

Chapter Three

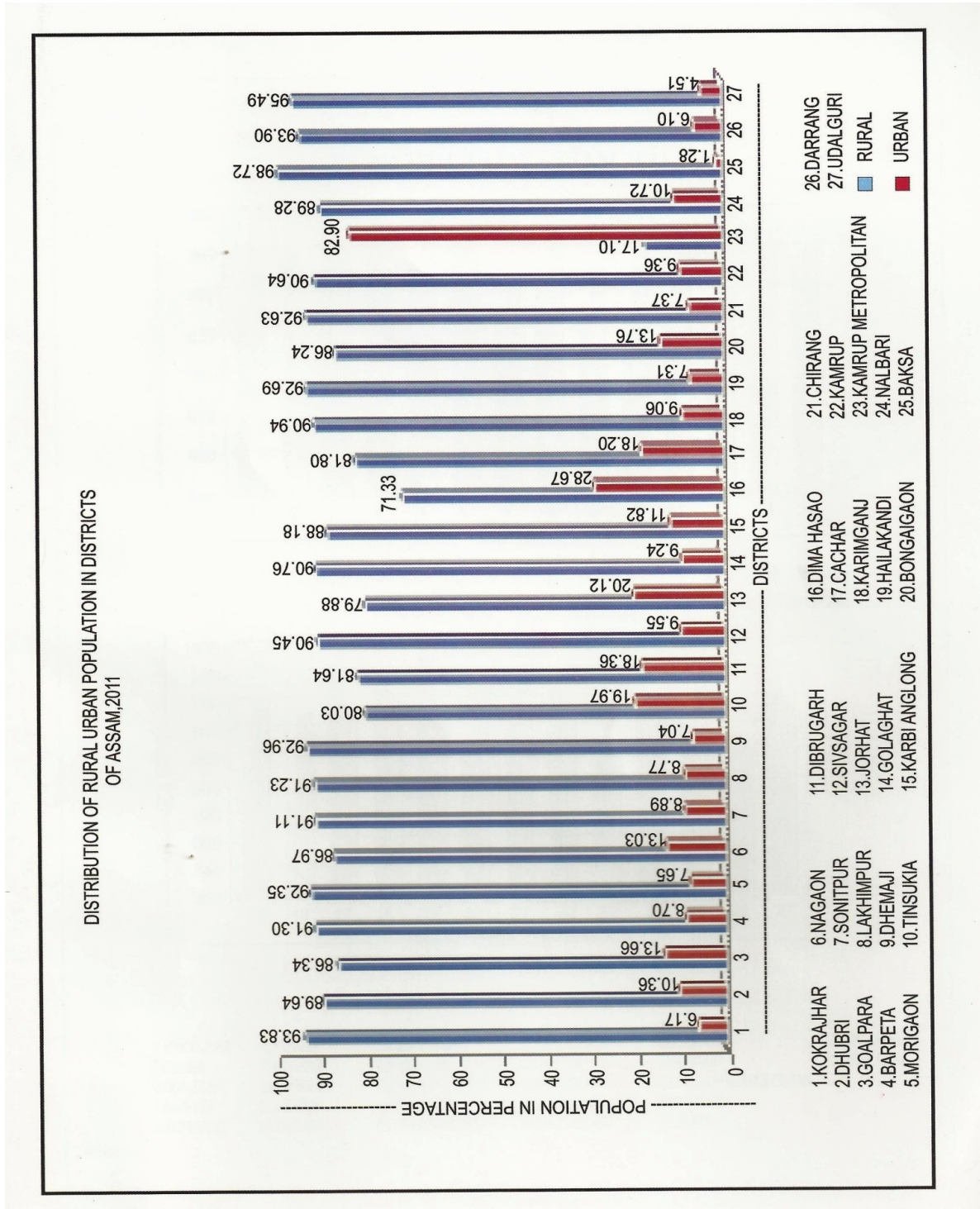
Research Methodology

The previous chapter has given an overview on relevant literature. This chapter provides details regarding the methodology that has been adopted to carry out the present study. Methodology in a wider sense means the process by which we approach a phenomenon under a study and seek answers. It encompasses the scope and importance of the study, specific objectives, research design, sources of data, construction of tools, sampling, process of data collection, nature of analysis and so on. The actual limitation that the study admits, are also included here. It should be noted that there is no specific methodology for research on NGOs. It depends on the topic, the purpose of investigation, the data available and the experience as well as the capability of the researcher.

Scope and Importance

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. About 86 percent of the population is still residing in rural areas while a meagre 14 percent are living in the urban areas of the state. This is a clear indication towards the slow trend of urbanization in the state. (Provisional Population Census: 2011). More than 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. (Economic Survey: 2010-11). The dependence of rural labour force on agriculture and allied activities was nearly 53 percent as per provisional Population census, 2001. There are 15 districts in Assam with more than 90% rural areas and six districts with 85-90% rural areas. It is recorded that the rural population in Assam has increased by 15.35 percent during the decade 2001-2011. This growth has added more stress on rural economy of the State. The chart given below will indicate district wise rural population in the state of Assam.

Figure / Chart – 3.1 Rural Urban Population in Districts of Assam



The statistics itself shows the gloomy picture of State’s rural community and the deplorable condition of the people of Assam. Assam could not attain cherished development

despite its vast potentials. Lack of development has brought about a sense of neglect and frustration among people. They have been falling prey to unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, poor housing facility etc. So to uphold their condition Government of India as well as Government of Assam time to time in accordance to the need of the rural community introduced many welfare schemes for the promotion of rural people through SGSY, IAY, NREGA, NWDPRRA, RCH etc. But with the passage of time it has been observed that due to overburdened with their involvement in routine works, detracted their vision from national development activities particularly at the grassroot level. This reality invited NGOs to come forward and work in partnership with the Government for implementing their programmes.

This dynamic shift in the development sector opened a new vista for the researcher to get into the matter more deeply as partnership work has already been started in the state and it can be seen in almost all the fields. With the growing development NGOs have occupied an important place towards rural development of Assam. Bhatia (2000) made a study on NGOs and acclaimed that it was the first study made in Assam on NGOs. So it can be well said that there is ample scope for further research on GO-NGO Partnership as it is very new to state like Assam. Considering all these factors the present study is going to throw light on GO-NGO Partnership.

Objectives of the study

The above discussion helped the scholar to adopt certain objectives for the present study and these are as follows-

- To study the objectives and functions of NGOs working in support of GOs.
- To know the roles and responsibilities of NGOs in partnership work.
- To understand the beneficiaries perception towards the developmental partnership.
- To identify the problems and limitations faced by both GOs and NGOs in strategic partnership.
- To explore the scope of professional social work intervention for developing the partnership.

Research Question

- What are the criteria GOs' adopting to associate NGOs as partner for developmental activities?
- How the monitoring process is being conducted by GOs regarding NGOs performance?
- Are the NGOs and Government staff satisfied with the working process?

Universe of the study:

The study was conducted in Assam. The State is famous for its natural resources. As per official information (Office of the Societies Registration), Guwahati, till March 2008, there were 73,181 registered NGOs in Assam. For the proposed study the researcher selected NGOs having five years of existence and working in partnership with GOs for rural development in Assam for more than three years.

Sampling Design

For the present study, Multi stage sampling technique has been adopted to collect data. Assam State consists of 27 districts, divided into Four Administrative Divisions namely Lower Assam Division, North Assam Division, Hills & Barak Valley Assam Division, Upper Assam Division. So the researcher has selected two (2) NGOs from each division purposively. So total Eight (8) NGOs from Four Administrative Divisions has been taken up for the present study. Further, from each NGOs 25 beneficiaries were selected using simple random technique sampling for the study. All total $(25 \times 8) = \underline{200 \text{ beneficiaries}}$ were studied.

Table 3.1: Selected NGOs Under Study

Name of the selected NGOs	Districts	Administrative Divisions
1. Assam Centre for Rural Development (ACRD)	Kamrup	Lower Assam Division
2. Anchalik Gram Unnayan Parishad, (AGUP)	Barpeta	Lower Assam Division
3. Bahamukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samiti (BKASS)	Nogaon	North Assam Division
4. Morigaon Mahila Mehfil (MMM)	Morigaon	North Assam Division
5. Deshobandhu Club (DBC)	Cachar	Hills & Barak Valley Assam Division.
6. Waimijing	Halflong	Hills & Barak Valley Assam Division.
7. North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS)	Jorhat	Upper Assam Division
8. Society for North East Handmade Paper Development (SNEHPAD)	Jorhat	Upper Assam Division

Selection of Beneficiaries’:

Selection of Programmes and beneficiaries done on the basis of Fund allotment , number of beneficiaries covered by the project along with the coverage of field of work. In some cases the programme are small and in that case two programmes were selected and where the programme is large in all direction (Fund, Beneficiaries and field of operation) one programme has been selected. The details are given below..

Table 3.2: NGOs, Schemes & Selected Number of Beneficiaries'

Name of the NGO	Name of the Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries Selected for Study
ACRD	a) Gyan Setu School for Child Labour	12
	b) Ujjawala	13
AGUP	a) Scheme for Fund Regeneration of Traditional Industries	15
	b) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas	10
BKASS	a) Old Age Home	25
MMM	a) Integrated Scheme for Women Empowerment	25
DBC	a) Food Processing	13
	b) Aspiration Day Care Centre	12
Waimijing	a) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana	25
NEADS	a) Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Programme	25
SNEHPAD	a) Village Development Plan	25
Total - 8	11	200

Research Design:

A research design is the detailed plan of an investigation. In accordance with the objectives it is an exploratory study. Exploratory study is a study in which there is very less information available and much has to be explored regarding that. The research design was undertaken in order to find out the objectives and functions of NGOs working in support of GOs, roles and responsibilities, beneficiaries' perception, problems and limitations faced by both GOs and NGOs in strategic partnership and to find the scope for social work intervention. For this

purpose combinations of qualitative and quantitative methods were used, namely informal interviews and interview schedule.

Methods and Tools of Data Collection

Table 3.3: Sources of Data

Type of data	Source	Study Instrument	No. of Respondents
Quantitative (Primary)	Beneficiaries'	Interview schedule, interview guide.	200
Qualitative (Secondary)	Literature, websites, journals, articles in concerned field and key informants from selected NGOs and Government organizations.		

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative method was applied. The structured interview schedule was used as base tools for data collection for the study. Besides this, relevant secondary data were collected from literature, websites, journal, articles in concerned fields and key informants from various Government and Non- Government organizations. Key informants were involved in this study, each from the different organization. Moreover they were given the full assurance that the collected data will be used only for academic purposes and it will be kept confidential.

Data Processing and Interpretation:

The collected data was processed through coding, master chart, tabulation and analysis were undertaken with the help of SPSS. All tape recorded data were transcribed and translated into English. The quantitative data has been presented in the form of simple tables as well as cross tables. The qualitative data are presented in the form of relevant portions of narratives of the respondents in order to bolster or counter the quantitative findings. Findings of the study are presented through the use of different tables, graphs, chart and so on.

Limitations of the Study:

No study is free from limitations. This study too has got certain limitations. In this study, registered NGOs having five years of existence and having the experience of partnership work with GOs in the field of rural development in Assam for more than three years was adopted. The study does not take into account the NGOs who have less than three years of working exposure with GOs.

Field Experiences:

The concept of GO-NGO Partnership is very new to the NGOs and the Government functionaries of Assam as well as for researcher. So it took time to enter into the subject matter more deeply. The study covered the state of Assam which consists of 27 districts. Due to various constraints all the districts were not visited by the researcher but maximum districts were covered during Pilot survey. Both GOs and NGOs functionaries extended their highest cooperation in selecting well working NGOs from four administrative divisions during pilot survey. NGOs were selected in accordance to the criteria set for NGO selection in the study. There were no other criteria followed for selection of districts.

After selection of NGOs through deliberate survey the researcher started collection of data through the interview schedule. These districts were new to the researcher and it was far from Silchar where from the researcher belongs and the differences in language took much time than the required scheduled time to make work successful one. Initially there was a problem of acceptance from both the side (NGO-researcher-Government). Gradually through regular interaction, the researcher built up the rapport with them and gained their confidence which made the work easier in the later days. To get detailed information about the objectives formulated for the study, the researcher had contacted at times with the NGO functionaries and Government functionaries of seven districts of Assam.

It has been observed that though the NGOs have been working as partner in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes even though they were found partially unaware about the literal meaning of GO-NGO Partnership. As a result, they were unable to

disseminate information accordingly in the initial stages of data collection. But in the later stages, the NGOs made a commendable work. They left no stone unturned to facilitate the researcher with all required information from their end to make the study a grand success. NGO functionaries and sometimes Government functionaries also accompanied the researcher during field visits either in the villages or in their agencies.

The field visits of districts of Lower Assam, Upper Assam, North Assam division, Barak Valley & N.C.Hills opened a new area to think for further research. Before conducting the study, researcher was isolated within the four walls of Barak Valley and experiences gained accordingly. From the field experiences it can be said that there is gulf of difference in respect of working habits of people of Barak Valley and other districts of Assam including both men and women. In some communities of Assam it was found that women were thrown away from the husband's home after demise of her husband and that women gradually were seen cutting bamboos into small pieces with saw to manufacture items of cottage industry. The daily wages of those labors at work was found to be a meager amount of Rs. 20/- per day. Graduate unemployed youths were seen to work as driver, and in some cases as an agriculturist, Old man of 85 years was seen as full time paid artisan who was having problems in eye, joint pain and different other diseases and some finding no other option choose old age home to get sustainability in living. Children are known as the backbone of the society, take birth to lead a life with all rights where education becomes the fundamental right of a child. But in Assam, it has been observed that many children of 6-14 years had made their identity as domestic worker, industry worker, vendor, stone cutter and so on. Women of 17 to 25 years falling prey to glitterous and gorgious life style of metro cities that have been causing women trafficking and inviting different life killing diseases like HIV/AIDs. This background study represents the deplorable condition of the poor vulnerable section of society. Based on the field experiences it can be said that the society has been facing problems like child labour, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty and all are considered as the social problems. To quote the experiences it can be said that "Economic Problem is the mother of all problem" which has been pushing poor towards more deterioration. Government of Assam has been trying its best to deal with these matters more positively by introducing different programmes like Gyan Setu School for Child Labour, Ujjawala for trafficked women, and old age home for old people and different other income generation programmes to fight poverty by building up the capacity of the victims which develops a sense of confidence in them.

The researcher was provided with all the above mentioned information from NGOs and GOs. But while collecting data from Government officials the researcher came across with both negative and positive experiences. Positive experiences encouraged researcher to work more and the negative experiences compelled the researcher to spend more time & management to get the required data for the study from different Government offices. If the Government officials would have been more cooperative the task of data collection would have been easier and more result oriented.

Operational Definition of the Key terms:

Government Organization: - Organization which functions as Government body (Central, State, local) or governmental nodal agencies like secretariat, Local self government (PRI), DRDA etc.

NGO: - Here in my study, NGO means the organization which has voluntary formation working towards development of rural areas, non-profit and independent in functioning having five years of work experience and engaged with GOs in collaborative activities for rural development.

Partnership: - Collaborative activities running jointly by GOs and NGOs

Rural: - Here in my study rural means, the area which is recognized as rural as per census 2001.

Development: - To make changes in positive direction. Here development means the programme undertaken by the GO-NGO for the betterment of the rural community.

Chapter Outline

The present study has been structured into Seven Chapters.

Chapter one gives an introductory overview of the topic of the study related to NGOs and its partnership with the Government. Chapter two deals with review of literature related to GO-NGO Partnership. Chapter three describes the methodology and study design, adopted to conduct the present study. Chapter four gives details about Assam, the research area. Chapter five presents and analyzes the findings of the study. Chapter six deals with concluding discussions with emergence of hypothesis and Chapter seven provides suggestions and scope of social work intervention.