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**Research Publications and Journals**

### 3.3: Research Publications and Awards - Link to re-directing to journal source-cite website

Title of paper	Name of the author/s	Department of the teacher	Name of journal	Year of publication	ISSN number	Link to the recognition in UGC enlistment of the Journal /Digital Object Identifier (doi) number		
						Link to website of the Journal	Link to article / paper / abstract of the article	Is it listed in UGC Care list
Impact of SHG-Bank Linkage Programme on Savings Mobilization, Credit Dispensation and Economic and Non-Economic Conditions of SHG Members-A study in Nagaon District of Assam	Dr. Kalpendra Das	Finance	International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews	2023	2582-7421	<a href="http://www.ijrpr.com">www.ijrpr.com</a>		Yes
Small Scale Fish Farming and Rural Livelihood in Mikirbheta area of Morigaon District, Assam	Prof. Aranya Jyoti Gayan	Management	Anvesak A bi-annual Journal	2022	0378-4568			Yes

<b>Working Condition of Tea Plantation Workers in Assam: A case study of Jiajuri Tea Estate, Nagaon</b>	<b>Prof. Aranya Jyoti Gayan</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Journal of Education, Rabindra Bharati University</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>0972-7175</b>			<b>Yes</b>
<b>Toursim as a Propeller of Indigenous and Entrepreneurial Growth: A study on few selected spots of Nagaon District, Assam</b>	<b>Prof. Aranya Jyoti Gayan</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Journal of Emarging Technologies and Inovative Research</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Journal Number 63975</b>	<a href="https://www.jetir.org/">https://www.jetir.org/</a>		<b>Yes</b>
<b>Inter-State Border Conflict in North-East India with Special Reference to Assam Nagaland Border Conflict</b>	<b>Dr. Satyendra Kr. Pandey</b>	<b>Accountancy</b>	<b>Addaiyan Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	<b>January. 2020</b>	<b>2581-8783</b>	<a href="https://aipublisher.org/projects/ajahhs">https://aipublisher.org/projects/ajahhs</a>	<a href="https://aipubisher.org/submit-manuscript/">https://aipubisher.org/submit-manuscript/</a>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>“Rural Entrepreneurship in Assam” Challenges and Issues</b>	<b>Dr. Satyendra Kr. Pandey</b>	<b>Accountancy</b>	<b>Addaiyan Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	<b>October. 2020</b>	<b>2581-8784</b>	<a href="https://aipublisher.org/projects/ajahhs">https://aipublisher.org/projects/ajahhs</a>	<a href="https://aipublisher.org/articles?journal_id=2&amp;volume=2&amp;issue=9">https://aipublisher.org/articles?journal_id=2&amp;volume=2&amp;issue=9</a>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Child Labour in Tea Estate (Vol. 32 No. 378)</b>	<b>Dr. Prafulla Saikia</b>	<b>Economics</b>	<b>Third Concept</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>0970-7247</b>	<a href="http://www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in">www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in</a>		<b>Yes</b>

<b>Plight of Tea Tribes in Tea Estate of Kaliabor Assam (Vol. 32 No. 375)</b>	<b>Dr. Prafulla Saikia</b>	<b>Economics</b>	<b>Third Concept</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>0970-7248</b>	<a href="http://www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in">www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in</a>		<b>Yes</b>
<b>Impact of Socio Economic Factors on Child Labour Among Tea Tribes of Assam with Special Reference to Kaliabor Sub-Division Nagaon, Assam (Vol. 8 No. 1)</b>	<b>Dr. Prafulla Saikia</b>	<b>Economics</b>	<b>International Journal of Economic and Management Strategy</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2278-3636</b>	<a href="http://www.ripublication.com">www.ripublication.com</a>		<b>Yes</b>

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5. Tourism as a propeller of Indigenous Entrepreneurial Growth: A Study as few selected spots of Nagaon, District, Assam  
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- ❖ **Tricameral Legislature**
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- ❖ **Child Labour in Tea Estates**

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*Dr. Anuradha Singha & Prafulla Saikia*



# Causes of Child Labour among Tea-Tribes of Nagaon, Assam

Dr. Anuradha Singha\* & Prafulla Saikia\*\*

*[It is absolutely accepted that child labour is the curse for economic growth of the country. The communities which have the realisation about the development of the potentialities of children are sure to be developed because they are dedicated to their aim of child development. In a developing country, the responsibilities of the parent/guardian to their child is quite less. The socio-economic factors play an important role in this regard. The gap between income and poverty generally creates the child labour. Where there is the child labour, there is the lack of human capital accumulation. So, this article highlights on socio-economic factors (like occupation, income, education) responsible for child labour among tea tribes.]*

Child is the base for the growth of the nation. As such child is the asset of the country. Human capital determines the directions of the utilisation of idle and under-used scarce economic resources of the country. It is, therefore, allowed to grow in an environment which is essential for making eligible and skilful on social, emotional and educational needs. It is, thus, necessary to offer specific efforts to create facilities for the child as future citizens and human capital of the country (M. Gautam-2006).

Child labour is the great challenge for the most economically deprived population. Child development is the negligible part of such economically challenged people. Their prime motive is the survival rather than personal development (Shandilya et. al. 2006). Economic activities degrade the physical, moral and social development of the children and affect the rapid economic growth of the country. The employment of the children in an early age is said as child labour which is the obstacle to attend school.

International Labour Organisation (2010) states that born to parents who themselves were

uneducated at their childhood force their children to work as labour, thereby, continue nurture child labour from generation to generation that is chained to a life of poverty.

Child labour is the world-wide problem that calls for serious attempts to ban the magnitude of the problems on the part of policy makers, researchers and society, political groups in international, national and regional level. However, child labour problem is still found at all levels, but the magnitude of child labour varied country to country.

## Definitions of Child Labour

Burra (1999) stated that a child labour was inclined with a child who was deprived of the right to education and childhood. In her definition, it is clear that the working child either at home or outside home is absent from school attendance and hence, skilled human resource is inadequate for rapid growth rate of the economy.

Child labour means those children working in between the age group of 6 and 15 years who are not attending school and like to toil under an employer for learning some trade as an apprentice (Singh, 1998).

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**Credibility & Neutrality of the Media**



**Trump & the American Right**



**Odisha in Global Trade**



**Jail Administration in India**



**GST & Indian Textile Industry**



**Plight of Tea Tribes in Tea Estates**



**of Kaliabor, Assam**





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# Plight of Tea Tribes in Tea Estates of Kaliabor, Assam

Prafulla Saikia\*

*[Tea industry is one of the integral parts of Assam Economy. It occupies the 2nd largest position after oil and gas industry in the State. The development of tea estates is primarily based on the efficiency and hardworking nature of tea tribes. However, they are dominated and socially exclusive community since British colonial system. An attempt is made in this article to study about socio-economic aspect of tea tribe community with special reference to Kaliabor Subdivision of Nagaon District, Assam.]*

People of Assam believed that initially Tea Plants were brought to Assam by indigenous people Bodo Tribe (India line, 2008). Robert Bruce, merchant and soldier of fortune, was provided with some plants by Singpho Chief in 1823. Bruce handed over these plants to his brother C.A. Bruce. Bruce submitted it to David Scott and sent to Calcutta Botanical Garden for experiment. British East India Company, in 1824 discovered tea and started with tea forest as business wing (Bhuyan, 1974).

Since, 1860, the indentured tea garden labourers are brought into Assam from present day states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh (S. K. Bhounik). Assamese noble man Maniram Dutta Barma, popularly known as Maniram Dewan was the first Indian tea planter who established Cinnamora tea Estate: First Tea Garden of Assam in 1850 (North East Enquirer, 2002).

The recent uprising of Tea-Tribe people in Assam has influenced tea plantation, tea estates and the tea industry as a whole. Many tea gardens are abandoned by their owners and many others are somehow functional. The deteriorating economic condition has further been made worse by the tough competition in the international market, falling prices and recurrent slumps (Orange, 2008). These factors have led to deterrent economic conditions of tea labourers in Assam.

The tea garden labours were brought to Assam by the British as slaves or bounded labourers.

Since then they have well settled in Assam and the new generation grew up with the Assamese culture along with their own culture (Kar, 1975, 2001). The tea-tribes are available mainly in the districts of Darrang, Sonitpur, Nagaon, Jorhat, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Cachar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Tinsukia and almost all the districts of Assam (Assam Tribune, 2015).

Many of the tea tribes were brought into Assam from present day Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh and there have been occasional clashes between the management and the tea garden workers in Assam (Sanjay Barboa, July, 1999). Tea labour migration towards Assam was ended in 1950 at 23,100 in numbers (ILO, 2015). So, it was the last year of migration of tea tribes.

The tea tribes have no uniform literature because they are migrated from various regions and they have to create a mixture language in Assam which is popularly known as 'Garden Language' (Susil Kumar, 2015). This garden society have a number of caste belonging to: Asur, Guwala, Kaya, Kanwar, Kandapan, Karmakar, Kanhar, Kalindi, Kishan, Kurmi, Mahato, Kumbhakar, Kairy, Kool, Katowal, Kharia, Kheruwar, Orang, Bhuitali, Lohar, Pachi, Boraik, etc. From 1902 to 1950, the total numbers of migrated tea tribes were 17,59,437 (Naren Bora, 2015).

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**“Rural Entrepreneurship in Assam” Challenges and Issues****Dr. Satyendra Kr. Pandey**

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**Abstract:** Entrepreneurship has been assigned an important role in the scheme of industrialization and economic development of the country. All the successive and subsequent policy resolutions and statements have emphasized the role of the small-scale sector as a tool for economic development and equitable distribution of income, wealth, and opportunities. Assam holds a unique position in the North East Region of the country as it is the gateway to other parts of that region. The State is rich in a variety of resources like agriculture, horticulture, forest, mineral, and livestock. But unfortunately, all these potentialities of development, Assam still continues to lag behind in the sphere of industrialization. Assam has a special advantage over others because of the availability of rich raw materials must be given priority. The paper is an attempt to discuss and analyze the scope of entrepreneurship in the state that may be significant for contributing to the economic development of our country.

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurship, economic development, Indian economy, Assam.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Entrepreneurship has been assigned an important role in the scheme of industrialization and economic development of the country. They have played such an important role in our economy by transforming individual initiatives of small-scale units into a people's movement with the result that the process of industrialization is no longer confined to selected areas of the country, its impact is rather visible elsewhere.

All the successive and subsequent policy resolutions and statements have emphasized the role of the small-scale sector as a tool for economic development and equitable distribution of income, wealth, and opportunities. The significance of developing small enterprises in India lies in the fact that they are more employment-oriented with low capital costs and are also instrumental in removing imbalances in the distribution of wealth among the people and various regions of the country.

Assam holds a unique position in the North East Region of the country as it is the gateway to other parts of that region. The State is rich in a variety of resources like agriculture, horticulture, forest,

mineral, and livestock. But unfortunately, all these potentialities of development, Assam still continues to lag behind in the sphere of industrialization. With more than 70% of the population depending on agriculture as cultivators and agricultural laborers and with more than 90% living in rural areas, the economy of Assam lies remained preponderantly agrarian in character. Industries for which Assam has a special advantage over others because of the availability of rich raw materials must be given priority. In such a situation, the development and expansion of secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy can ensure speedy development and help.

Lack of information and awareness are major obstacles for disadvantaged rural communities to reap the benefits of the many programmes of the Government and non Government organizations. As per provisional population figures of the 2001 census, the total rural population is 741 million (72.2%). Of this 193.2 million are below the poverty line (Planning Commission 9th Five Year Plan-1997-2002). Much of this population is engaged in agricultural employment, the market for which is shrinking with the introduction of modern techniques and crop diversifications. In India, because of the diversity of the economic operations and labour market, the data on employment is not very accurate. The scenario with regard to the unemployment rate in rural areas of Assam is the highest. As a result, the share of agriculture in total employment dropped substantially from 60% in 1993-94 to 57% in 1999-2000.

As has been the trend in the past, the share of casual labour in total employment has gone up. Unskilled persons who are the target group for the National Employment Guarantee Scheme which will cost the exchequer a sum of about Rs.4, 300 Crores. If there were required skills in the rural populations which could be marketed either in the villages, or in the nearby areas, it would create opportunities for employment/self-employment, and reduce the distress in physical, financial and social terms. Skills would provide value addition through which rural people could enhance their income and access different livelihood opportunities.

The North-Eastern region, comprising of the seven States viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and Tripura are far lagging behind in the industrialization scene. Though these States account for 7.7% of the total land space and 8.7% of the total population of the country (2011 census), Still it only accounts for a mere 1.6% of the total number of industries of the country. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Industries, Government of India, the total number of the industries in the country is 5,82,380 employing about 36,65,810 people while the North East region have 9330 units employing about 68,593 people which are only 1.6% and 1.87% of the country's total respectively. Since independence, there has been a tremendous growth of small enterprises in India. But the growth in Assam has been comparatively less. In 1961, Assam has only 197 registered small enterprises against 35,783 in India. The number went up to 1648 and 11,598 in 1971 and 1988 as against 1,39,577 and 11,58,765 respectively in India. The Total number of registered small-scale industrial units in the region is 71,326 as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003, which is 2% of the national total. Assam has only 45,193 SSI Units and 120 large and medium industries. Judging from the availability of raw materials, there are prospects for a number of industries like mechanical, electronic, glass and ceramic, auto parts and components, boats, paper products, plastic, lime products, leather and agro-based industries.

The development of small and medium enterprises requires a large amount of financial assistance either for investment on land and machinery and other capital or for their modernizations. Moreover, credit is one of the basic conditions for the steady growth of these industries. Credit is also essential to procure scarce resources such as imported raw materials, funds are also required for investment and working capital which, in actual practice, do not readily flow to small and relatively unknown entrepreneurs.

Finance being the life blood of business and industry, a sound financial system is a pre-requisite for planned economic development in a developing country like India. The problem of financing industries has grown by leaps and bounds with the result, personal financing of industries i.e. financing from own resources, unable to rise up to the occasion, has been dethroned from its place of importance and in its place are installed special financial institutions formed with a definite aim to finance and promote new industrial undertakings.

### **Problem under the Study:**

Though Assam is richly endowed with mineral and natural resources, yet it has still been considered as an industrially backward region in the country. It will be apparent from the fact that there are less than 3% of countries' large and medium scale industries and less than 2% of small-scale industries are in this region.

The industrial backwardness of Assam is reflected in the fact that the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the State Domestic Product of the region is much smaller than the contribution of this sector to the National Domestic Product in the country. The total number of registered small-scale industrial units in the region is 45193 as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. It is less than 2% of the national total. The unemployment problem in Assam has become a paradox. Unemployment is growing not because there is a lack of opportunities for employment but because the unemployed have failed to take advantage of the employment opportunities available through various schemes offered by the Development Institutes. This has happened mainly for lack of knowledge about the various assistance, lack of motivation and failure to get properly equipped for the opportunities.

### **Literature Review:**

As a part of the research work, numerous literatures have been consulted for the study. These literatures include books written on the related subject of the study by experts and also journals, manuals, newspapers, etc.

Dr. D.D. Mali in his book "Economic Problems and Planning in Assam", is of the view that despite Assam's vast resources and economic planning, appreciable change in the industrial scenario has not occurred. This is due to a number of factors namely geographical, infrastructural, marketing, taxation, and entrepreneurial problems. But out of all these, finance seems to be a major problem faced by small entrepreneurs.

P.K. Dhar in his study on "Industrialization in Assam" says that there is simple scope for the development of small industries on the basis of the factor endowments available in the State. This



development of small industries will not only mobilize resources but will also increase income and generate employment opportunities.

Dr. D. Bhorali in his Paper, “Institutional Finance to Small Industry”, explained as institutional finance is playing a vital role in the entrepreneurship development of the country but its role in Assam is far from satisfactory.

“Development Banking-A study of the working of State Financial Corporations”, by Dr. S. Sikidar, who has given the other side of the picture. He is of the view that finance is not the constraint always for the industrial development of the State. Rather entrepreneurial talent and skill are also important factors for industrial development.

Prabin Baisya comments, Industries have declined considerably in the fare of stiff competition and absence of modernization. But, he points out that the fact remains that the village industries can provide part time and full-time employment to rural people. The weak financial position of the entrepreneurs added dimension to the other problems. They failed to take advantage of Institution’s Finance for working capital required due to their enabling to provide collateral security and cumbersome procedure for sanctioning loans by the banks. Thus, the small entrepreneurs caught up in the vicious circle of the poor financial base caused by their poor economic base which kept the financial base poorer.

Apart from the above-mentioned books, several journals and periodicals such as Business Review, Indian Journal of Commerce, The Journal of Entrepreneurship, SEDMI, Management, and Labour Study, Asian Entrepreneurs, Udyog Samachar, Journal of North East Council, and Indian Journal of Industrial Relation, etc. has been studied.

### **Issues of entrepreneurship in Assam:**

Ram K Vepa in his book “Small industry in the Seventies” has observed. One of the main problems confronting the growth of the small industry in most of the developing countries is the lack of adequate finance. As the banking sector in a developing country provides the bulk of its merge resources to a few large scale units which are prestigious, and sponsored by influential groups. The small entrepreneur is, thus, forced to rely on his own savings or that of his friends and relatives and has to go to the money lenders for his loans which are given only at an exorbitant rate of interest. Quite often, the new enterprise cannot sustain such high-interest charges, and its failure to do so becomes another argument against the credit worthiness of the small-scale unit. The financial requirements of the industry are met by both organized and unorganized sources. While organized sources include commercial banks, Assam Finance Corporation, NHB, SIDBI, etc; the unorganized sources are in the form of funds from their own sources, loans from friends and relatives, money lenders, and chit fund committees. From different surveys, it has been revealed that most of the units depend on unorganized sources because money may be obtained within a relatively shorter period, without any security, and with relatively less formalities than in the case of organized sources.

A major problem faced by the small-scale units is that there is a time lag between sanctioning of loans and its actual disbursement. This time lag leads to time overrun and cost overrun, thus, leading to

additional costs which have to be rendered by the entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs are facing a several malady with the increasing interest rate. This has added dimensions to their financial problem.

Marketing is one of the crucial factors that affect the fortune of small enterprises. Many times, the goods manufactured by these units are ready to be marketed but they are held back, either their goods are not acceptable or due to some transport bottleneck, again adding dimension to their financial problem. Manufacturing costs in almost all units are high due to the geographical location of the State, inadequate transport system, and non-availability of raw materials. By and large, entrepreneurs are not notified with the sanctioned amount as they get less than what is applied for. Accordingly, they experience an under-assessment of credit requirements.

The joint appraisal of a project by banks and financial institutions is not done and as such, there is a communication gap between the two. Since an appraisal is done separately, it takes a lot of time for the project to be approved.

Besides the above issues, some other issues related to the development of enterprises in Assam have been identified. They are problems relating to geographical location, labour, marketing power, raw material, infrastructural and entrepreneurial problems.

Being geographically isolated from the rest of the country it has resulted in narrowing down the market area of the products manufactured in the State. The problem of labour may arise either due to labour intransigence or due to lack of skilled labour. In Assam, the problem is an inadequate supply of skilled manpower. The industrial culture being of recent origin to the State the exposure of the local labour force to various types of industries is limited. The frequent power cuts have caused bardenships to many entrepreneurs. This has caused not only a stoppage of production but also cost escalation. In Assam, a deposit and installed capacity of 520 mega watt is required, the ASEB is only able to produce 120 mega watt of power, making it one of the most deficient States as far as electricity is concerned. The small-scale units in the State suffer from the inadequate and erratic supply of raw materials. For certain types of critical raw materials, the State has to depend on other States which increases the cost of production. Generally speaking, the entrepreneurial carrier in Assam is taken up not by choice but by chance. Hence, the inadequate availability of entrepreneurial talent particularly has affected the development of small enterprises.

### **Suggestions**

1. It was found that the number of female beneficiaries is very poor in the study area. Hence, it may be suggested that an awareness programme from time to time be arranged by the Development Institutes for female beneficiaries only to encourage them for taking up entrepreneurship as the option of livelihood. Besides this awareness, the advertisement may be published through electronic and print media like television, newspaper, etc.
2. It was observed that only 3.10% of the beneficiaries were graduate and above graduate, hence it is suggested that special schemes may be incorporated by the Development Institutes to attract highly qualified youths of rural areas to establish enterprises. Further, motivational

camps may be organized for the unemployed educated youths in the rural areas to motivate them to consider entrepreneurship as a career option.

3. In PMEGP, assistance was provided to proprietary businesses only. If possible it may be extended to partnership business also.
4. It was observed that subsidy was provided to all the beneficiaries at an equal level. However, for encouraging unemployed youths from BPL families and also female youths, a higher rate of subsidy may be provided to them. A similar provision may be extended to the youths from underprivileged sections of society.
5. Following the policy of SIRD, KVIC may also engage a facilitator to encourage future entrepreneurs and make them aware of various schemes of development of rural enterprises.
6. It was observed that some beneficiaries have a problem in purchasing advanced equipment to make their products compatible with the available products of that category in the market. Hence, it may be suggested that a provision may be made for special assistance for purchasing of advanced equipment only.
7. The proposals may be sanctioned within a fixed period of time e.g. within one month. In other words, a time bound policy may be followed for sanction of loans.
8. The Development Institutes may develop a mechanism of follow-up action immediately after sanction of loan to monitor that the assistance is utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. The same mechanism should also ensure that the repayment is made regularly. An incentive may also be declared for those who paid regular loan installments.
9. Last but not the least, proper follow-up and follow-through will ensure the development of rural entrepreneurship in rural Assam in general and in the study area in particular.

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## Inter-State Border Conflict in North-East India with Special Reference to Assam Nagaland Border Conflict

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**Abstract:** This paper is an attempt to study the inter-state border disputes in north-east India with special reference to Assam-Nagaland border conflict in the border areas of Golaghat district. The north-east region of India comprising of eight states has been gradually transforming into a conflicting area that breaks the harmony between the states and also undermines the concept of north-east India as a prosperous and culturally rich region of India. Due to some social, political and economic issues, this north east India divided into various states which were under the same umbrella at a time. Several inter-state disputes take place in this region with the upcoming of political and social unrest. The Naga insurgency that started in the late 1950's is known as one of the unresolved armed conflicts in India. So, through this paper the researcher makes an attempt to study how the recent Naga-Assamese clash happened in the border areas of Golaghat district is responsible for breaking down of communal harmony, humanity, and inter-state peace process. As the dispute between Assam and Nagaland is currently the most prominent with a history of

violent clashes between border areas, this paper aims to concentrate mainly on this issue. Moreover this paper will try to examine the role of the government regarding the above issue. Thus the above issues will be highlighted in the paper.

## INTRODUCTION

North-east India is a frontier region with common borders with China, Bangladesh, and Bhutan etc. This region, gradually, is transforming into a setting for multitude of conflicts that undermine the idea of this region as a prosperous and culturally rich region of India. Currently, most of the states of this region except for Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim are affected by some problems like political violence, insurgency, and ethnic conflict, inter-state disputes arising out of various political, social and economic issues. The present political scenario of North-East India reveals the emergence of new forms of conflicts which are coming out of the lack of defining North-East India as a composite region. These conflicts not only affect the territorial and political sovereignty of the Indian state, but also the life of the people living in the border areas in inexplicable condition. The only commonality of the



North-east people at the moment is the outburst of incompatible attitude against the agreement of geographical isolation. All these negative issues-agitation, abuse of human rights, etc. hinder the economic and social progress and also break the popularity of North-east India as a bonding of eight states. Mutual misunderstanding between the states has led to various border disputes with increasing violence. The people of this region are suffering from a twin inability to evolve a common imaginary and identify themselves as inhabitants of North-East India, rather they are fighting with each other to gain identity of their own states to which they belong. This mentality gives birth to turmoil which is responsible for fragmentation of North-East India. An illustrative case is the border disputes raging for decades that have enveloped the states- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland. Thus the North-East India has long remained one of the most volatile and sensitive regions in the country. The interstate boundary disputes plagued the relations between the parent and newly born states. The inter-state boundary between Assam -Maghalaya, Assam, Nagaland etc. has stained the relations between these states and resulting in creating a sense of insecurity in the minds of the people on either side of the border.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the study is to make a probe into the inter-state border disputes in North-East India with special reference to the Assam-Nagaland border conflict. The study aims to analyze deeply the cause of this conflict and its effect upon common people.

## **METHODOLOGY & DATABASE**

The Study adopts investigative analytical methods.

## **DISCUSSION**

The longest and the bloodiest inter-state dispute is the border dispute between Assam and Nagaland. The vexed issue of the Assam-Nagaland border dispute goes all the back to 1866 when the Naga Hills District was formed. Since then a series of events unfurled in the history of these two states that culminated in the formation of Nagaland in 1963. The claim of Assam and Nagaland over the forest tracts along the border is in reality a border conflict. The disputed land is claimed by private individuals and communities on both sides of the official border based on historical rights. There are some areas which Assam claims to be part of its territory based on constitutional rights while on the other hand Nagaland makes its claims based on historical grounds. Thus the genesis of the clashes among the Assam-Nagaland border areas lies at the refusal of Nagaland to accept the constitutional boundary of the states that was defined by the British rulers. Sundaram Commission recommended a borderline between the two states in early 1970s/s to which the Nagaland state government did not agree. In front of the aggressive Naga force, Assam became helpless and so took help of the Supreme Court in the later 1980's. But that has seen no verdict for the last three decades which is clearly noticeable in the recent anarchic situation in the border areas of Golaghat district. The atrocities by Naga militants on the people of Assam show the continuation of their demand to expand Naga territory. The refusal of Nagaland to accept its notified borders gave birth to the tensions between Assam and Nagaland and resulted in the first border clash between these two states in 1965 at Kakodonga Reserve Forest. Since then, violent clashes along the Assam Nagaland border have become a regular feature



with major armed conflicts reported in 1968, 1979 and 1985. The border areas of Assam and Nagaland witnessed the worst ever clash in 1979 when nearly 100 people were killed and more than 20000 displaced. But again in 1985, there was an open war between the police forces of Assam and Nagaland. As a result, the border areas were thinly populated, but now the increasing population has changed the situation that results in conflicts. The recent conflict at Uriamghat in Golaghat district of Assam is a continuation of recurring conflicts that have periodically erupted along the Assam-Nagaland border.

Golaghat was once considered to be a peaceful district, but after witnessing the horrifying commotion during the recent Assam-Nagaland border clash, it became unacceptable. The clash was an attack against humanity regardless of any sympathy. The recent confrontation between the Naga and the Adivasi Assamese people was provoked by the alleged abduction of two Assamese boys by the Naga. As a result, naturally a protest was there on the Assam side of the border. While dealing with the protesters, firing from Nagaland led to the death of one and injury to two others. Soon the situation went out of control with the pathetic condition of the border inhabitants of Assam. A minor land dispute between an Assamese tribal and a Naga took a serious turn that resulting in the violent attack of the Naga miscreants upon protesters of Assam. But the remarkable fact is that this is not for the first time that a clash occurs between Assam and Nagaland. It is just a repetition.

Conflict is surely a sign of breaking down of humanity and loss of unity and harmony among different groups of people. The recent Assam-Nagaland clash also highlights this. The aggressive and barbarous attacks of the Naga miscreants lead the Adivasi people of Assam to face a pathetic condition. They left all their belongings in their gutted houses because the miscreants gave them no chance to carry anything while fleeing. They had to spend restless days and nights as their houses were burnt and the danger of being threatened conquered their minds. The tension was so serious that the central government had to send additional paramilitary forces to contain the situation. The outcome of the conflict was full of pity and loss, because several people had to displace from their own houses to the relief camps. Darkness dominated the whole area during those days and people lived a life of uncertainty and insecurity. Above these many people had lost their lives in this conflict. Thus see how Uriamghat became a battling ground witnessing the play of blood and flesh coming out of border dispute. In the name of exercising one's power and domination, several lives of common people were totally ruined. Arson by Naga miscreants created a sense of insecurity and instability in the minds of innocent border inhabitants of Assam. Nothing came as a positive result from this conflict. Rather it only increased the separateness between the two states from each other in which they behave like enemies to each other despite being neighbor states and same parts of North-East India. The conflict has been lingering day by day and the innocent people are the sufferers.

Due to lack of perfect administrative knowledge by the state governments, the clashes often shift into police violence. Sometimes the situations are aggravated by the negative roles played by the governments of the concerned states. The border dispute became a people versus history problem as the clash between the Naga and common people and many injured. The barbaric torture of Assam police upon the unarmed democratically protesting people changed the whole situation. It clearly brought forward the inability of the Government of Assam to tackle the real skirmish.

Lack of infrastructure was a major cause behind the failure to bring stability to the border tensions. Instead of providing security to the victims, the Assam police attacked them with inhuman



attitude which was really depressing and disgraceful. The people from the Assam side of border tried to protest against the barbaric act of the Naga with the hope that the authorities were there to help them. But unfortunately the situation had taken an opposite turn which forced everyone of Assam to involve in the battle as the conflict touched more or less every sphere of Assam through the protest against the unlawful activities of Assam police.

The repeated incidents of border trouble and death of common people bring in to sharp focus the lack of serious law enforcement. Regarding the recent Assam-Nagaland border dispute, while the Government of Assam had blamed the Central Government and its forces for failing to contain the violence, the Center claimed that it could only assist the state government responsible for policing. The Chief Minister of Assam promised to provide compensation to the displaced people. But we had seen his failure in bringing stability to the anarchic situation.

Lack of adequate security and infrastructure has been a perennial bane in border areas that had been reflected in the recent Assam-Nagaland clash. A greater presence of the Assam police near the border would definitely had a restraining impact on miscreants seeking to foment trouble. But being unable to do this they displayed their power upon the innocent insurgents of Assam. There is a possibility to the revitalization of such border conflicts. So the state government of Assam needs to take up strongly the center the issue of maintaining an incompetent neutral force like the CRPF which has made it a habit to stay passive during border incursion by Naga miscreants. The State Government of Assam announced creation of border development council and border protection force after going through the demands of the public. But here the significant fact is to see how far these steps succeed to tackle border conflicts.

## REMEDIES

The public awareness came to light in the recent Assam-Nagaland border clash. The common people were standing against the unlawful activities of the Assam Police and also protested against the barbaric attack of the Naga miscreants upon the Assamese Adivasi people. Several associations and organizations demanded for an immediate and permanent settlement to the Assam-Nagaland border confrontation. They also submitted memorandum to the State Government of Assam demanding safety and security of Assamese people living along the border areas from the marauding Naga miscreants. Thus, by going through the recent violent border clash between Assam and Nagaland, it can be suggested that no states should claim its rights to the areas through violent attacks. The development should be the joint effort of the respective departments of both the states. The interest of the border inhabitants should be analyzed deeply in the process of maintaining peace and harmony. To restore peace and stability in the disputed area, it is necessary to talk directly with them in order to observe their needs and securities. We should create specific list of land record and strengthen local administrative mechanisms that deal with land disputes. It is also necessary to help them in regaining mental strength and confidence to their endangered minds. The solution cannot be achieved either by delaying the matter or by dividing people among themselves regarding states or communities. It can only be achieved by promoting a sense of unity, peace and concord, by developing the idea that we are parts of the North-East India, not of a single state.

## CONCLUSION



Finally, it can be said that the border disputes are coming out of people's awakening towards their own territory. At present people become very narrow minded that stakes humanity in the exercise of all violent conflicts. But the significant fact is that do we really need demarcation of state borders when we are living under the same umbrella called North-East India? What difference will we achieve if we have clearly demarcated interstate boundaries? Can all these violent clashes contribute to the development of the states of North-East region of India? So it is the time to think seriously all these contradictory issues. Government of the disputed states should come up with practical and acceptable solution to the border tensions as soon as possible. Now the need is to search for a lasting solution to the long pending interstate border conflicts in North-East India. If we can represent ourselves as a whole of North-East India through cultural and sports activities sharing the sense of unity, then we can also work for removing the clashes among states. Therefore, witnessing the conflicts only as a spectator is not our duty as human beings. Rather we should try to analyze deeply their tragic situation and also should try to develop the sense of unanimity among the inhabitants of North-East India. It is true that we cannot fulfill their demands. But we can pass a message of harmony that also helps them to realize the necessity of being integrated. Regarding the border clashes, we should not always be involved in criticizing the government for their inability to come to a permanent solution. In this process we should try to develop the concept the understanding between the Naga and Assamese by organizing awakening programs so the some violent instances like the recent Assam -Nagaland border dispute never happen again.

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### Impact of SHG-Bank Linkage Programme on Savings Mobilization, Credit Dispensation and Economic and Non-Economic Conditions of SHG Members - A Study in Nagaon District of Assam

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#### ABSTRACT:

Microfinance is emerging as a powerful instrument for the economic upliftment of the most deprived section of the society. Microfinance is an effective tool of poverty alleviation, building confidence and empowering women socially, economically and politically. To provide formal banking services to the poor people by linking SHG with the bank, the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme was launched by NABARD in 1992. The Programme follows group approach and through formation of groups, it brings the poor people above the poverty line. The objective of this paper is to study the impact of SHG-Bank Linkage Programme on saving mobilization, credit dispensation and economic and non-economic conditions of the SHG members in Nagaon District of Assam. The study found that, after joining the groups, SHG members learned to save money and used credit for productive purposes. The study observed that the Programme has a positive impact on the economic and non-economic conditions of the SHG members. The Programme enables the women membersto take part in the household matters. After joining the groups member's self confidence and ability to talk with the strangers had been improved. The study revealed thatmicrofinance had enabled the SHG members to find a regular source of income, increase their income, increase their savings and accumulate assets. The study concluded that, for the success of the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, active participation of target groups is extensively required.

**Keywords:** microfinance, SHG, member, programme, saving, loan, repayment.





# Tourism As a Propeller of Indigenous Entrepreneurial Growth: A Study on Few Selected Spots Of Nagaon District ,Assam

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Tourism with its wide range of constituent sub sectors has emerged as an engine for employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development. Tourism promotes international understanding and gives support to local handicrafts and cultural activists. It is now world's largest employment generating industry. The growth of tourism over the last twenty five years or so is one of the most remarkable economic and social phenomena of the world.

Recently in India, there has been a great deal of focus on tourism. It is the fastest growing industry in the world with an average growth of 5% and contributing second highest amount of foreign exchange globally. This sector has been providing more than 10% of the world GDP and more than 8% of world trade employment. A great deal of research work and investigative study has been going on around the world for the development of tourism and applying it as a vital means for sustainable development.

This type of investigative study is important in its own rights. But study on tourism and its relation to local entrepreneurship with reference to Assam and its constituent districts has received a very scant attention so far.

The present study on the role of tourism in respect to indigenous entrepreneurial growth in the district of Nagaon is an attempt to highlight various areas and products of tourism based on the potentialities of the spots directed towards indigenous entrepreneurial growth and empowerment of local people.

## POTENTIALITIES OF TOURISM AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### METHOD OF POTENTIALITY DETERMINATION

The study seeks to identify the potentiality of some of the tourist spots with a view to developing tourism in Nagaon District, Assam. To assess the potentiality of the spots some important

aspects of tourism are identified and categorized. The opinion of the visitors on and off the spots are collected and taken into consideration in the process of analysis. The major criteria considered for this purpose are:

- a) Resource component of the spots;
- b) Accessibility of the place;
- c) Infrastructural facilities available and
- d) Level of satisfaction derived from the visit.

The respondents were asked to rank the four criteria as per their experience about the particular place. For these purpose, the respondents were asked to select any of the three ranks i.e. Good, Moderate or Poor on various aspects of the spot.

Respondent's opinions on the above standards are analyzed and the possibilities of tourism development have been assessed. Further, field observation has been done extensively to find out the untapped potentialities. The researchers could not assess the area of **Deobali, Jolah, Swang Forest Reserve and Rojagaon** on the basis of respondent's opinion as the places are yet to be identified as tourist spots as such no visitors were found present there.

#### **Resource component of the spots**

Resource component denotes the basic points for tourist interest as natural components of the spots like wild life, landscape, waterfalls etc and men made components like historical and archaeological monuments, unique culture and tradition etc.

#### **Accessibility of the place**

Accessibility means easy access to the tourist spots by any means of transportation basically vehicular transportation available in a particular locality.

#### **Infrastructural facilities available**

The facilities earlier erected by Government and private agencies for the tourist in the form of tourist lodge, boarding house, and other services are covered in this category.

#### **Level of satisfaction derived from the visit**

It is the degree of satisfaction derived by a tourist or a group of tourists after visiting to a particular spot being taken into consideration.

To find out entrepreneurial avenues in creation of infrastructure and related services, opinion of the visitors were taken on the basic facilities/services requirement for tourism. These service enterprises may be initiated by the local people either privately or in collaboration with government. Basic on spot tourism services like lodging, eating places, adventure sports, local handicrafts outlets, ethnic cultural shows, ethnic food mart etc are very important.

## SOME POTENTIAL TOURIST SPOTS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are quite a large number spots which can be promoted for development of tourism in Nagaon District. Some of such places with their scope of development as vital tourism spot in the study area along with the experiences of the visitors after visiting such areas are analysed.

### Chapanala and Champabati Waterfall

Chapanala is situated at a distance of 23 kms from Nagaon town. The Chapanala hill range is the pride possessor of Assam's largest waterfall "Champabati". About 600 ft. in height, this is essentially a sight of scenic beauty lying at the foothills of the "Karbi Pahar". At the up spring of the Chapanala River there is the legendary Champabati Kunda and the waterfall. It was during 1999-2000, the state Government constructed a surface road from Puranigudam via Chalchali to Chapanala. The area can also be reached through other route via Barhampur - Bamuni route and Kothiatoli - Kondoli - Amlokhi - Salona route. It is a favorite spot for local and outside picnickers as well. The adjoining plain of Chapanala area displays a beautiful view of about 12 tea gardens namely Jiajuri Tea Estate, Matia Pahar Tea Estate, Kondoli Tea Estate, LungSung Tea Estate etc. The Jiajuri locality has a historical tank nearby it. Along with these, there are a large number of decorated stone sculptures belonging to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century AD are lying here and there without taking any care for its protection

Table 1  
Respondents' opinion on the Chapanala Site

Categories	Good		Moderate		Poor	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
Resource component	210	84.00%	40	16.00%	0	0.00%
Accessibility	32	12.80%	187	74.80%	31	12.40%
Infrastructure	0	0.00%	24	9.60%	226	90.40%
Level of satisfaction	82	32.80%	168	67.20%	0	0.00%

Note: Total sample size 250, on spot 70, off spot 180 ( Source: Primary field survey )

**Observations:** On analyzing the data (Table-1) collected from a sample of 250 visitors it is found that resource component of the area is quite high. 84% of the respondents extended their views on high resource component of this site. Whereas on accessibility aspect 74.8% opined that it is average. However, with regard to the infrastructural facilities at the site 90.4% of the respondents considered it to be very poor. The area in its existing state could satisfy only 32.80% of the respondents whereas,



67.2% of the visitors were moderately satisfied.

The area is not too far from the district headquarters but the condition of the roads is not in very good condition that creates hardship to the tourist. From the accessibility point of view Chapanalala site is average as more than 88% of the respondent's observation is either good or moderate although only 12.4% says it is good. All the respondents 100% are satisfied by visiting this site in spite of inadequate infrastructure and troublesome access to the site.

There is scope of introducing an ideal package of activities like trekking, cycling, para gliding and such other sports in the adventure segment. The tracks like Chapanalala to Sambheti (9km), Chapanalala to Silimtola via Anjakpani, Andharpani and Sikarigaon (30km) are suitable for exploring the natural beauty of the area. It will provide an opportunity to experience rural and ethnic culture of the Karbi people to attract tourists. The area of Chapanalala is also ideal for cycling venture for experiencing the beauty of the hilly landscape and the sprawling tea gardens around. The area offers ample scope for promoting Tea Tourism.

The area can enjoy relatively a long tourist season over six months. However, people from within and outside the district visit the spot for picnic purpose during the month of November to January. It is only on the day after the Saraswati Puja (Sukla Panchami) thousands of people throngs the area on religious purpose. Considering the components of the tourist resources and its accessibility the area is better off in catering domestic as well as foreign tourist on a large scale. But the major hindrances are the lack of publicity and inadequate tourism infrastructure in and around the area. It has been found that only four sheds are constructed by tourism department for the visitors for taking rest but these are not maintained properly.

No development package has so far been announced by the Government neither in the current fiscal year nor during the recent past. Proper maintenance and development of the spot will turn the area into a place of immense opportunities for development of tourism. Adequate motivation and orientation of the local residents can reintroduce Chapanalala to the rest of the world with its mystic antiquity, cultural diversity and unique physiographic attributes.

- **Entrepreneurial status/occupational pattern of the inhabitants**

The area is characterized by comparatively higher growth rate of population. As per 2001 census the number of total population stands at 11625. The size of population is causing a major socio economic challenge in the locality such as unemployment; this has affected the standard of living and lowered the socioeconomic harmony in the area. The census 2001 shows that 59.07% of the people do not engaged in productive activities and only 32.47% are engaged. Most of the people of this area are engaged in agricultural and other allied activities. Under these circumstances tourism can be a primary option for generating avenues for part time and permanent engagement for the people of this area.

It has been observed that only two small and temporary stalls are located in the spot and it has also been found that for the maintenance of the area the contract was given on lease basis to a local youth by ATDC. The lessee has been authorized to collect entry fees for vehicles entered into this

site. This system could provide temporary engagement to only four local youths engaged in collection of levy on a very meager remuneration. It has been observed that employment avenues created by tourism related work is very meagre.

#### • **Opportunities for entrepreneurship**

Local people will get ample opportunity to promote entrepreneurial activities in the service sector like running and maintaining budget hotel and restaurant, working as travel guide, providing trekking materials and equipments etc. Further opportunities will come up in transportation and communication sector, local transporters can act as a feeder from the highway to the tourist spot. If adventurous activities like trekking, Para-gliding are introduced, local

people will get opportunity to open up outlets for providing trekking gears, gliding outfits and other gears. The local people will also be able to provide cycles on rental basis to the tourists for the cycling activities in and around the spot. They will also be able to engage themselves as trekking guides and navigators to the tourists.

Ethnic culture of the Tea tribes and Karbi people can also be presented professionally to attract the tourists. Local artists and other groups can be trained up on cultural aspects to present their art and culture to the visitors.

#### **Silghat**

Silghat is located at a distance of about 48 kms to the Northeast corner of Nagaon town under Kaliabor sub-division. The most important historic monument of the district i.e. the 'Kamakhya temple is situated there. It was constructed by the King Pramatta Singha in 1746AD. The temple is revered by the local people as holy site, and well known among the Shakti worshippers (those who believe in sacrificing animal lives for well being of men). One of the important religious events organised here annually is the 'Ashokastami'. On this occasion thousands of devotees annually visit the site to take holy dips in the nearby Brahmaputra. Another important temple is the "Trishuldhari" (Lord Shiva) temple which is located in a cave attracting a large number of visitors.

Table-2

Respondents' opinion on the Silghat site

Categories	Good		Moderate		Poor	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
Resource component	115	82.14%	25	17.85%	0	0.00%
Accessibility	96	68.57%	24	17.14%	20	14.28%
Infrastructure	0	0.00%	8	5.71%	132	94.28%
Level of satisfaction	38	27.14%	93	66.42%	9	6.42%

Note: Total sample size 140, on spot 19, off spot 121 (Source : Primary field survey)

## • Observations

Data shown in Table-2 clearly indicates that the resource component of the area is good and this has been opined by 82.14% of the visitors. On the accessibility segment the area seems to have a good connectivity as 68.57% of the respondents considered it to be good. However, the tourism infrastructure seems to be very poor as 94.28% of the respondents regarded the existing facilities as poor. At this present status the area has ability to provide a moderate level of satisfaction to the majority of visitors.

The area has rich natural landscape especially along the river Brahmaputra. The Silghat peak and the big “Samantagiri” hillock and the “Hatimura” hillock add tremendous scenic viewership to the place. The area offers wide range of tourism opportunities from landscape tourism, pilgrimage, adventure tourism, water sports tourism in a single package within an area 2 sq .km. The area has enough potential for water sports activities like sailing, boating, rafting etc. which can be carried out in the river Brahmaputra. The area is also suitable for cycling and trekking.

Regarding requisite components of tourism the area is moderately equipped. The area can enjoy a long tourist season for over six months provided it is developed to its optimum level in the tourism sector with basic amenities. No foreign tourists have visited the spot for the last 8 to 10 years. This is due to lack of exposure in the media and adequate publicity. Moreover, the frequency of local visitors is also very thin. It is only during the occasion of “Ashokastami” (Basanti Puja) in the month of April people gathered in a large scale. Very recently some developmental projects have been undertaken by the department of tourism to promote tourism in this area. One of such schemes is Project at Silghat (Development of Kamakhya temple & recreation activities for which an amount of Rs 15 lakhs been sanctioned and the work is in progress. However, the area needs more funding and initiative from the authority for developing itself as a spot of tourist importance.

## • Present Entrepreneurial Status and entrepreneurial avenues

Based on primary data and observation it is found that, entrepreneurial scenario in the area is very poor especially on the service sector. Other than the regular businessmen and traders no enterprise has come up associated with tourism. The entrepreneurial activity associated with tourists and visitors taking place here is quite temporary and that is basically only for a week. During the “Ashokastami Mela” different traders and some local entrepreneurs in and around this place open their stalls there with different products for sale to the visitors.

Developing model villages in and around this site multiple benefits can be derived such as direct benefit to the villagers with all modern facilities, attracting the domestic and foreign tourists to see the model village and other natural and adventurous tourism components. In such model village some cottages can be developed to provide it to the tourists as their accommodation during the period of their stay. Such cottages will give birth to some other entrepreneurial works like promotion of local art and culture, providing accessories and equipments for recreational activities like tandem biking, boating facilities, rafting etc. For this sort of work huge investments are not necessary but it needs a



vision for promoting tourism.

### Lawkhowa and Burhachapori Wild Life Sanctuary

Lawkhowa and Burhachapori wild life sanctuary is situated in the northern part of Nagaon District at a distance of 25 km from the town and about 15 km from the highway that connects Kaliabor and Tezpur characterized by large tract of alluvial grassland, low alluvial savanna woodland and tropical semi evergreen formations. This sanctuary once proved as an ideal home for the precious one horned rhinoceros. The sanctuary also houses a small number of tiger population. Asiatic Buffalo, leopard cat, wild boar, civet cat, hog deer etc are some other animals that are found in the sanctuary. A large variety of migratory birds can be viewed in this spot. Among the birds swamp partridge, black necked stork, lesser adjutant stork, wreathed hornbill, grey pelican are very important besides a large variety of ducks are also found. The area is rich in scenic beauty with the mighty Brahmaputra flowing by the side.

**Table-3.**  
**Respondent's opinion on the Lawkhowa and Burhachapori wild life sanctuary**

Categories	Good		moderate		Poor	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
Resource Component	13	27.65%	25	53.19%	9	19.14%
Accessibility	4	8.51%	23	48.93%	20	42.55%
Infrastructure	0	0.00%	6	12.76%	41	87.23%
Level of Satisfaction	9	19.14%	31	65.95%	7	14.89%

Note: Total sample size 47, on spot 12, off spot 35 (Source : Primary field survey)

### • Observations

Data collected from 47 sample visitors met on the spot and off the spot have been tabulated in Table-6.3. The table shows that most of the visitors felt that the resource components (80.84% respondents) and the accessibility (57.44% respondents) of the area are either good or moderate. So far as the infrastructure is concerned 87.23% respondents are dissatisfied and considered it to be very poor. This area at the existing state could provide a moderate level of satisfaction to the tourists because of inadequate infrastructure and problem of easy access.

The sanctuary can be an ideal site for bird watching and exploring native flora and fauna. Cycling can be an ideal mean to take a trip around the area and enjoy the natural beauty. The Brahmaputra River is flowing along the Northern boundary of the sanctuary can also be suitably

utilized for water sports in the summer. The area can enjoy tourist season over three months from November to February apart from the summer season. The accessibility of the area is very poor. The roads are also in a very dilapidated condition. Large portion of the sanctuary are illegally occupied by encroachers. There is no proper control of the authority to preserve the rich bio-diversity and the wild life of the sanctuary. Population of birds has significantly decreased as they are regularly hunted by the local people for commercial purpose. Large variety of birds are caught and sold in the local market causing threat to their existence. Due to lack of publicity foreign tourists seldom visit the spot. Even the presence of domestic tourist is very rare.

- **Existing entrepreneurial activities and opportunities in the locality**

The area is mainly surrounded by people from agricultural background and the rate of literacy is very poor. From this area 60 local youths have been selected as sample and it is found that 12% of them are illiterate, 50% could not complete HSLC (10th standard). Most of the youth got engaged in agriculture and fishing occupation. Entrepreneurial activity among the local youth is very rare due to lack of awareness and scope because the flow of outsiders to this place is very less. Because of natural beauty and pilgrimage sites in this area there is ample scope for developing this site as a place of tourist importance. But this step needs enough awareness on the part of the local people along with initiative from the govt. and other agencies working for promotion of tourism. Launching of this site as a place of tourist interest can boost up the economy of this area along with its nearby villages. Tourism can enlarge the scope for entrepreneurial growth in the sectors like lodging, boarding, and transportation in and around the site. Further opportunities will also come up in the sports sector like boating, rafting etc. This can be developed in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode where local people will also get opportunities for employment. Moreover, the local people can also be able to provide cycle on rental basis to tourist which will provide them a source of income. Cycling is a carbon friendly activity increasingly preferred in the western countries. This model has been found in other places of tourist attractions where cycle could be used for traveling without disturbing the ecology of the area.

### **Baduli Khurung (Bat Cave), Kondoli**

Baduli Khurung is a rocky area with dense vegetation 3 kms from Kothiatoli, Amlokhi on the south east direction approximately at a distance of 24 kms from the Nagaon town. The place has a large cavern formed by many small caves, which houses thousands of bats of various sizes that resembles a big honey comb. This BADULI KHURUNG is shrouded in antiquity and is a source of various lore among the inhabitants of the area. A boat made of stone is found to be placed near the bat cave. The hilly range of the cave offers a panoramic view of the green surroundings.



Table .4

Respondents' opinion on the Baduli Khurung site

Categories	Good		Moderate		Poor	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
<b>Resource Component</b>	78	72.22%	30	27.77%	0	0.00%
<b>Accessibility</b>	83	76.85%	25	23.14%	0	0.00%
<b>Infrastructure</b>	0	0.00%	3	2.77%	105	97.22%
<b>Level of Satisfaction</b>	22	20.37%	86	79.62%	0	0.00%

Note : Total sample size 108, on spot 23, off spot 85 (Source : Primary field survey)

#### • Observations

The Table-4 clearly reflects the existing status of tourism in the spot. The resource component seems to be quite high as 72% of the respondents felt that the existing resources are good enough and none has said that it is poor. The accessibility is also good as 76.85% of the respondents give their observation. But the infrastructure is very poor as is opined by more than 97% of the respondents. The area at its present status could offer a moderate level of satisfaction to the visitors.

The accessibility of the area is good. The roads however are not in a good condition. Regarding resource component the area is adequately equipped with its various possibilities of Archeo-Tourism, Landscape Tourism, and Cave Tourism. The Kondoli tea estate, Sukimbari tea estate closed to the spot provides ample opportunity for the growth of tea tourism in the locality. However, it has been found that there is lack of initiative from the Government to protect this unique historic cave. The staircase leading to the cave is not available so the people cannot have close look of it. If no immediate measures are taken by the government or authorized private agencies to protect the historic stone boat, ancient temples, and the cave itself is likely to be lost forever. The Archaeological Department should come forward to protect the site and the tourism department can very well promote the area as an important tourist spot.

#### • Existing entrepreneurial activities and its future opportunities

No entrepreneurial activities related to tourism could be found near the spot due to poor tourist/visitors arrivals. However, if this site is properly developed tourism can open up various entrepreneurial opportunities for the local people in this area. The future entrepreneurs will be able to go for opening restaurants, cottages for tourists' accommodation, and in transportation segment. Moreover, the traditional bamboo products made by the local people especially by the TIWA and

KARBI people will also get a good market.

### Samoguri

Samoguri is located at 18km east of Nagaon town. The area could be an ideal place for nature loving tourist. The main attractions of the area are the migratory birds come in the winter season. The place is rightly called as PAKHI TIRTHA (birds' pilgrimage) where one can see various species of birds in large numbers in the SAMOGURI Lake. The DHOL PAHAR (hill) range with the placid Samoguri lake adds another attractive dimension to the spot, enhancing it's natural landscape. The place is situated nearby the NH 37 highway. With extensive marketing of tourism the area can very well exploit the transit tourists passing through the district.

#### • Observations

The observation of the respondents reveals that the resource component of the area is good enough; this has been reflected from the views of the 54% of the respondents. The accessibility is also good. The infrastructure here seems to be good as 56% of the respondents expressed their opinion in this regard as good. The area at current status is able to provide good or moderate level of satisfaction to the visitors as only 3.75% give negative comment.

The area has been developed in recent years to cater to the tourists and a number of projects are on for development of the infrastructure. On the recreational aspect an amusement park in the model of Accoland of Guwahati is under construction. A barge is also available for a pleasure trip on the lake.

Table 5  
Respondents' opinion about the Samoguri Site

Categories	Good		Average		Poor	
	Respondents	%	Respondents	%	Respondents	%
Resource Component	43	53.75%	37	46.25%	0	0.00%
Accessibility	72	90.00%	8	10.00%	0	0.00%
Infrastructure	56	70.00%	21	26.25%	3	3.75%
Level of Satisfaction	54	67.5%	26	32.50%	0	0.00%

Note : Total sample size 80, on spot 65, off spot 15 (Source : Primary field survey)

#### • Existing Entrepreneurial Activities and opportunities

The down town food court in collaboration with ATDC has been providing both lodging and fooding facilities to the visitors. But no local entrepreneurship associated with tourism could be found in the locality. However, ongoing promotional activities of the tourism in the locality is likely to generate opportunities for local people, provided government takes necessary steps to include private



parties in the process. The maintenance of the area can be given on lease to the local youths under an organized banner, the lake offers enormous scope for a floating restaurant and if this can be introduced by the concerned authority it will be an added attraction for the visitors.

### **Rajagaon (Tengaralangsui) Area**

The place is situated at a distance of 55 kms south of Nagaon district headquarter adjoining Karbi Anglong border. The area still remains unexploited for tourism purpose in spite of enough potential. The resource component of the locality is very encouraging. The area is rich in flora and fauna with tropical grasslands, the Karbi hill alongside the area adds enormous scenic beauty to the entire spot. The socio cultural set up is ethnic. The accessibility of the place is good. The place can offer a good package of nature tourism with ethnic social components.

#### • **Existing entrepreneurial status and avenues**

As the area is characterized by ethnic way of life, no industries or entrepreneurial activities come up in the area. The approximate population under Nagaon sub division is 986 and all the inhabitants rely on bamboo culture and have been developing their economy based on bamboo craft practices. However, it is found that they do not have the required market exposure for their products and majority of the people are living below poverty line. Nevertheless it is one of the largest bamboo clusters of Nagaon district. The products based on bamboo are found to be very artistic and bound to capture a large market provided they are given a proper marketing platform. The tourism sector in this regard can do a lot by offering them wide market exposure and demand for the products. Besides it will also give them opportunity to establish cottages and other tourism services based on ethnic model. This will obviously attract large number of tourists to the place.

### **Deobali Jaloh (lake )**

Deobali is located at 18 kms west of Nagaon town near Raha. This vast wet land is extensively covered by reeds (*Phragmites Karka*) and Nol grass (*Imperata Cylindrica*), Gaint reed (*Arundo Donax*) providing an ideal breeding ground for variety of birds. This stretched wet land habitat for over hundred bird species including the globally endangered ones covering an area of about 40 sq. Km. The area is yet to be exploited as a tourist attraction in spite of its vast potentialities. There are about 137 birds species found in Deobali Jaloh (pond) ten of these are globally endangered like Manipur Bush Quail, Greater Adjutant Stork, Swamp Partridge, Bistal Grass Warbler, Wide Eyed Poacher etc.

Deobali can be an ideal site for bird watching and for Ornithologists. Thousands of migratory birds converse here<sup>14</sup>. However, there is initiative neither from the tourism department nor forest department to promote the area for tourism purpose. The Bombay Natural History Society in December, 2004; identified it as one of the Important Birds' Areas (IBA) out of 46 IBAs in Assam. But the area is now exposed to unabated encroachment and fishing. The Government should declare the area as a bird sanctuary to protect it from the encroachers. The Hahila beel near Deobali is another wet land with rich vegetations where large varieties of migratory birds could be seen during winter season.

### • Entrepreneurial opportunities

There is ample scope for development of entrepreneurship by promoting Deobali area as a spot for tourist importance. Entrepreneurial avenues can be directed towards establishment of basic tourism facilities like restaurants, dhaba, cottage resorts, moreover local transporter can be developed for easy conveyance between NH37 and the spot.

### Swang Forest

Swang forest area is situated at a distance of about 6 Kilometers from Chapanala atop Karbi hills within the district of Nagaon and covers an area of 44 sq. kms. The area can be promoted as an ideal site for experiencing wild life and exploring the rich flora fauna of the place. It has rich semi ever green formations and is an ideal habitat of tiger, elephant and hornbill. The neighboring hill ranges as Parkop Pahar (hill), Bura Pahar (hill) make it an ideal spot for appreciating landscape and natural beauty. The area has a rich population of wild animals and birds, some of them are regarded as endangered species. Wild animals like Royal Bengal tiger, leopard, leopard cat, Clouded leopard, Barking deer, Hog deer, Wild boar, Asiatic black bear, Sloth bear and some other wild animals could be seen in this area<sup>1</sup>. Besides, the area is a home for various species of birds like Pythe, Falconet, Eagle, Wreathed HornBill, Peacock Pheasant, Pied Horn Bill, Sultan Tit, Pompadour Pigeon, Fire Tail Sun bird, Large tail night jar etc<sup>2</sup>. This area could be a better option for bird lovers as it hosts large varieties of birds, including some endangered varieties. Native life and culture of the Karbi as well as the Tea tribes may prove to be another source of attraction for tourists. This area is connected to Kaziranga National park through the Burha Pahar hill range; this route can be very well exploited for trekking. This type of provision will no doubt help to pull large number of tourists from Kaziranga also. Tracks like Swang-Sombeti, Kantengaon-Baygaon and Swang-Bura Pahar- Bagori-Kohora are some ideal place for starting both long and short distance trekking expeditions ranging from 20 kms to 45 kms. Such trekking ventures can provide enough scope for exploring the life of the local Karbi people, their dance and festivals, art and craft including weaving. With a stunning all round views the area is suitable for development as an ideal tourist spot complete with ethnic village, trekking routes and other sporting facilities. The area could be developed as a showcase of ethnic culture with habitat and lifestyle of tribes. Food habit is unique among tribes as they still prepare their food by using bamboo poles and primitive equipments. Besides natural beauty, the specialty of the area is the availability of abundant varieties of butterflies, a part of the area can be developed as a butterfly park too. Eco-tourism can be a reality here with special emphasis on butterflies, and wide range of flora and fauna. There is scope to introduce a golf course in this area with little bite of thought and some investment.

The resource component of tourism in the place is abundant and can enjoy tourism period over six months. Though the accessibility of Swang area is poor yet journey to the location is quite adventurous. The area offers tremendous opportunity to develop wild life

<sup>1</sup> Divisional forest office, Nagaon/ Green guard ,NGO

<sup>2</sup> Divisional forest office, Nagaon/ Green guard ,NGO



tourism with some adventurous features. The tourists can also have the experience of staying in a tree house in this locality which will really provide great excitement for the tourist. This area is so rich in its resource components that it contains almost all categories of nature based tourism in one stop (may be termed as “**MEGA NATURE BASED TOURISM**” on the line of the present day departmental stores). With the availability of abundant number of buffaloes, a **buffalo ride** can be arranged for the tourist to explore native flora and fauna of the forest because of thick vegetation and undulating elephant ride is difficult in the area. This buffalo ride will be a noble feature not seen anywhere else till now. If organized professionally this buffalo ride will attract tourists to take the new taste of buffalo riding. This buffalo can also be utilized in other tourism venues wherever possible as a unique selling point (USB) of the district tourism.

- **Entrepreneurial opportunities**

The local people of the area are still living on subsistence agriculture with unique ethnic social setup and almost all the people are living below the poverty line (with per capita income INR 176 pm). Tourism in this locality can be well exploited which is likely to bring in ample opportunities for various engagements. Entrepreneurial initiative can be canalized towards establishment of an Eco-village complete with all amenities for the tourist concentrating exclusively on environmental goods and services. Resorts and cottages based on natural products can be ideal entrepreneurial choice for the local people. Moreover they can also get engagement as trekking guides.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

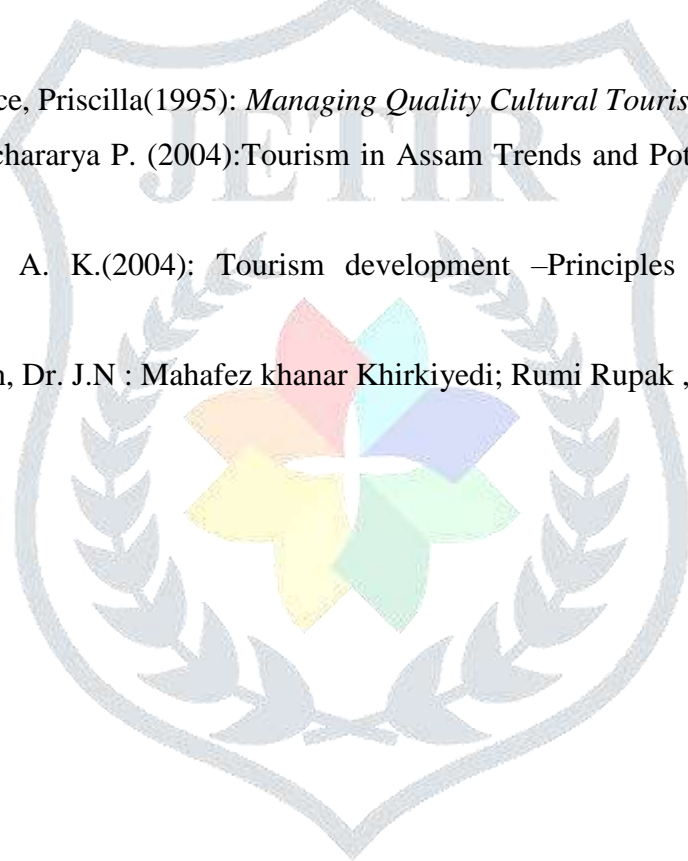
Tourism service has emerged as the most instrumental phenomenon in the economic and social development of the society. It is often insisted upon that tourism ranked higher in sphere of its role in accelerating the economic development of a state or country in terms of employment generated and service exporting sector. Tourism development is significant not only for the rural areas but for any area whether it is situated in rural or urban does not arise since it develops the hidden potential and explores future scope. It is essential in a district like Nagaon since many viable tourist spots are lying almost unutilized or underutilized. Other sectors of the economy can grow based on the growth and development of the tourism industry in an area like the Nagaon District.

Nagaon district with its varied cultural backdrop presents a good case in implementing a successful itinerary provided there is improvement in infrastructure and entrepreneurial activities at the initiative of the govt. and the private parties. With the inauguration of a tourist package comprising Bordowa - Chapanala - Samaguri - Silghat, Kamakhya for example an entrepreneurial growth in the district can be achieved which can be a role model for growth in other districts of Assam highlighting the spots within the district. In Nagaon, both Baishnavite and Shivite religious tourism can be successful with adventure tourism as a stimulus for participation by domestic tourists and foreign tourist as well.

If properly formulated, implemented with imagination and managed professionally through well-demarcated public-private collaboration tourism as a growth engine in the district of Nagaon can be a reality.

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## Article

## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND PRODUCTION PROCEDURE OF RUBBER PLANTATION IN DIMORIA REGION, KAMRUP (M), ASSAM- A CASE STUDY

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## References (1)

## Abstract

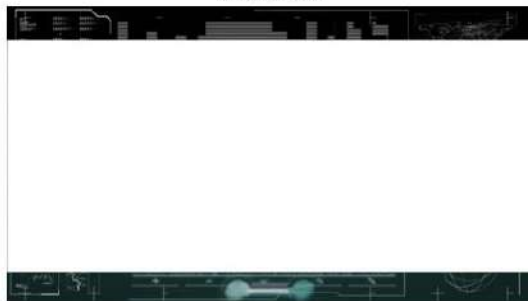
Rubber is one of the most versatile industrial raw-materials which find use in a variety of diversified activities, ranging from clinical to defense. It literally turns the wheels of industry and there is hardly any walk of life where rubber is not used. Rubber is an elastomeric which has a natural source as well as a synthetic analogue, known as synthetic rubber. Natural rubber accounts for 78% of the consumption in India where as the global consumption of rubber are 64% synthetic and 36% natural rubber. The social and economic benefits of rubber plantation produce are new jobs, renewable raw-materials, and absorbing carbon emissions. Rubber plantation creates a host of jobs, from directly rubber harvesting activities to those created indirectly to support the needs of the plantation workers. The agro-climatic conditions of NER are quite similar to that of South-West coastal region- the traditional rubber plantation area in terms of rainfall, humidity, temperature and suitable soil structure. It is for this reason the NER registered itself in the list of non-traditional region of rubber growers. In Dimoria region there are about thirty numbers of Rubber Plantation gardens. Villagers in this hilly area on the city outskirts have found way to stretch their income-growing rubber. The paper presents a case study of the rubber plantation of this locality.

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