

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TENGERALANGSO VILLAGE IN KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT ASSAM

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Abstract—Karbi Anglong district of Assam is one of the most backward district of Assam located in the central part of the state. In spite of huge natural resources, fertile soil- the district is still lagging behind in over all development. Rugged topography, poor communication facilities, etc are some of the reason behind the poor economic development of the region. Tengkeralangso village is taken as sample village to find out their socio-economic condition of the people of the district. It is found that most of the villagers are agriculturalist in nature and their dependence on forest resources is uncountable. The methodology use for this paper is through personal observation, interviewing the local people and surveying based on questionnaire.

Index Terms—Karli anglong; resources; backward; economic; development

I. INTRODUCTION

Tengkeralangso village is located at a distance of about 30 kms towards the east of Hamren sub-division of west Karbi Anglong district and 150kms from the district head quarter Diphu by road and lies between 25°32'-26°37'N and 92°09'-93°53'East. Karbi Anglong is the largest district with an area of 10434 km². It is bounded by Nagaland, Meghalaya, Nagaon, North Cachar hills. The village is drained by a river in which the name of the village originates "Tengkeralangso" tengkera means fish and langso meaning small stream. The west Karbi plateau is contiguous with the Meghalaya plateau. Three main river of the district viz the Kopili, the Dhansiri and the Jamuna (an important tributary of the Kopili) are located in this part of the district making some plain area. The climate of the area is of tropical monsoon type, generally with a cool and dry winter and a hot and wet summer. The temperature ranges from 7° c to 34° c and the rainfall about 800mm. The number of household in this village is about 250 with a population of about 1500. The population belongs to

Scheduled Tribe (Karbi) category. The area is fertile for agriculture; villagers are mostly farmers and cultivator. Different types of paddy are grown in different season. In both plains and hills, but the production is not satisfactory because of soil erosion and low soil fertility. In order to meet the demands of the increasing population crop intensification should be done by using manure, HYV seeds and adopting multiple cropping without disturbing the environment. Within the context, the present study is an attempt is made to study the cultivation, production and productivity of the different indigenous varieties of paddy.

II. CASTE

In the Tengkeralangso village all the people belongs to a tribal community. All the people in this village belong to Karbi and belong to schedule tribal group (hills). The people in this village are united like one big family living together with peace and harmony.

III. SEX RATIO

In this village the male number is higher than the female. The male percentage is 56.60% and the female is 43.40%. In this village women are respected by all the local people and their decisions and suggestion are taken for the well being of the society. They are equal status with the male member of the family.

Fig.1 sex-ratio

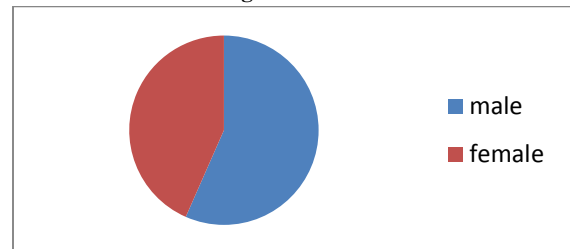


Table.1 percentage distribution of sex ratio

Male	Female
150	115
56.60%	43.40%

IV. RELIGION

The Karbis have deep faith on the existence of God. Their religious belief is basically animist in nature, fused with elements of shamanist ‘mysticism’ ancestor worship and sacrifices to the unseen and territorial deities and belief in the immortality of the soul. Ancestor worship is also common. They worship deities locally known as Arnam- Atum. Their religion can be considered as polytheism as they belief in many Gods. They played an important role for the well being of the tribe.

In the village half of the population follows Christianity; during the survey it is found that there are three churches in this village. About 42% of the village populations are Christian, while 58% follow tribal religion where they worship to god’s head i.e. Hemphu, Mukrang and Rasinza. The Karbi people believe in their own way. They do not worship in the temples or shrines but they make hump with earth for the alter called ‘do van’. They sacrifice animals to please their God. They got many devotional songs in many forms and they are called Arnam- Alun. It is divided into eight categories which are sung with high esteem by the “Lunsepo” (Singer) during specific religious occasions. During these religious functions women also play a great part in it.

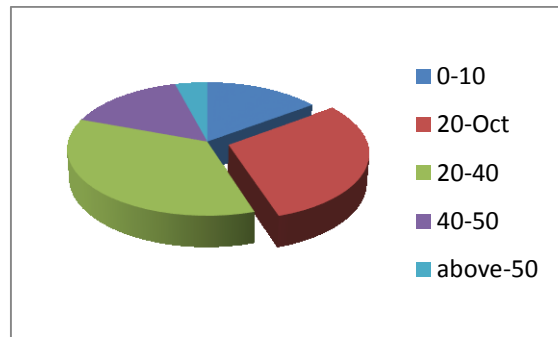
V. AGE STRUCTURE

From the survey conducted in the typical Karbi village it is found that the population of the age group between 20 to 40 years has the highest compared with the other age group. This age group constitutes of about 35.09% of population of the village, followed by age group between 10 to 20 years which cover 29.81 % of the population. The age group between 40 to 50years constitutes 15.47%, followed by 0 to 10 years. The people who are aged or the person who belongs to the age of above 50 has the lowest percentage compared to all. It only constitutes 4.9% to the entire population. From the survey conducted in this village we get to know that the age group between 20 to 40 years has the highest population in number. This age group is

mainly the working group and is actively participated in different economic activities.

Table.2 Source: field survey 2014

Age group	In %
0- 10	14.73%
10 – 20	29.81%
20 – 40	35.09%
40 – 50	15.47%
Above 50	4.09%



VI. LITERACY LEVEL

In the study region, level of literacy is quite high in comparison to the other tribal villages. It is found that the female literacy is higher than the male. It is also found that there is no male studying in the post graduate level but several girl students of this village are doing their post graduation. However, the literacy level is also high among the women. And it is also found during the survey that this is because of the financial problems that a girl child is not being send to a school, thus they are bound to work at home. Only in the school level and higher secondary level the male percentage is higher than female population. In the graduation level female number is higher than the male population. In the village it is found that 7.33% female population dropped out from school. It is mainly due to financial problems and early marriage.

VII. FAMILY TYPE

In this Karbi village, large family system is common. It is found that in a family there are five or more children living together. According to the survey, the large family constitutes of about 62% of the total surveyed household, followed by nuclear family type of 31% and the rest 6% constitute joint family.

VIII. OCCUPATION

From the survey it is found that 37% of the people are government services holders. They are teachers, workers in the offices; forester etc. and about 6% of the people are engaged in unorganized sector of economy such as drivers, carpenter etc and some of them as daily laborers. There are also business people found in the village and it constitute 6% of the total household surveyed, most of them are engaged in bamboo business, pig supply business, bettle nut business etc. and the rest 50% are farmers. They cultivate different kind of crops and vegetables both in the hills and plain in which paddy cultivation is the important one.

Occupation	Household no.	In %
service	30	37%
farmer	40	50%
business	5	6%
Labor	5	6%

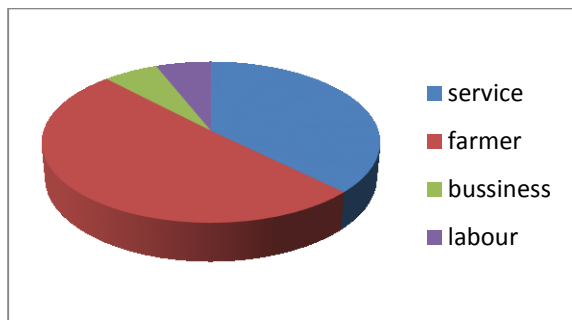


Fig.3 occupational pattern of the village

IX. SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

In this village most of the people get water from the well. There are three wells in the village, for drinking purposes and other uses provided by the district council. About 60% of the villagers get water pipeline water supply from PHE but very irregular. The rest have their own well in their house.

X. FUEL COOKING

Most of the people in this village used firewood. It is because of the availability of the firewood in the nearby forest. Generally the dried bamboo is used as firewood, about 77% of the people used firewood as their domestic fuel. They collect firewood during

winter season and keep in stock for future use and keep in a small platform with a roof so that it easily not get wet in rainy days during summer. And the rest 22% use L.P.G. but they also used firewood. The people in this village go to the forest in group for searching firewood and enjoy going to the forest. Every house has a roof for keeping the firewood so that can be used for the whole year without any difficulty.

XI. MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are three pharmacies in the village and one government health sub- centre. The civil hospital is 5 kms from the village.

Other Amenities

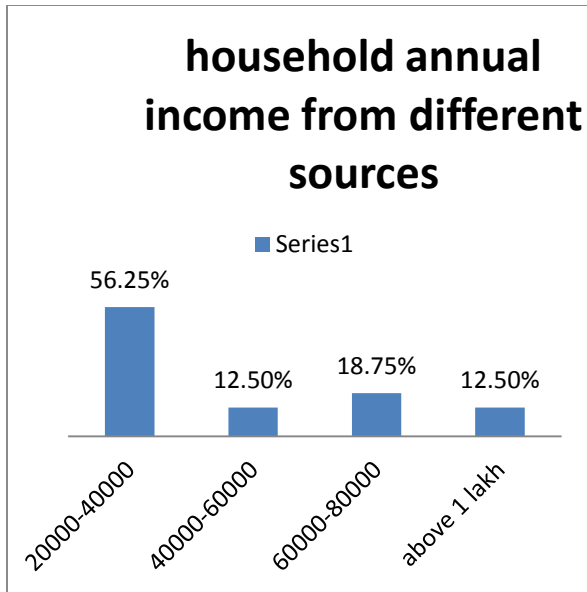
During the field survey it is seen that most of the houses has television sets connected to dish TV. About 85% of the people have TV sets in their houses. And this is because of the availability of electricity. The village is fully electrified, 37% of the household have fan in their houses. The local people in this village usually uses handmade fan in summer days. And 22% of the total household have fridge in their house. From the household survey it is found that mobile phones are found in every house, some they have one or two. The average is one in every household, is because these villagers know the importance of mobile phones

XII. HOUSE TYPE

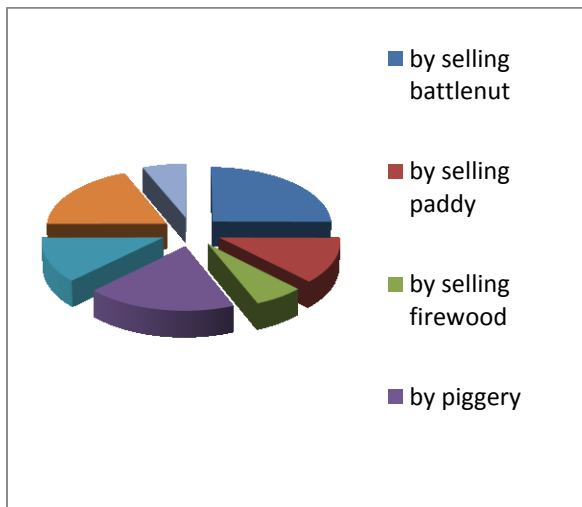
Most of the house in this village is kutchra which are made of bamboo, mud and straw. About 65 % of the people live in this type of houses. The houses are less expensive as mud and bamboo and straw can be easily found in the forest nearby the village

XIII. INCOME PATTERN

The people of this village are mainly poor and middle income family. Their income are from different sectors mainly dependent on local resources like selling paddy, selling battle nut, battle leaf, selling rice bear, selling firewood, selling piggery and some of the women in the village sell the hand weaving traditional dress etc . All this contribute to their family income. Others source of income



By selling battle nut	By selling paddy	By selling fire wood	By piggery	Hand weaving traditional dress	By selling bamboo	By selling vegetables
20	10	5	15	10	15	5
25%	12.5%	6.25%	18.75%	12.25%	18.75%	6.25%



XIV. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

In this village it is found that their income mostly comes from selling beetle nut i.e. 25%, it is found in every household there is battle nut garden and the demand of battle nut is very high in these area, they sell it to get their children admit in schools and colleges, some of the villager sell it by the whole garden or some by quintal , the price also depends on the season .The highest for battle nut found during the survey is 35 to 40 thousand and the lowest is 5 to 10 thousand, followed by piggery and selling of bamboo.

Paddy cultivation is one of the major sources of livelihood to the rural people for consumption and some for selling purposes. Tengkeralangso is blessed with a favorable climatic condition which made it possible for the cultivation of paddy in the areas. Ever since the introduction of modern technologies in Assam, the cultivation of paddy has been increasing as well as the production and productivity. Every household has an agriculture field in which they cultivate paddy, the price of the paddy varies from season to season, usually the farmers used to sell after harvesting to the middle man though the price is low at this season but the farmers have no other way because after harvesting is done many local festival is celebrated, with the money some amount is spent for festivals and some amount is kept for their children admission in schools and for buying books. Some farmers sell their paddy during emergency, when they need money for medicines etc. The farmers during off season go for work to fulfill their daily needs. They need not worry for one year as they stored enough rice for the whole year for consumption, so during off season they go to forest to collect vegetables, bamboo, wooden etc.

The area under paddy cultivation in this village occupied the main stage where about 60% of the land area is under paddy cultivation where female and male as well as children are engaged in this cultivation. The total production of paddy increases with the decrease in family size, this is because small family size devoted more of their cultivated area to paddy cultivation and as a result production is more, and the larger family divides the agricultural field which makes the land fragmented as well as small landholdings.

However the land tenure system in this area had some effect on the production of the crop. Owners operated farm have high intensity than tenant operated farm. The farmers who have less agriculture field used to borrow land from other farmers who have large agricultural field, in return they have to give half of the production.

As far productivity is concern the less productive land belongs to poor farmer who still follows traditional, can't afford to buy fertilizers. The rich farmers have high production compared to the poor farmers because they are more mechanized in cultivation and can afford fertilizers as well as labors. Paddy cultivation is labour intensive crop. The male labour usually performs sowing, and planting, harvesting is both done by male and females. The male laborer can earn 200 to 250 per day while the female can earn 150 per day.

Although paddy cultivation is of prime importance of this region, it has remained largely under develop. Unlike other parts of Assam, where innovation in agriculture has made some headway, this area has still been sticking to primitive methods showing little progress.

Due to absence of any good road and means of conveyance to markets, the producer sell their products at home or at the crop field itself at much lower price to the intermediaries.

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