

A Survey on Socio-economic Condition of The Villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

Introduction:

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a premier initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). It aspires to connect Higher Education Institutions with at least five villages so that these institutions can use their expertise to support these villages and enhance their economic and social conditions. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan intends to empower higher educational institutions to collaborate with the people of rural India in specifying development concerns and developing appropriate solutions to accelerate sustainable progress. Additionally, it aspires to establish a constructive connection between society and an inclusive academic system by offering knowledge and techniques for developing professions and by upgrading the skills of both the public and private sectors to contribute to rural India's development requirements.

The idea for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan came from a group of devoted faculty members at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi who had been researching for a long time in the field of rural development and appropriate technology. During a National workshop held at IIT Delhi in September 2014, the concept was brought up through extensive discussions with representatives from a variety of technical institutions, Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) coordinators, voluntary organisations, and government agencies intimately involved in rural development work. The event was funded by the Ministry of Rural Development's Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). On November 11, 2014, the Ministry of Education (MoE) (previously Ministry Human Resource Development (MHRD)) formally launched the programme in the presence of India's President.

To be able to generate a tangible beneficial impact, it is necessary to establish a sufficient structural network with a significant number of nodal institutions and a proper methodology to design, implement, and assess the activities on a regular basis in order to conduct such an ambitious programme countrywide. It is also critical to foster synergistic coordination among the relevant ministries, local Panchayat Raj Institutes (PRIs), volunteer organisations, and UBA participants.

Historical Background:

In contrast to the dream articulated by our national father Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi Ji in his seminal work, 'Hind Swaraj,' the western developmental paradigm, which is based on centralised technologies and urbanisation, has resulted in considerable troubles such as growing inequality (which contributes to crime and violence) and climate change as a result of rapid ecological degradation. To address these issues, it is necessary to promote rural development in accordance with Gandhi's vision of self-sufficient 'village republics,' based on locally accessible resources and employing decentralised, eco-friendly technologies, such that basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter,

sanitation, health care, energy, livelihood, transportation, and education are met locally. This should be the aim of community development on a holistic level. At the moment, more than 70% of India's population lives in rural areas engaged in agrarian economies, with agriculture and related sectors employing 51% of the total labour force but contributing only 17% of the country's GDP. There are substantial developmental disparities between rural and urban communities, including disparities in health, education, income and basic amenities, as well as work prospects - all of which contribute to widespread discontent and mass migration to urban areas. The imperatives of sustainable development, which are being more sharply felt throughout the world, also need eco-friendly village development and the provision of adequate local employment possibilities. Urbanization growth is neither sustainable nor desired. Historically, our professional higher education institutions have been mostly geared on the mainstream industrial sector and, with a few notable exceptions have made little direct contribution to rural development.

Institution of higher learning under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme is open to any educational institution in India that is registered with the government. However, in order to be recognised as a Higher Educational Institution (HEI) under the UBA, the educational institution must meet the following requirements:

- The educational institution must be an Indian institution of higher learning.
- The HEI should be recorded with the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE).
- Participation in rural development activities should be agreed upon by the Higher Education institutes.
- At least five nearby villages must be identified by the HEI.
- At least two faculty members from the HEI must be instinctive to take part in rural development activities.

The UBA plan will choose institutions that meet the aforementioned eligibility criteria. Institutions can apply to join the UBA scheme using the 'Join UBA' option on the homepage of the official website. Any student enrolled in a higher education institution in India is also competent to take part in the UBA scheme. Students can enlist by contacting their institution's UBA coordinator or UBA cell.

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Perennial Fund has been awarded to a total of 78 participating institutes, according to the declaration. The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Awards Competitive Perennial Grant has been granted in order to ensure the proper implementation of the Ministry of Human Resource

Development's (MHRD) flagship initiative, the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA). Each participating institute will receive a grant of Rs 1.75 lakh as part of this programme. Additionally, winners of the 'Unnati Ki Kahani Chitro Ki Zubani' photo story competition have been declared along with the UBA Competitive Perennial Grant. The purpose of these awards is to stimulate competition among the participating institutes in order to ensure that the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan mandate is effectively delivered. National coordination for this initiative is carried out by the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi). The results were announced by Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Chairman, National Steering Committee (NSC), UBA, and Prof. V Ramgopal Rao, Co-Chairman, NSC, UBA and Director, IIT Delhi. Professor VK Vijay, National Coordinator, UBA; Professor Vivek Kumar and Professor Priyanka Kaushal, National Co-Coordinators, UBA were also present. A total of 78 UBA Competitive Perennial Grant recipients participated in Gram Sabhas, prepared Village Development Reports, and carried out certain technical interventions for the holistic development of the adopted villages as part of their participation in this programme. “Nearly 290 applications were received for this award. Five winning institutes (out of 840 applications) of the photo story competition will get a cash prize of Rs 5000 each,” said a statement from IIT Delhi.

Significance of the Study:

The spirit of India lives in her villages. This famous remark made by Mahatma Gandhi several decades ago is still relevant today. It is worthwhile to mention that the majority of India's population still lives in rural areas. The simple lifestyle of the village, which is surrounded by beautiful natural surroundings, is still the center of attraction. By fostering a vibrant relationship between society and higher educational institutions, the programme aims to effect structural transformation in the rural development process by providing knowledge and technology assistance to promote the livelihoods of rural residents as well as to upgrade the functionality of both public and private organisations in society. The programme will be implemented in phases over the next three years.

The programme will aid in the identification of developmental difficulties as well as the creation of relevant solutions for boosting long-term sustainable growth. Within institutions of higher education, the primary purpose of the programme is to foster a better appreciation of the development agenda through education. There is nothing that can stop India from becoming a 'superpower' if the young talents of the country can be channelized for productivity.

Therefore, it is one of the important responsibilities of every higher educational institute to serve the neighbouring villages in multiple ways to promote their socio-economic condition. By realizing the realities of the villages, Unnat Bharat Abhijan has taken some great initiatives to connect the higher

educational institutions and villages for accelerating the overall growth and development of India. Hence, a survey report has been prepared by UBA cell of Bhawanipur Anchalik College for the same intention to serve the villages.

Statement of the Problem:

The survey report has been entitled as *“A Study on the Socio-Economic Condition of the Villages under Unnat Bharat Abhijan”*

Objective of the Study: The objective of the study is to investigate the socio-economic condition of the sample villages.

Delimitation of the Study: The study has been delimited in terms of villages and households. By considering the time constraints the surveyors have limited the study in 401 households of five villages in the district of Barpeta, Assam. The villages are namely- Namati, Kayakuchi, Niz-Bhawanipur, Galia and Nakuchi.

Research Method Applied:

Descriptive survey method has been adopted in this study considering the nature of data. The survey is undertaken to know the prevalent situations of the villages instead of making any predictions. Therefore, the study comes under the category of descriptive research.

Population of the Study:

In the present survey report population comprises all the households of five villages.

Tool of Data Collection: For collecting pertinent data Unnat Bharat Survey form has been used. This form is downloaded from the official website of the Unnat Bharat Abhijan and distributed among the sample households accordingly.

Statistical Technique: In order to statistically analyse the information gathered, only the percentage technique is employed. In addition, pie charts are utilised for graphical representation as well as for precise understanding of the work.

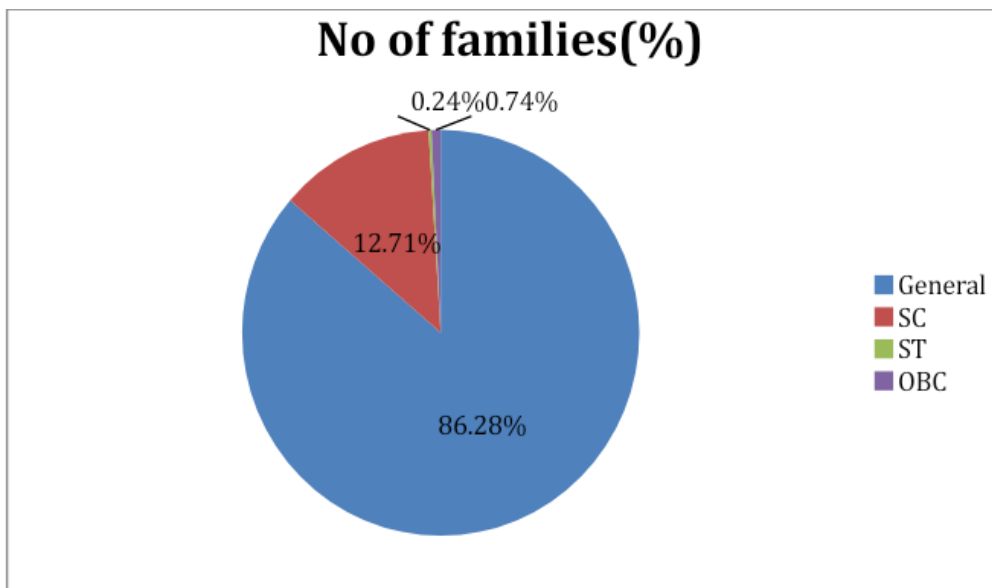
Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

Table-1.0 Distribution of families in terms of categories

S.I. No	Category	No. of families	Percentage (%)	Total no. of Family
1	General	346	86.28	401
2	SC	51	12.71	
3	ST	01	0.24	
4	OBC	03	0.74	

Source- Field Survey.

Figure No- 1 Distribution of families in terms of categories



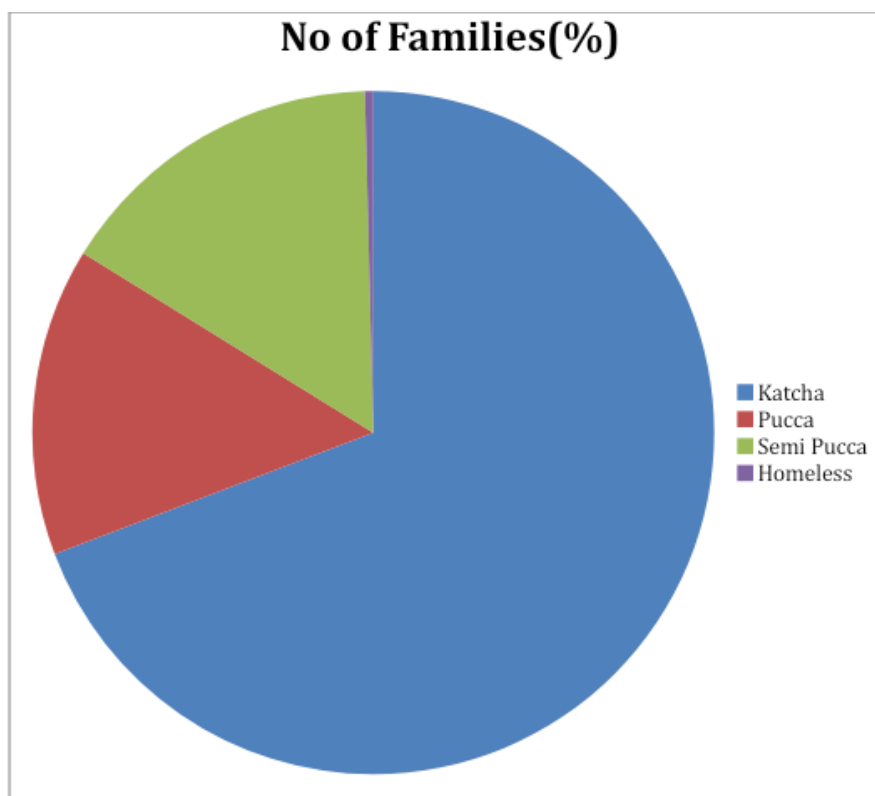
It is observed from table 1.0 that out of 401 sample households of the 5 surveyed villages, 346 i.e., 86.28% belong to the General category. The percentage of households belongs to the SC, ST and OBC categories have been calculated at 12.71% (52), 0.24% (01), and 0.74% (03) respectively.

Table 1.1 Type of houses of the five surveyed villages

S.I. NO	Type of houses	No.of families	Percentage	Total
1	Katcha	245	86.28%	401
2	Pucca	73	18.20%	
3	Semi Pucca	79	19.70%	
4	Homeless	02	0.49%	

Source- Field Survey

Figure no-2 Types of houses of the surveyed villages



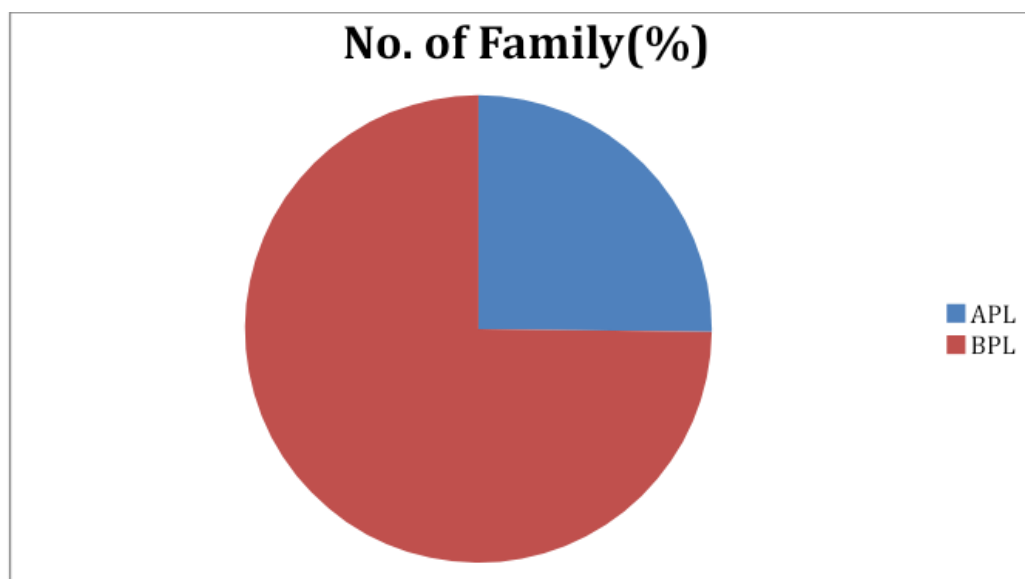
The table 1.1 represents the distribution of households in terms of the type of houses in surveyed villages. It is seen from the table that 86.28% of the households live in the kutchha house. 18.20% and 19.70% of the households live in pucca and semi pucca type of houses. Only 0.49% of the families are homeless. By analysing the above table, the type of house indicates the poor living condition of the sample surveyed villages.

Table 1.2 Distribution of household as per the poverty status

SI. No	Poverty Status	No.of family	Percentage	Total no of families
1.	APL	101	25.18%	401
2.	BPL	300	74.81%	

Source: Field Survey

Figure no-3 Distribution of household as per poverty status



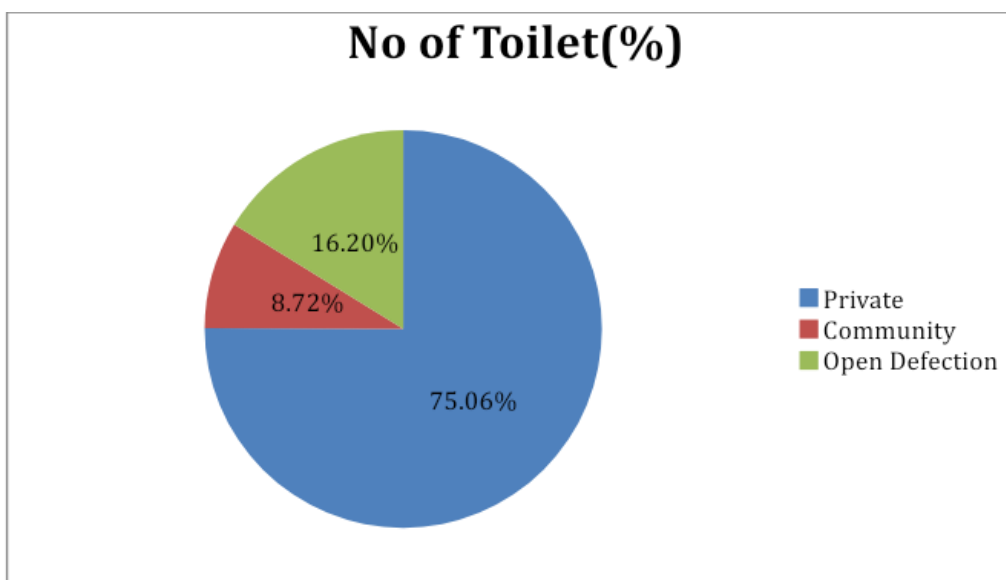
The above table disclosed that the maximum of the households in the surveyed villages are under Below Poverty Line. It is found from the survey that out of 401 sample households 300 of the households, i.e., 74.81% are from the BPL category whereas only 101 means 25.18% are from the APL category.

Table 1.3 Type of toilets available in the surveyed villages.

SI. No	Type of Toilet	No. of Toilet	Percentage
1	Private	301	75.06%
2	Community	35	8.72%
3	Open Defecation	65	16.20%

Source- Field survey

Figure no-4 Type of toilets



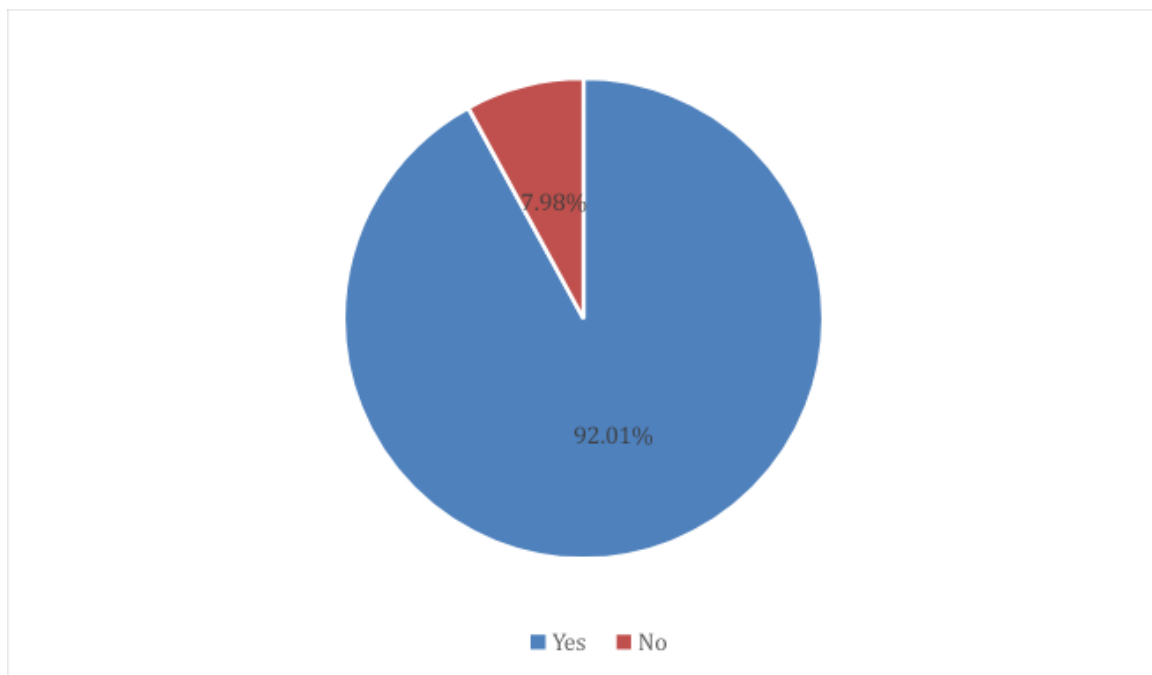
The above table demonstrates the type of toilets having in the sample villages. From the investigation, it is found that out of 401, 301 households, i.e., 75.06% have private toilet facilities, whereas 8.72% and 16.20% have community and open defecation systems respectively.

Table 1.4 Distribution of household in terms of having electricity connection

Electricity Connection	No. of household	Percentage of household
Yes	369	92.01%
No	32	7.98%

Source- Field survey.

Figure-5 Distribution of household in terms of electricity connectivity



It is observed from the above table that 92.01% of the sample households have access to electricity , whereas 7.88% of the households do not have access to electricity.

Table no- 1.5 Distribution of households in terms of lighting facility

Lighting	No. of household	Percentage
Electricity	363	90.52%
Kerosene	64	15.96%
Solar Power	Nil	0%

Figure no-6 Distribution of households in terms of lighting facility

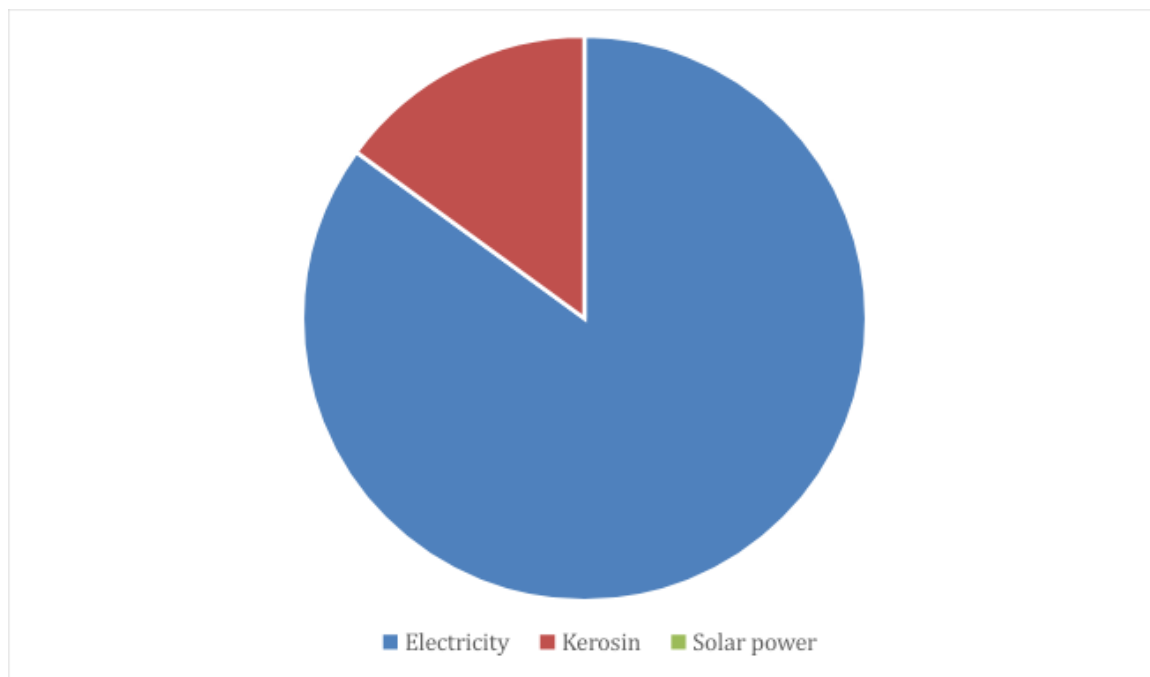


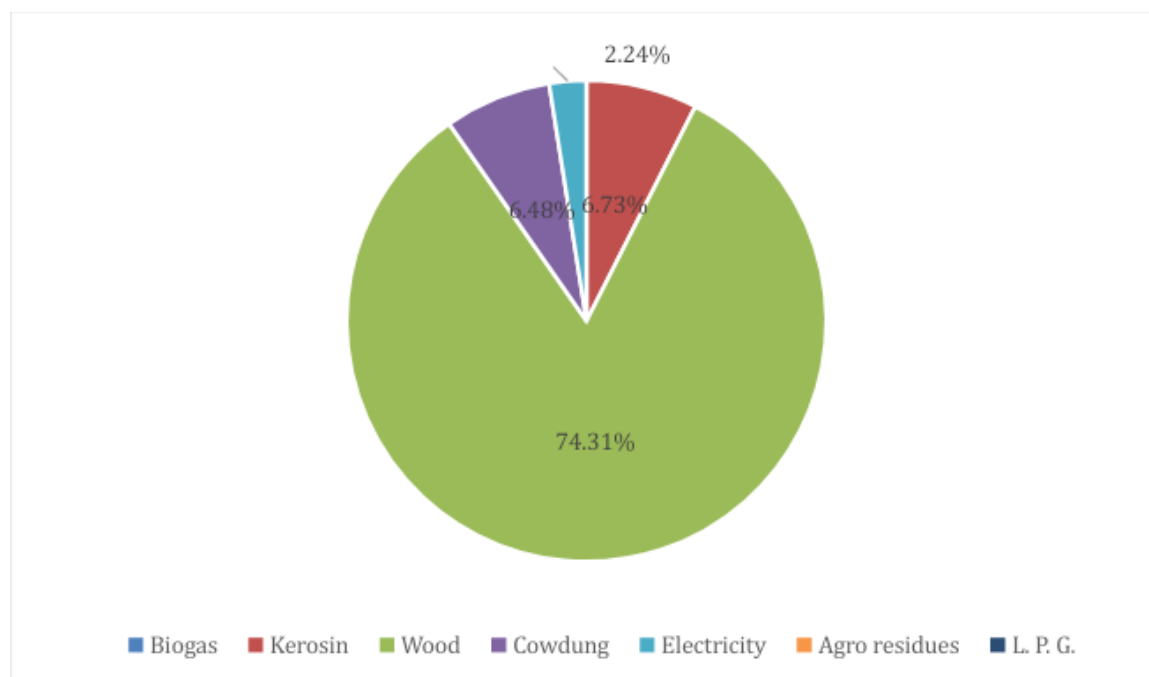
Table 1.5 illustrates the distribution of households in terms of lighting facilities. As per the survey conducted in the selected villages, it is found that 363 (90.52%) households have electricity, 64 (15.96%) of the households used kerosene for lighting and no households were found using solar power for lighting.

Table no -1.6 Sources of Cooking in the sample households.

	Total no	Percentage
L.P.G	303	75%
Biogas	Nil	Nil
Kerosene	27	6.73%
Wood	298	74.31%
Cow dung	26	6.48%
Electricity	09	2.24%
Agro residues	Nil	Nil

Source- Field Survey.

Figure no-7 Sources of cooking in the sample household



The above data reflects the sources of cooking in the sample households of surveyed villages. It is found from the tabulated data that 300 (75%) households have L.P.G. connection for cooking and 298 (74.31%) households used wood for the same. Moreover, 6.73%, 6.48% and 2.24% from the surveyed

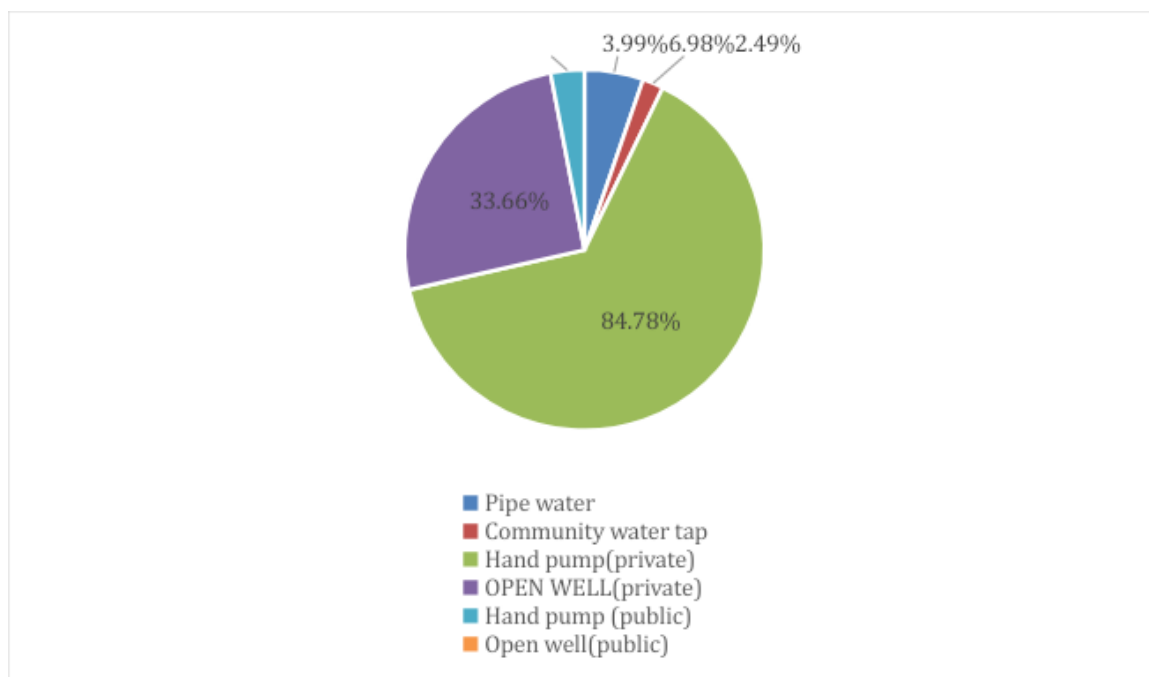
households used kerosene, cow dung and electricity respectively. It is noteworthy that no households were found to be employing biogas or agro residues as cooking fuels.

Table No-1.7 Sources of water available in the sample households.

Sources of water	No.of household	Percentage
Pipe water	28	6.98%
Community water tap	10	2.49%
Hand pump(private)	340	84.78%
OPEN WELL(private)	135	33.66%
Hand pump (public)	16	3.99%
Open well(public)	15	3.74%

Source- Field Survey.

Figure No-8 Sources of water available in the households



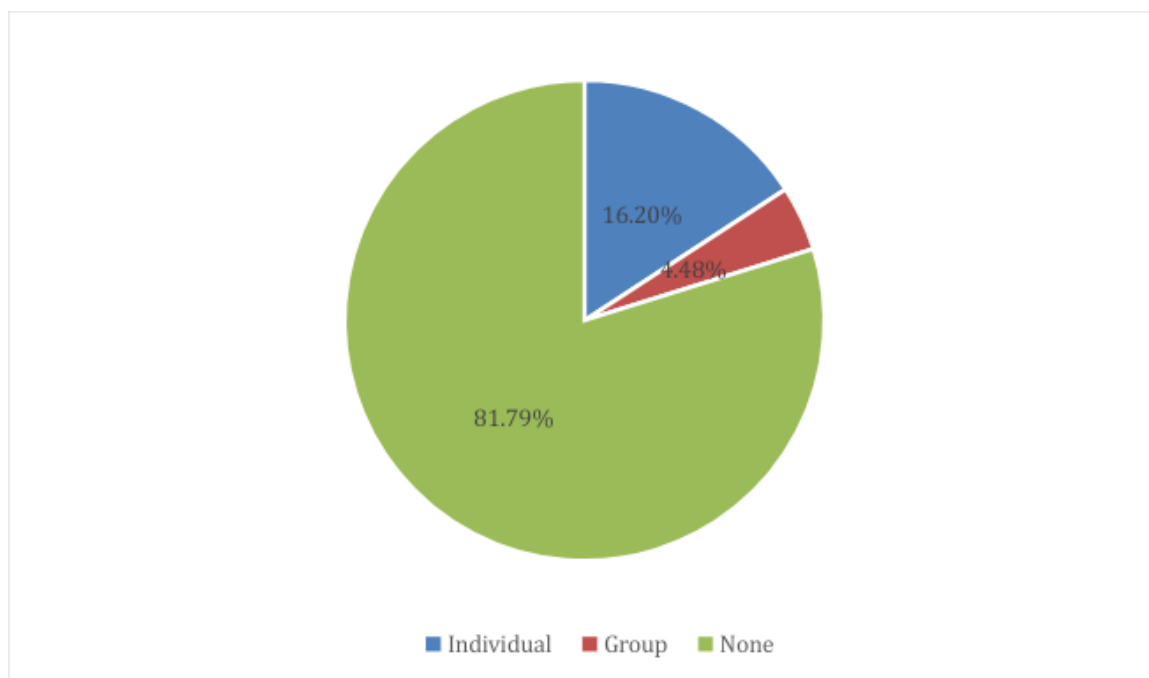
The table above depicts the various sources of water available in the households of the villages surveyed. According to the tabulated data, 340 of the total houses or 84.78% have their own private hand pump for water. Private open wells are used by 33.66% of houses, while piped water is used by 6.98%. Furthermore, only 16 (3.98%) and 15 (3.74%) of households have access to a public hand pump or an open well, respectively.

Table no - 1.8 Compost pit system in the sample villages.

Types of compost pit	Total no.	Percentage
Individual	65	16.20%
Group	18	4.48%
None	328	81.79%

Source-Field Survey.

Figure No-9 Composite pit system in the sample villages



In a composite pit, biodegradable items are deposited into a pit to decay, resulting in manure and fertiliser for the soil. In the sample villages, 16.20% is found using individual composite pit, 4.48% found involving group composite pit technique. Notably 81.78% is observed not involving any composite pit procedure.

Table no-1.9 Bio-gas plant in the sample households.

Bio-gas plant	Total.no	Percentage
Individual	42	10.47%
Group	08	1.99%
Community	12	2.99%
None	339	84.53%

Source-Field Survey.

Figure No-10 Bio-gas plant in the sample households

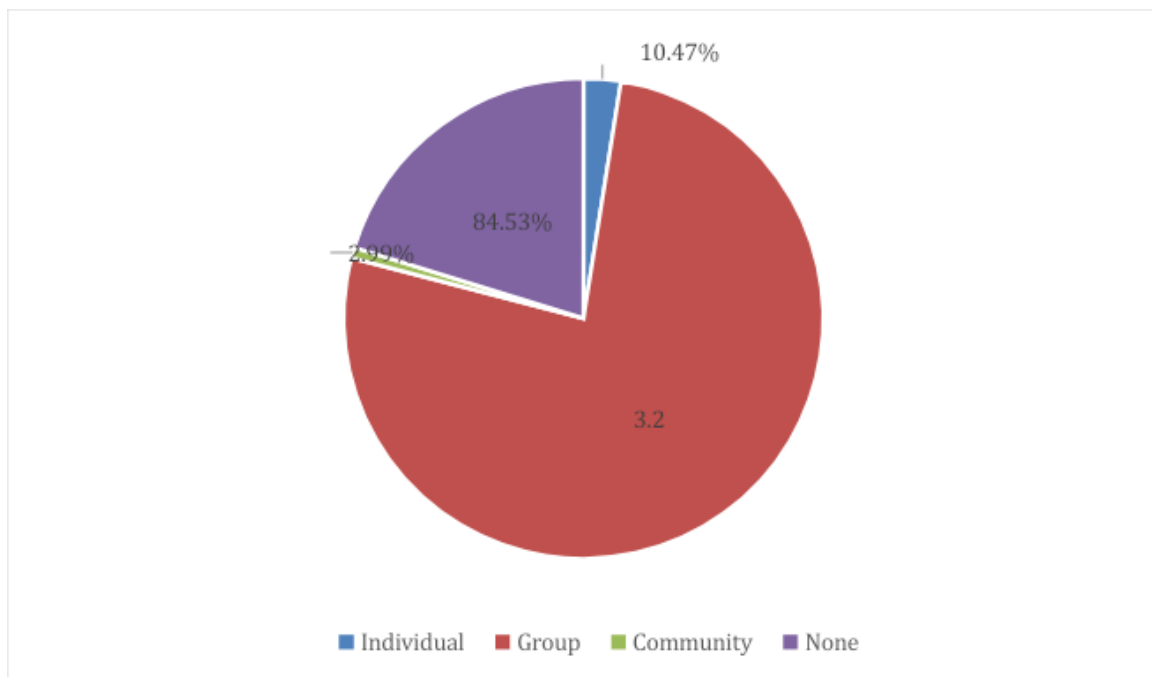
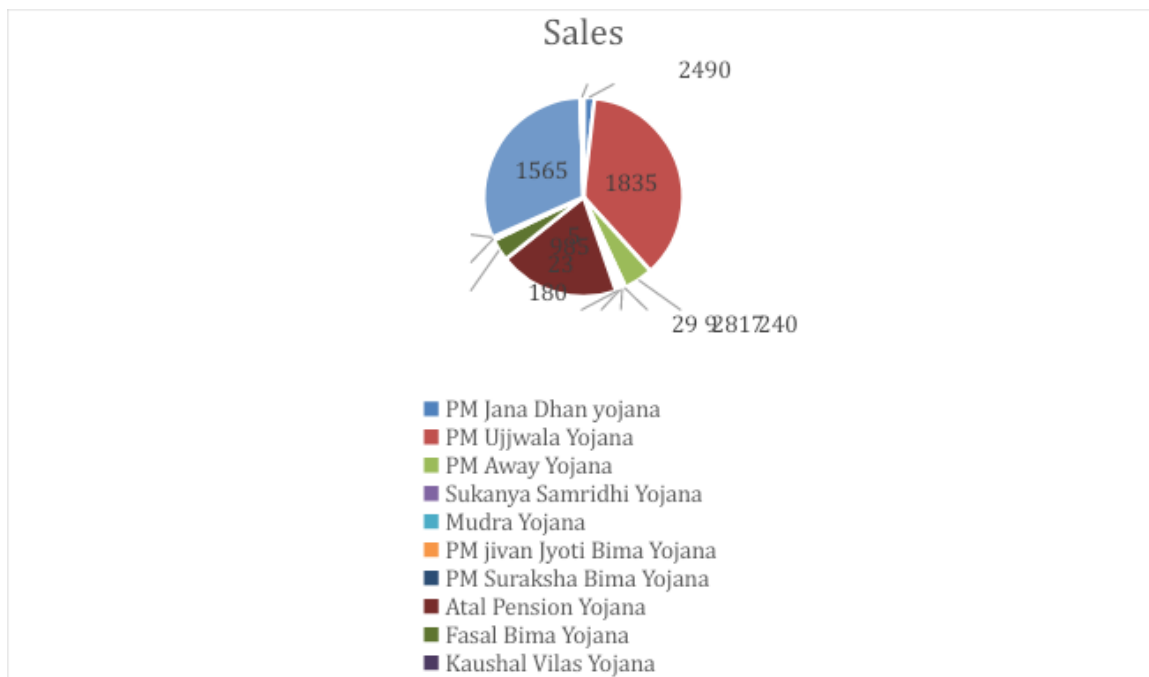


Table no 1.9 illustrates the Bio-gas plant in the sample household of the surveyed villages. It is highlighted through data analysis that 339 houses, or 84.53% of the total do not have a bio-gas plant. Individual bio-gas plants are installed in 10.47% of the houses, whereas group bio-gas plants are installed in just 1.99% of the households. In addition, just 2.99% of the houses in the villages have access to a communal or collective bio-gas plant.

Table No-1.10 List of beneficiaries of different govt schemes.

SI.NO.	Name of of the govt Schemes	Benefited persons.
1.	PM Jana Dhan yojana	90
2.	PM Ujjwala Yojana	1835
3.	PM Away Yojana	240
4.	Sukanya Samridhi Yojana	17
5.	Mudra Yojana	28
6.	PM jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana	09
7.	PM Suraksha Bima Yojana	29
8.	Atal Pension Yojana	985
9.	Fasal Bima Yojana	180
10	Kaushal Vikas Yojana	23
11	Krishi Sinchay Yojana	05
12.	Jana Aushadi Yojana	Nil
13.	Swacha Bharat Mission Toilet	1565
14.	Soil Health Card	Nil
15.	Ladil Lakshmi Yojana	Nil
16.	Janani Surakshya Yojana	24
17.	Kishan Credit card.	126

Figure No-11 List of beneficiaries of different govt. scheme



The information in the preceding table provides an overview of the list of beneficiaries or the total number of people who have benefited from various government schemes. Most of the government schemes failed to reach the target group successfully due to the lack of knowledge and awareness amongst the masses. The study of the above figures clearly demonstrated that the PM Ujjwala Yojana received the greatest number of beneficiaries, followed by the Swacha Bharat Mission Toilet and the Atal Pension Yojana. The number of people who have benefited from the PM Ujjwala Yojana is 1835, while the numbers of people who have benefited from the Swacha Bharat Mission and the Atal Pension Yojana are 1565 and 985, respectively. Furthermore, the number of people who have benefited from the other specified schemes is relatively low. It is noteworthy that the Jana Aushadi Yojana, the Soil Health Card, and the Ladil Lakshmi Yojana have not touched a single individual.

Table No1.11 Drainage linked to houses

Covered	26	6.48%
Open	63	15.71%
None	312	77.80%

The waste water should be safely thrown out of the house via a well-functioning drainage system. Each fitting and drain should collect waste water and discharge it to a recycling system outside the house. All components of the drainage system, including pipe sizes, fittings, and falls, must be designed and constructed and kept in good working order. As per the survey, 77.80% of the households have no drainage system at all. Besides that, open and covered drainage systems are found in 15.71% and 6.58% of the households, respectively.

Table No.1.12 Agricultural product in a normal year

1.	Rice
2.	Mustard
3.	Potato

According to the data obtained from the surveyed villages, rice, potato and mustard make up the majority of agricultural products. The tabulated data also represents that there is a dearth of agricultural diversification in the villages

The data also shows that the main issues in the surveyed villages are inadequate road connectivity and electricity availability. Other issues that might be mentioned are including drinking water, adequate drainage, waste collection system, community hall, and so on.

Table No.1.13 Village Infrastructure and Basic Amenities

SL No.	Village Infrastructure/Basic amenities/Services	Nos.
1.	Primary Schools (Govt.)	14
2.	Primary Schools (Private)	12
3.	Middle Schools (Govt.)	06
4.	Middle Schools (Private)	10
5.	Secondary Schools (Govt.)	08
6.	Secondary Schools (Private)	11
7.	ITI Diploma Institutes (Govt.)	Nil
8.	ITI Diploma Institutes (Private)	Nil
9.	Colleges (Govt.)	01
10.	Colleges (Private)	04
11.	Banks/ATM	07
12.	Primary Health Centres	05
13.	Civil Hospital	Nil
14.	SHG's	07
15.	NGO'S	25
16.	Post Office	03
17.	Gas Agencies	05
18.	Training Centres and specify which	04
19.	Electricity Office	Nil
20.	Anganwadi Kendra	15
21.	Petrol Pumps in Village	03
22.	Kisan Sewa Kendra	03
23.	Krishi Mandi	Nil
24.	Fare Price Shop	02
25.	Milk Cooperative/Collection Centre	01
26.	Railway Station	Nil

27.	Bus Stop	03
28.	Veterinary Care Centre	03
29.	Sports Facility/Grounds	07
30.	Number of Common Sanitation Complexes	Nil

Table 1.13 demonstrates the basic infrastructure and amenities of the surveyed villages.

Conclusion:

This report is based on the survey performed by the team of Bhawanipur Anchalik College in five different adopted villages in the rural areas of Barpeta district of Assam. The rigorous survey includes 401 households of the villages and also the village primary schools. All the surveyed villages are situated in the rural areas of the district where the lacking of proper transportation facility, infrastructure, and basic commodities are vividly observed. The survey data shows that about 74% of the total population of the villages are in below poverty level which suggests the economic condition of the villagers. The study also demonstrates that more than 16% of the villagers do not have proper toilet facilities in their houses. The practices such as open defecation by the villagers develop an unhygienic environment in the villages. Moreover, about 8% of the households still do not have the electricity facility, and only relied on the kerosene lamps. More than 15% of the households use wood and logs for cooking purposes. Their economic conditions do not allow them to afford an LPG connection. The condition of the village primary schools are below average in terms of proper infrastructure, toilet facilities, and maintaining a hygienic environment in the school campus.