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A STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF DESHI MUSLIMS OF GOALPARA DISTRICT OF ASSAM, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

*T*he socio-economic condition of people of any community is comprised of vast arena of subjects, and any rational being favours for their improvement of earning opportunities, educational attainment and health facilities are such indicators for an improve socio-economic conditions of any society. Indeed their measurements is difficult, most of the social scientist have focused to concentrate on these prominent aspects to grasp, compare and contrast socio-economic condition of any society or group of people. Socio-economic condition being a complicated aspect its

realization rests both qualitative and quantitative analysis. However, its assessment and analysis is necessary to diagnose for further improvement of quality of life of people.

The Deshi Muslim community is an indigenous ethnic group of Assam. The indigenous Muslim people who have been living in the undivided Goalpara district are known as Deshi Muslim (Rahman, 2014). On the basis of numbers of majority people of Rajbongshi community and social and cultural similarities of Deshi Muslim people with Rajbongshi community, it would like to say that majority of Deshi Muslims people were come from Rajbongshi community

(Karmakar, 2004). Physical structure of Deshi Muslims, language-culture, behavior etc. indicates that this section of people was converted from Koch-Rajbonshi, Nath-Kalita or kaibarta etc. communities (Datta, 1995).

After decades of time gone and administrative reorganization took place, a considerable part of Deshi Muslims remained in undivided Goalpara district (now divided into Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Chirang districts) that was under the erstwhile Rangpur district and now most factions of this sections of people are remaining in various places in some part of Bangladesh, North Bengal and different districts of lower Assam. Now the Deshi Muslim population is about 30 percent of the district population.

There is a general feeling that Deshi Muslim community is the most backward than its other counterparts in respect to socio-economic development. Traditionally, this section of people is rural

based and primarily depends on Agriculture and other petty manual works for their livelihood. So, this section of people remains far behind to achieve educational attainment, realizing health facilities, earning opportunities etc. The idea of equality regarding socio-economic development among all sections of people seemed questionable in such situation. Under the circumstances, it is need of hour to assess the socio-economic condition of the people of this section in particular and to search ground realities. Therefore, a study is adopted on "The Socio-Economic Condition of Deshi Muslims of Goalpara district of Assam, India" to find ground realities about the socio-economic condition of the people.

KEYWORDS: *Socio-economic condition, Deshi Muslim, Goalpara district.*

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this study is to examine the socio-economic conditions of Deshi Muslims in the sample area of Goalpara district. The study emphasizes the issues covering educational level, health condition, annual income of the sample households, availability of electricity, sanitation facilities, category of assets owned by the selected sample households etc. The need for yet another study is felt only to highlight the fact that there has been no much change in the social and economic well being of the Deshi Muslim people in spite of several initiatives and measures.

DATA BASE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology will be descriptive and analytical approach based on secondary and primary information.

Data Base

To achieve the objectives, the present study proposes to collect secondary and primary information. Data from the secondary sources would help us to analyze socio-economic conditions and indicators among various sections of people in general. Secondary sources of data have been collected from various published sources such as; Governmental reports, Official records, Statistical Hand Book of Assam, Journals, Periodicals, etc. But secondary data in particular to Deshi Muslims are not available. Therefore to achieve the core study, primary data have been collected by visiting the households with detail questionnaire. The method of collecting information has advantage and disadvantage of its own. Firstly, it is hardly possible for an individual to collect information by visiting the large number of households diffused in extensive region, so sample households must be taken at its modest level. Secondly, researchers' face to face meeting with the head of the households furnishes more information relating to school enrolment, income expenditure, sex ratio, family size, etc. and too in great depth can be obtained.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

To achieve the core of the study, primary data have been collected from the specific study following a statistical procedure. For this purpose a multi-stage purposive random sampling has been undertaken. In the first phase of the survey, Goalpara district of Assam have been chosen purposively as the area of the study because the higher concentration of Deshi Muslims in this district than other parts of the state.

The district at present has 829 Revenue Villages, 5 Revenue Circles and 8 Community Development Blocks (CDBs). In the second phase of the survey, 3 (Three) administrative blocks have been chosen randomly from the total of 8 Community Development Blocks such as; Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur Community Development Blocks. Deshi Muslim Villages are situated in a stretch amounting to 11 in Ranjuli, 11 in Matia and 10 in lakhipur CD Blocks respectively. In the third phase of the survey, 12 villages were chosen from each of the Blocks randomly from a total of 32 villages is done in a specific procedure of about 8:3 in each villages. The present study based on information from a total sample of 250 households. This size was taken from total Deshi Muslim households of Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur CD Blocks, Comprising 83, 83 and 84 respectively. Therefore the sample size is about 10 percent of this total population of the study area. The selection of CD Blocks, Villages

and Sample households under the above procedure can be displayed by the table 1.1

Table 1
Distribution of sample households of Deshi Muslims

Blocks	Villages	Households	Sampled households
1. Rangjuli Community Development Block	I. Ambari PT 3 II.190 No.Garuchatka PT1 III. 131 No. Kankata PT 1 IV. 143 No. Tiplai PT 1	110 300 220 200	11.0 30.0 22.0 20.0
Sub-Total	4	830	83
2. Matia Community Development Block	I. 145 No. Mamudpur PT 1 II. 139 No. Singimari III. 168 No. Pokalagi IV. 151 No. Sidhabari PT 2	350 180 200 100	35.0 18.0 20.0 10.0
Sub-Total	4	830	83
3. Lakhipur Community Development Block	I. 184 No. Bapurbhita PT2 II. 167 No. Joybhum III. 174 No. Shilapani IV. 165 No. Konar pub par	140 240 260 200	14.0 24.0 26.0 20.0
Sub-Total	4	840	84
Total	12	2500	250

Source: Field Survey by the Researcher

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS
Literacy (Education)

Education is conceptualized as a basis for expediting analytical skills, knowledge and critical thinking along with craftsmanship, practical experience and problem solving ability of man. Much of the literature and public concern about education and economic development in general, and education and employment in particular, revolve around the interaction between demand for and supply of skilled human resources. Skilled human resource is dependent on educational attainment. Therefore, education is regarded fundamental to enhancing the quality of human life and ensuring social and economic progress (UN, 1997). UNDP (2000) has adopted knowledge as measured by a weighted average of adult literacy (two-thirds) and mean years of schooling (one-third), and made educational attainments as one of the major components of human development. Education is one of the basic objectives of development and it enhances human capabilities as conceived by Sen (1999) that paves the way for improvement of quality of life. The educational attainment of Deshi Muslims of Goalpara district of Assam is elaborated in the following sections.

Literacy Rate of the Sample Households

Literacy Rate of sample Deshi Muslim households of Goalpara District of Assam shows comparatively a poor status as compared to their counterpart, in the state as well as the national level. The Literacy Rate of Deshi Muslims of the community development blocks is shown in table2

Table2
Literacy Rate of the Sample Households

Blocks	Persons	Male	Female
Rangjuli Community Development Block	294 (65.77)	166 (71.55)	128 (59.53)
Matia Community Development Block	303 (64.74)	173 (67.31)	130 (61.61)
Lakhipur Community Development Block	296 (65.49)	160 (70.48)	136 (60.44)
Total	893 (65.32)	499 (69.70)	394 (60.52)

Note: The figures in the brackets represent percentages

Sources: Field Survey by the Researcher

The above table 2 shows the poor literary status of the sample Deshi Muslim households. The literacy rate of Deshi Muslim male is at 69.70 per cent and female at 60.52 per cent constituting a literacy rate of 65.32 per cent of the total sample persons. Whereas, the literacy rate of the state is much higher at 72.19 per cent of which 77.85 per cent male and 66.27 per cent female. If it is compared to the national rate of literacy, it is seen that the national rates are much higher than the Deshi Muslims at 73 percent, of which male literacy rate 80.09 percent and female literacy rate 64.6 percent respectively.

The implication of educational backwardness of the Deshi Muslims as found in the above analysis necessitates an insight into their institutional academic attainment. The following section makes a discourse into the educational attainments of the Deshi Muslims in the sample area.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

Besides the overall literacy rate of any section of people, the levels of educational attainment are significant for socio-economic transition. The levels of educational attainment of Deshi Muslims of Goalpara district of Assam reflect comparatively a poor status as revealed in the following table 3.

Table 3
Educational attainment level of the sample households

Blocks	Level of achievements				
	Sex	LP	UP	HSLC	Above 10+2
Rangjuli Community Development Block	Male	80 (34.48)	52 (22.41)	18 (7.75)	16 (6.89)
	Female	73 (33.95)	44 (20.46)	6 (2.79)	5 (2.32)
Sub- Total		153 (34.21)	96 (21.43)	24 (5.27)	21 (4.60)
Matia Community Development Block	Male	80 (31.12)	72 (28.01)	12 (4.66)	9 (3.50)
	Female	64 (30.33)	58 (27.48)	5 (2.36)	3 (1.42)
Sub- Total		144 (30.72)	130 (27.74)	17 (3.51)	12 (2.46)
Lakhipur Community Development Block	Male	77 (33.92)	55 (24.22)	15 (6.60)	13 (5.72)
	Female	58 (25.77)	53 (23.55)	15 (6.66)	10 (4.44)
Sub-Total		135 (29.84)	108 (23.88)	30 (6.63)	23 (5.08)
Total		432 (31.59)	334 (24.35)	71 (5.13)	56 (4.04)

Note: The figures in the brackets represent percentages
Sources: Field Survey by the researcher

The details of educational attainment of Deshi Muslim households of Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur community Development Blocks of Goalpara District are depicted in the table 3 The table shows that 29.40 percent of the sample households attain upto Lower Primary (LP) level and 4.26 percent of them have education upto above 10+2 level. Further, the table reveals that there is decreasing trend in vertical attainment of education such as Upper Primary (UP), High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC), 10+2 levels and onwards. The findings imply that Deshi Muslims are far below in respect to achievement of higher education.

There are innumerable factors responsible for low level of educational attainment of the specific sections of Deshi Muslims. Besides the common reasons for educational backwardness, there are certain specific reasons responsible for low level of educational attainment of this particular section of people. The following section attempts to identify the responsible factors for educational backwardness of Deshi Muslims.

Factors Responsible for Low Level of Educational Attainment of Deshi Muslims

Low educational achievement is a major problem in the Indian educational system. Many children, who enter the school, are unable to complete their education for various reasons. The Deshi Muslims people are also face the same problem in respect to educational attainment, besides the above mention factors this section of people engulfed with other specific factors which are responsible for low level of educational attainment of this section of people, such as 1.Economic factors (poverty of parents, lack of parental demand, child labour and lack of early child care education); 2.Social factors (Illiteracy of parents, early marriages, community loyalties, lack of awareness); 3.Cultural factors (traditions, value system and birth escalation); 4. School factors (Lack of access, incomplete schools, teacher absenteeism, poor quality of teacher); 5. Administrative factors (Lack of

coordination among different managements, delays in supplies and incentives, weak inspectorate, lack of enrolment campaigns, lack of community control, lack of incentives), which is shown by the table 4

Table 4
Responsible Factors for Low Educational Attainment of Sample Households

Factors	Response			
	No response	Yes	No	Total
1. Economic factors (poverty of parents, lack of parental demand, child labour and lack of early child care education)	5 (10.87)	36 (78.26)	5 (10.87)	46 (100)
2. Social factors (Illiteracy of parents, early marriages, community loyalties, lack of awareness)	4 (5.80)	60 (86.96)	5 (7.24)	69 (100)
3. Cultural factors (traditions, value system and birth escalation)	4 (8.51)	40 (85.11)	3 (6.38)	47 (100)
4. School factors (Lack of access, incomplete schools, teacher absenteeism, poor quality of teacher)	3 (9.68)	22 (70.97)	6 (19.85)	31 (100)
5. Administrative factors (Lack of coordination among different managements, delays in supplies and incentives, weak inspectorate, lack of enrolment campaigns, lack of community control, lack of incentives)	2 (4.76)	35 (83.33)	5 (11.91)	42 (100)
6. Others	3 (20.00)	10 (66.67)	2 (13.33)	15 (100)
Total	21 (8.4)	203 (81.2)	26 (10.4)	250 (100)

Source: Field survey by the researcher.

The above table indicated that the key factors which are responsible to low level of educational attainment of the sample Deshi Muslim households. From the table 4, it is indicated that 78.26 percent of the sample households face the burden of economic factors in order to receive education. The highest percent i.e 86.96 percent of the sample households face the social factors problems like illiteracy of the parents, early marriages etc which are pose as a hindrance to girls formal education. About 85.11 percent Deshi Muslim people flow cultural factors viz traditions, birth escalation etc which ultimately impact on educational attainments level of the sample households. Around 70.97 percent and 83.33 percent of the sample households face school factors like teacher absenteeism, poor quality of teachers etc. and administrative factors such as lack of incentives lack of coordination etc. which are heavily impact on educational attainment level of the sample households. Thus from the table it is concluded that total 81.2 percent of the Deshi Muslim people are influences by economic, social , cultural, school, administrative and others factors to attain educational attainments.

Life Expectancy at Birth (Health)

Health is a prerequisite for human development and is an essential component for the wellbeing of the mankind. Health can be regarded as a state of mental, social and economic wellbeing and the mere absence of disease. Health is a function, not only a medical care, but also of the overall integrated development of the society viz, cultural, economic, educational, social and political. Therefore, to have sound health, the other depending factors are also to be looked into. Various studies suggest that sound health is crucial for improved

productivity as well as production. So health has been considered as a vital indicator of economic development. This section examine key indicators such as Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Crude Death Rate (CDR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and profiles of communicable and non-communicable diseases prevalent in selected areas.

Health status of Sample households

Health status of sample Deshi Muslims Households of Goalpara District reveals comparatively worse condition. The health status of sample households of the Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur community Development Blocks are reflected by key indicators such as Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Crude Death Rate (CDR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), which is shown in the table 5

Table 5
Health status of Sample households

Blocks	Health indicators			
	CBR	CDR	IMR (per 1,000 live births)	MMR
Rangjuli Community Development Block	11 (24.61)	4 (8.95)	1 (91)	1*
Matia Community Development Block	12 (25.64)	5 (10.68)	2 (167)	2*
Lakhipur Community Development Block	11 (24.34)	4 (8.85)	2 (182)	1*
Total	34 (24.86)	13 (9.49)	5 (147)	4*

Note: CBR   Crude Birth Rate, CDR   Crude Death Rate, IMR   Infant
Mortality Rate,   MMR   Maternal Mortality Rate
The figures in brackets represent percentages
*   It indicates the actual number of MMR
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

The Crude Birth Rate is one of the internationally considered vital indicator of health status. It is generally define as the ratio of total live births to total population in a specified community or area over a certain period of time. The birth rate is often expressed as the number of live births per thousand of the population per year. The total CBR of the sample households represent 24.86 percent (see table 5), which is higher than state as well as national level comprising 22.5 percent and 21.6 percent (2012) respectively. Inspite of various initiatives and contraceptives measures of birth control implemented by the government, still greater CBR is prevail in the sample Deshi Muslims households. Illiteracy, child marriage, poverty etc. are the core factors to gear up CBR in the Sample households.

Crude Death Rate (CDR):

Crude Death Rate is another crucial health indicator of any given community. It signifies the number of deaths happening among the individuals of a given geographical area during a calendar year, per 1,000 mid-year total population of the same area in the same period. About 9.49 percent is the total death rate of the sample households, of which significant share of Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur community development blocks are 8.95

percent, 10.68 percent, 8.85 percent respectively. The CDR of the Assam and India is lower than the sample households comprised 7.9 percent and 7 percent (2012) respectively, which indicated that the CDR of sample households' pathetic condition.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):

Infant Mortality Rate is another prime indicator of health status. It is represented as the probability of a child dying before he attains the age of one year and is calculated per 1,000 live birth. As per 1991 census, the IMR of Goalpara district was 106, in comparison with 99 per 1,000 live births in the state level. The total IMR of the sample households was 147 per 1,000 live births (See table 5) of the selected areas, which indicated that higher IMR of the sample households than the state as well as national level comprising 55 and 42 per 1,000 live births respectively. Therefore, it is concluded that though the IMR of Assam becoming better position, still it 13 percentage points lag than the national level, but cause for concern is that despite government initiated various programmers', still the IMR of the Sample Deshi Muslims Households is far behind than the state and national level.

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR):

Maternal Mortality is one of the globally accepted indicators of health status. Maternal mortality is defined internationally, as maternal death rate per 1, 00,000 live births. As per the SRS (July, 2012) the Maternal Mortality Rate in Assam (2007-2009) of 390 for every 100000 live births is the most elevated in the nation, the relating national accomplishment level is 212. By the by, state has made some amazing progress since 2001-03. In 2001-03, Assam's MMR was 490 (India 301) which decrease by a negligible 2 percent to 480 (India 254) in 2004-06. Notwithstanding, the decay amid 2006-09 has been wonderful i.e. close to 19 percent considering the high base. This has been conceivable because of advance in institutional conveyances particularly activities under the Janani Surakhsa Yojana (JYS). Although Assam has achieved some progress, still it remains the state with highest MMR in the country and Sample Deshi Muslims households are far behind in respect of MMR than state as well as National level. The MMR of the sample households (in actual number terms) are 4*, which shows that there is higher MMR among the sample households of the Goalpara district of Assam, as shown in the table 5.

DISEASE PROFILE OF SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS
Table 6 shows the details of disease profile of the sample households in the selected areas.

Table 6
Details of Disease profile of the Sample Households
(Total sample households 250)

Blocks	Types of Diseases							
	Malaria	Jaundice	Typhoid	Diarrhea	BP (H/L)	Arthritis	Others	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	14 (16.87)	15 (18.07)	12 (14.46)	10 (12.05)	13 (15.66)	14 (16.87)	5 (6.02)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	15 (18.07)	11 (13.25)	13 (15.66)	11 (13.25)	10 (12.05)	17 (20.48)	6 (7.23)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	13 (15.48)	15 (17.86)	14 (16.67)	9 (10.71)	12 (14.29)	16 (19.04)	5 (5.95)	84 (100)
Total	42 (16.81)	41 (16.39)	39 (15.60)	30 (12.00)	35 (14.00)	47 (18.80)	16 (6.4)	250 (100)

Note: The figures in the brackets represent percentages
  BP   Blood Pressure; H/L   High/Low
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher
          Table 6, indicates the Disease profile of Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur community Development blocks of the Goalpara District of Assam. The communicable disease like Malaria, Jaundice and Typhoid problem faced by the sample households are 16.81 percent, 16.39 percent and 15.60 percent respectively. Total 12 percent sample households are contact with   non-communicable disease like Diarrhea problem, which is infected mainly 0-15 year age group of the sample households. Blood and arthritis contacted individuals are 14 percent and 18.80 percent respectively. About 6.4 percent sample households are infected by the Other types of Disease (Table 6). It should be mention that highest percent (18.80 percent) of the sample households are faced by the arthritis problem. From the above table, it is conclude that despite numerous measures adopted by the government, hitherto, health status of the sample households are very worse condition.

Income (Occupation)

          Occupation is the symbol of socio-economic condition of any society. Income clearly is only one option that people would like to have, though an important one. But it is not the sum total of their lives. Income is also a means, with human development the end (HDR, 1997).An attempt has been made to find out the occupational status of sample households based on following occupations such as Income From Services (IFS), Income From Agriculture (IFA), Income From Labour (IFL), Income From Petty Business (IFPB).

Occupational Status of Sample Households

          Table 7 shows the yearly earning profile of the sample households from various sources viz, IFS (Income From Services), IFA (Income From Agriculture), IFL (Income From Labour), IFPB (Income From Petty Business).

Table 7
Maximum Annual Average Earning of Sample Households from Various Sources
(Total sample households 250)

Blocks	Sources of Households Income				
	IFS	IFA	IFL	IFPB	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	1380000 (27.38)	1716000 (34.05)	1392000 (27.62)	552000 (10.95)	5040000 (100)
Matia CD Block	1800000 (27.62)	1680000 (25.78)	1176000 (18.05)	1860000 (28.55)	6516000 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	2160000 (29.51)	960000 (13.11)	2160000 (29.51)	2040000 (27.87)	7320000 (100)
Total	5340000 (28.17)	4356000 (24.31)	4728000 (25.06)	4452000 (22.46)	18876000 (100)

Note: IFS   Income From Service, IFA   Income From Agriculture,
      IFL   Income From Labour,   IFPB   Income From Business.
 The figures in the brackets represent percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

          The above table 7 indicates maximum annual earning of the Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur Community Development Blocks of the sample Deshi Muslims households of Goalpara district of Assam. It should be mention that agriculture is the principal source of household income of the sample households, which occupied about 24.31 of total households' income of which 34.05 percent, 25.78 percent, and 13.11 percent income

shared by Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur community development blocks respectively. Although agriculture occupy primary source of livelihood but percentage of income earn by the sample households from these sector is lower than the service sector, which comprised of total 28.17 percent. This is because, the agricultural cultivation process totally base on monsoon and the farming technique used by the sample households are not moderate viz; man workforce and bullock power use for their cultivation. A section of people have been employed in the labour sector, they are employed as manual daily or monthly wage base labour and their contribution is about total of 25.06 percent and total of 22.46 percent (see table 7) of households income come from   petty business sector, those who has been employed as a businessman they are mainly small traders, shopkeepers, brokers ctc.

From the above analysis, it is conclude that however, a significant section of people of the sample households are engaged in service sector and their contributions to household economy also but their working position are not diversified and this undiversification is one of the core bottlenecks for the upliftment of the sample households and illiteracy cause lack of efficiency compel them to earn lesser income, which leads to bring them under mass poverty.

Drinking Water and Sanitational Status of the Sample Households

The scale of social consumption i.e. drinking water, education, health services, sanitation and hygiene plays a vital role in human capital development. Distribution of social consumption influences inequalities in physical and human development (B.G.Maulick, 2013). The importance of drinking water and sanitation among these items cannot be underestimated. Given the biological necessity of water for life, its availability, quality and quantity play a crucial role in human life. The Human Development Report and Millennium Development Goals have been emphasizing on provision of basic needs/services for the people for enhancement of quality of life. Among those basic services, provision of drinking water in terms of source, system, structure, portability, adequacy, security and sustainability has always been a matter of concern and challenge for each nation. Therefore, it is included in the specific targets of Bharat Nirman launched by government of India as a flagship programme in 2005. Sanitation is also closely linked to the availability of water. Together they determine the quality of living of the people. An attempt has been made to find out the drinking water and sanitaional status of the sample households in the selected areas of the district.

Sources of Drinking Water of the Sample Households

The main source of drinking water in India differs from place to place, time to time, region to region and state to state. The use of source historically depends upon varied geo-climatic conditions that India has. The main sources of the drinking water in India are, tap water from treated sources, untreated tap water, covered/uncovered well, hand pump, tube well, borehole, spring, canal/river, tank/pond/lake and other sources. The drinking water facilities/ availabilities of the sample households are indicated by the table 8

Table: 8
Sources of Drinking Water in the Sample households
(As % of Total Sample Households 250)

Blocks	Sources of drinking water				
	Tap water	Hand pump/Tube well	Well water	Other sources	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	10 (12.04)	40 (48.19)	20 (24.09)	13 (15.67)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	15 (18.07)	35 (42.16)	26 (31.32)	7 (8.43)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	14 (16.66)	42 (50.00)	23 (27.38)	5 (5.95)	84 (100)
Total	39 (15.60)	117 (46.79)	69 (27.59)	25 (10.07)	250 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

Table 8 shows the sources drinking water availabilities of Rangjuli, Matia and Lakhipur community development blocks of the sample Deshi Muslim households. From the table, only about 15.60 percent of the sample households are use tap water as source of drinking water. About 46.79 percent, 27.59 percent and 10.7 percent of the sample households are use Hand pump/Tube well, Well water and Other sources as a source of drinking water, respectively. As far as clean and safe water is concerned, tap water is still considered to be the preferred and hygienic drinking sources in rural areas, but majority i.e. 46.79 percent of the sample households are use Hand pump/ Tube well as source of drinking water and less percentage (15.60) of the sample households use Tap water for their drinking needs.

Status of Sanitation in Sample Households
Sanitation is related to health and hygiene. In other hands, poor sanitation creates disease, which affects among children to their cognitive development. Education of children is also significantly affected by poor sanitation. Table 9 indicates the sanitational status of the sample households.

Table 9
Status of Sanitation in Sample Households
(As % of Total Sample Households 250)

Blocks	Indicators				
	Water closet	Pit latrine	Other latrine	No latrine	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	5 (6.02)	26 (31.32)	10 (12.05)	42 (50.60)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	4 (4.82)	25 (30.12)	14 (16.87)	40 (48.19)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	6 (7.14)	27 (32.14)	15 (17.86)	36 (42.86)	84 (100)
Total	15 (6.00)	78 (31.19)	39 (15.59)	118 (47.22)	250 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

From the above table 9, it is indicated that about only 6 percent of the sample households have water closet facilities. Pit latrine and other latrine uses by the sample households are 31.19 percent and 15.59 percent respectively. It is shocking to note that still after six decades of independence, majority of the sample households i.e. 47.22 percent of the sample households have no latrine facilities, which indicated that they have to use open defecation.

Housing Type of the Sample Households
An important indicator of the economic status of a household is the type of house and the facilities available. Housing is one of the basic needs of human beings, which constitutes the protective base for any people and his family. The house type of the sample households are indicated by the table 10.

Table 10
Details of Housing type of the sample households
(As % of Total Sample Households 250)

Blocks	House Type				
	Pucca	Semi pucca	Kutcha	Other	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	17 (20.48)	15 (18.07)	35 (42.17)	16 (19.28)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	8 (9.64)	10 (12.05)	45 (54.22)	20 (24.10)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	10 (11.91)	17 (20.24)	22 (26.51)	35 (41.67)	84 (100)
Total	35 (14.00)	42 (16.78)	102 (40.96)	71 (28.35)	250 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

The above table indicates the types of house own by the sample households in the selected areas of the Goalpara district. The distribution of housing type among the sample households (Table 10) reveals that about 14 percent of the sample households live in pucca houses, whereas about 16.76 percent, 40.96 percent and 28.35 percent of the sample households live in semi pucca, Kutcha and other types of houses, respectively. It is highlighted that majority of the sample households (40.96 percent) of the sample households live in kutcha houses. The high incidence of living in kutcha houses also has its impact on the health status of the sample Deshi Muslim households.

Household Amenities of the Sample Households

Type of household amenities owned by the sample households are regarded as an indicator of the economic status. Availability of the household amenities of the sample households are depicted by the table 11.

Table 11
Details of Household amenities of the Sample Households
(As % of Total Sample Households 250)

Blocks	TV	Inverter	Car/Bus/Tractor	Two wheeler	Frizzer	Agri-Machinaries	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	22 (26.50)	7 (7.43)	3 (3.61)	20 (24.09)	3 (3.61)	28 (33.73)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	25 (30.12)	6 (7.22)	4 (4.81)	22 (26.50)	5 (6.02)	21 (25.30)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	24 (28.57)	3 (3.57)	2 (2.38)	21 (25.00)	4 (4.76)	30 (35.71)	84 (100)
Total	71 (28.39)	16 (6.41)	9 (3.6)	63 (25.20)	12 (4.80)	79 (31.58)	250 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

The possession of household amenities of the sample households (table 11) reveals that about 28.39 percent of the sample households have Television (TV) and rest 6.41 percent, 3.6 percent, 25.20 percent, 4.80 percent and 31.58 percent households have Inverter, Car/Bus/Tractor, Two wheelers, Frizzer and Agri-Machineries respectively. It is evident from the data that the sample Deshi Muslim households possessed very few household amenities that are worth mentioning.

Land Holding Pattern of the Sample Households
Table 12 shows the land holding position of the sample Deshi Muslim households.

Table 12
Land Holding Pattern of the Sample Households (in Bighas)
(As % of Total Sample Households 250)

Blocks	Total of Land under Cultivation	Total of Land under Fishing	Total of Land under Household	Total Area of Lane Possessed
Rangjuli CD Block	177 (58.61)	3 (0.99)	122 (40.40)	302 (100)
Matia CD Block	219 (69.09)	4 (1.26)	94 (29.65)	317 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	100 (51.81)	6 (3.11)	87 (45.08)	193 (100)
Total	496 (59.84)	13 (1.78)	303 (38.38)	812 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

The above table indicated that the total areas of land possessed by the sample households are 812 bighas, out of which 496 bighas are under cultivation, 13 bighas are for fishing and 303 bighas are for homestead land. The field investigation reveals that the majority of the families have land within the range 1-3 bighas. As these lands include homestead land, the land under cultivation is negligible.

History witnessed that before independence, the people of this locality had surrendered their cultivable land to the land settlement office for avoiding the payment of land revenue. But now they hanker after for land. In course of time due to shortage of production and meeting the expenses of their children's marriage and for getting government jobs most of the families sell their land to the rich people. Yet, most of the people are still engaged in agriculture. But the agricultural land is not developed.

Electricity Used by the Sample Households

Proportion of households using electricity for domestic lighting is an indicative of economic status of the households. Table 13 indicates the distribution of households with and without electricity connection.

Table 13
Distribution of Households with/without Electricity Connection
(As % of Total Sample Households 250)

Blocks	Electrified Households			Non-Electrified households		Total
	Source Use			Source Use		
	Domestic	Agriculture	Commercial	Oil Lamp	Lantern	
Rangjuli CD Block	40 (48.19)	0	0	20 (24.09)	23 (27.71)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	27 (32.54)	0	0	25 (30.12)	31 (37.35)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	42 (50.00)	0	0	15 (17.86)	27 (32.14)	84 (100)
Total	109 (43.58)	0	0	6 (24.02)	81 (32.4)	250 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages

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Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

The above table shows the details of electrified and non electrified sample households of the selected areas of the Goalpara district. The data indicates that about 43.58 percent of the sample households use electricity for domestic purposes. It is highlighted that none one of the sample households use electricity as agricultural and commercial purposes. From the table it is concluded that about 56.42 percent (i.e.24.02 percent use oil lamp and 32.4 percent use lantern) of the sample households are non-electrified category households, which represents the poor economic status of the sample households.

Fuel Used by the Sample Households

Clean fuel for cooking is important for health. It is a serious consideration for women who, in most cases, are burdened with the task of cooking.

Table 14
Details of Fuel Used by the Sample Households

Blocks	LPG	Fire Wood	Cow dung Cake	Other	Total
Rangjuli CD Block	10 (12.05)	41 (49.40)	30 (36.14)	2 (2.41)	83 (100)
Matia CD Block	6 (7.23)	40 (48.19)	32 (38.55)	5 (6.02)	83 (100)
Lakhipur CD Block	9 (10.71)	45 (53.57)	27 (32.14)	3 (3.57)	84 (100)
Total	25 (9.99)	156 (50.40)	89 (35.61)	10 (4.00)	250 (100)

Note: The figure in the brackets represents percentages
Source: Field Survey by the Researcher.

As per Census 2001 data, just about 60 percent of all rural households in the country do not use any of the modern fuels such as LPG, electricity or even kerosene. The Sample household survey reveals that 9.99 percent of the sample households using LPG for cooking (Table 14). For more than 50 percent of the sample households' wood is the only fuel used for cooking and while the rest of the households i.e. about 35.61 percent use Cow dung cake and about 4 percent use other materials such as agricultural waste etc. for cooking (Table 14).Therefore it is conclude that about 90 percent of the sample households use traditional fuels like wood, cow dung cake etc. for cooking purposes, which clearly shows that the low level of living of the sample households.

CONCLUSION

The implication of the findings is that the socio-economic indicators like education, health, income, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing type, household amenities etc. of the sample Deshi Muslim households remain at a very low level in the selected areas of Goalpara district. It is seen that all the indicators even far below the average of the state as well as national level. Paucity of basic infrastructure viz., roads connectivity, availability of electricity, availability of hospital facility etc. in the locality reflected on the backwardness of basic amenities of life such as health, education and occupation of the sample Deshi Muslim people.

The findings of the study indicate that this section of people remains far below in respect to quality of life in comparison to their counterpart. Therefore, inclusive approach must be initiated for socio-economic development of the Deshi Muslims individuals.

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