

## CHAPTER-IV

### **Feminisation of Poverty in Hailakandi**

This chapter intends to explain growing ‘feminisation and poverty in Hailakandi’ because a large proportion of women in district of Hailakandi continue to live in poverty. This happens due to added responsibility, apart from family and household function. On women, to earn a living and skewed patriarchal system that denies access to ancestral wealth. While women work nearly 67% of working hours they earn only 10% of income and own less than 1% of land. Poverty often leads to economic exploitation and sexual abuse of women. Their labour has not been classified as an economic activity. Gender differences in work place continued to be widely prevalent. The most dangerous aspect of the feminisation of poverty is inequality in access to and participation in economic activities as compared to men.

As human development has been defined as a process of enlarging people’s choices, income is suddenly one of these choices. Objective of human development is that all people can enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. Poverty has many dimensions to it. Low earning, low level of skill earning ability, lack of asset and access to training of education are accompanied by poor health, malnutrition, absence of shelter and food security, lack of economic security, domestic violence etc. All combine to make situation of women such that it requires special attention.

According to Planning Commission, in 1999-2000, percentage of people below poverty line in India was 26.10 and percentage was 10 points higher in Assam with 36.09. Assam being fourth state in terms of poverty ratio, next only to Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. This is however a reduction compared to estimate as per 50th round of NSSO in 1993-94, which was 45.01 against 40.86 for the Country as a whole

As reported in Draft Tenth Plan of the state, incidence of poverty in the state is even higher. It is stated that as per report prepared by Directorate of Economics and Statistics on basis of a census on people below poverty line, conducted during year 1998, 59.43 per cent of total rural households of Assam was living below poverty line. On basis of this figure, total number of people living below poverty line in Assam has been estimated at 111.54 lakh, which is 49.77 Per cent of total population of state.

According to latest estimates published by Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of Assam, in its website, magnitude of poverty in state is alarming with

(i) Total BPL families in rural areas: 20, 28, 058. SC: 2, 59, 316- ST: 4, 28,337

(ii) Percentage of BPL families in rural areas: 59.43%

As per data provided by Commissioner of Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam in Hailakandi district total number of BPL families are 76718 that is 12% of the total population of district, out of which 13164 (17.15%) are in Algapur Block, 18209(23.73%) in Hailakandi Block, 6723(8.76%) in Katlicherra Block, 25105(32.72%) in Lala Block and 13517(17.61%) are in South Hailakandi Block. Besides, more persons are also living in Below Poverty Line but their names have not been included in BPL list, Hence there is acute poverty in Hailakandi district.

**Table No. 4.1 Women Employees as a Percentage of Total Employees, (1994)**

Districts	Percentage
Dibrugarh	23.00
Sibsagar	21.00
Jorhat	20.15
Golaghat	17.50
Cachar	17.37
Nagaon	17.29
Karimganj	17.24
Tinsukia	17.22
Sonitpur	17.10
Dhemaji	15.10
ASSAM (State average)	14.98
Lakhimpur	14.30
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>14.26</b>
Morigaon	13.70
Darrang	13.60
Kokrajhar	12.70
North Cachar Hills	12.68
Dhubri	12.00
Barpeta	11.40
Bongaigaon	11.25
Kamrup	11.25
Goalpara	9.80
Nalbari	8.85
Karbi Anglong	8.73

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

**Chart No. 4.1 Women Employees as a Percentage of Total Employees, (1994)**

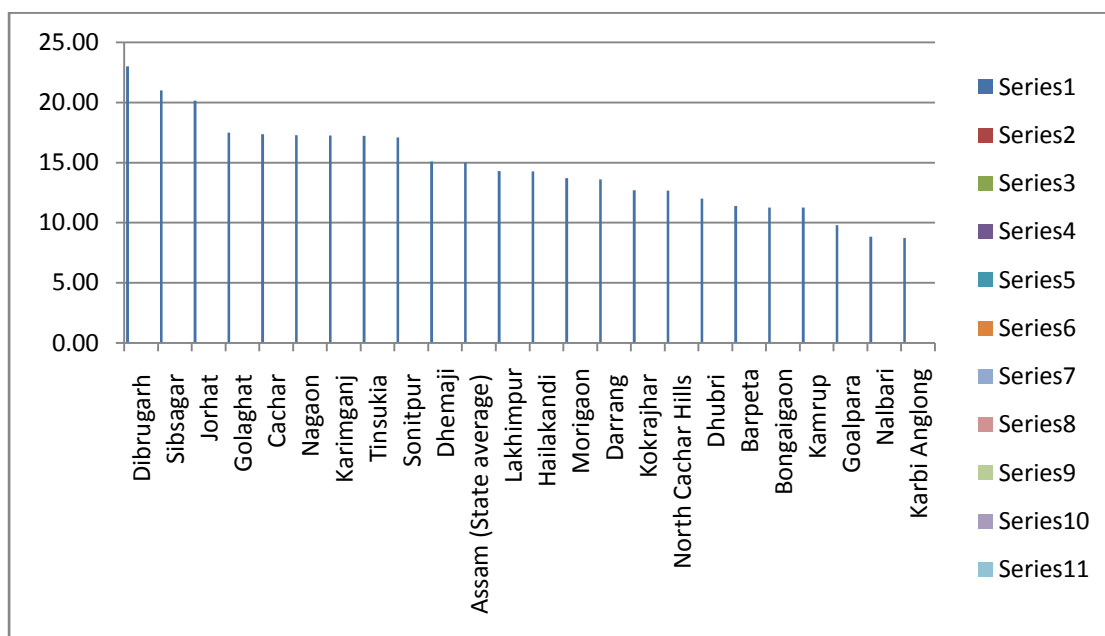


Table No. 4.1 on Women Employees as a percentage of total employees, 1994, shows that in Hailakandi District only 14.26 percent are women employees of total employees of state. In this respect Hailakandi District has 12<sup>th</sup> position and below to the state average. <sup>1</sup>

**Table No. 4.2 Income & Employment**

District	Per Capita real income (Rs.) At 1993-94 (constant) prices (1997-98)	Percent of main worker (2001)		Percentage of worker (2001)		Percentage of non-worker (2001)	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Dhubri	4360	43.67	4.14	48.55	8.04	51.45	91.96
Kokrajhar	4434	39.78	11.46	48.37	25.27	51.63	74.73
Bongaigaon	5162	43.35	7.08	48.74	15.23	51.26	84.77
Goalpara	4666	42.44	7.54	48.41	17.55	51.59	82.45
Barpeta	8089	42.91	5.70	47.81	14.01	52.19	85.99
Nalbari	4104	41.44	8.00	48.34	18.07	51.66	81.93
Kamrup	12109	43.44	8.07	48.63	14.78	51.37	85.22
Darrang	3891	44.76	8.14	50.39	20.76	49.61	79.24
Sonitpur	4030	42.49	11.76	50.17	24.34	49.83	75.66
Lakhimpur	4970	45.10	18.97	62.08	49.89	37.92	50.11
Dhemaji	3721	38.27	15.87	50.09	38.20	49.91	61.80
Morigaon	4221	44.57	5.81	50.56	16.33	49.44	83.67
Nagaon	4989	42.15	5.31	49.38	12.24	50.62	87.76
Golaghat	5915	42.10	14.02	51.49	30.90	48.51	69.10
Jorhat	8503	42.13	13.39	52.63	29.39	47.37	70.61
Sibsagar	13166	40.02	13.52	51.29	29.62	48.71	70.38
Dibrugarh	12921	41.24	15.65	50.50	29.41	49.50	70.59
Tinsukia	5300	42.06	17.85	50.65	29.91	49.35	70.09
K. Anlong	5637	40.88	14.53	49.02	31.42	50.98	68.58
N.C.Hills	10120	43.50	13.20	49.12	24.41	50.88	75.59
Karimganj	5873	40.40	5.30	47.92	11.85	52.08	88.15
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>4187</b>	<b>41.55</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>48.99</b>	<b>16.55</b>	<b>51.01</b>	<b>83.45</b>
Cachar	6126	41.85	7.52	49.76	13.57	50.24	86.43

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission

**Chart No. 4.2 Income & Employment**

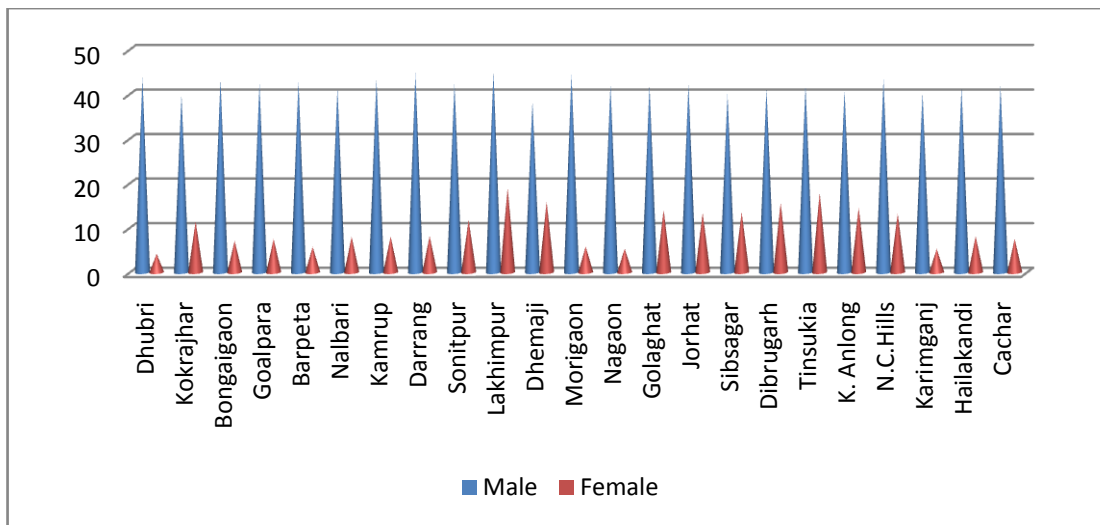


Table no.4.2 on income and employment in 2001 shows that per capita real income at 1993-94 constant price (1997-98 in district was Rs. 4187, which was clear indication of fact that the district has low per capita income. In 2001, out of total main workers 41.55 % are male workers and 8.10 % are female workers. Hence female workers are much less than the male workers. So far as the percentage of workers in 2001 is concerned out of the total workers 48.99 % male workers and 16.55% are female workers. Here also women are marginalised from economic point of view. So far as percentage of non-worker in 2001 is concerned out of total non-worker 51.01% in Hailakandi district are male and 83.45% are female non-worker.<sup>2</sup> It clearly indicates that most women in the district are confined with household activity and their economic activity are not counted as work or labour.

**Table No. 4.3 Female Work Participation Rates (%) in Assam's Districts**

District	1991	1971	1971 Rank	% change (1991-71)	1991 Rank
Dhemaji	41.59	1.28	20	40.31	1
Lakhimpur	37.84	3.49	12	34.35	2
Karbi Anglong	33.63	5.75	9	27.88	3
Sibsagar	33.44	8.91	6	24.53	4
Golaghat	31.59	9.38	4	22.21	5
N.C.Hills	30.03	24.10	1	5.93	6
Tinsukia	29.87	11.71	3	18.16	7
Dibrugarh	29.14	11.84	2	17.30	8
Darrang	29.08	3.35	13	25.73	9
Sonitpur	27.86	7.36	5	20.50	10
Jorhat	27.81	9.02	5	18.79	11
Bongaigaon	19.77	1.40	19	18.37	12
Kokrajhar	19.37	2.27	14	17.10	13
Nalbari	19.36	1.69	18	17.67	14
Nagaon	19.08	2.23	15	16.85	15
Goalpara	17.56	1.76	17	15.80	16
Morigaon	17.49	0.60	23	16.89	17
Kamrup	13.94	2.20	16	11.74	18
Cachar	13.07	6.12	8	6.95	19
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>11.97</b>	<b>4.09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7.88</b>	<b>20</b>
Barpeta	10.97	1.17	21	9.80	21
karimganj	8.60	3.71	11	4.89	22
Dhubri	8.23	1.11	22	7.12	23
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>21.61</b>	<b>4.66</b>		<b>16.95</b>	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission

Table no.4.3 on female work participation rates in Assam districts so that in 1971 female work participation rate was 4.09% that is below to the state average of 4.66%. In year 1991 the rate of female work participation rose to 11.97% that is much below to state average of 21.61%. In this respect rank of Hailakandi district was 10 in 1971. Female work participation rate changed from 1971 to 1991 was 7.88% and district ranked in 20<sup>th</sup> position in Assam, for which women of the district are always in back seat.<sup>3</sup>

**Table No. 4.4 Main and Marginal Workers as a Percentage of Total Population,  
Assam, 2001**

Districts	Main workers			Marginal workers		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
Dhubri	24.47	43.67	4.14	15.24	10.05	48.42
Kokrajhar	26.02	39.78	11.46	29.96	17.75	54.67
Bongaigaon	25.73	43.35	7.08	20.74	11.06	53.53
Goalpara	25.40	42.44	7.54	23.82	12.33	57.03
Barpeta	24.87	42.91	5.70	20.86	10.25	59.33
Nalbari	25.27	41.44	8.00	25.02	14.27	55.71
Kamrup	26.74	43.44	8.07	18.10	10.67	45.42
Darrang	26.99	44.76	8.14	25.05	11.16	60.79
Sonitpur	27.59	42.49	11.76	26.72	15.31	51.69
Lakhimpur	32.36	45.10	18.97	42.35	27.34	61.97
Dhemaji	27.44	38.27	15.87	38.12	23.59	58.46
Morigaon	25.74	44.76	5.81	24.14	11.85	64.41
Nagaon	24.31	42.15	5.31	22.56	14.64	56.60
Golaghat	28.58	42.10	14.02	31.26	18.25	54.62
Jorhat	28.49	42.13	13.39	31.52	19.95	54.44
Sibsagar	27.28	40.02	13.52	33.26	21.98	54.36
Dibrugarh	28.96	41.24	15.65	28.28	18.33	46.78
Tinsukia	30.53	42.06	17.85	25.12	16.97	40.32
Karbi Anglong	28.24	40.88	14.53	30.40	16.60	53.75
N.C.Hills	29.30	43.50	13.20	21.96	11.45	45.92
Karimganj	23.36	40.40	5.30	23.20	15.70	55.30
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>25.41</b>	<b>41.55</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>23.77</b>	<b>15.18</b>	<b>51.04</b>
Cachar	25.17	41.85	7.52	21.77	15.90	44.56
<b>Assam</b>	<b>26.59</b>	<b>42.35</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>7.58</b>	<b>11.12</b>

*Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission*

Table no.4.4 on main and marginal workers as a percentage of total population, Assam, 2001 shows that in Hailakandi district main worker percentage is 25.41% in 2001 that is below to the state average (26.59%). Out of total main worker 41.55% are male main worker whereas only 8.10% are female main worker also much below to state average of 9.68%. so far as percentage of marginal worker of Hailakandi district in 2001 is concerned, out of total 23.77% of marginal worker 15.18% are male marginal workers and 51.04% are female marginal workers that is much ahead of

state average of 9.29% total marginal workers and 7.58% male marginal workers and only 11.12% are female marginal workers.<sup>4</sup> It clearly indicate this fact that women are marginalised section in society, for which the district is regarded as one of the most backward districts in Assam.

**Table No. 4.5 Main Workers as a Percentage of Total Population, Assam, 2001**

District	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Dhubri	24.47	43.67	4.14	24.18	43.32	3.92	26.69	46.29	5.89
Kokrajhar	26.02	39.78	11.46	25.75	39.03	11.75	29.68	49.85	7.34
Bongaigaon	25.73	43.35	7.08	25.28	42.52	7.14	28.95	49.26	6.59
Goalpara	25.40	42.44	7.54	25.22	42.07	7.61	27.42	46.62	6.69
Barpeta	24.87	42.91	5.70	24.64	42.52	5.66	27.61	47.71	6.19
Nalbari	25.27	41.44	8.00	25.17	41.25	8.01	29.41	49.12	7.71
Kamrup	26.74	43.44	8.07	24.77	41.86	6.37	30.28	46.14	11.28
Darrang	26.99	44.76	8.14	26.79	44.40	8.19	30.75	51.64	7.12
Sonitpur	27.59	42.49	11.76	27.34	41.76	12.09	30.16	49.85	8.30
Lakhimpur	32.36	45.10	18.97	32.30	44.51	19.56	33.12	52.32	11.28
Dhemaji	27.44	38.27	15.87	27.39	37.65	16.48	28.13	46.38	7.32
Morigaon	25.74	44.57	5.81	25.52	44.26	5.75	30.07	50.28	7.07
Nagaon	24.31	42.15	5.31	23.80	41.30	5.25	28.06	48.29	5.82
Golaghat	28.58	42.10	14.02	28.36	41.25	14.56	30.98	50.98	7.87
Jorhat	28.49	42.13	13.39	27.93	40.41	14.20	31.23	50.40	9.35
Sibsagar	27.28	40.02	13.52	26.58	38.46	13.93	34.09	54.44	9.18
Dibrugarh	28.96	41.24	15.65	28.66	39.20	17.42	30.25	49.74	7.65
Tinsukia	30.53	42.06	17.85	30.58	39.80	20.61	30.31	51.00	5.93
Karbi Anglong	28.24	40.88	14.53	28.30	40.45	15.26	27.74	44.07	8.63
N.C.Hills	29.30	43.50	13.20	29.19	42.67	14.38	29.53	45.24	10.46
Karimganj	23.36	40.40	5.30	22.94	39.78	5.09	28.64	48.26	7.87
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>25.41</b>	<b>41.55</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>25.29</b>	<b>41.22</b>	<b>8.17</b>	<b>26.76</b>	<b>45.25</b>	<b>7.38</b>
Cachar	25.17	41.85	7.52	24.60	40.76	7.46	28.70	48.56	7.90
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>26.59</b>	<b>42.35</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>26.15</b>	<b>41.46</b>	<b>9.86</b>	<b>29.62</b>	<b>48.26</b>	<b>8.40</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>30.55</b>	<b>45.35</b>	<b>14.68</b>	<b>31.03</b>	<b>44.51</b>	<b>16.77</b>	<b>29.30</b>	<b>47.46</b>	<b>9.12</b>

*Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission*

Table no. 4.5 on main worker on basis of rural–urban division as a percentage of total population, Assam, 2001 shows that out of total persons that is 25.41% in Hailakandi district 41.55% are male main workers and 8.10% are female main workers of total population in 2001, which is much lower than state average as well as national average. So far as rural main worker are concerned, in Hailakandi district total main



worker are 25.29% of total population in 2001, out of which 41.22% are male main worker and 8.17% are female main workers in rural areas. This is also lower than state and national average. So far as urban main worker percentage of total is concerned, in Hailakandi district out of total persons, 26.76% of total population of main worker 45.25% are male main workers and 7.38% are female main workers there is slight difference between state average and national average. It may be mentioned here that in rural area, women labour has not been counted as labour and urban area as most of the women are direct employees and salaried person, there is slight difference between the main workers of district average, state average and national average.

**Table no.4.6 Marginal Worker as a Percentage of Total Population, Assam, 2001**

Districts	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Dhubri	15.24	10.05	48.42	16.16	10.60	51.49	8.30	5.95	24.13
Kokrajhar	29.96	17.75	54.67	31.31	18.75	55.43	8.70	5.63	26.62
Bongaigaon	20.74	11.06	53.53	22.70	12.05	56.04	5.64	4.46	14.36
Goalpara	23.82	12.33	57.03	25.03	12.89	58.44	8.64	6.32	23.00
Barpeta	20.86	10.25	59.33	21.76	10.65	60.74	9.50	5.66	32.17
Nalbari	25.02	14.27	55.71	25.51	14.59	56.25	2.66	1.93	7.52
Kamrup	18.10	10.67	45.42	24.48	13.91	59.57	6.50	5.15	12.58
Darrang	25.05	11.16	60.79	25.95	11.59	61.64	5.82	3.74	20.03
Sonitpur	26.72	15.31	51.69	28.32	16.32	52.96	7.36	5.70	17.14
Lakhimpur	42.35	27.34	61.97	44.00	28.94	62.76	9.46	5.38	26.22
Dhemaji	38.12	23.59	58.46	39.55	24.88	59.00	10.18	6.70	29.26
Morigaon	24.14	11.85	64.41	24.97	12.24	65.55	7.12	4.85	22.14
Nagaon	22.56	14.64	56.00	24.58	15.95	59.39	7.12	5.57	19.16
Golaghat	31.26	18.25	54.62	32.97	19.52	55.50	7.78	5.51	21.86
Jorhat	31.52	19.95	54.44	35.23	22.89	56.86	8.43	6.09	20.61
Sibsagar	33.26	21.98	54.36	35.80	24.20	55.74	4.15	3.51	8.58
Dibrugarh	28.28	18.33	46.78	32.27	21.86	48.68	5.38	4.14	13.81
Tinsukia	25.12	16.97	40.32	28.44	20.01	41.35	7.24	5.91	18.89
Karbi Anglong	30.40	16.60	53.75	32.06	17.72	54.59	13.72	7.99	37.11
N.C.Hills	21.96	11.45	45.92	26.95	13.86	51.15	8.28	6.24	17.69
Karimganj	23.20	15.70	55.30	24.36	16.54	57.39	9.01	5.79	25.54
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>23.77</b>	<b>15.18</b>	<b>51.04</b>	<b>24.87</b>	<b>15.90</b>	<b>52.40</b>	<b>10.17</b>	<b>7.10</b>	<b>25.91</b>
Cachar	21.77	15.90	44.56	23.92	17.54	47.46	8.07	6.17	18.66
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>7.58</b>	<b>11.12</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>8.31</b>	<b>12.42</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>1.89</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>8.71</b>	<b>6.59</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>7.85</b>	<b>14.21</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>3.38</b>	<b>2.43</b>

Source: Census of India, 2001

**Chart No. 4.6 Marginal Workers as a Percentage of Total Population, Assam, 2001**

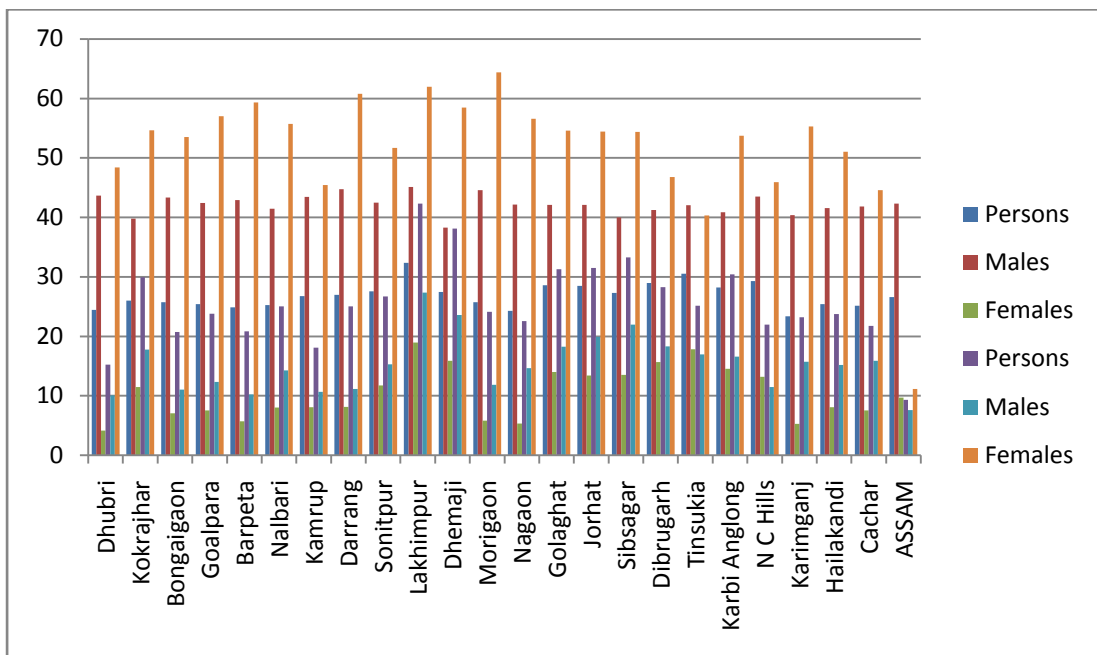


Table no.4.6 on marginal worker as a percentage of total population, Assam, 2001, shows that in Hailakandi district main worker percentage is 25.41% in 2001 that is below to state average 26.59% and national average 30.55%. Out of total main worker 41.55% are male main worker whereas only 8.10% are female main worker also much below to state female average of 9.68% and national female average 14.68%. Out of total persons that is 25.41% in Hailakandi district 41.55% are male main worker and 8.10% are female main worker of total population in 2001, which is much lower than state average as well as national average. So far as rural main workers are concerned, in Hailakandi district total main workers are 25.29% of total population in 2001, out of which 41.22% are male main worker and 8.17% are female main worker in rural area. This is also lower than state and national average. So far as urban main worker percentage of total is concerned, in Hailakandi district out of total persons, 26.76% of total population of main worker 45.25% are male main worker and 7.38% are female main worker there is minor difference between state average and national average. It may be mentioned here that in rural areas women labour has not been counted as

labour and urban areas as most women are direct employees and salaried persons, there is minimum difference between main worker of district average, state average and national average. It clearly indicates this fact that women are marginalised section, for which the district is regarded as one of the most backward districts in Assam.

**Table No.4.7 District-wise Percentage of Workers by Age and Sex (1991)**

District	5-14			15-59			60+		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Dhubri	9.97	1.46	5.82	84.88	14.99	51.10	72.87	6.35	39.88
Kokrajhar	9.12	5.11	7.14	81.92	32.15	57.92	71.74	15.83	47.55
Bongaigaon	8.42	4.75	6.64	82.70	34.22	59.40	68.85	14.48	43.45
Goalpara	8.00	3.47	5.79	83.52	31.33	58.39	69.39	13.12	41.41
Barpeta	8.30	2.00	5.22	79.74	19.48	50.81	69.95	7.19	39.22
Nalbari	5.12	3.65	4.41	74.52	32.38	54.25	65.98	13.57	41.21
Kamrup	5.26	3.65	4.46	75.02	22.49	51.34	60.67	9.05	37.08
Darrang	8.88	5.57	7.27	82.59	49.72	66.65	70.77	19.94	49.04
Sonitpur	6.97	5.67	6.33	82.84	46.89	65.93	64.75	19.04	45.24
Lakhimpur	6.96	6.83	6.89	79.23	66.68	73.25	61.94	24.43	45.21
Dhemaji	8.54	10.60	9.56	83.16	75.26	76.41	72.09	33.07	55.49
Morigaon	9.74	3.07	5.42	86.11	31.23	59.58	74.53	13.80	46.91
Nagaon	8.18	2.84	5.56	83.57	33.74	59.84	65.87	13.45	41.83
Golaghat	5.80	5.59	5.70	81.25	53.83	68.27	56.70	18.08	40.31
Jorhat	3.89	3.70	3.80	75.53	45.27	61.14	52.87	14.84	36.90
Sibsagar	3.96	4.00	3.98	78.44	24.60	67.32	53.16	17.72	38.64
Dibrugarh	3.41	4.71	4.05	77.74	47.88	63.72	54.06	16.25	38.19
Tinsukia	5.10	5.49	5.29	81.80	50.34	67.17	55.47	17.55	40.07
Karbi Anglong	7.04	7.12	7.08	83.95	58.44	72.02	76.83	34.14	59.88
N.C.Hills	3.52	4.01	3.76	82.59	50.20	68.12	73.73	41.38	61.32
Karimganj	4.89	1.20	3.08	80.14	14.78	48.52	56.47	7.13	33.73
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>6.68</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>4.52</b>	<b>81.31</b>	<b>20.67</b>	<b>52.51</b>	<b>63.01</b>	<b>8.40</b>	<b>38.72</b>
Cachar	4.67	2.34	3.51	79.48	21.96	52.09	57.63	8.81	35.70
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>6.80</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>80.48</b>	<b>37.00</b>	<b>59.86</b>	<b>64.05</b>	<b>14.20</b>	<b>41.72</b>

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No. 4.7 on district-wise percentage of worker by age and sex shows that from age group of 5-14 years of age 6.68% are male and only 2.31% are female worker in Hailakandi out of total persons as 4.52% in the district much lower than female percentage of worker in this age group stands at 4.07% in the state level. So far as percentage workers from age group 15-59 year is concerned total number of person in

Hailakandi district stands at 52.51% out of which 81.31% are male worker and 20.67% are female worker, which is much lower than state average of female worker participation rate of 37%. From age group of 60+ worker in Hailakandi district out of 38.72% of total worker 63.01% belongs to male and only 8.40% are female worker of this age group, which is much lower than state average of 14.20%.<sup>5</sup> Hence, there is clear indication of fact that economic activity of women from different age groups in Hailakandi district was never been counted as income or labour. As women are confined themselves within household work and they help male members of their families in different economic activities, their labours are not treated as income and employment.

**Table no.4.8 Percentage Distribution of Main Worker by Sector and District (1991)**

Districts	Primary			Secondary			Tertiary		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Dhubri	76.3	69.4	75.8	6.00	8.5	6.2	17.7	22.1	18.0
Kokrajhar	81.7	91.9	84.0	4.1	1.5	3.6	14.2	6.6	12.4
Bongaigaon	72.8	86.0	75.1	5.4	3.3	5.1	21.8	10.7	19.8
Goalpara	74.4	80.2	75.2	5.0	6.8	5.2	20.6	13.0	19.6
Barpeta	76.4	75.1	76.3	5.4	7.7	5.4	18.2	17.2	18.3
Nalbari	71.5	72.8	71.6	6.4	12.1	7.1	22.1	15.1	21.3
Kamrup	46.1	41.4	45.6	12.6	17.1	13.0	41.3	41.5	41.4
Darrang	82.6	90.3	84.0	3.5	3.0	3.3	13.9	6.7	12.7
Sonitpur	73.3	91.2	77.8	5.1	2.0	4.3	21.6	6.8	17.9
Lakhimpur	76.2	92.3	80.6	4.5	0.9	3.6	19.3	6.8	15.8
Dhemaji	81.7	95.1	85.7	3.0	0.7	2.3	15.3	4.2	12.0
Morigaon	82.4	80.3	82.2	5.0	6.0	4.9	12.6	13.7	12.9
Nagaon	73.5	81.1	74.4	6.3	4.8	6.1	20.2	14.1	19.5
Golaghat	76.0	93.3	81.1	5.5	1.4	4.2	18.5	5.3	14.7
Jorhat	61.4	88.5	69.4	8.7	2.6	7.0	29.9	8.9	23.6
Sibsagar	71.8	93.2	78.8	5.8	1.0	4.2	22.4	5.8	17.0
Dibrugarh	62.0	91.4	70.7	9.5	1.1	7.1	28.5	7.5	22.2
Tinsukia	65.4	93.8	73.8	11.3	1.2	8.4	23.2	5.0	17.8
Karbi Anglong	80.9	94.3	85.0	5.2	1.3	4.0	13.9	4.4	11.0
N.C.Hills	56.8	84.1	64.4	10.4	1.7	8.0	32.8	14.2	27.6
Karimganj	69.3	66.1	69.0	7.4	12.8	7.9	23.3	21.1	23.1
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>17.2</b>
Cachar	67.3	81.3	69.4	6.8	3.8	6.4	25.9	14.9	24.2
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>

Source: Population Census, 1991

Table no. 4.8 on percentage distribution of main worker by sectors in different districts of Assam shows that in primary sector male main worker are 76.8% and

80.6% female worker out of total 77.6% total persons engaged in Hailakandi district. In secondary sector contribution of the male main worker is 5.5% and female main worker contribution is 5.0% out of total main worker percentage as 5.5% in Hailakandi district. In tertiary sector out of total persons main worker that is 17.2% male main worker percentage is 17.7% and female main worker percentage is 14.4%. It may be mentioned here that so far as female worker participation in primary sector is concerned it is much lower than male workers and state average of primary sector at 86.5%. However, gender discrimination is clearly visible by taking into account contribution of women in secondary and tertiary sector, which is higher than state average. This is for reason that women labour in primary sector has not been properly counted and society consider them as provider of auxiliary services to family. <sup>6</sup>

**Table No.4.9 Percentage of non-workers to Total Population, Assam, 2001**

District	Total			Rural			urban		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Dhubri	71.13	51.45	91.96	71.16	51.54	51.30	70.89	50.78	92.24
Kokrajhar	62.86	51.63	74.73	62.52	51.97	50.63	67.49	47.18	90.00
Bongaigaon	67.54	51.26	84.77	67.29	51.66	50.88	69.32	48.44	92.31
Goalpara	66.66	51.59	82.45	66.36	51.71	50.45	69.98	50.23	91.32
Barpeta	68.58	52.19	85.99	68.50	52.42	50.55	69.50	49.42	90.88
Nalbari	66.30	51.66	81.93	66.21	51.70	51.52	69.78	49.91	91.66
Kamrup	67.35	51.37	85.22	67.20	51.38	52.34	67.62	51.36	87.10
Darrang	63.99	49.61	79.24	63.82	49.78	53.07	67.35	46.36	91.10
Sonitpur	62.35	49.83	75.66	61.86	50.09	52.77	67.45	47.14	89.99
Lakhimpur	43.86	37.92	50.11	42.32	37.36	65.41	63.42	44.70	84.72
Dhemaji	55.66	49.91	61.80	54.69	49.88	53.27	68.68	50.29	89.66
Morigaon	66.07	49.44	83.67	65.99	49.56	53.18	67.63	47.16	90.92
Nagaon	68.60	50.62	87.76	68.44	50.87	52.12	69.79	48.86	92.80
Golaghat	58.42	48.51	69.10	57.70	48.74	54.84	66.41	46.05	89.93
Jorhat	58.40	47.37	70.61	56.88	47.59	57.66	65.90	46.33	88.23
Sibsagar	59.13	48.71	70.38	58.59	49.26	54.09	64.43	43.59	89.96
Dibrugarh	59.62	49.50	70.59	57.68	49.83	53.50	68.03	48.11	91.13
Tinsukia	59.23	49.35	70.09	57.27	50.24	53.84	67.32	45.79	92.69
Karbi Anglong	59.43	50.98	68.58	58.34	50.83	52.80	67.85	52.10	86.28
N.C.Hills	62.46	50.88	75.59	60.04	50.46	54.40	67.80	51.75	87.29
Karimganj	69.59	52.08	88.15	69.67	52.34	50.51	68.52	48.78	89.42
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>66.67</b>	<b>51.01</b>	<b>83.45</b>	<b>66.34</b>	<b>50.99</b>	<b>52.65</b>	<b>70.22</b>	<b>51.29</b>	<b>90.04</b>
Cachar	67.82	50.24	86.43	67.67	50.57	52.42	68.78	48.24	90.28
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>64.12</b>	<b>50.07</b>	<b>79.20</b>	<b>63.55</b>	<b>50.23</b>	<b>77.72</b>	<b>68.02</b>	<b>48.97</b>	<b>89.71</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>60.74</b>	<b>48.07</b>	<b>74.32</b>	<b>58.03</b>	<b>47.64</b>	<b>69.02</b>	<b>67.77</b>	<b>49.15</b>	<b>88.45</b>

Source: Census of India, 2001

From table no.4.9 on percentage of non-worker to total population in different districts of Assam again helps in adding fact to gender discrimination in Hailakandi district of Assam. Out of total population the total percentage of non-worker in Hailakandi district is 66.67% from which 51.01% are male and 83.45% are female non-worker. So far as rural area of the districts are concerned, out of 63.34% total non-worker of the district 50.99% are male non-worker and 52.65% are female non-workers of the total rural population. So far as urban area are concerned out of 70.22% of non-worker 51.29% are male non-worker whereas 90.04% are female non-worker.<sup>7</sup> It is clearly visible that women non-workers in total and in rural and urban area are much ahead of state average and national average.

**Table No. 4.10.Districts-wise Estimates of Human Poverty Index and its Components, Assam 1999 (Variant-A)**

District	P1	P2	P3(A)	P31	P32	P33	HPI (A)	HPI Rank
Sibsagar	7.62	9.0	12.87	17.8	11.1	9.7	10.31	1
Dibrugarh	7.20	14.4	16.93	13.6	8.2	29.0	13.98	2
Golaghat	9.61	12.9	18.33	18.9	8.7	27.4	14.52	3
Nalbari	10.26	15.5	18.83	15.9	3.9	36.7	15.63	4
Kamrup	7.28	19.8	19.83	29.4	4.2	25.9	17.44	5
Nagaon	10.62	21.6	21.43	17.3	2.6	44.4	19.16	6
Dhemaji	9.21	17.1	25.63	14.5	29.1	33.3	19.60	7
Lakhimpur	10.87	14.2	27.47	37.2	25.5	19.7	20.23	8
Morigaon	14.58	21.0	23.33	10.7	10.0	49.3	20.28	9
Jorhat	7.46	12.6	30.83	37.8	15.2	39.5	21.94	10
Barpeta	11.06	27.6	23.73	26.8	9.8	34.6	22.83	11
Darrang	11.01	31.5	17.53	33.3	9.5	9.8	23.30	12
Bongaigaon	13.62	20.1	31.43	45.2	25.6	23.5	24.03	13
Sonitpur	7.96	23.2	31.80	51.2	10.2	34.0	24.68	14
Goalpara	12.99	28.8	30.57	57.7	8.2	25.8	26.30	15
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>10.09</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>37.87</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>27.00</b>	<b>16</b>
Tinsukia	8.52	28.3	37.10	7.9	34.7	68.7	29.14	17
Cachar	13.88	23.5	39.00	66.7	10.9	39.4	29.22	18
N.C.Hills	13.37	29.7	40.17	73.3	27.6	19.6	31.44	19
Kokrajhar	10.86	23.3	43.10	57.9	23.8	47.6	31.51	20
Dhubri	12.18	39.6	32.50	23.5	14.4	59.6	31.98	21
Karimganj	11.58	19.9	46.77	78.1	15.3	46.9	33.38	22
Karbi Anglong	8.13	36.0	40.40	59.7	37.9	23.6	33.52	23
<b>ASSAM TOTAL</b>	<b>11.03</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>29.23</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>23.24</b>	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission

P1 denotes percentage of people not expected to survive to age 40

P2 denotes percentage of illiterate person

P3 denotes deprivation in a decent standard of living given by average value of P31,

P32, P33

P31 denotes percentage of people without safe drinking water

P32 denotes percentage of people without access to health care

P33 denotes percentage of moderately and severely underweight children at birth

Table no. 4.10 on district-wise estimates of Human Poverty Index and its components

in Assam (variant-A) shows that taking  $P^1, p^2, p^3(A), P^{31}, P^{32}, P^{33}$  together into account

HPI (A) in Hailakandi district is 27.00% and district is in 16<sup>th</sup> rank or position among

all districts of Assam. It is interesting to note that state HPI (A) is lower than

Hailakandi district average for which the district is consider as most backward

**Table No. 4.11 District-wise Indicators of Human Poverty and Human Poverty Index, Assam, 1999 (Variant B)**

DISTRICT	P1	P2	P3 (B)	P31	P32	P33	P34	P35	HPI (B)	HPI Rank
Sibsagar	7.62	9.0	34.82	17.8	11.1	9.7	68.4	67.1	24.28	1
Dibrugarh	7.2	14.4	33.98	13.6	8.2	29.0	59.2	59.9	24.302	2
Kamrup	7.28	19.8	33.52	29.4	4.2	25.9	53.5	54.6	24.72	3
Golaghat	9.61	12.9	44.14	18.9	8.7	27.4	82.9	82.8	30.84	5
Jorhat	7.46	12.6	44.96	37.8	15.2	39.5	64.5	67.8	31.33	6
Lakhimpur	10.87	14.2	46.88	37.2	25.5	19.7	76.8	75.2	32.81	7
Nalbari	10.26	15.5	47.12	15.9	3.9	36.7	90.8	88.3	33.04	8
Tinsukia	8.52	28.3	45.30	7.9	34.7	68.7	49.4	65.8	33.71	9
Morigaon	14.58	21.0	47.56	10.7	10.0	49.3	82.8	85.0	34.06	10
Darrang	11.01	31.5	45.02	33.3	9.5	9.8	84.7	87.8	34.43	11
Sonitpur	7.96	23.2	48.30	51.2	10.2	34.0	72.4	73.7	34.60	12
Barpeta	11.06	27.6	47.94	26.8	9.8	34.6	85.8	82.7	35.22	13
Bongaigaon	13.62	20.1	49.82	45.2	25.6	23.5	76.9	77.9	35.37	14
Dhemaji	9.21	17.1	52.94	14.5	29.1	33.3	94.0	93.8	37.03	15
Goalpara	12.99	28.8	54.48	57.7	8.2	25.8	89.4	91.3	39.55	16
Cachar	13.88	23.5	55.88	66.7	10.9	39.4	81.5	80.9	39.71	17
Karimganj	11.58	19.9	57.30	78.1	15.3	46.9	75.5	70.7	40.22	18
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>10.09</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>58.94</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>41.02</b>	<b>19</b>
Dhubri	12.18	39.6	54.26	23.5	14.4	59.6	83.2	90.6	41.92	20
N.C.Hills	13.37	29.7	59.18	73.3	27.6	19.6	83.8	91.6	42.66	21
Kokrajhar	10.86	23.3	60.64	57.9	23.8	47.6	84.8	89.1	42.73	22
Karbi Anglong	8.13	36.0	60.32	59.7	37.9	23.6	89.7	90.7	44.44	23
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>11.03</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>47.88</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>34.30</b>	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission

P1 denotes percentage of people not expected to survive to age 40

P2 denotes percentage of illiterate person

P3 denotes deprivation in a decent standard of living given by average value of P31,

P32, P33, P34 and p35

P31 denotes percentage of people without safe drinking water

P32 denotes percentage of people without access to health care

P33 denotes percentage of moderately and severely underweight children at birth

P34 denotes percentage of people without access to sanitary facilities

P35 denotes percentage of people not having dwelling houses

Table no. 4.11 on district-wise indicators of Human Poverty and Human Poverty Index of Assam (variant-B) indicates that taking  $P^1, P^2, P^3(B), P^{31}P^{32}P^{33}P^{34}P^{35}$  together into account HPI (B) of Hailakandi district is 41.02% that is higher than state average as 34.30% and Hailakandi district is in 19<sup>th</sup> position. It indicates that people of the district are living without safe-drinking water, access to health care, access to sanitary facility, lack of own house, no descent standard of living, illiteracy and people not expected to survive to age of 40 years.



**Table No.4.12 Districts-wise Human Poverty Index (HPI), Assam, 1999 (Variant A and Variant B)**

Districts	HPI (A) value (in %)	HPI (A) Rank	HPI (B)B value (in %)	HPI (B) Rank
Dhubri	31.98	21	41.92	20
Kokrajhar	31.51	20	42.73	22
Bongaigaon	24.03	13	35.37	14
Goalpara	26.30	15	39.55	16
Barpeta	22.83	11	35.22	13
Nalbari	15.63	4	33.04	7
Kamrup	17.44	5	24.72	3
Darrang	23.30	12	34.43	11
Sonitpur	24.68	14	34.60	12
Lakhimpur	20.23	8	32.81	6
Dhemaji	19.60	7	37.03	15
Morigaon	20.28	9	34.06	9
Nagaon	19.16	6	34.06	9
Golaghat	14.52	3	30.84	4
Jorhat	21.94	10	31.33	5
Sibsagar	10.31	1	24.28	1
Dibrugarh	13.98	2	24.30	2
Tinsukia	29.14	17	33.71	8
Karbi Anglong	33.52	23	44.44	23
N.C.Hills	31.44	19	42.66	21
Karimganj	33.38	22	40.22	18
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>27.00</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41.02</b>	<b>19</b>
Cachar	29.22	18	39.71	17
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>23.24</b>		<b>34.30</b>	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission

In table no- 4.12 district-wise human poverty index ( variant A+B) shows that the district of Hailakandi is in 16<sup>th</sup> rank so far as HPI (A) Variant is concerned having value of 27% that is above the state average of 23.24%. So far as HPI (B) variant is concerned Hailakandi district stands at 19<sup>th</sup> rank or position having 41.02% also above state average that is 34.30%.<sup>8</sup> Thus is clear that in both cases people of Hailakandi are suffering from acute Poverty and backwardness due to gender discrimination.

**Table No.4.13 Per Capita DDP 1994-95 (In Rupees at constant 1980-81 price)**

**Ranked in descending order**

Rank	Districts	Per Capita DDP (NET) 1994-95
1	N.C.Hills	3464
2	Jorhat	2192
3	Kamrup	2157
4	Sibsagar	2008
5	Tinsukia	1908
6	Dibrugarh	1684
7	Cachar	1644
8	Kokrajhar	1563
9	Barpeta	1551
10	Lakhimpur	1538
11	Golaghat	1520
12	Sonitpur	1444
13	Karimganj	1436
14	Dhubri	1435
15	Karbi Anglong	1426
16	Nalbari	1423
17	Goalpara	1411
18	Bongaigaon	1392
<b>19</b>	<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>1343</b>
20	Nagaon	1327
21	Dhemaji	1279
22	Morigaon	1225
23	Darrang	1100
	<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>1585</b>

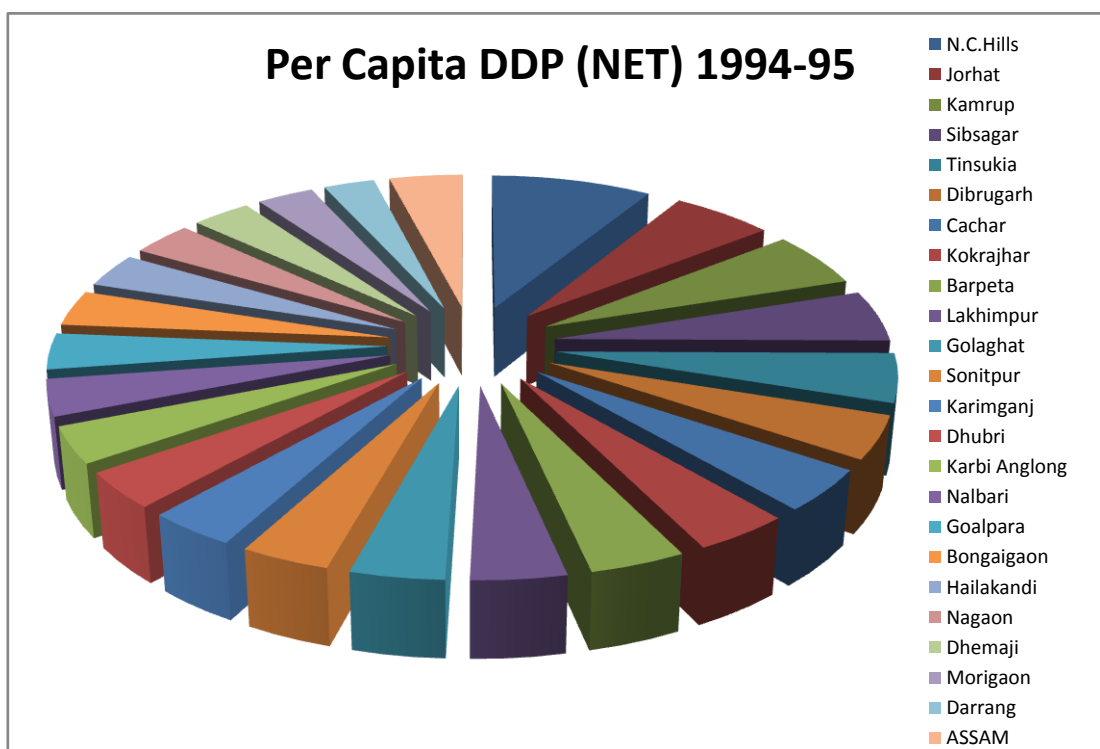
*Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission*

In table no- 4.13 of the study it is shows that the per-capita net district domestic product (DDP) in Hailakandi district ranked 19<sup>th</sup> position having 4343 per capita DDP in 1994-95 at 1980-81 constant prices contributes less to state domestic product (SDP).<sup>9</sup> Within state there is considerable inequality. Per capita income in the districts with the highest income is more than three times that of the districts with the lowest per capita income and more than thrice the state average.

Estimates of per capita net district domestic product (DDP) at constant price (1980-81) show that North Cachar Hills districts occupies the highest position in 1994-95 with per capita income of Rs. 3464 respectively. While Darrang district has the lowest per capita DDP, only 1100.

Inequality is also apparent in respective contribution of different districts to state domestic product. First seven districts of state (in term of DDP) account for nearly half of the state domestic product. Seven districts (in term of DDP) account for only a seventh of the state domestic product.

**Chart No.4.13 Per Capita DDP 1994-95 (In Rupees at constant 1980-81 price)  
Ranked in descending order**



**Table No.4.14 District-wise Percentage Contribution by Different Sectors to SGDP of Sector, at Current Prices (1994-95)**

**(In descending order of contribution to SGDP)**

DISTRICT	Primary Sector	Secondary Sector	Tertiary Sector	State Domestic Product of (SGDP)
Kamrup	4.32	17.91	18.38	11.46
Nagaon	7.27	7.65	7.52	7.42
Tinsukia	8.04	4.73	4.60	6.30
Barpeta	6.75	5.69	4.88	5.93
Sibsagar	8.30	3.18	3.85	5.91
Sonitpur	6.18	4.20	5.52	5.62
Dibrugarh	5.53	5.17	5.61	5.50
Cachar	4.73	5.65	5.96	5.31
Dhubri	5.31	5.57	4.65	5.12
Darrang	4.59	3.51	3.49	4.03
Nalbari	3.48	5.56	3.92	3.98
Jorhat	3.06	4.63	4.91	3.97
Lakhimpur	4.61	2.01	2.78	3.55
Golaghat	4.02	2.98	3.08	3.52
Kokrajhar	4.38	2.61	2.67	3.49
Karimganj	2.75	4.89	3.65	3.42
Bongaigaon	2.93	2.99	3.35	3.08
Goalpara	2.32	3.26	2.61	2.58
Karbi Anglong	2.81	2.43	2.30	2.57
Morigaon	2.77	1.57	1.74	2.21
Dhemaji	2.67	1.12	1.31	1.94
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.71</b>
N.C.Hills	1.46	1.09	1.43	1.39
<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission*

Table no-4.14 district-wise percentage contribution by different sector to state gross domestic product (SGDP) at current prices of 1994-95 with indication of low contribution of Hailakandi district to SGDP. Contribution of Hailakandi to primary sector is 1.70%, to secondary sector 1.59%, tertiary sector 1.78% and over all contribution to SGDP is 1.71%.<sup>10</sup>

Kamrup district contributes the highest proportion to the State Domestic Product (11.46 percent) while the contribution by N.C. Hills districts is least (1.39 percent) reflective of vast gap in their levels of economic development.

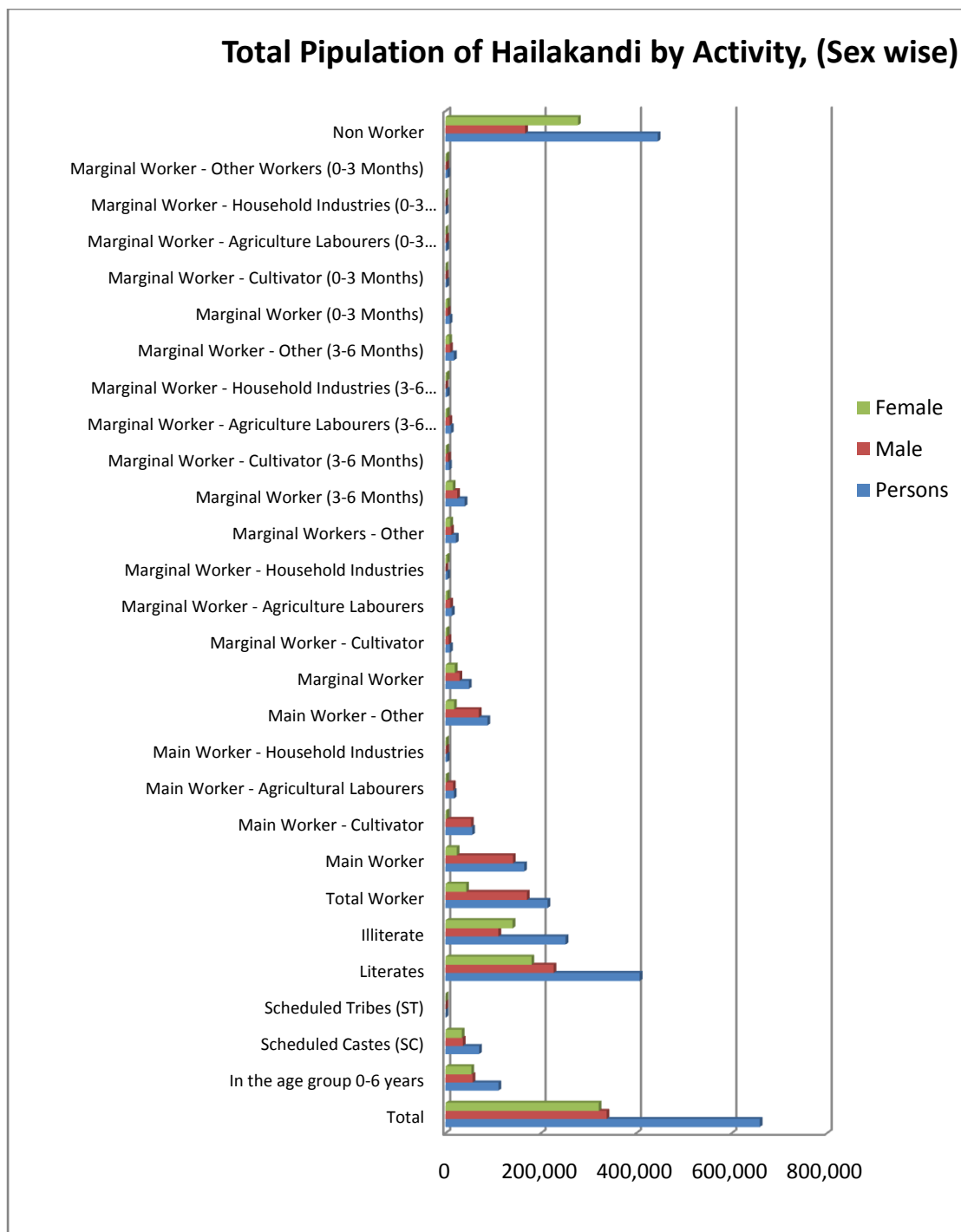
Contribution of different districts to state GDP for year 1994-95 (at current prices) in primary sector range from 8.04 percent in Tinsukia district to 1.46 percent in North Cachar District. In secondary sector, highest contribution of 17.91 percent comes from Kamrup district while North Cachar Hills district has least contribution of 1.09 percent in the sector as well. In tertiary sector, North Cachar Hills district contributes only 1.43 percent to domestic product of sector. Contribution of other districts like Hailakandi, Morigaon and Dhemaji was also low. Kamrup dominates in the sector and contributes an impressive 13.38percent.

**Table No. 4.15 Census 2011 Report of Hailakandi District at a Glance**

State	District	Name	Level
Assam (18)	Hailakandi (318)	Hailakandi	DISTRICT
<b>Total Number of Household : 143350</b>			
Population by activity	Person	Male	Female
Total	659,296	337,890	321,406
In age group 0-6 years	111,278	56,936	54,342
Scheduled Castes (SC)	70,659	36,369	34,290
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	691	354	337
Literate	407,366	226,836	180,530
Illiterate	251,930	111,054	140,876
Total Worker	214,240	170,792	43,448
Main Worker	165,193	141,385	23,808
Main Worker - Cultivator	56,144	53,679	2,465
Main Worker - Agricultural Labourer	17,718	16,035	1,683
Main Worker - Household Industry	3,264	1,765	1,499
Main Worker - Other	88,067	69,906	18,161
Marginal Worker	49,047	29,407	19,640
Marginal Worker - Cultivator	9,529	6,833	2,696
Marginal Worker - Agriculture Labourer	13,530	9,971	3,559
Marginal Worker - Household Industry	4,049	721	3,328
Marginal Workers - Other	21,939	11,882	10,057
Marginal Worker (3-6 Months)	40,223	24,697	15,526
Marginal Worker - Cultivator (3-6 Months)	7,635	5,643	1,992
Marginal Worker - Agriculture Labourers (3-6 Months)	11,592	8,570	3,022
Marginal Worker - Household Industry (3-6 Months)	3,156	555	2,601
Marginal Worker - Other (3-6 Month)	17,840	9,929	7,911
Marginal Worker (0-3 Months)	8,824	4,710	4,114
Marginal Worker - Cultivator (0-3 Month)	1,894	1,190	704
Marginal Worker - Agriculture Labourer (0-3 Month)	1,938	1,401	537
Marginal Worker - Household Industries (0-3 Month)	893	166	727
Marginal Worker - Other Worker (0-3 Month)	4,099	1,953	2,146
Non Worker	445,056	167,098	277,958

*Source: Population Census 2011*

**Chart No. 4.15 Census 2011 Report of Hailakandi District at a Glance**



In table no-4.15 and so far as census report 2011 is concerned, total number of household in Hailakandi is 143350. Children in age group from 0-6 year are 111,278 in total out of which 56,936 are boy and 54,342 are girls. male literate are 226,836

and female literate are 180,530. So far as illiteracy is concerned, 111,054 are male illiterate and 140876 are female literates. Total female workers are 43,448 in number; whereas total male workers are 170,792 in number. Out of 165,193 total main workers of Hailakandi district 141,385 are male and only 23,808 are female. Total main worker cultivator is 56,144 out of which 53,679 are male and only 2,465 are female. Out of total 17,718 main worker agricultural labourer in the district 16,035 are male and only 1,683 are female. There are 3,264 main worker engaged in household industries, out of which both male and female have almost equal contribution having little difference that is 1765 are male and 1499 are female. All total a total number of 88,067 main workers are engaged in other activities of the district with 69,906 are male and 18,161 are female. Out of 49,407 total marginal worker of the district 29,407 are male and 19,640 are female worker. Total number of marginal worker female 13,530 marginal workers are employed in agriculture as labourers in the district out of which 9,971 are male and 3,559 are female. A total of 4,049 marginal worker engaged in house hold industries in which only 721 are male and 3,328 are female. A clear indication of women engagement more in household activity is clearly visible as their number is 3,328 that is five times more than male in district. A total of 21,939 marginal workers of the district are engaged in other activity out of which 11,882 are male and 10,057 are female. A total of 40,223 marginal worker engaged in different activities from 3-6 month in district out of which 24,697 are male and 15,526 are female worker. A total 7,635 marginal worker engaged in cultivation from 3-6 month out of which 5,643 are male 1,992 are female a total of 11,592 marginal worker engaged as agricultural labourer from 3-6 months in district out of which 8,570 are male and 3,022 are female. A total 3,156 marginal workers engaged in household activity from 3-6 month out of which 555 only are male and 2,601 that is



five time more than male are female worker. A total of 17,840 marginal workers engaged in other activity form 3-6 months out of which 9,929 are male and 7,911 are female worker. A total of 8,824 marginal worker from 0-3 month in the district out of which 4,710 are male and 4,114 are female worker. A total of 893 marginal worker of Hailakandi are engaged in household industry from 0-3 month out of which 166 only are male and 727 that is six times more than male are female worker. Out of 445,056 total non-worker in Hailakandi district 167,098 are male non-worker and 277,958 are female non-worker. This is clear indication of women are marginalised section in society. In district wise Percentage Distribution of Persons by Activity Status backwardness of Women, Inequality, Poverty and Unemployment are clearly visible as in Hailakandi district out of 29.1% total main worker only 7.8% are female worker but 48.9% are male worker. Here percentage of female main worker in the district is lower than state average of 12.6% main female worker. As a result of which total percentage of main worker of district is also lower than state average of 31.2%. Thus backwardness of women in district of Hailakandi can be linked to it overall development of district. Again out of total persons of marginal worker female percentage of marginal worker stands at 4.2% whereas it is 0.7% in case of male marginal worker. This indicates that women are mostly regarded as marginal worker, for which their labour has not been counted as labour or income.

**Table No.4.16 District-wise Percentage Distribution of Persons by Activity Status**

District	Main Worker			Marginal Worker			Total Worker		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Dhubri	49.3	3.8	27.2	0.3	4.4	2.3	49.6	8.2	29.4
Kokrajhar	50.5	16.2	33.9	0.2	3.2	1.7	50.7	19.4	35.5
Bongaigaon	48.9	10.4	30.3	0.6	9.4	4.8	49.5	19.8	35.1
Goalpara	48.3	8.9	29.1	0.6	8.7	4.5	48.9	17.6	33.7
Barpeta	47.5	4.0	26.4	0.5	6.9	3.6	47.9	11.0	30.0
Nalbari	45.2	6.5	26.5	0.8	12.8	6.6	46.0	19.4	33.1
Kamrup	48.3	6.4	28.7	0.7	7.5	3.9	49.0	13.9	32.6
Darrang	49.6	11.6	31.2	1.0	17.5	9.0	50.6	29.1	40.2
Sonitpur	50.5	18.6	35.3	1.0	9.3	5.0	51.5	27.9	40.2
Lakhimpur	45.3	18.0	32.1	2.3	19.8	10.7	47.5	37.8	42.9
Dhemaji	45.7	20.5	33.6	2.4	21.1	11.4	48.1	41.6	45.0
Morigaon	50.8	5.5	28.9	0.4	12.0	6.0	51.2	17.5	34.9
Nagaon	49.8	7.2	29.3	0.9	11.9	6.2	50.7	19.1	35.5
Golaghat	47.9	21.9	35.4	1.8	9.7	5.6	49.6	31.6	41.0
Jorhat	46.2	21.5	34.4	1.8	6.3	4.0	48.0	27.8	38.4
Sibsagar	46.9	25.0	36.5	2.7	8.4	5.4	49.6	33.4	41.9
Dibrugarh	46.3	21.8	34.7	2.6	7.4	4.9	48.9	29.1	39.5
Tinsukia	48.6	23.0	36.5	1.8	6.9	4.2	50.3	29.9	40.7
Karbi Anglong	50.4	24.4	38.0	0.7	9.2	4.7	51.1	33.6	42.8
N.C.Hills	51.5	22.8	38.3	0.8	7.2	3.8	52.4	30.0	42.0
Karimganj	47.4	5.2	26.9	0.7	3.4	2.0	48.1	8.6	28.9
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>31.5</b>
Cachar	48.7	9.3	29.7	0.6	3.8	2.1	49.3	13.1	31.8
<b>Assam</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>36.1</b>

Source: population census 1991

In table no-4.16 on district-wise percentage distribution of persons by activity status backwardness of women, inequality, poverty and unemployment are clearly visible as in Hailakandi district out of 29.1% total main workers only 7.8% are female workers but 48.9% are male workers. Here percentage of female main worker in the district is lower than state average of 12.6% main female worker. As a result of which total percentage of main worker of the district is also lower than state average of 31.2%. Thus backwardness of women in district of Hailakandi can be linked to it over- all development of district. Again out of total persons of marginal workers female

percentage of marginal worker stands at 4.2% whereas it is 0.7% in case of male marginal worker. This indicates that women are mostly regarded as marginal worker, for which their labour has not been counted as labour or income.

As far as total workers percentage is concerned in Hailakandi district 31.5% is number of total main and marginal worker which is below to state average of 36.1%. Again, total main and marginal female worker are 12% that is much lower than state average of 21.6%. Although total male main and marginal workers figure in district stands at 49.6% that is something higher than state average of 49.4% still Hailakandi district is regarded as one of backward district in the state.

**Table No.4.17 Human Poverty Index in Assam, 1999**

<b>Districts</b>	<b>HPI (1999)</b>
Sibsagar	10.31
Dibrugarh	13.98
Golaghat	14.52
Nalbari	15.63
Kamrup	17.44
Nagoan	19.16
Dhemaji	19.60
Lakhimpur	20.23
Morigaon	20.28
Jorhat	21.94
Barpeta	22.83
ASSAM	23.24
Darrang	23.30
Bongaigoan	24.03
Sonitpur	24.68
Goalpara	26.30
<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>27.00</b>
Tinsukia	29.14
Cachar	29.22
N.C.Hills	31.44
Kokrajhar	31.51
Dhubri	31.98
Karimganj	33.38
Karbi Anglong	33.52

*Source: survey conducted jointly by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Govt. Of Assam and OKD Institute of Social Change.*

In table no- 4.17 indicates the Human Poverty Index HPI Value higher than 16<sup>th</sup> other districts of Assam with 27.00 HPI value in case of all districts of Assam among which Hailakandi district stands at 17<sup>th</sup> position. It indicates fact that more people in district are suffering from human poverty. This is indeed a great challenge for people of district and state government. Major task has been identified to reduce gender disparity and inequality with priority basis and to bring basic services within reach of each and every citizen of the district.<sup>11</sup>

Karbi Anglong district has the higher HPI value 33.52 indicating that this district has higher number of people in human poverty while Sibsagar district has lowest HPI value demonstrating that this district has the least number of people in human poverty. These are indeed challenges that confront the state and its people. The task has been identified- to achieve higher growth rate for all, to bring basic services within the reach of each and every citizen of the state, and to reduce disparities and inequalities.

**Table No.4.18 Total number of MSDP (IAY) beneficiaries in Hailakandi District, 2009-10**

Name of the Blocks	Beneficiaries (Persons)	
	Male	Female
Algapur	568	101
Hailakandi	1049	194
Lala	695	152
Katlicherra	194	28
South Hailakandi	338	72
Total percentage	2894(84%)	547(16%)

Source: District Statistical Handbook of Assam

In the table no- 4.18 on number of MSDP (IAY) beneficiaries in Hailakandi district, 2009-10 women discrimination and sub-ordination is clearly visible as they have no property and ownership right. All though they look after betterment of the family very few of them are the guardian or owner of the family. In 2009-10 among the IAY beneficiaries of Algapur block of the district 568 beneficiaries were male and only

101 were female beneficiaries. In Hailakandi block 109 male beneficiary and 194 only female beneficiaries, in Lala block 695 male and 152 female, in Katlicherra 194 male and 28 female, in South Hailakandi 338 male and 72 female beneficiary. So far as total number of the district is concerned, 2894 (84%) beneficiary are male whereas only 547 that is 16% are female family head and beneficiary. This is clear indication that women of district are discriminated in economic field.

**Table: No. 4.19 Response of Respondents about Economic Activities in Hailakandi District**

Sl. No	Blocks	Whether Women Labour counted as Family Income?	Whether Women Benefited by Govt Schemes?	Whether Women Add Resources to Family's Income?	Whether Women Workers Get Equal Wage for Equal Work?	Whether Women Benefit from SHGs?
1	Algapur	6(5%)	24(22%)	6(5%)	29(26%)	34(31%)
2	Hailakandi	15(10%)	38(25%)	15(10%)	53(35%)	52(34%)
3	Lala	17(9%)	44(24%)	17(9%)	46(25%)	65(35%)
4	Katlicherra	5(8%)	15(22%)	5(8%)	15(23%)	20(30%)
5	South Hailakandi	8(9%)	17(20%)	8(9%)	17(19%)	23(27%)

\*Note: In above table percentage of "yes" respondents are only taken into account and accordingly the "no" respondents can be determined.

Fieldwork conducted through sample in five development blocks of Hailakandi district and response of respondents on whether women labour counted as family income? 5% (6 samples), 10% (15 sample), 9% (17 sample), 8%(5 sample) and 9%(8 sample) stated positively in Algapur, Hailakandi, Lala, Katlicherra and South Hailakandi respectively that women labour has been counted as family's income. Whereas, 95% (104 samples) in Algapur, 90% (137 samples) in Hailakandi, 91% (168 samples) in Lala, 92% (62 samples) in Katlicherra and 91% (79 samples) in South Hailakandi denied that women labour has not been counted as family's income.1

The response of the respondents regarding the question whether women are benefited by government schemes? The positive response was 22% (24 samples) in Algapur, 25% (25 samples) in Hailakandi, 24% (44 samples) in Lala, 22% (15 samples) in Katlicherra and 20% (17 samples) in South Hailakandi respectively that women have been benefited from government. Whereas 78% (86 samples) in Algapur, 75% (114 samples) in Hailakandi, 76% (141 samples) in Lala, 78% (Katlicherra) and 80% (70 samples) in South Hailakandi are not benefited from the government schemes.

The respondents' view on whether women add resources to family's income? The response was 5% (6 samples) in Algapur, 10% (15 samples) in Hailakandi, 9% (17 samples) in Lala, 8% (5 samples) in Katlicherra and 9% (8 samples) in South Hailakandi was positive but 95% (104 samples) in Algapur, 90% (137 samples) in Hailakandi, 91% (168 samples) in Lala, 92% (62 samples) in Katlicherra and 91% (79 samples) in South Hailakandi denied that woman does not add resources to family's income.

The question whether woman worker paid equal wage for equal work? Those respondents answered positively among them 26% (29 samples) from Algapur, 35% (53 samples) from Hailakandi, 25% (46 samples) from Lala, 23% (15 samples) in Katlicherra and 19% (17 samples) in South Hailakandi. Whereas, 74% (81 samples) in Algapur, 65% (99 samples) in the Hailakandi, 75% (139 samples) in Lala, 77% (52 Samples) in Katlicherra and 81 % (70 samples) in South Hailakandi responded negatively.

The respondents of different blocks of Hailakandi district responded the question whether woman benefit from SHGs? 31% (34 samples) in Algapur, 34% (52 samples) in Hailakandi, 35% (65 samples) in Lala, 30% (20 samples) in Katlicherra and 27%

(23 samples) in South Hailakandi responded positively. Whereas 69% (76 samples) in Algapur, 66% (100 samples in Hailakandi, 65% (120 samples) in Lala, 70% (47 samples) in Katlicherra and 73% (64 samples) in South Hailakandi responded negatively having benefit from the side of SHGs.

Thus, field work suggested a very negative performance of the society in respect of woman's economic activities. In maximum families of the district women labour has not been counted as family's income. They are benefited by the government schemes and projects to some extent but the study finds female subordination and male domination. As far as the question of addition of resources by woman to family's income is concerned, very few admitted that they have contribution to family's income. Excepting Hailakandi block most of the women in different blocks admitted that they are not getting their due wage at par with male workers. So far as the financial benefit, empowerment, training in different skills, knowledge about the machinery of local bodies like panchayat, etc. are concerned, they get help to some extent from SHGs but not up to the mark as they expected.

### **Conclusion:**

It can be said that women of Hailakandi district are marginalised section of society as they suffer from unemployment and acute poverty. There is no job opportunity in absence of a government policy of women's quota. Women labour has not been counted as income. They are treated as child bearing and rearing machine. Female members are lessening burden of family by reducing the family budget. They take care of and looking after cattle, buffalo, poultry etc. but have no ownership right. Women face daily family crisis of food, fuel, fodder, drinking water etc. having no property right and future security. Pressure is heavy on women when family face

displacement, rehabilitation and resettlement as they could not cope with new environment. Various schemes sanctioned for women through SHGs are distributed on party lines. Here either loan or scheme are sanctioned to party cadre or through intermediary by offering bribe. Out of fear women raise no voice against officer sanctioning the same. MSDP (IAY) in 2009-10 was distributed among persons in the district in which 90 percent above gone in favour of male head families. Patriarchal mind set of people and traditional socio-cultural value have made them in a position of inferiority.