

Chapter Four

Assam: The land of Opportunities

The present study has been conducted in the state of Assam. Assam state is known for its breath taking scenic beauty, rarest flora and fauna, lofty green hills, vast rolling plain, mighty waterways, exotic animals, migratory birds, AHOM architectures and a land of fairs and festivals.

In ancient times Assam constituted a part of the land known successively as Pragjyotishpura, and Kamrup. Opinions on the root of the name vary with one view ascribing its origin to the Bodo word Ha-Cham which means “low or level country” and a second view ascribing it to the word Asama, meaning “unequaled” or “peerless”, and used to denote the Ahoms, a Shan tribe which ruled the land for six centuries from the 13th Century A.D.

Assam is known for Assam tea, petroleum resources, Assam Silk and for its rich biodiversity. It has successfully conserved the one-horned Indian rhinoceros from near extinction in Kaziranga, the tiger in Manas and provides one of the last wild habitats for the Asian elephant. (Kumar& Singh: 2011). It is increasingly becoming a popular destination for wild life tourism. Assam is also known for its Sal tree forests and forest products, much depleted now. A land of high rainfall, Assam is endowed with lush greenery and the mighty river Brahmaputra, whose tributaries and oxbow lakes provide the region with a unique hydro-geomorphic and aesthetic environment.

Assam, the land of opportunities

Assam, the land of opportunities, is lying between the latitudes 24 degree N to 28 degree and longitudes 90 degree to 96 degree East longitude and is situated in the north east corner of India. The state is quite isolated from the rest of the country bordering two foreign countries, viz. Bhutan, and Bangladesh and seven Indian states. A narrow strip of about 25 km., that links the state with west Bengal, is the only land connection with rest of the country. Assam has abundant natural resources like fertile plain and valley lands, plenty of water resources with mighty Brahmaputra river and over 2,700 mm rainfall, vast forest and green tracks and rich biodiversity and rich reserves of oil and minerals. Because of its natural resources, it had attracted a lot in migration and huge investments especially in oil and gas exploration and tea gardens and tea leaves processing units.(NABARD: 2009). On the negative side, the state is poor in infrastructure, especially in transport and communication, limited

excess to the outside world and markets. Because of prolonged law and order problems, the State Government apparently was not able to focus on development issues. However, in recent years, the Government has been attending proactively to the development needs of the State.

Assam at a glance

Table 4.1 : Geography and administrative Divisions

	2001	2011	Increase
No. of Districts	23	27	4
No. of Sub-Districts	145	184	29
No. of Towns	125	214	89
No. of Statutory Towns	80	88	8
No. of Census Towns	45	126	81
No. of Villages	26312	26395	83

Table 4.2 : Population Of Assam

		Total	Rural	Urban
Population	Persons	31,169,272	26,780,516	4,388,756
	Males	15,954,927	13,689,739	2,265,188
	Females	15,214,345	13,090,777	2,123,568

Table 4.3: Male/Female Ratio

Decadal Population Growth 2001-2011	Absolute			Percentage		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Persons	4,513,744	3,564,228	949,516	16.93	15.35	27.61
Males	2,177,890	1,749,794	428,096	15.81	14.65	23.30
Females	2,335,854	1,814,434	521,420	18.14	16.09	32.55
Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 males)	954	956	937			
Population in the age Group 0-6	Absolute			Percentage to total Population		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Persons	4,511,307	4,081,613	429,694	14.47	15.24	9.79
Males	2,305,008	2,085,309	219,779	14.45	15.23	9.70
Females	2,206,219	1,996,304	209,915	14.50	15.25	9.89
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years) (Females per 1000 males)	957	957	955			
Literates	Absolute			Literacy Rate		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Persons	19,507,017	15,988,262	3,518,755	73.18	70.44	88.88
Males	10,756,937	8,878,355	1,878,582	78.81	76.51	91.84
Females	8,750,080	7,109,907	1,640,173	67.27	64.09	85.71

Source : Provisional Population Census 2011

Geographical area

Assam is the second largest State in terms of area in the north-eastern region of India. The geographical area of the state is 78,438 sq. km which accounts for about 2.4% of total geographical area of the country. Assam is blended with hills and plains. Topographically it can be divided into three distinct regions viz., Brahmaputra Valley consists of 71.64% of the state area, Barak Valley consists of 8.82% of area and the Hill Region in between these valleys covering 19.53% area. The State is divided into 27 districts, 54 subdivisions, 203 development

blocks and 2487 Gaon Panchayats. Out of this, 2 districts, viz. N.C. Hills and Karbi-Anglong, 5 sub-divisions and 16 development blocks are hill areas and 4 districts, 8 subdivisions are under Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). It is predominately a rural State.

Population Profile

According to provisional census report 2011 the population of Assam stands at 31,169,272 persons consisting of 15,954,927 males and 15,215,345 females as on 1st March 2011. Growth of population in the state after independence (1951-2011) is 288.22 percent against national growth rate of 235.15 during the period. Growth of population in the state during 1971-2011 is 113.12 percent against the national growth rate of 120.77% during this period. Assam ranks 14th in size of population among the states of India. Assam ranks 15th in density among the states of India and ranks 15th in sex-ratio among the states of India. Assam also ranks 26th in literacy among the states of India (Provisional Population Census : 2011).

Figure / Chart – 4.1 Comparative Size of Population of Districts, 2011

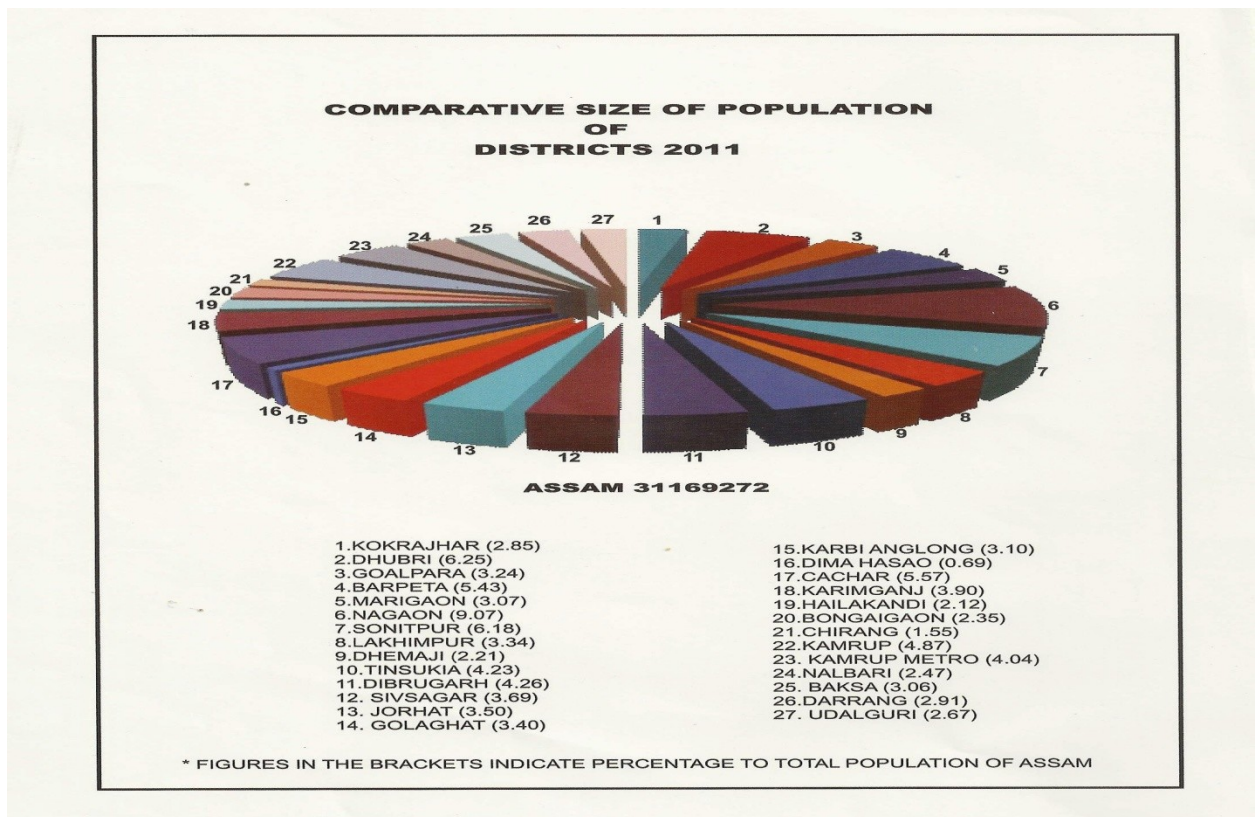


Table 4.4: Rural Urban Population of Selected Districts of Assam, 2011

Name of the District	Total	Rural	Urban	Percentage of	
				Rural	Urban
Kamrup	1517202	1375188	142014	90.64	9.36
Barpeta	1693190	1545901	147289	91.30	8.70
Nagaon	2826006	2457906	368100	86.97	13.03
Morigaon	957853	884557	73296	92.35	7.65
Cachar	1736319	1420309	316010	81.80	18.20
N.C.Hills	213529	152302	61227	71.33	28.67
Jorhat	1091295	871730	219565	79.88	20.12

Source : Provisional Population Census 2011.

Literacy Profile

Literacy continues to be one of the most pressing worldwide problems. It is also one of those problems which along with hunger, sickness and unemployment, have aroused the greatest responses in terms of international collaboration. Literacy is an important characteristic for the purpose of the census. In census 2011 a person aged 7 and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is to be considered as literate. A person who can only read but cannot write is not literate. The effective literacy rate for Assam as per 2011 census comes to 73.18 percent while it is 78.81 percent for males and 67.27 percent female .

Table 4.5: Number of Literates of Selected Districts of Assam, 2011

District	R/U/T	Literates		
		Person	Male	Female
Kamrup	Total	962677	528117	434560
	Rural	847747	466748	380999
	Urban	114930	61369	53561
Barpeta	Total	918708	512330	406378
	Rural	802463	450015	352448
	Urban	116245	62315	53930
Nogaon	Total	1755838	947986	807852
	Rural	1461302	791020	670282
	Urban	294536	156966	137570
Morigaon	Total	554143	297422	256721
	Rural	498740	267791	230949
	Urban	55403	29631	25772
Cachar	Total	1196892	652827	544065
	Rural	942317	520396	421922
	Urban	254575	132432	122143
N.C.Hills	Total	143585	80498	63087
	Rural	92978	52505	40473
	Urban	50607	27993	22614
Jorhat	Total	812328	440230	372098
	Rural	629728	343424	286304
	Urban	182600	96806	85794

Source : Provisional Population Census 2011

Administrative Divisions

Consequent upon to the Yandaboo treaty signed between Man (Burma now Myanmar) and British on 24 February 1826, Assam ultimately became a British colony. After that the people got engaged in struggle against the British to restore the lost independence. At that time the 'liberation struggle of Assam' was united with the Indian freedom struggle under the

principle of 'line of united struggle'. Assam should have established an independent state, just after the British left the South Asian continent, like the establishment of independent countries such as India, Pakistan and Myanmar. However, the British created leadership of Independent India turned Assam into a colony of India.

In accordance to 1951 census there were 17 districts in all in the State of Assam including the five districts of the newly designated North-East Frontier Agency, e.g. Balipara Frontier Tract, Abor Hill, Mishmi Hills, Tirap Frontier Tract and the Naga tribal area for the purpose of census. Part of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district (of formerly princely state) were merged with the united Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, and part of Hailakandi subdivision of the erstwhile sylhet district (presently Bangladesh) was merged with the Cachar district of Assam. An elongated part of the Balipara Frontier Tract was merged with the Darrang District of Assam. During that period there were eight districts like Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Nowgong, Sibsagar, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, Cachar.

As per Administrative division 1961, the North East Frontier Agency excluded from the administrative jurisdiction of Assam during this decade. A new state of Nagaland was carved out from the state of Assam. (Together with the Tuensang Frontier Division of NEFA comprising the erstwhile district of Naga Hills of Assam). Thus, there were eight districts and 92 police stations at the 1961 census. No further bifurcations of the districts had happened during 1951-61.

The notable change was observed during 1971 when a new autonomous state of Meghalaya was carved out from Assam comprising of former two districts of Garo Hills and United Khasi & Jaintia Hills in 1970. The United Mikir & North Cachar Hill District was bifurcated into two separate districts of Mikir Hills and N.C. Hills. Thus, there were 9 (nine) districts and 108 police stations during 1971 census. In 1962 three police stations, e.g. Rangapara in Darrang distt and Hojai and Murajhar in Nogaon district were created. In 1963 Chabua police station in Lakhimpur district was carved out. Four new police stations were created in the Mizo district, e.g. Saiha, Demagiri, Champai and Kolasib in 1964. Besides Sarupathar and Mariani in Sibsagar district, Kamrup and Mikirbheta in Nogaon District and Maibong in North Cachar Hills district were carved out in 1965 and Moranphat police station was carved out in 1967.

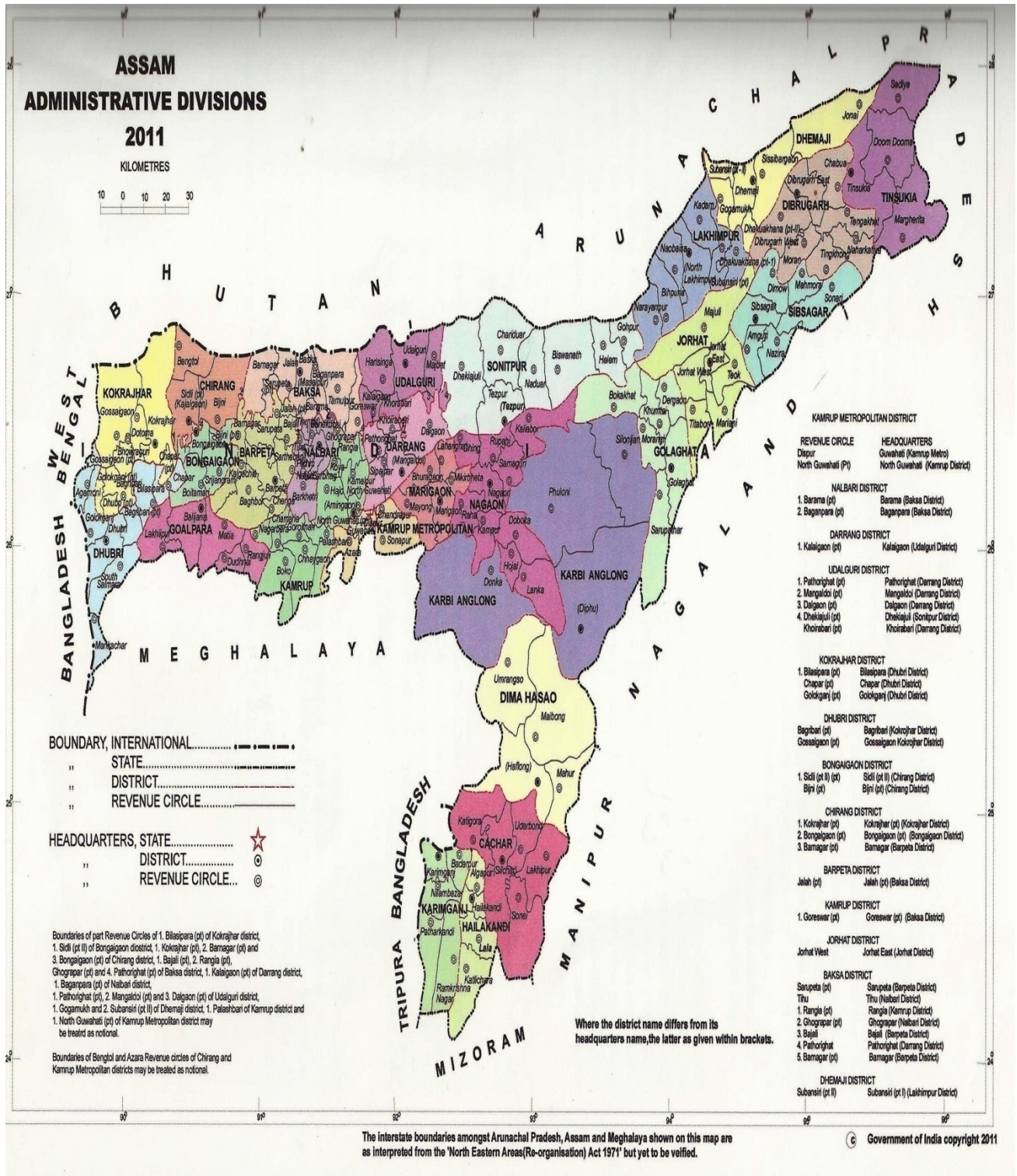
In major administrative changes a new state of Mizoram was created from the state of Assam in 1972 comprising the old district of Mizo hills. There were 10 districts in the state as in

1971-81, which were increased to 23 districts during 1981-1991. During 1983 Dhubri and Kokrajhar district were carved out of Goalpara district, Barpeta from Kamrup, Sonitpur from Darrang, Jorhat from Sibsagar and Karimganj from old cachar district. During 1985 Kamrup district was bifurcated to form Nalbari district. In 1987 Golaghat district was carved out of Jorhat district. There was another spell of boundary changes during 1989 when Bongaigaon district was carved out of Goalpara district, Dhemaji from Lakhimpur, Tinsukia from Dibrugarah, Morigaon from Nogaon and Hailakandi from Cachar district respectively. The districts were Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup, Darrang, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Morigaon (Census: 1991).

There were 23 districts during 2001 and there were no jurisdictional changes in districts during the decades. However, there were many changes at the Revenue Circle Level. The number of Revenue Circles increased from 141 in 1991 to 145 in 2001 census. Among the Revenue Circles the Subansiri (Lakhimpur and Dhemaji Districts), the Dhakuakhana (Lakhimpur and Dhemaji District) and the Sidli (Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon district) full under two districts respectively. Number of C.D. Blocks from 137 at 1991 to 219 at 2001. Mahur Revenue Circle in the N.C. Hills district was created by bifurcating the Maibong and Halflong Revenue Circles, Chabua Revenue Circle in the Dibrugarah district was created by bifurcating the Dibrugarah East Revenue Circles and the Mahmora Revenue Circles in the sibsagar district was created by bifurcating the Sonari and the Dimow Revenue Circles respectively.

Two Revenue Circles of 1991, e.g. Diyong Forest Area and Nowjan Forest Area recorded as such at the 1991 census for the purpose of census only were merged again with the golaghat and sarupathar revenue circles respectively at 2001 census.

Figure / Chart 4.2 : Assam Administrative Division 2011



The interstate boundaries amongst Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya shown on this map are as interpreted from the 'North Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act 1971' but yet to be verified.

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Presently the State of Assam is comprised of 27 districts. Of the Dibrugarh came into being on 2/10/71 vide Government Order No. AAP/110/70/165 Dt. 22.9.71. The Districts of Karimganj, Barpeta, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Dhubri and Kokrajhar came into being on 1/7/83 vide Government Order No. GAC.211/83/4 Dt. 14.6.83. Nalbari District came in to being on 14.8.85 and Golaghat on 23.10.87. The Districts like Hailakandi, Morigaon, Dhemaji, Tinsukia and Bongaigaon came into being on 1.10.89. The original Mikir Hill District as existing in 1971 census was renamed as Karbi Anglong District. Without any change in the boundary of District vide Government notification No HAD 140/78/108 dt 31/5/82.

Jurisdictional change during 2001-11 in administrative units took place. There were 23 districts in the state during 2001 census. During 2001-11 4 new districts viz, Udalguri, Baksa, Chirang and Kamrup metropolitan have been created on 27/3/2003. Thus, affecting 12 districts there are 153 Revenue circles if parts are not considered. But after splitting the revenue circles new district have been created and if splitted Revenue circles are taken into consideration, in 2011 there are 184 revenue circles.

Today for the administrative convenience the State of Assam has been divided into four administrative divisions. They are namely Lower Assam Division, North Assam Division, Hills & Barak Valley Assam Division and Upper Assam Division.

Climate

With the 'Tropical Monsoon Rainforest Climate', Assam is a temperate region and experiences heavy rainfall and high humidity pleasant sub-alpine climate prevails in the hills. The plains however experience tropical climate making them uncomfortably humid especially during the rainy seasons.

Social Development

All demographic and other development indicators of the state also suggest that Assam is quite backward state in the country-with less life expectancy at birth (LEB) than national average, high infant mortality rate, less proportion household having access to safe drinking water. Diarrhea is a common cause of death among children in Assam. Assam still has very high morbidity due to communicable diseases. These are indicators of underdevelopment.

The workforce participation rates for both men and women are lower than those for India. The incidence of unemployment, measured as a percentage of the labor force is increasing in Assam. The percentage of main workers to total workers declined from 86 percent in 1991 to 75 percent in 2001 as per census data. The census reports from 1961 to 2001 indicates there is a decline of percentage of cultivators from 1961 to 2001. This percentage decline was recorded from 65 in 1961 to 28 in 2001 which implies attribution in shift of employment to other sector. The other sector of the economy could not solve the unemployment problem among the youths of the State as it has revealed by the Live Register of Employment Exchanges. Acute unemployment specially educated unemployment continues to be a serious problem in the state. The number of persons employed in organized economic activity (comprising both public and private sectors) was 11.03 Lakh in the year 2009 which was 2.1% more than that of 2008. The employment of women in the organized sector of the State was Three hundred sixty thousand at the end of 2009 which was around 32.7% of the total employment. The small scale industries of the state providing employment to 167216 persons till the end of 2009-10 (Economic Survey: 2009-10).

Economic Development and Poverty

The ratio of the state per capita income to the national average per capita has been continuously declining from over 100% in the early 1950s to about 50% in recent years. The share of agriculture and allied sectors has declined from 37% to 27.6 during last decade, i.e. 1996-97 to 2005-06. During the same time contribution of Industry remained little over 22% and the share of service sector increased from 40.5% to 49.5%.

Microfinance

Because of relatively less banking infrastructure and availability of low bank credit, there has been wide gap between supply and demand for credit. The interest rate in informal transactions is in the range of 10% per month to 10% per day (NABARD: 2009).

Modern Microfinance

The modern micro finance model, viz, SHG model and MFI model started in the 1990s. Both were pioneered by the NGOs. However, NABARD provides SHG promotional support to the NGOs. NABARD also provided promotional support to RRBs and is in the process of providing support to more number of NGOs, bank branches, farmers clubs, etc. With the entry of DRDA in SHG promotion, the movement got big boost. According to the data provided by NABARD, Guwahati, 1,44,036 SHGs have saving accounts in banks as on 30th November 2007.

As DRDA checked SHG sector with SGSY programme, almost all NGO promoters are switching over to commercial microfinance model. NEDFi and other wholesale MFIs like RGVN, ASOME, etc are pushing the model aggressively. NABARD also supporting MFIs, as SHG model getting problematic because of SGSY poaching. NABARD, apart from providing funds for capacity building of MFIs and on-lending, is willing to provide equity capital.

Agriculture

The economy of Assam continues to be predominantly agrarian; the dependence of rural labour force on agriculture and allied activities was nearly 53 percent as per Population census, 2001. The net sown area (NSA) in the state is 31.14 ha, which accounts for a little over one third of geographical area. The proportion of NSA is significantly less than that of national average. However, the proportion of area sown more than once at 43% is significantly higher than the national average. The higher proportion of multi cropped area in the state is the result of fertile lands and abundant water resources. The state has 27.12 lakh holdings. Out of these 63% are marginal holding of less than one ha, 21% are small holdings of 1 to 2 ha, and 13% are medium size holdings of 2 to 4 ha. Because of highly favorable agriculture conditions and autarky, the farmers grow almost all crops. However, paddy is the principal crop accounting for three-fourths of NSA. Other important crops are Rape and Mustard, Arecanut, potato, wheat, jute, banana, sugarcane and so on (NABARD: 2009).

Industry

The Industrial scenario of the State is mainly confined within the growth of employment oriented Small Scale Sector, which comprises of manufacturing and processing industries. The total SSI units in the State numbered 32948 are providing employment to 167216 persons till the year 2009-10. In 2009-10, the value of produced goods of 1667 number SSI units was worth Rs. 584.00 crores. During the year the number of factories registered was 3971 and provided employment to 137164 persons. The growth observed in the manufacturing sector was the result of benefit achieved in the production of some selected industrial items like Tea, Wheat Flour, Jute textiles, Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, and Fertilizer etc. over the level of production of the previous year. The General Index of Industrial production of the State also pegged at 155.83 in 2009-10 (Base 1999-2000) as against 151.40 in 2008-09.

The Tea Industry of Assam, which is about 170 years old, playing a vital role in the State as well as in the national economy. The Assam's Tea industry also possesses a significant reputation in the global economy. The total area under tea cultivation is accounting for more

than half of the country's total area under tea and Tea Industry of Assam provides average daily employment to more than six lakh persons in the State which is around 50 percent of the total average daily number of labour employed in the country. The number of tea Gardens in the State was 49102 covering land of 301000 hectares out of 140712 Tea Gardens covering 556000 hectares of land in the country as a whole. The estimated tea production of the State was 4875 lakh kg. as against 9808 lakh kg. total tea produced in the country during the year 2008 as per report of Tea Board of India. The tea production in Assam constitutes more than 50 percent of the total production of the country.

Assam has ample scope for Bamboo based industry like Paper manufacturing industry, since this region has highest concentration of bamboo i. e. around 60 percent of the total bamboo of the country. In viewing of the potentialities, The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, has recently launched the National Bamboo Mission and under this Mission it is proposed for plantation of selected species of Bamboo in the State, in an area of 176000 hectares, as a raw material for bamboo based industry.

Sericulture, a major cottage industry of the State, is practised in more than 10500 villages and provided employment to 2.6 lakh of family. Assam has the monopoly in production of Muga, the Golden Silk in the world and 99% of Muga Silk produced in Assam. Assam has also achieved the right of "Geographical Indication" in Muga Silk.

Transport

The rapid increase of number of motor vehicles on road in Assam has been observed over the past few years. The Vehicle population in the State has reached to 1432997 as on March 2010 as against 1236257 as on March 2009. During the year as many as 241247 vehicles were registered in the State as against 119126 vehicles registered in 2008-09, as reported by Department of Transport. The registration of Motor vehicles in the State has showed a record increase of 102 percent in 2009-10 over the previous year. The number of Motor vehicles registered per lakh of population of the State has reached at 803 in 2009-10 against 402 in 2008-09. The total number of Motor vehicles on road in the State has increased by about 12 percent as on March 2010 over the March, 2009.

NGO Sector in Assam

In Assam, NGOs have been in existence since the early years of present century. The records of Society Registration Department of Assam provides that among other NGOs, 'Resu Union Women Society' and 'Halcha Jana Kalyan Samitee' were registered in 1957, for the first

time. This marks the beginning of registered NGO in Assam. These NGOs along with other NGOs started their functioning not only in urban areas but also in the remotest, rural corners of the state. The voluntary organizations in the state have been providing various kinds of welfare services to the people, but due to geo-political situation in the North-East, their presence is not felt to the desired extent (NIPCCD, 1985). Earlier NGOs have been seen to work only in one or two areas but now NGOs have concentrated their activities in the field of Micro credit, Employment and Income Generation, Formal and Non-formal education, Health, Nutrition and Family planning, Women's empowerment, Environment, Poultry, Fisheries and Livestock, Human rights and legal aid, Water supply and sanitation. But there is a dearth of empirical studies regarding different functions of NGOs. There is also no comprehensive data available regarding their nature and status, the services rendered by them and the areas covered. It is said in the literature (Bhatia:2000) that some organizations really have the motive to work for people's welfare but others are there in the field to make a quick buck. There are some NGOs in Assam which exists only on paper while some others work only for name's sake. Furthermore, there are organizations which were doing well some years ago but now they have become dysfunctional again some NGOs are in existence who have been working with high reputation with different Government departments. In accordance to society's registration office, Guwahati, most of the NGOs found working in rural areas of Assam & their area of operation are also confined to rural Assam. NGOs even situated in urban areas are also having rural work projects. So it can be said that NGOs of Assam have been contributing by their efforts towards rural development.

NGOs thus, represent an institutional approach to spurring rural development in Assam which may possess comparative advantages over Government institutions at the grass-roots. Such Organizations in different shapes and sizes and with different names took its origin long before the existence of most of the modern Government. (Singh:2003). The present trend is becoming clear with the need for increased human resource development within Government agencies, and the need to improve the economic likelihood, health, nutritional status, and overall wellbeing of the rural poor. Thus the rise of the NGOs reflects the growing recognition that the central and the State government lack sufficient capacity to respond to the challenge of poverty alleviation in the state like Assam which paved passage for NGOs of Assam to play an effective role for all round development of the community by enhancing the economic development through innovative ideas.

Need of GO-NGO Partnership and its Intervention in Assam

Assam has achieved economic growth of 5.9% during the year 2005-06 as against the growth rate of 9.2% of the National Economy. Considering the large backlog suffered by Assam in the economic development, it has been decided to accelerate economic growth to be at par with other states. Situated in the corner of the country, the State has to improve physical infrastructure to trigger rapid industrialization (Gazette notification: 2008). In Assam the primary sector still accommodates fifty five percent of working population where growth rate is too minimal. Rural poverty in the state is seven times higher than the urban poverty, particularly dominated by the backward communities. However, rural-urban inequality in literacy rate (59.73 and 85.34), Infant and maternal mortality rates are also quite alarming. Therefore, the issue is not only low growth but also unequal growth (Devi:2012). It is also well known fact that Assam is hosting country's one of the highest educated unemployed youths. Besides 90% of the working labor force either is semiskilled or unskilled which is causing limit to productivity. The situation demanded Government's intervention. The development experiences in Assam showed that GOs alone cannot meet the vast unmet needs of the poor so it has become the need to involve NGOs in the development process due to their innovative ideas, capacity to mobilize people through ensuring participation. But gradually it has been observed that NGOs of Assam by themselves cannot substitute the government effectively due to their limited resources and had limited impacts. At the same time GOs activities have generally been beyond the reach of the poor which demanded a partnership work.

In Assam the intervention of GO-NGO partnership has been seen in many fields. In particular, GO-NGO partnership in providing relief, literacy, health care and family planning services, has a long history of success. Over the years, the vast numbers of NGOs that have developed in Assam and the experiences gained by them have created a unique opportunity to work together. To solve different burning problems of rural Assam, Government has been taking different dynamic steps which made Assam surge ahead on to progress despite so many large insurgent groups remaining active in the state, said honourable Chief Minister, Mr. Tarun Gogoi. He also attributed this positive development to the people of the state and the NGOs of Assam who have been working hard to fulfill the objectives of millennium development goal. (Assam Tribune: 2012). The government is trying to eradicate the interference of middleman by ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their products with the help of NGOs. The government has been organizing job melas where NGOs have been given the responsibility to recruit persons as a partner. Government of Assam further proposed to bring private

investment with PPP mode as one of the preferred routes for infrastructure development of the state.

Public Private Policy of Assam (PPP)

The government of Assam lays down Public Private Partnership policy vide Gazette Notification No. PDP.115/2002/pt-II/268 in 16th February 2008 to achieve the goal outlined in the Five Year Plan highlighting various aspects of the PPP frameworks. As of December 2010, Government of Assam has initiated 60 projects under PPP mode through various departments which are under various stages of implementation, i.e. bid closure under bidding, under pipeline and conceptualization. Out of this, 18 projects was approved in principles by Government of India to take up project development activities under Pilot Project Initiative (PPI) scheme under 7 line departments like GDD, Power, Tourism, Labor Welfare, Urban Development, IT and Health.

In recent times it is needless to say that any development efforts cannot be achieved without people's participation. From this reality, collaboration and cooperation between GOs and NGOs are much essential for human resource development and poverty reduction. For optimum utilization of resources and to enhance partnership for the reduction of duplication in development, efforts and coordination between GOs and NGOs are of utmost importance.