

# A Study on Literacy Pattern among the Scheduled Tribe Population in Goalpara District, Assam

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**Abstract-** Literacy is a determinant of Social, economic, cultural and political development of an area. Literacy eradicates poverty and unemployment, generates employment, economic growth, international relationship, improves social status and standard of living among the social groups. Among the social groups scheduled tribe population is considered as most backward group of society prior to the British era. Literacy rates and standard of living of scheduled tribe population is very low compare to the other social groups. Literacy rate of scheduled tribe population in Goalpara district is comparatively higher than the other parts of India. The main objective of this paper to study the literacy pattern of scheduled tribe population of Goalpara district. This study is based on secondary data and comparative statistical method. An attempt has been made in this paper to study the variation of literacy pattern among scheduled tribe population of Goalpara district.

**Index Terms-** Literacy, Pattern, Scheduled tribe and Goalpara District.

## I. INTRODUCTION

India is a land of diverse race, religions, cultures, and social groups. Scheduled tribes differ in their religion, language, and culture. In Indian caste system, scheduled tribes are considered as backward group of society in educational, socio-economically and politico-culturally. They are also deprived from the employment opportunities.

Literacy among the tribes of the north eastern region is relatively higher compared to other regions. In the ranking of the ST literacy rate (per 1000 persons among 5 years and above) states like Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Manipur occupy 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th position respectively. It is interesting to note that the literacy rate of these states is higher than the national literacy rate (Paltasingh and Paliwal, 2014). ST population of Assam, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh ranks 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> position respectively with regard to the literacy rate (NSSO, 2010).

Literacy is a determinant of social, economic, cultural and political development of a region. Literacy determines the standard of living, levels of income, fertility and mortality, social status, economic growth etc. In Goalpara district scheduled tribe population are also backward like other parts of India. Literacy rates of scheduled tribe population are higher than the other

castes. Dutta (Dasgupta) and Sivaramakrishnan (2013), Gautam (2013), Butt and Gupta (2014) and Paltasingh and Paliwal, (2014) were studied on literacy of scheduled tribe in different region.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this study are to study literacy pattern of scheduled tribe population and to study the circlewise variation of scheduled tribe population in Goalpara district.

## III. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data and simple comparative method has been used to analysis the data with bar diagrams.

## IV. STUDY AREA

The study area of Goalpara district is an elongated area of foothills and plains along the Assam-Meghalaya border on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra. The district is bounded by the river Brahmaputra on the north and to the south by the Garo hills districts of Meghalaya, to the east by the Kamrup district of Assam and in the west Hat-Singimari sub-Division of Dhubri district of Assam. Geographically, the area is confined within the 26°08' N to 25°55' N latitude and 91°15' E to 90° E. Longitude, covering a total area of 1824 km<sup>2</sup>. The boundary line has an orientation from east to west in this portion. Goalpara District is comprise of five revenue circle namely Lakhipur, Balijana, Rangjuli, Dudhnoi and Matia circle and eight blocks i.e. Jaleswar, Lakhipur, Kharmuja, Balijana, Krishnai, Matia, Kushdhawa and Dudhnoi with total population 755133 persons in 2011. Out of the four Forest Ranges of the Goalpara Forest Division, three Forest Ranges are attached to the Assam-Meghalaya border, they are Lakhipur range, Krishnai central range and Rongjuli range, a major portion of the area falls in the foothill region of Garo Hills. The Goalpara Forest Range is located on the north-west corner of the district bordering the river Brahmaputra. The area is not only important in the field of Geo-environment but also highly sensitive in the field of geo-political point of view (Map.1).



Fig. 1: Locational Map

V. DISCUSSION

Literacy rates are not only determined by social, economic, cultural and political factors they are determined by physiographical, environmental, meteorological factors. Based

on the literacy rates the study region is categories into three i.e. high, moderate and low categories as it is difficult to consider all the factors.

| Table No.1: Circlewise Literacy of ST population in Goalpara District |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| Circles/Years   | 2001  | 2011  |
| Balijana  | 44.83 | 8.22  |
| Lakhipur  | 12.29 | 21.58 |
| Matia   | 23.08 | 34.3  |
| Dudhnai   | 66.26 | 87.39 |
| Rangjuli  | 58.74 | 58.13 |
| Source: Director of Economics and Statistics, Goalpara.               |       |       |

## Circlewise Literacy of Scheduled Tribe Population in Goalpara District

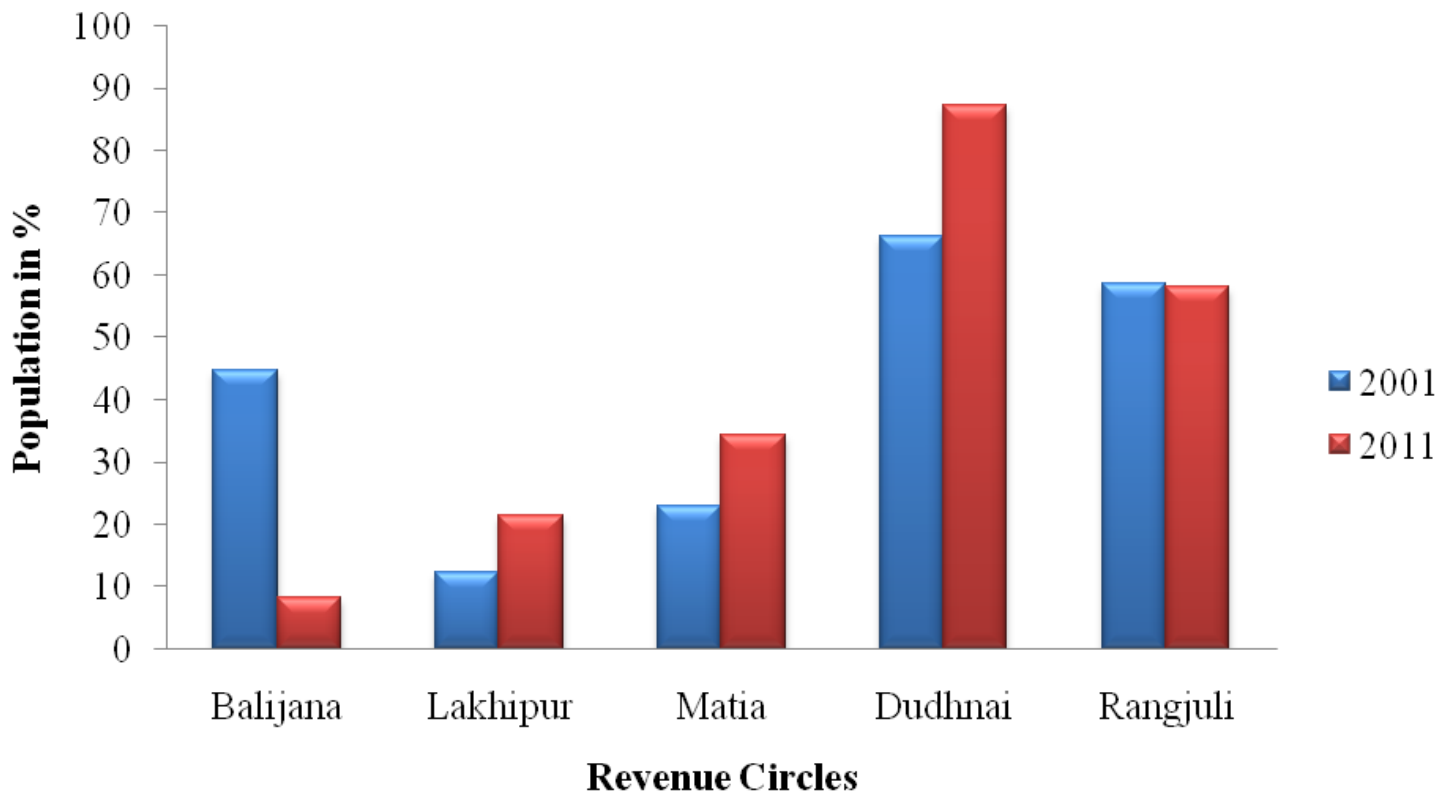


Table no.1 and fig. 1 showing the spatial pattern of literacy rates of scheduled tribe population of Goalpara district in 2001 and 2011. Dudhnai and Rangjuli circles are showing highest literacy rates with 66.26% and 58.74% respectively in 2001. Balijana and Matia circles with 44.83% and 23.08% have moderate literacy rates. Lakhipur circle with 12.29% showing the lowest literacy rates in Goalpara district in 2001. In 2011, Dudhnai circle is continuing highest literacy rate with 87.39% and Rangjuli (58.13%) and Matia (34.3%) recorded moderate literacy. Lakhipur and Balijana circles recorded lowest literacy rates with 21.58% and 8.22% respectively. Balijana circle is showing the negative trend of literacy rate between 2001 and 2011 of -36.61%.

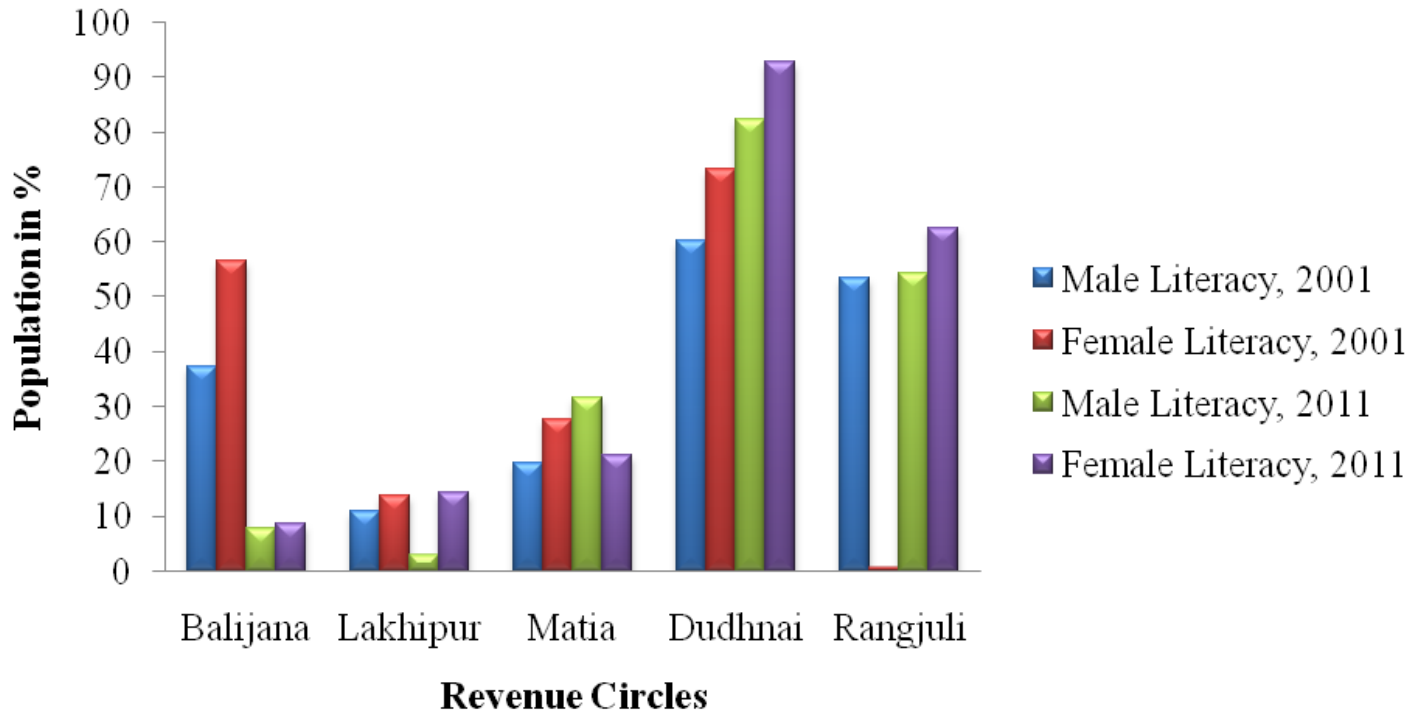
Table no. 2 and fig. 2 showing the male-female literacy rates in Goalpara district. There is a highest disparity in male-

female literacy rates in Goalpara district. Dudhnai circle has highest female literacy rate with 73.28% and male literacy rate with 60.34% in 2001. Lowest female literacy is observed in Rangjuli circle with 0.64% and male literacy with 53.5% in 2001. Lowest male literacy is observed in Lakhipur circle with 11.01% and female literacy with 13.93% in 2001. In 2011, highest female literacy rate is observed in Dudhnai circle with 92.74% and 82.48% of male literacy. Balijana circle has lowest literacy with 8.75% and male literacy with 7.75% in 2011. Lowest male literacy is observed in Lakhipur circle in 2011 with 3.08%. Balijana and Lakhipur circles are showing negative trend of male literacy and other circles are showing positive trend. Balijana and Matia circles are showing negative trend of female literacy and rests of the circles are showing positive trend of literacy rate between 2001 and 2011.

| Circles/Years | 2001  |        | 2011  |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
|               | Male  | Female | Male  | Female |
| Balijana      | 37.33 | 56.53  | 7.75  | 8.75   |
| Lakhipur      | 11.01 | 13.93  | 3.08  | 14.41  |
| Matia         | 19.83 | 27.59  | 31.69 | 21.25  |
| Dudhnai       | 60.34 | 73.28  | 82.48 | 92.74  |
| Rangjuli      | 53.5  | 0.64   | 54.42 | 62.45  |

Source: Director of Economics and Statistics, Goalpara.

## Circlewise Scheduled Tribe Male-Female Literacy in Goalpara District



### VI. CONCLUSION

The analysis of data clearly indicates that percentage of literacy rates among the scheduled tribe population is higher. In Goalpara district, female literacy is higher than the male literacy. The reason is rate of drop out among the male scheduled tribe population is high compare to female. Dudhnai circle has highest percentage of scheduled tribe population compare to other circles. So, this circle recorded highest total scheduled tribe literacy and scheduled tribe male-female literacy. Government has initiated different literacy program for the scheduled tribe population i.e. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Schemes for construction of hostels for ST Girls and Boys, Schemes for the establishment of Ashram School in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Up gradation of merit, Book Bank, National Overseas scholarship scheme for Higher Studies Abroad, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, Scheme of Top Class Education for ST student, Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Area, Coaching For Scheduled Tribe Students, Strengthening education among Scheduled Tribe girls in low literacy districts, Tribal Research Institutes.

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