



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### A STUDY ON DISPARITY OF LITERACY PATTERN BETWEEN SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION OF GOALPARA DISTRICT, ASSAM

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#### ABSTRACT

Literacy is an important indicator for all round development of an individual as well as a nation. It eradicates the poverty and unemployment, cultural and social advancement, economic growth and political maturity, generates peace, international relationship and brotherhood and free demographic processes. There is a wide disparity of literacy between SC and ST population of Goalpara district. The main objectives of the paper are to study the circle wise disparity between SC and ST population and to compare the gender disparity of SC and ST population of Goalpara district. The required data has been collected from secondary source and comparative method is used for data analysis. The study concluded that highest SC and ST literacy is recorded in Balijana (16.12%) and Dudhnai (87.39%) block in 2011 respectively. Rangjuli (16.69%) and Dudhnai (82.48%) are recorded highest SC and ST male literacy in 2011 and lowest SC and ST male literacy is recorded in Lakhipur (5.79%) and Lakhipur (3.08%) respectively. On other than Balijana (17.03%) and Dudhnai (92.25%) showing highest SC and ST female literacy in 2011 and lowest female SC and ST literacy is recorded in Lakhipur and Balijana Block respectively.

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## INTRODUCTION

India is habitant of diverse social group, races, religions, and cultures. Scheduled Caste and scheduled tribes are different in their religion, language, and culture from the other social groups. In Indian caste system, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes are considered as backward group of society in of educationally, socio-economically and politico-culturally. The variation of literacy pattern is not only observed with other social groups but it also noticeable between SC and ST population. Like other districts of Assam, in Goalpara district disparity of literacy between SC and ST population is observed. Ramesh (2013), Rukhsana and Alam (2014) were studied on variation of literacy between scheduled caste and scheduled tribes population in different regions of India.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the study are to study the circlewise disparity between SC and ST population and to compare the gender disparity of SC and ST population of Goalpara district.

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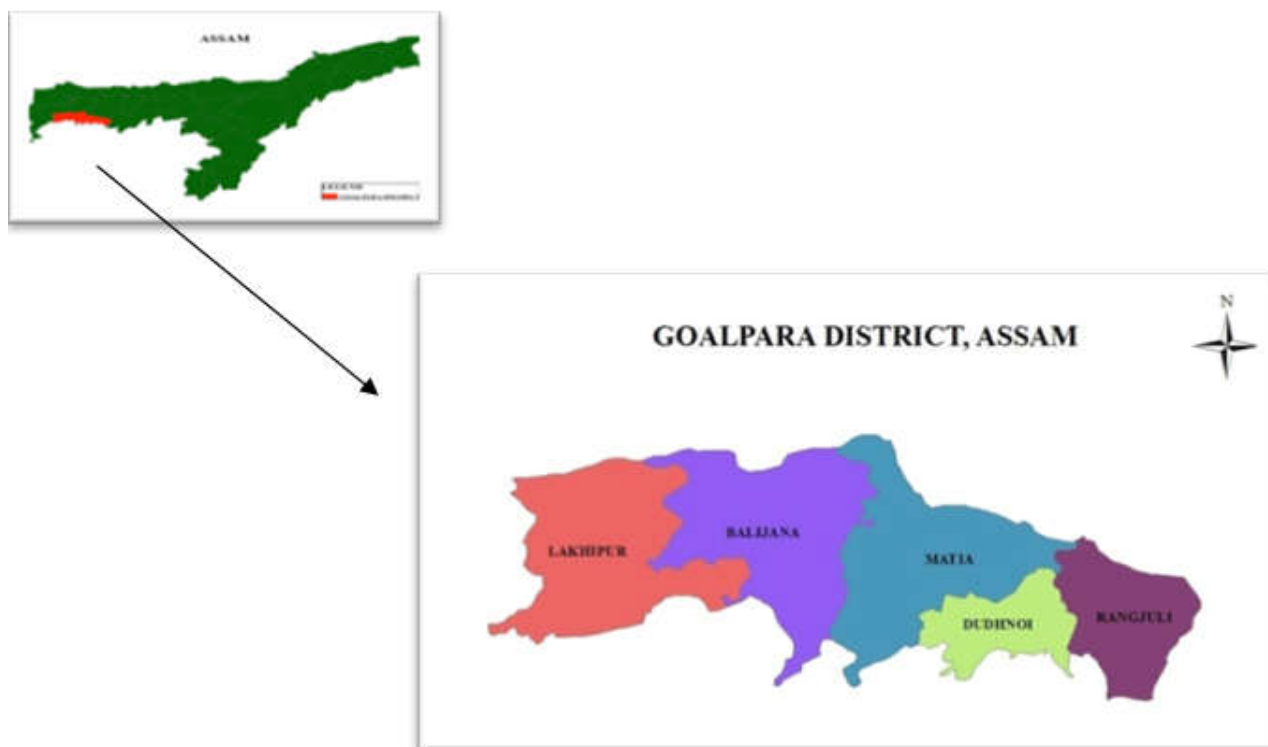
## METHODOLOGY

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

### 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>. Goalpara District is comprise of five revenue circle namely Lakhipur, Balijana, Rangjuli, Dudhnai and Matia circle and eight blocks i.e. Jaleswar, Lakhipur, Kharmuja, Balijana, Krishnai, Matia, Kushdhawa and Dudhnai with total population 755133 persons in 2011 (Map 1).



Map 1: Study Area Map

Table 1. Disparity of Total Literacy between SC and ST Population, 2001 and 2011

Years	2001		2011	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Balijana	12.83	44.83	16.12	8.22
Lakhipur	4.03	12.29	2.34	21.58
Matia	11.6	23.08	8.93	34.3
Dudhnai	5.35	66.26	5.93	87.39
Rangjuli	22.57	58.74	10.93	58.13

Source: Director of Statistics and Economics

Table 2. Disparity of Male Literacy between SC and ST Population, 2001 and 2011

Years	2001		2011	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Balijana	10.73	37.33	15.31	7.75
Lakhipur	3.72	11.01	5.79	3.08
Matia	10.26	19.83	7.72	31.69
Dudhnai	5.03	60.34	5.79	82.48
Rangjuli	20.49	53.5	16.69	54.42

Source: Director of Statistics and Economics.

Table 3. Disparity of Female Literacy between SC and ST Population, 2001 and 2011

Years	2001		2011	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Balijana	16.12	56.53	17.03	8.75
Lakhipur	4.44	13.93	3.14	14.41
Matia	13.45	27.59	8.55	21.25
Dudhnai	5.71	73.28	6.09	92.74
Rangjuli	25.14	0.64	14.34	62.45

Source: Director of Statistics and Economics

## DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the disparity of total literacy between Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of Goalpara district in

2001 and 2011. It is observed from the table that comparatively ST literacy rate is higher than the SC literacy rate. In 2001, highest ST literacy is observed in Dudhnai Circle and lowest is in Lakhipur Circle. On the other hand, Rangjuli

and Lakhipur circles shows highest and lowest SC literacy rate respectively in 2001. During 2011, highest ST literacy is observed in Dudhnai Circle with 87.39% and lowest is in Balijana circle with 8.22%. In case of SC literacy Balijana circle with 16.12% and Lakhipur circle with 2.34% has highest and lowest literacy in 2011. Table 2 represents the disparity of Male literacy between Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of Goalpara district on 2001 and 2011. In 2001 highest male literacy of ST population is found in Dudhnai circle with 60.34% and highest male literacy of SC population is found in Rangjuli circle with 20.49%. On the other hand Lakhipur (11.01%) and Lakhipur (3.72%) circles showing lowest male ST and SC literacy respectively. In 2011, Dudhnai (82.48%) and Lakhipur (3.08%) circles showing highest and lowest male ST literacy rate respectively.

In case of SC male literacy Rangjuli circle with 16.69% rank first and Lakhipur (5.79%) and Matia (5.79%) circles has lowest literacy rates. Table 3 shows the disparity of female literacy between SC and St population of Goalpara district in 2001 and 2011. Highest female literacy is observed in Dudhnai circle with 73.28% in 2001 and 92.74% in 2001 and 2011 respectively. Lowest literacy of female ST literacy is observed in Rangjuli (0.64%) and Balijana (8.75%) in 2001 and 2011 respectively. In 2001 and 2011, highest female SC literacy is observed in Rangjuli (25.14%) and Balijana (16.12%) respectively. Lowest SC female literacy is observed in Lakhipur circle (4.44%) in 2001 and again Lakhipur circle in 2011 with 3.14%.

## Conclusion

The study reveals that total ST literacy population is higher than the SC total literacy population in Goalpara district. Dudhnai circle reflected highest ST literacy rate compare to other circles because this circle has highest ST total population than the other circles of the district. Rangjuli circle reported second highest ST literacy rate. Lakhipur circle was continuing with lowest literacy rate in 2001 and 2011 in both SC and ST population. Again Rangjuli circle reported highest total SC literacy, male and female total SC literacy in Goalpara in 2001 and 2011.

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