukia	63.28	44.72	0.571	73	0.479	3966	0.082	0.377	10
Hailakandi	59.84	49.09	0.563	99	0.293	5507	0.234	0.363	11
N.C.Hills	68.59	57.69	0.650	108	0.229	5234	0.211	0.363	12
Sonitpur	60.29	45.03	0.552	77	0.450	3869	0.071	0.357	13
Nagaon	62.28	50.43	0.583	97	0.307	4893	0.179	0.356	14
Kokrajhar	52.55	37.17	0.474	78	0.443	4544	0.145	0.354	15
Nalbari	68.08	56.23	0.641	96	0.314	3911	0.076	0.343	16
Lakhimpur	69.59	57.97	0.657	112	0.200	4636	0.154	0.337	17
Goalpara	58.56	43.74	0.536	106	0.243	4548	0.146	0.308	18
Karimganj	67.21	51.45	0.620	111	0.207	3931	0.078	0.301	19
Dhemaji	65.96	54.63	0.622	114	0.186	3511	0.026	0.277	20
Bongaigaon	60.27	46.64	0.557	122	0.129	4150	0.103	0.263	21
Darrang	55.92	42.33	0.514	111	0.207	3755	0.057	0.259	22
Dhubri	49.86	36.49	0.454	128	0.086	4144	0.102	0.214	23
Assam	64.28	49.78	0.595	92	0.343	6158	0.286	0.407	

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Assam.

The HDI value derived for the State as whole was 0.407. There are significant variations across districts. Only seven districts have HDI values higher the State average. The remaining 16 districts have HDI values lower than the State average, reflecting considerable inequity. Most of the Upper Assam districts and the districts of Kamrup and Karbi Anglong have HDI values higher than the average for the State. All the Lower Assam (except Kamrup) districts have HDI values lower than the State average. Nagaon, **Hailakandi**, Lakhimpur, Karimganj, Dhemaji and Darrang also have HDI values below the State average. Jorhat, the district that is ranked first, has a HDI value which is more than three times that of Dhubri, the lowest ranked district.⁷

The figures for the income index are much skewed. Only six districts (Kamrup, Jorhat, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, and Barpeta) have income index values higher than the State average; the remaining 17 districts have income index values lower than the State average. The income index for Kamrup is more than twice the State average.

Educational attainments measured by the education index are more evenly spread through the State with 11 districts ranked above the State average and 12 districts with educational index values below the State average. The highest ranked district, Jorhat has an education index value a little over one and a half times that of Dhubri, which is ranked lowest.

Ten districts have health index¹⁸ values higher than the average for the State, and thirteen districts have health index values lower than the State average. The highest ranked district, Jorhat has a health index value nearly twice the State average.

Table: 3.17: Gender related Development Index, Assam, 2003

Districts	Literacy (2001) %	Combined Enrolment Ratio (1991)		IMR		Estimated Earned Income		GDI Index	GDI Rank	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males			Females
N.C.Hills	64.7	49.47	60.95	54.16	109	100	35,248	14715	0.877	1
Morigaon	53.95	42.51	48.85	43.8	106	97	31,898	8240	0.759	2
Jorhat	72.55	63.62	64.62	56.75	47	48	20,208	7336	0.701	3
Kamrup	70.66	58.11	64.03	57.46	80	78	20,462	5347	0.642	4
Dibrugarh	68.59	53.25	58.47	48.8	56	45	13,805	6511	0.642	5
Hailakandi	56.06	41.76	54.55	43.37	101	97	17,504	4908	0.609	6
Golaghat	66.83	52.82	58.22	50.31	66	56	13,538	5443	0.608	7
Lakhimpur	65.51	50.52	60.83	52.83	138	104	6,173	4366	0.491	8
Sibsagar	71.22	58.61	63.49	56.29	81	68	7,478	3411	0.468	9
Barpeta	54	39.23	47.36	39.39	97	104	13,595	2629	0.448	10
Kokrajhar	50.7	34.86	42.02	32.31	56	75	5,779	2959	0.418	11
Goalpara	53.1	41.55	47.58	39.65	109	103	9,475	2473	0.413	12
Dhemaji	62.85	46.72	60.2	48.95	113	117	4,690	3148	0.410	13
Cachar	64.88	50.64	56.91	49.68	99	85	10,387	2379	0.409	14
Sonitpur	57.2	43.98	49.9	40.04	75	77	5,936	2621	0.397	15
Bongaigaon	56.86	41.97	50.82	42.23	93	124	7,218	2255	0.376	16
Nalbari	66.31	49.99	60.94	51.33	102	70	6,540	2103	0.357	17
Darrang	53.3	38.64	46.19	38.32	118	86	6,204	1840	0.317	18
Tinsukia	61.24	44.83	49.66	39.84	82	63	3,964	1896	0.300	19
Dhubri	45.37	33.82	41.33	31.27	123	132	7,667	1269	0.206	20
Nagaon	56.53	45.41	52.82	47.93	104	89	4,617	916	0.068	21
Karimganj	61.5	49.65	55.4	47.36	105	97	3,935	818	0.012	22
ASSAM	71.93	56.03	53.81	45.61	96	87,000	6,744	5530	0.537	

Source: Human Development report, Planning Commission of India.

In terms of Gender related Development Index (GDI), Hailakandi ranks 6th in district wise ranking, with GDI value of 0.609 which, is above the state average of 0.537. However, the HDI-GDI rank disparities indicate that women in this district suffers from deprivation of development potential leading to lower achievement than men (Assam Human Development Report, 2003)

There were extensive variations in the IMR across districts in Assam. At the extremes were the districts of Dhubri (128 per 1000 live births) and Jorhat (47 infant deaths per 1000 live births) – a difference of over 272 per cent. Three districts, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Golaghat had substantially lower IMRs than the others.⁶

Table: 3.18: Gender- related Development Index (GDI) for Assam's Districts (2001)

Districts	GDI Index	GDI Rank	HDI Index	HDI Rank	HDI Rank- GDI Rank
N.C.Hills	0.877	1	0.363	11	10
Morigaon	0.759	2	0.494	4	2
Jorhat	0.701	3	0.650	1	-2
Kamrup	0.642	4	0.574	2	-2
Dibrugarh	0.642	4	0.483	6	2
Hailakandi	0.609	6	0.363	11	5
Golaghat	0.608	7	0.540	3	-4
Lakhimpur	0.491	8	0.337	17	9
Sibsagar	0.468	9	0.469	7	-2
ASSAM	0.537		0.407		
Barpeta	0.448	10	0.396	9	-1
Kokrajhar	0.418	11	0.354	15	4
Goalpara	0.413	12	0.308	18	6
Dhemaji	0.410	13	0.277	20	7
Cachar	0.409	14	0.402	8	-6
Sonitpur	0.397	15	0.357	13	-2
Bongaigaon	0.376	16	0.263	21	5
Nalbari	0.357	17	0.343	16	-1
Darrang	0.317	18	0.259	22	4
Tinsukia	0.300	19	0.377	10	-9
Karbi Anglong	0.260	20	0.494	4	-16
Dhubri	0.206	21	0.214	23	2
Nagaon	0.068	22	0.356	14	-8
Karimganj	0.012	23	0.301	19	-4

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission of India.

GDI=1/3 of equally distributed income index+ 1/3 equally distributed health index.

The difference between the HDI rank and the GDI rank of a particular district indicates the gender disparity in the district. The higher the HDI RANK in relation to the GDI Rank, the greater the gender inequality. A negative difference between the two ranks implies that the district is comparatively better placed in terms of the HDI index than in the GDI index, and that women do not have the same level of development (income, education and health) as men. Ten districts have higher HDI values than GDI values, reflecting the inequitable access for women. Karbi Anglong district has the highest gender disparity. It is ranked at number 4 in terms of HDI and at number 20 in terms of GDI value. Other districts with high gender inequities are

Tinsukia (- 9), Nagaon (- 8), Cachar (- 6) and Karimganj (- 4). Jorhat and Kamrup, the two districts that are ranked at the first two places in terms of HDI value, also had GDI ranks that were lower.⁸

Districts with higher GDI ranks compared to HDI positions, indicating less gender inequity, were North Cachar Hills (11), Lakhimpur, (9) Dhemaji (7), Hailakandi(5), Goalpara (6), Bongaigaon (5), Darrang (4), Golaghat (4), Kokrajhar (3), Morigaon (2). Of the seven districts with GDI values above the average GDI for the State, five districts also have high HDI ranks, however a clear correlation between HDI and GDI is not apparent. The particular characteristics of a district in respect of its geographical features and development, its population composition, its infrastructure - roads, schools and health facilities - are responsible for the wide disparity in the GDI, across districts. The reasons for these variations become clearer when seen in the context of disaggregated district development profiles and the area specificities that are crucial to development.

Table: 3.19: Infant and Child Mortality Rate

Districts	Infant Mortality Rate (1991)		Child Mortality Rate(under five) (1991)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Dhubri	123	132	169	162
Kokrajhar	56	75	96	114
Bongaigaon	93	124	135	150
Goalpara	109	103	138	127
Barpeta	97	104	145	139
Nalbari	102	70	113	121
Kamrup	80	78	92	87
Darrang	118	86	131	131
Sonitpur	75	77	115	101
Lakhimpur	138	104	120	130
Dhemaji	113	117	140	138
Morigaon	106	97	141	127
Nagaon	104	89	120	114
Golaghat	66	56	97	91
Jorhat	47	48	78	76
Sibsagar	81	68	85	92
Dibrugarh	56	45	76	78
Tinsukia	82	63	90	80
K. Anlong	76	75	125	124
N.C.Hills	109	100	119	116
Karimganj	105	97	132	131
Hailakandi	101	97	136	116
Cachar	99	85	122	111

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, (1992-93) National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1), International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

Across districts there are major differences; the data shows that while some districts have IMR rates lower than the national average and are therefore performing very well, there are others with high IMR rates. ⁹

In Dhubri district, more than half the population aged 7 years and above is still illiterate. The situation in Kokrajhar is only marginally better. Even in districts like Sibsaagar, Kamrup, Dibrugarh and Golaghat, which have registered high literacy rates (nearly 70 per cent and above), about one third of the women are illiterate.

Female literacy is significantly lower than male literacy in all the districts.

However, the gender differential in literacy rates is higher in some districts like Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Nalbari, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Tinsukia and even in Dibrugarh. In the hill districts also there was a close to 20 percent variation between the literacy rates for males and females in Karbi Anglong and only marginally less in North Cachar Hills District.

Table: 3.20: Literacy Rates by Gender in the Districts of Assam- 1991, 2001

Districts	Literacy Rate 1991(%)	Literacy Rate 2001(%)	Males Literacy Rate 2001(%)	Females Literacy Rate 2001(%)
Jorhat	65.51	77.91	82.76	72.54
Sibsagar	58.32	75.33	82.08	68.00
Kamrup	65.04	74.69	81.24	67.31
Golaghat	58.54	70.36	78.01	62.07
Dibrugarh	58.32	71.21	79.58	62.10
Lakhimpur	58.96	69.59	78.26	60.47
Cachar	59.16	68.42	76.51	59.85
N.C.Hills	57.76	68.59	68.11	59.40
Nagaon	54.74	62.28	68.52	55.57
Karimganj	54.71	67.21	73.87	60.09
Nalbari	55.90	68.08	77.12	58.40
Dhemaji	53.84	65.96	75.15	56.11
Hailakandi	53.07	59.84	68.47	50.65
Tinsukia	50.28	63.23	72.16	53.40
Morigaon	47.99	59.46	66.13	52.36
Bongaigaon	49.06	60.27	68.81	51.16
Sonitpur	48.14	60.29	67.64	52.36
Goalpara	46.81	58.56	61.90	51.40
karbi Anglong	45.57	58.83	68.11	48.65
Barpeta	43.24	57.35	68.81	48.16
Darrang	42.00	55.92	64.32	49.95
Kokrajhar	40.47	52.55	61.90	42.65
Dhubri	38.38	49.86	61.90	42.64
ASSAM	52.89	64.28	71.93	56.03

Source: Census of India, 1991, 2001.

Districts of Dhubri and Kokrajhar registered female literacy rate of 42.64 percent and 42.65 percent in 2001 as against 28.79 percent and 30.83 percent respectively, in 1991. Increase in literacy rate in districts between 1991 and 2001 range from 10 to 14

percent except in **Hailakandi**, which recorded an increase of only 6.77 percentage points in same period. The improvement in female literacy rate in district is more or less similar to that of total literacy rate. Low literacy rates and wide divergence in this respect across districts may be due to population composition of districts and their geographical location and topography. Districts predominantly inhabited by immigrant Muslims, tea-tribes and tribals usually record low rates of literacy.¹⁰

Table : 3.21 : Composite Index of Backwardness of the Districts of Assam

Districts	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012	
	Composite Index	Rank	Composite Index	Rank	Composite Index	Rank
Dhemaji	8.7	2	7.3	1	8.4	3
Udalguri	7.7	1	8.6	2	9.1	4
Chirang	10.6	5	9.3	4	8.3	2
Dhubri	9.6	3	8.8	3	12.0	9
Karbi-Anglong	11.1	7	10.2	7	7.7	1
Morigaon	12.1	10	12.0	9	13.1	12
Sonitpur	12.3	12	11.3	8	11.1	8
Lakhimpur	13.2	13	12.7	12	14.2	15
Nagaon	11.2	8	12.5	11	13.8	14
Baksa	10.5	4	9.4	5	11.0	7
Darrang	12.2	11	17.2	20	15.3	19
Goalpara	13.9	15	12.7	12	12.1	10
Bongaigaon	11.3	9	12.1	10	12.3	11
Kokrajhar	11.0	6	9.3	4	10.8	6
Hailakandi	14.6	17	13.5	15	14.6	17
Golaghat	14.7	18	14.1	16	16.1	21
Tinsukia	11.1	7	9.9	6	10.5	5
Barpeta	12.1	10	15.4	18	18.1	23
Kamrup	18.3	22	16.5	19	15.7	20
Cachar	14.0	16	13.3	14	13.7	13
Karimganj	13.7	14	13.1	13	14.7	18
Dima-Hasao	13.2	13	13.1	13	14.5	16
Kamrup Metro	16.5	21	17.3	21	17.6	22
Dibrugarh	14.8	19	14.4	17	14.5	16
Jorhat	15.3	20	18.6	23	20.1	25
Nalbari	16.5	21	19.3	24	19.3	24
Sivasagar	21.0	23	18.2	22	19.3	24

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam.

Note: Rank: Most Backward-1, Least Backward- 23, 24 and 25 respectively, for the year 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

The study reveals that Hailakandi is one of the worse performing districts of Assam in terms of basic human capabilities in three fundamental dimensions like long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living, as indicated by the HDI value of 0.363 (11th Rank) which is lower than the state average of 0.407. ¹¹ The district occupies 9th place in terms of income while 14th place in terms of both education and health in district wise ranking. The human poverty index in 1999 indicates that 27 % of total population in the district are living in poverty. In terms of gender related development index Hailakandi ranks 6th in district wise ranking, with GDI value of 0.609, which is above state average of 0.537. However, the HDI – GDI rank disparities indicate that women in this district suffers from deprivation of development potential leading to lower achievement than men (Assam Human Development Report, 2003). So far as composite index of backwardness of districts of Assam is concerned, district having no. 1 rank is regarded as most backward and higher rank of districts in composite index, district has been regarded as least backward. For year 2009 – 2010 Hailakandi district composite index was 14.6 having 17th rank, which differ from year 2010-11 as district ranks 15th having 13.5 composite index clearly indicating further backwardness and again district could gain previous position of 17th in year 2011-12 having 14.6 as composite index. ¹²

Conclusion:

It indicates that among all Barak valley districts like Cachar and Karimganj, Hailakandi is the most backward, for which it needs attention of policy makers and planners of the state. Main cause of backwardness of district could be found in marginalisation of women of the district as they are not only subordinated or discriminated at home but also outside home that is in society, by administrative machineries of district and above all by state governmental agencies and fact is clearly established by gender development index.