

## CHAPTER II: SETTING AND SAMPLE

In this chapter a brief discussion has been made on setting and sample of the study. For the convenience of presentation, this chapter has been divided into two sections. Section I deals with the brief profile of the study area i.e. Nalbari district of Assam, its location, demography, historical background, development & communication, area and administrative divisions, literacy and economy and Section II deals with an elaborate presentation of the personal profile and socio-economic background of the respondents.

### I

#### **Setting**

The research setting refers to the place where the data were collected and the area of the present study is Nalbari district of Assam. Nalbari district is located in Central Western part in the state of Assam. The district falls within the Lower Brahmaputra Valley zone of Assam and it is a melting pot of different group of people, their cultures and traditions. Flanked by the river Brahmaputra on its southern fringes and the foothills of Baksa district towards its northern end, the district represents diversity in its geographical situations. An introductory profile of the district is summarized briefly in this chapter.

#### **Geographical feature**

Nalbari district is situated in central western part of Assam between  $91^{\circ} 07' E$  and  $91^{\circ} 47' E$  longitudes and  $26^{\circ} N$  and  $58^{\circ} 5' N$  latitude. The mean elevation of the district is 89 m above msl. The district headquarter Nalbari is located about 75 k.m away from the state capital Dispur, Guwahati and is linked with both road and rail network. The district is characterised by almost plain topography with a gentle slope from north towards south, ending in newly built up char land and the river Brahmaputra. The total geographical area of the district is 98428.59hac. To the north, the district shares its boundary with the newly created Baksa district while the southern boundary of the

district is flanked by the Brahmaputra River. The eastern boundary of the district is shared by Kamrup district while Barpeta district is located on the western boundary.<sup>49</sup>

### **Historical Background**

In ancient times *Western Assam* was known as *Kamarupa*, which existed in harmony with *Davaka* of central Assam. *Kamarupa* was divided into *Kamarupa Pithas* or geographical divisions; Nalbari placed in *Kamapitha* division. Region continued to be called as *Kamrup* till colonial times. The area congruent to Kamapitha, became *Undivided Kamrup district* of colonial and post colonial times until 1985, when Nalbari district was carved out.<sup>50</sup>

The word Nalbari derived from *Nal* and *Bari*. *Nal* is variety of *reed* while *Bari* denotes garden. 'Nalbari' means a place of reeds. The name was founded by the British Railway Engineers sometimes in A.D. 1890-91. Former name of this place was -Satra, Govindapur, Khata etc. This region was a part of ancient Kampitha, Pragjyotisha, Kamarupa, Kangoor, Rumi, Vaisali etc. The history of Nalbari is connected with king Jarashandha and Lord Krisna such as haribhanga. Nalbari region was under the Ashuras, Danavas, Varmanas, Salastambhas, Palas, Bhuyans, Koch, Tai-Ahoms, etc. The famous earlier villages are Khata, Bahjani, Baska, Dhamdhama, Barbhag, Sonkuriha, Tihu, Janigog etc. Religious shrines are *Sri Sri Bilveswar Maharudra*, *Balilecha mandir*, *Jaypal mandir* etc. In early time, famous Sages like Vasistha, Atri, Kanva passed through this land to Guwhati. The Pandavas and Kauravas also came down to Kamarupa during Duryyodhanas marriage through this route only. Nalbari is known as 'Navadivipa' of Assam. There are good numbers of Sanskrit Tools in Nalbari. This region was once hub of the activities of Haradatta and Biradatta in the last days of the Tai-Ahoms. The story of Kumedan Bangal and Padma Kumari, daughter of Haradatta still echoed in this area.<sup>51</sup>

---

<sup>49</sup> **Internet source:** <http://www.aau.ac.in/dee/kvknalbari/dist.html>

<sup>50</sup> **Internet source:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalbari>

<sup>51</sup> *ibid*

## **Development**

In the early part of the twenties a railway station of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company had been established here. As the train started running through, certain traders and businessmen from outside the state came and interacted with the local people. Business transactions were started on the rail station road. The Nalbari M.E. School had been set up in the meantime to the Gurdon School site and it was upgraded to a High School named Gurdon High School in 1917. Both these two events attracted the people to come and settled in the area which had changed its shape and size. It became a strong business centre with great growth potentials in the whole of the north bank of the river. Migration started in a significant way. Population increased, administrative offices were started gradually and in 1931 it assumed an urban look. In 1941 it was declared as one of the town in Kamrup district with a town committee with a population of 3578. In 1945 the Nalbari College started in a temporary shed and in 1950 it was shifted to its present site which helped in the growth of the Bidyapur-Shantipur area of the town into a densely populated area. The establishment of the PWD offices on the Palla road, led to the growth of the Gopalbazar area. In 1968 Nalbari was upgraded into a subdivision with headquarters at Nalbari and in 1984 it was made the district headquarters of Nalbari District, all of which led to the upsurge of development process with huge population migration, primarily of local people.<sup>52</sup> Nalbari district was further divided in 2003 for creation of Baska district in B.T.A.D area. A sizeable area comprising most of the upland, forest area and tea garden area of original district has fallen into the newly created Baska district under B.T.A.D.

## **Area and Administrative Division**

The Nalbari District is now having an area of 1009.57 sq.km consisting of 1(one) Civil Sub-Division, 7 (seven) Revenue Circle, 7 (seven) Community Development Blocks, 7 (seven) Police Stations, 7(seven) Anchalik Panchayats and 65 (sixty five) Gaon Panchayats covering 471 villages.

---

<sup>52</sup>Internet source: <http://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/Nalbari%20Dist.%20Profile.pdf>

### **Physical features**

The entire area of the District is situated at the plains of the Brahmaputra Valley. The tributaries of the Brahmaputra, Nona, Buradia, Pagaldia, Borolia and Tihu which are originated from the foothills of the Himalayan Range are wild in nature and have enormous contribution towards the agrarian economy of the district.

### **Soil and Climate**

The Soil condition of the district is a heterogeneous one. The Soil of the northern part of the district is clayey and loamy where as middle part is loamy and sandy. The Soil of the southern part of the district is composed of sandy soil. The District has a sub-tropical climate with semi – dry hot summer and cold winter. During summer, generally during the months from May to August, heavy rainfall occurs for which the district experiences flood. The District experiences annual (average) rainfall and humidity @ 1500 mm and @ 80 percent respectively.

### **Natural Resources**

Forest constitutes about 8.28 percent of the total geographical area of the district. About 56.96percent of the total geographical area of the district is under cultivation and the rest of the areas are uncultivated and fallow land. The Nalbari district comprises 2.65percent of State's total geographical area.

### **Population structure**

As per population census 2011, the total population of Nalbari district is about 7, 71,639 with male population is 396,006 and female population is 375,633. There was change of 11.99 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001 Census. According to 2011 Census, out of the total population of the district, 7.7 Lakh (89.28percent) lives in rural area and only 10.72 percent lives in urban area. According to 2001 census the percentage of SC and ST population in the district is 7.23percent and 3.31percentage respectively. In terms of religion, Hindus (76.05percent) have largest population, followed by Muslims (22.10percent).

**Table: 2.01**  
**Population of Nalbari District Cross Classified by Gender and Place of Residence**

Population	Nalbari	Male	Female	Percent
Total Population	771639	396,006	375,633	100%
Rural Population	688909	353677	335232	89.28%
Urban Population	82730	42329	40401	10.72%

*Source: Census of India, 2011*

Out of its total population, 688909 reside in rural areas, while only 82730 live in urban areas. The composition of population (both rural and urban) in terms of gender is not uniform in nature. The urban population of this district is composed of 42329 males and 40401 females, while the rural population is divided into male and female at the rate of 353677 and 335232 respectively. Geographical distribution of population belonging to rural and urban areas of Nalbari district is highly disproportionate. 89.28 percent of the population of the district belongs to rural area, while only 10.72 percent belongs to urban area.

### **Density**

As per 2011 census, the density in the District is 733 persons per sq. Km which is comparatively higher than the state average of 340. However, in 2001 the density was 683 people per sq. Km and the decadal growth rate of population during 2001-2011 is 11.74 percent.

### **Sex ratio**

With regards to sex ratio, it stood at 949 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 932. The average sex ratio in Assam is 954 per 1000 male as per the report of census 2011.

## Child population

As per the 2011 Census, there were total 95,333 children belong to the age group 0-6 years against 97,861 of 2001 census. Out of these, 95,333 are male and female were 46,875 respectively. In 2011 census, children under 0-6 formed 12.35 percent of total population of the district compared to 14.20 percent of 2001. There was a change of - 1.85 percent in comparison to previous census of India. According to the size of children population, the rank of the district degraded to the 12<sup>th</sup> position among the 28 civil districts of the State as against the 8<sup>th</sup> position in 1991 with 189113 children.

**Table: 2.02**  
**Child Population of Nalbari District Cross Classified by Gender and Place of Residence**

Population (0-6)	Total	Male child	Female child
Total Population	95,333	48,458	46,875
Rural Population	87759	44589	43170
Urban Population	7574	3869	3705

*Source: Census of India, 2011*

## Literacy Rate

Literacy rate of Nalbari district is 78.63percent as per 2011 census which is considerably higher than the state average of 73.18 percent. The male literacy rate is 84.36percent and female literacy rate is 72.57percent. Total literate in Nalbari district were 531,771 of which male and female were 293,184 and 238,587 respectively. Nalbari is one of the educationally advanced districts in Assam. Gurdon Govt. Higher Secondary school is the oldest educational institution of Nalbari district. It was established as middle school in 1887, which was formally declared as Nalbari High School in 1917. Later on, this was named as Nalbari Gurdon High School. There are 12 (twelve) colleges, 6 (six) junior colleges, 21 (twenty one) higher secondary schools, 74 (seventy four) high schools, 154 (one hundred and fifty four) middle

schools and 883 (eight hundred and eighty three) Primary Schools are available in the district.<sup>53</sup>

### **Language**

The predominant language of the district is Assamese (particularly, Kamrupi, a dialect of Assamese spoken by the people of lower Assam). The other important languages spoken in the district are Bengali, Bodo, Hindi and so on.

### **Local Administration of the Nalbari District**

Nalbari is one of the 14 districts of Assam comprising only one sub-division. Below this level, there are 7 Revenue Circles (Tehsils), viz. Nalbari, Tihu, Barkhetri, Barbhag, Gograpaar, Paschim Nalbari, Banekuchi. Furthermore, the district is divided into 7 Community Development Blocks- Pub Nalbari, Tihu, Paschim Nalbari, Barbhag, Barkhetri, Gograpaar, Madhupur. Below the block level set-up, there are 7 Anchalik Panchayats, viz Pubnalbari ap, Barigog Banbhag ap, Pachim Nalbari, Madhupur ap, Tihu ap, Barbhag ap, Barketri ap covering 65 Gaon Panchayats. From the angle of Police administration, the district area is divided among 7 Police stations namely Nabari, Mukalmua, Gograpaar, Belsor, Tihu, Singimari and Bhagnamari.

### **Economy**

The main source of the economy of the district is agriculture. Agriculture is the main occupation of the district. The District favoured by desirable soil and climatic condition grows a wide range of crops. Paddy is the main crop of the district, grown mainly as summer and winter paddy. The other major crops are Mustard, Jute, Potato, Wheat, Lentil, Black gram and different vegetables like Brinjal, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Lady's finger, Radish, Tomato, Cucumber, Carrot and Guards. Onion, Garlic, Chilly, Zinger and Turmeric are also grown in small areas in all the Dev. Blocks. Some other minor crops are pea, sesame Niger, Cucurbits, Tapioca etc. Important plantation crops are Banana, Coconut, areca nut, guava, mango, lemon,

---

<sup>53</sup> Internet source: <http://nalbari.nic.in/menu.asp>

bamboo etc. In animal husbandry sector, different indigenous and cross breeds are reared by the farmers of the district. Dairy, Goat rearing, Piggery, Poultry and Fishery are major components of Animal Husbandry and Fishery in the district. Sericulture is another source of occupation for the local residents of the district. Eri, muga, mulberry are main source of income of 2645 families producing approximately 15391k.g of silk yarn yearly in the district.

Thus, it may be said that Nalbari is a backward district. Notable among its backwardness is the poor communication and health services. Despite of high level of education level the status of women in the district is still low. Such features have served as congenial situation for domestic violence against women in the district. However, this district has tremendous potential to transform into one of the major district of Assam but due to various unavoidable factors it's not happening till now.

## II

### **Sample**

In order to understand the real- life situations of the victims of domestic violence an empirical study has been conducted with 200 respondents. The respondents have been selected through purposive sampling. Case filling registers of the Nalbari Mahila Samiti, Nalbari has been taken as the basis for the selection of the respondents. A detail discussion about the methodology regarding the selection of respondents has been made in chapter I.

### **Socio- Economic Profile of the Respondents**

Due to the rapid socio-economic changes, life has become highly competitive creating severe challenges towards survival. The style of living in our society has also become more money-oriented or materialistic. The behaviour of people is changing due to this outlook. Financial problems are faced by many families in our society owing to numerous reasons such as poor economic conditions, bad housing, poverty, lack of job opportunities, unfavorable and frustrating work condition arising out of inequalities in the society and unequal distribution of resources. As a result marital breakdown or discord and violence in the family have become common in our society.



Thus, understating of the socio-economic background of the respondents is imperative as it may throw important light on the nature, variation and causes of violence against women. In this chapter, the socio-economic profile of the respondents selected under sample is illustrated. To find out the correlates of domestic violence against women, present age, age at the time of marriage, religion, caste, marital status, type of family, education, employment and income have been taken of as indicators of socio-economic status of the respondents.

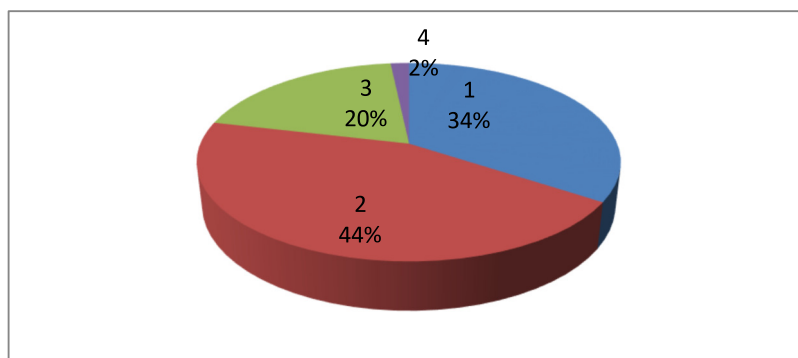
### Present Age of Respondents

Age is one of the important factors because the risk of domestic violence is generally higher among the younger women than the elder ones as the elder women are generally not prone to file assault charges either because of traditional attitude or because of possibility of divorce. Thus, understanding of the age of women is important as it sometimes acts as catalyst to aggravate the problem.

**Table: 2.03**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Age**

Age Group	No of Respondents	Percentage
15-30	61	33.89%
31-40	79	43.88%
41-50	35	19.44%
51-60	3	1.66%
60 and Above	2	1.11%
Total	180	100%

**Figure- 2.01: Pie Chart showing Age of the Respondents (in percent)**



Note: 1=15 –30, 2= 31-40, 3=41-50, 4=51-60, 5=above 60 years

Analysis of data reveals that out of 180 respondents, 61 (33.8percent) were found in the age group of ‘15 –30’ years. A majority of 79 (43.8percent) respondents belonged to ‘31-40’ years followed by 35 (19.4percent) in the age group of ‘41–50’ years. Besides, 3 (1.6 percent) and 2 (1.1 percentage) respondents were also found to the age group of ‘51 – 60’ years and above 60 years respectively. (Refer Table No.2.3& Figure No 2.01)

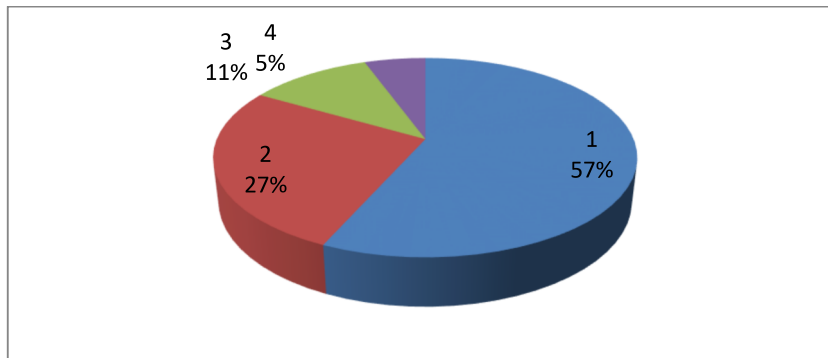
### **Marital Age**

Women experience a total change in their lives with marriage which generally happens at very early age in case of most of women. Age at marriage is an important variable in the study of domestic violence against women. Younger age at marriage puts a lot of stress and difficulty for adjustment which may result in use of violence on the part of husband. Thus, understanding of marital age is immaturity enhances the probability of violence and vulnerability of women. Data reveal that a majority of 102 (56.67percent) of the respondents were married when they were between 16-20 years of age, 48 (26.66percent) were married at the age of 21 -24 years, while 20 (11.11percent) respondents were found to be married at the age of 25 - 30 years whereas only about 10 (5.56 percent) were married after 30 years of age. (Refer Table no 2.4 and Figure no 2.02)

**Table: 2.04**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Age at marriage**

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage
16-20	102	56.67%
21-24	48	26.66%
25-30	20	11.11%
After 30 years	10	5.56%
Total	180	100%

**Figure- 2.02: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Age at Marriage (in percent)**



Note: 1=16-20, 2= 21-24, 3=25-30, 4=after 30 years

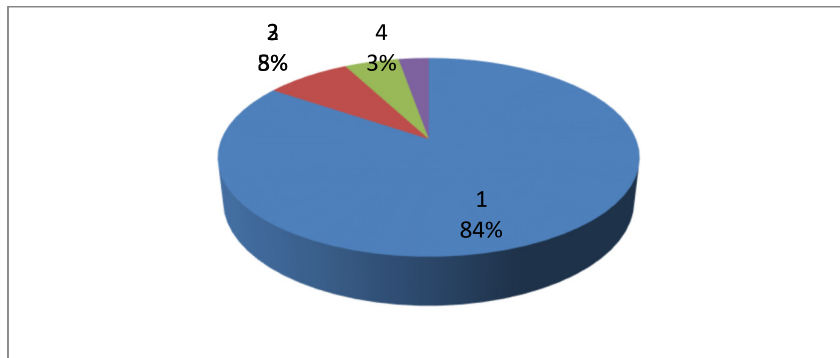
### **Marital status of Respondents**

It is generally assumed that only married women are generally sufferer of domestic violence rather than other one. However, in reality, any woman who is dependent, whether married, unmarried, divorced and separated or widow may fall prey to domestic violence exerted by persons on whom she is dependent. Thus, understanding the marital status of women is important to form any opinion about the correlation between the extent of violence and the status of women. Data reveal that out of 180 respondents a very large majority of 152 (84.44 percent) respondents were married, 14 (7.78percent) were living separately from their husbands, while 9 (5percent) respondents had taken divorce and 5 (2.78 percent) were widows. However, no maiden woman was found to have reported of domestic violence. (Refer Table no 2.5 and Figure no 2.03) The same is presented in the following table –

**Table: 2.05  
Distribution of Respondents by marital status**

Marital Status	No of Respondents	Percentage
Married	152	84.44%
Separated	14	7.78%
Divorce	9	5.00%
Widows	5	2.78%
Total	180	100%

**Figure- 2.03: Pie Chart showing Respondents' by Marital Status (in percent)**



Note: 1= Married, 2= Separated, 3= Divorced, 4= Widows

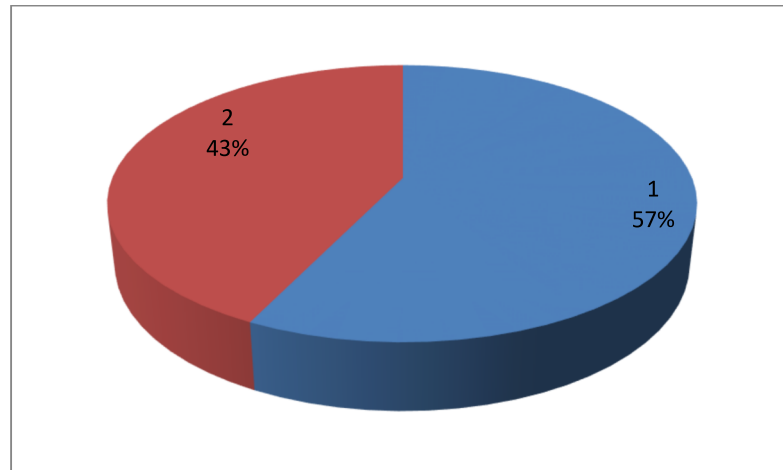
### **Type of Family of Respondents**

Like other social status, family background is also an important determinant of domestic violence. Women living in extended and joint families are required to make adjustments with a large number of family members as compared with those living in nuclear families. Hence, presence of a large number of members in the family not only creates the problem of adjustment but they also act as instigators for domestic violence against women. Thus, the following table presents the data in this regard.

**Table: 2.06  
Distribution of Respondents by Type of Family**

Type of Family	No of Respondents	Percentage
Nuclear	103	57.22%
Joint	77	42.78%
Total	180	100%

**Figure- 2.04: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Type of Family (in percent)**



*Note:* 1= Nuclear, 2= Joint

Analysis of data reveals out that out of 180 respondents, a majority of 103 (57.22 percent) respondents were found in nuclear family, while 77 (42.78 percent) respondents belonged to the joint family only. This shows that the possible reason for the increase in domestic violence among nuclear families could be the deterioration of social values and customs unlike in the joint families of earlier days. (Refer Table no 2.6 and Figure no 2.04)

### **Educational Attainment**

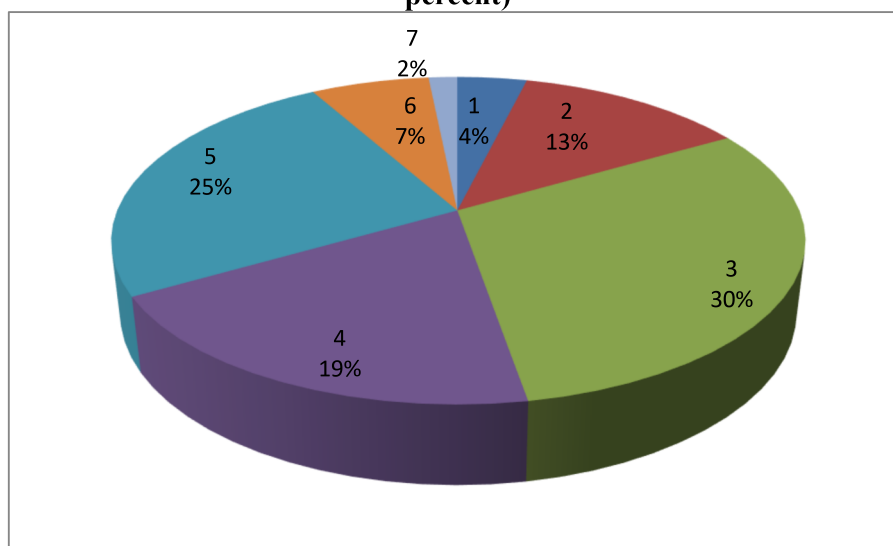
Educational attainment is also an important factor that influences domestic violence. Higher educational attainment develops the potential in women to resist any action of injustice, exploitation and torture. It also enhances the social prestige and status of a woman in the society. For analyzing the educational attainment of the respondents, the study has been divided into seven categories viz. illiterate, primary, secondary, H.S., graduate, post-graduate and Professionals.

**Table: 2.07**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Education**

Education	No of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	7	3.88%
Primary	23	12.77%
Secondary	55	30.55%
H.S.	35	19.44%
Graduate	45	25.00%
Post-Graduate	12	6.67%
Professionals	3	1.67%
Total	180	100%

*\* Illiterates here denote both those who cannot read and write and who can read only and has no formal schooling.*

**Figure- 2.05: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Educational Qualification (in percent)**



*Note: 1= Illiterate, 2= Primary, 3= Secondary, 4= H.S, 5= Graduates, 6= Post-Graduates, 7= Professionals*

The table shows that out of 180 respondents, 7 (3.8 percent) belonged to illiterate while 23 (12.7percent) were found having education up to primary level, 55 (30.55 percent) up to secondary, 35 (19.4 percent) up to higher secondary, 45 (25 percent)

graduates, 12 (6.67 percent) postgraduates and 3 (1.67percent) professionals. (Refer Table No2.7& Figure No 2.05)

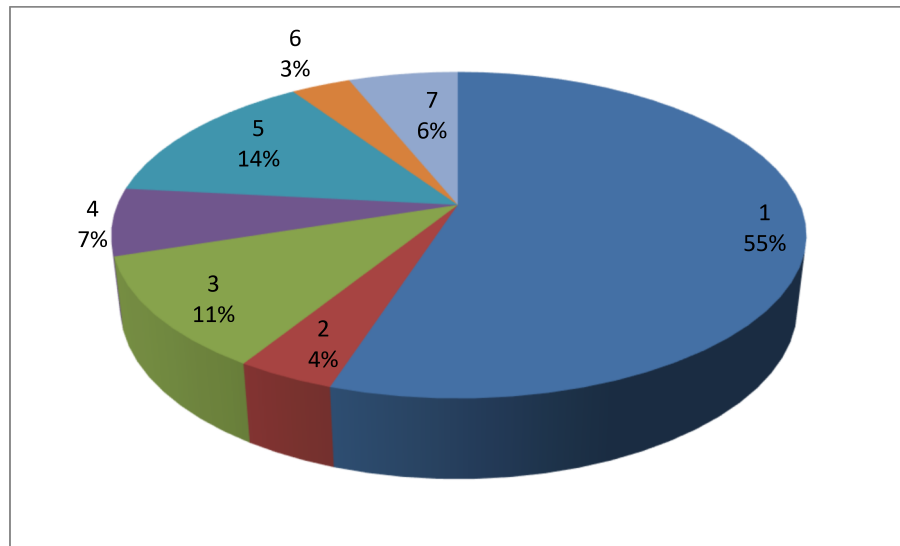
## Occupation

Occupational background of the women is an important indicator of their social status. A self-reliant woman is likely to be free of the torture of domestic violence. Although this is not the case every time but occupation does play an important role in the prevention of domestic violence. Besides, women in large number are today engaged in various professions. Thus, an attempt has been made to understand the occupational pattern of the respondents.

**Table: 2.08**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Occupation**

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage
None(House Wife)	99	55.00%
Agriculture	7	3.89%
Daily wage labourer	20	11.12%
Govt. Service	12	6.66%
Private	25	13.89%
Professionals	6	3.33%
Small Business	11	6.11%
Total	180	100%

**Figure- 2.05: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Occupation (in percent)**



*Note:* 1=None, 2=Agriculture, 3=Daily wage labourer, 4=Govt. Service, 5=Private, 6= Professionals, 7=Small Business

Data above reveal that out of 180 respondents, majority of 99 (55percent) were found unemployed, while the rest 81 (45percent) were found to be engaged in various jobs. Out of 81 respondents, 25 (13.89 percent) were employed in private jobs, 20 (11.11 percent) were daily wage labourers, 12 (6.66 percent) were government servants, 7 (3.89percent) respondents who were found to be agricultural workers, 11 (6.11 percent) were found to be engaged in small business. (*Refer table No.2.8 & Figure No.2.05*) This shows that domestic violence is prevalent irrespective of the occupational status of women.

### **Income of the family (per month)**

Income is an important indicator of economic status which determines the standard of living of the individual or family. Men with poor income are obvious to be frustrated towards life and exert their frustration on their wives. Thus, an assessment of the family was important to understand the economic status and accordingly the respondents have been divided into five different income groups viz. '1,000--5,000', '10,001- – 20,000', '20,001 – 30,000', '30,000 & above'.

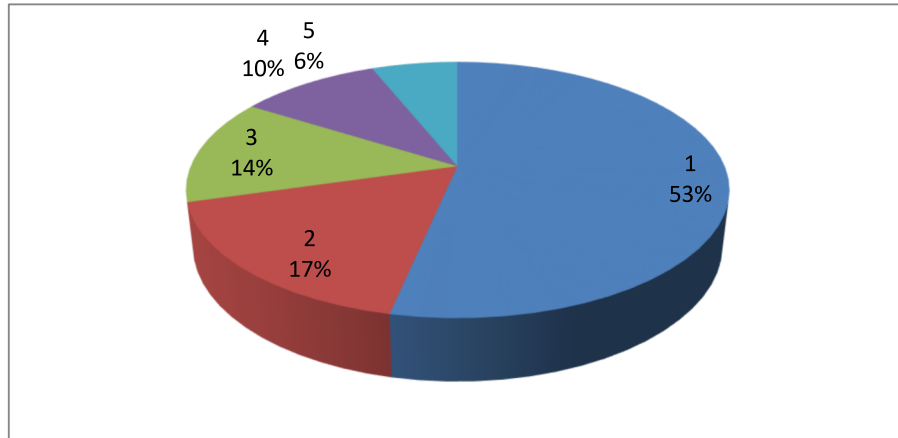


The following table shows the income of respondent's family by the study–

**Table: 2.09**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Income (per month)**

Income	No of Respondents	Percentage
1,000/--5,000/-	96	53.33%
5,001/- – 10,000/-	31	17.22 %
10,001/- – 20,000/-	24	13.33 %
20,001/- – 30,000/-	18	10.00%
30,000/- & above	11	6.12%
Total	180	100%

**Figure-2.06: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Income per Month (in percent)**



Note: 1=1,000--5,000, 2=10,001-- 20,000, 3=20,001 – 30,000, 4= 30,000 & above.

From the above table it was unveiled that out of 180, majority of the respondents 96 (53.33 percent) had income within Rs 1,000 -5,000 per month, while 31 (17.22 percent) of the respondents had income within Rs.5, 001 – 10,000 per month. Besides, 24 (13.33 percent), 18 (10 percent) and 11 (6.12 percent) were found to belong to the income group of Rs. 10,001 – 20,000, Rs. 20,001 – 30,000 and above Rs 30,000 respectively. (Refer Table No.2.9 & Figure no 2.06).

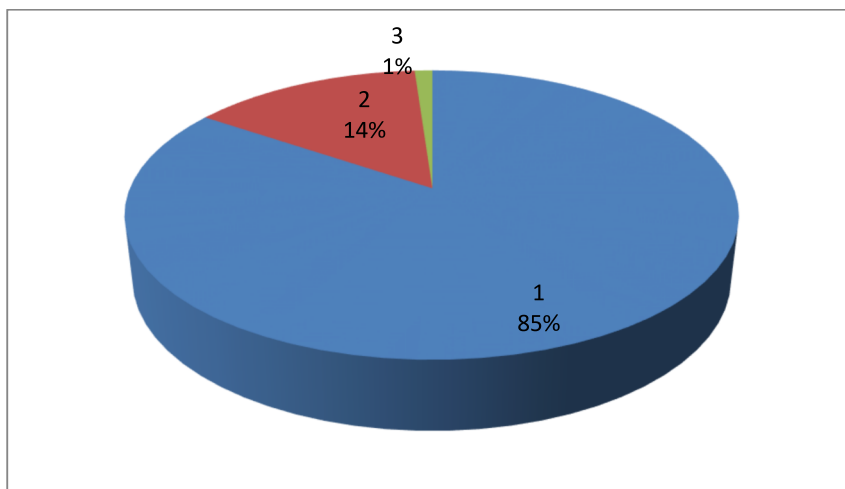
## Religion

Religion is an important institution which instills certain values which eventually influences the life style of a person. In the present study, out of 180 respondents, 152 (84.44 percent) were found to be Hindus, 26 (14.4percent) Muslims and 2 (1.1percent) Jains (*Refer Table No.2.10 & Figure No.2.07*). Thus, it may be said that domestic violence is a common phenomenon that prevails irrespective of religions.

**Table: 2.10.**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Religion**

Religion	No of Respondents	Percentage
Hindu	152	84.44%
Muslims	26	14.44%
Jains	2	1.11%
Total	180	100%

**Figure-2.07: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Religion (in percent)**



*Note:* 1= Hindu, 2= Muslim, 3= Others

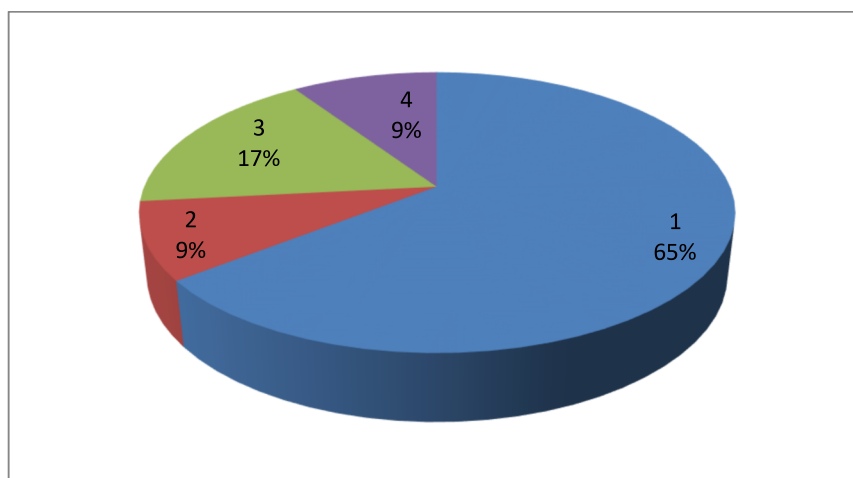
## Caste

As caste also represents a pattern of life, caste of the respondents is also studied.

**Table: 2.11**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Caste**

Caste	No of Respondents	Percentage
General	116	64.45%
O.B.C	17	8.89%
S.C	31	17.22%
S.T	16	9.44%
Total	180	100%

**Figure-2.08: Pie Chart showing Respondents' Caste (in percent)**



Note: 1= General, 2= O.B.C, 3= S.C, 4= S.T

Caste-wise distribution showed that a majority of 116 (64.45 percent) respondents were found to belong to General category, while remaining 64 (34.56 percent) belonged to SC, ST and OBC at the rate of 31 (17.22 percent), 16 (8.89 percent) and 17 (9.44 percent) respectively. Thus it can be said that domestic violence is prevalent irrespective of caste. (Refer Table No.2.11 & Figure no 2.08)

Analysis of data relating to the socio-economic profile of the respondents reveals that out of the 180 respondents, 61 (33.8percent) were found in the age group of '15 –30' years. A majority of 79 (43.8percent) belonged to '31-40' years followed by 35 (19.4percent) in the age group of '41–50' years. Besides, 3 (1.6 percent) and 2 (1.1 percentage) respondents were also found in the age group of '51 – 60' years and above 60 years respectively. Thus, age is not a barrier for domestic violence and it can happen at any age, although study reveals that women at the age group of 20-40 years are at higher risk than their older counterparts. So far as educational attainment of the respondents is concerned, out of 180 respondents, 55 (30.5percent) were found to have secondary school education, 35 (19.4 percent) higher secondary, 45 (25 percent) graduates, while 12 (6.6 percent) and 3 (1.6percent) were postgraduates and professionals respectively. Besides, 23 (12.7percent) respondents were also found to have primary education and 7 (3.8 percent) were found to be illiterates. Thus, it can be said that domestic violence occurred irrespective of educational attainment, although the prevalence of violence was higher among the less educated category. With regard to occupation, majority of 99 (55percent) respondents were found unemployed, while the rest 81 (45percent) were found to hail from different occupational background. Out of 81 respondents, 25(13.89 percent) were employed in private jobs, 20 (11.11 percent) were daily wage labourer and 12 (6.6 percent) were government servants, 7 (3.89percent) respondents who were found to be agricultural workers, 11 (6.11 percent) were found to be engaged in small business. This shows that domestic violence is prevalent irrespective of the occupational status of women.

Regarding family income of the respondents, it was found that out of 180, majority of the respondents 96 (53.33 percent) had income within Rs 1,000 -5,000 per month, while 31 (17.22 percent) of the respondents had income within Rs.5, 001 – 10,000 per month. Besides, 24 (13.33 percent), 18 (10 percent) and 11 (6.12 percent) were found to belong to the income group of Rs. 10,001 – 20,000, Rs. 20,001 – 30,000 and above Rs 30,000 respectively. It is found that occurrence of domestic violence is higher among the lower income group than the upper income ones. So far as the religious composition of the respondents is concerned, it was found that of 180 respondents, 152 (84.44 percent) were Hindus, followed by Muslims 26 (14.4percent) and others 2 (1.1percent) from Jainism. Thus, it may be said that domestic violence is a common phenomenon prevalent irrespective of religious affiliation. So far as caste composition is concerned, a majority of 116 (64.45 percent) respondents were found to belong to

General category, while remaining 64 (34.56 percent) belonged to SC, ST and OBC at the rate of 31 (17.22 percent), 16 (8.89 percent) and 17 (9.44 percent) respectively. This shows that domestic violence is a caste neutral phenomenon.

The present chapter gives an overview of the research setting and sample of the study. It also gives an outline of the socio-economic profile of the Nalbari district as well as the personnel profile of the respondents. On the whole, it is seen that women irrespective of their socio-economic status are victims of domestic violence, although the degree of violence fluctuates depending on the status of a woman.