

Demographic Trends and Socio-Economic Disparities in Kamrup District: A Case Study of Rajapat village, North Gauhati, Assam

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Demographic Trends and Socio-Economic Disparities in Kamrup District: A Case Study of Rajapat village, North Gauhati, Assam

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Abstract

This study explores the demographic profile of Kamrup Rural District, Assam, focusing on population dynamics, socio-economic characteristics, and developmental challenges. The study integrates primary and secondary data sources to analyze key indicators such as literacy rates, gender composition, occupation structures, and population distribution. Findings reveal disparities in education, gender ratios, and economic dependency on agriculture. Statistical analysis suggests a growing urban influence, yet a predominant reliance on agrarian livelihoods.

Keywords: Population dynamics; socio-economic characteristics; rural kamrup

Introduction

Understanding the demographic profile of a region is essential for informed decision-making, effective governance, and equitable development. Kamrup Rural District in Assam, a region marked by its socio-cultural diversity and rural dominance, plays a vital role in the state's socio-economic framework. Despite its significance, a holistic analysis of its demographic features remains limited, leaving critical gaps in understanding the district's population dynamics and developmental needs (Sarma,2018). Kamrup Rural District faces challenges related to population density, uneven distribution of resources, disparities in literacy and education, gender imbalances, and diverse occupational

patterns. These issues have profound implications for economic growth, healthcare delivery, educational access, and social equity. Furthermore, the district's rural character and dependence on agriculture introduce additional complexities in terms of migration trends, unemployment, and infrastructure deficits. The absence of a detailed demographic analysis limits the ability to identify vulnerable groups, prioritize developmental interventions, and align policies with the district's unique socio-economic context. This problem is compounded by the dynamic changes in population characteristics driven by factors such as urbanization, migration, and changing socio-economic behaviors, which necessitate timely and accurate data-driven insights

This paper seeks to address these gaps by providing a comprehensive analysis of the demographic profile of Kamrup Rural District. The study aims to uncover patterns and trends in population size, age and gender distribution, literacy and education levels, economic participation, and other critical indicators. By doing so, it will serve as a

foundational resource for stakeholders, enabling targeted policy formulation and sustainable development strategies that are tailored to the district's needs.

Basic Demographic profile

Kamrup district of Assam has a total population of 1,517,542 as per the Census 2011. Out of which 778,461 are males while 739,081 are females. In 2011 there were a total 311,114 families residing in Kamrup district. The Average Sex Ratio of Kamrup district is 949. As per Census 2011 out of total population, 9.4% people live in Urban areas while 90.6% live in the Rural areas. The average literacy rate in urban areas is 87.9% while that in rural areas is 74.2%. Also the Sex Ratio of Urban areas in Kamrup district is 969 while that of Rural areas is 947. The population of Children of age 0-6 years in Kamrup district is 200061 which is 13% of the total population. There are 101716 male children and 98345 female children between the age 0-6 years. Thus as per the Census 2011 the Child Sex Ratio of Kamrup is 967 which is greater than Average Sex Ratio (949) of Kamrup district. The total literacy rate of Kamrup district is 75.55%. The male literacy rate is 70.68% and the female literacy rate is 60.22% in Kamrup district (Das, 2019).

Understanding the demographic profile of Kamrup Rural District is essential for effective governance and equitable development. The district, marked by its socio-cultural diversity and rural dominance, plays a vital role in Assam's economic

framework. However, limited research on its demographic trends creates a knowledge gap. Kamrup Rural District faces challenges such as high population density (488 persons per sq. km as per Census 2011), uneven resource distribution, literacy disparities, and gender imbalances. This study seeks to bridge these gaps by providing a detailed demographic analysis to aid policy formulation.

Objectives of the Study

- Analyze population dynamics and distribution.
- Assess socio-economic indicators such as literacy, education, occupation, and income.
- Identify developmental challenges and propose policy recommendations.

Methodology and Data Sources

⁴ The study employs both primary and secondary data sources. Secondary data are collected from the Census of India, Statistical Handbooks, and research publications. Primary data are gathered from a case study in Raipat village using structured questionnaires. Data are analyzed using statistical tools and represented through charts and tables.

Geographical Background of the Study Area

Kamrup Rural District covers an area of 3,105 sq. km in western Assam. The district exhibits a mix of tribal and non-tribal populations, with agriculture as the dominant occupation. The region has a subtropical climate with significant annual rainfall (ranging from 1,500 to 2,600 mm annually).

Demographic Profile of Kamrup District

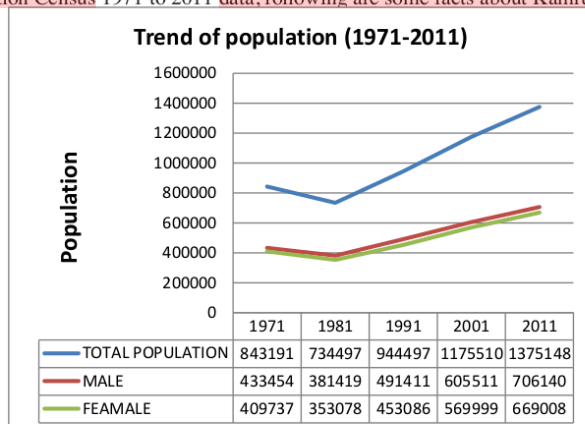
Population Size and Growth

¹ As per Census 2011, Kamrup District has a total population of 1,517,542, with 778,461 males and 739,081 females. Rural areas house 90.6% of the population, while urban areas account for 9.4%. The population density of 488 persons per sq. km highlights significant settlement concentration.

Figure 1: Urban vs Rural Population Distribution

Trend of population growth

As per the Population Census 1971 to 2011 data, following are some facts about Kamrup district.



Gender Composition and Sex Ratio The sex ratio of Kamrup District has improved from 913 females per 1000 males in 1971 to 947 in 2011. The child sex ratio (0-6 years) stands at 967, indicating a gradual positive shift in gender balance.

Literacy Rate The overall literacy rate is 75.55%, with male literacy at 81.45% and female literacy at 64.39%. Urban literacy (87.9%) is significantly higher than rural literacy (74.2%)

highlighting disparities in access to education.

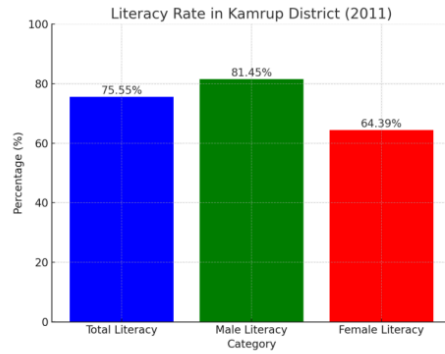


Figure 2: Literacy Rate in Kamrup District

Caste and Religious Composition Scheduled Castes (SC) constitute 7.1% and Scheduled Tribes (ST) make up 12% of the total population. The religious composition includes Hindus (57.82%), Muslims (39.66%), and Christians (2.19%).

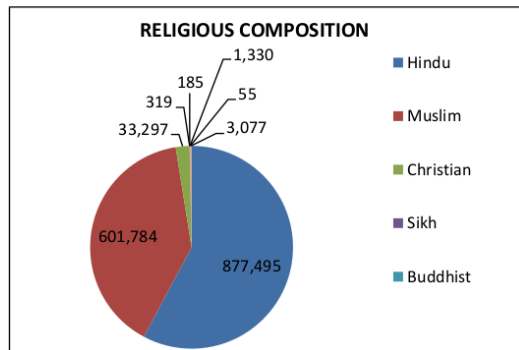


Fig 3.4: Religious composition

The Kamrup district major religious composition : Hinduism- 877,495, Muslim- 601,784, Christianity- 33,297, Sikhism-319, Buddhism- 185, Jainism- 1,330, Other religion- 55 people identifying with other religions, No religion specified- 3,077. Most of the religion people Hinduism and Muslim.

Occupational Structure Agriculture remains the primary occupation, with cultivators comprising 42%, agricultural laborers 23%, and the remaining population engaged in industries, trade, services, and transport. Over time, tertiary sector employment has increased, but agrarian reliance remains high.

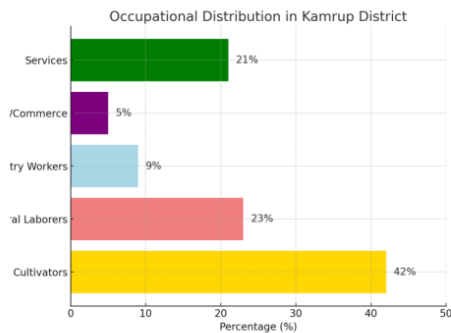


Figure 3: Occupational Distribution in Kamrup District

Case Study: Demographic Profile of Raipat Village

A socio-economic survey in Raipat village (Kamalpur block) was conducted to understand local demographic trends.

Population Composition Raipat village has approximately 2,500 people. The sex ratio is 955 females per 1000 males. Agriculture, including rice and jute cultivation, is the primary occupation.

Age Group Distribution The majority of the population falls in the 30-45 age group, while the 60-95 age group is the least represented.

Marital Status

Marital status reveals the composition of the population, including the proportion of never-married, married, divorced, separated, and widowed individuals. Marital status indicates the age of at marriage, which is essential for understanding demographic trends and planning for education, healthcare, and social services (Borah, 2020).

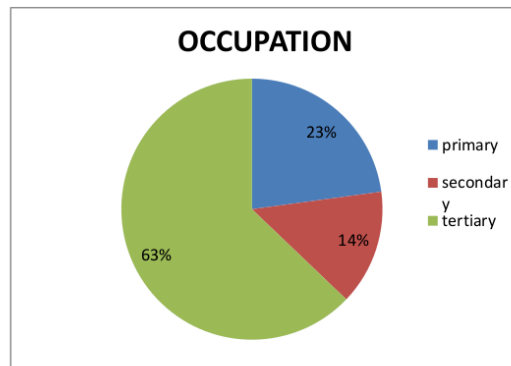
Marital status	Number of people
Married	43
Unmarried	33
Widowed	8

From the above table it is shown that women widowed 8 and married person 43 high than unmarried person.

Educational Qualification Most residents have primary-level education. Graduate and illiterate populations are relatively low, with only 12% having completed higher secondary or tertiary education.

Occupational Distribution

Occupation indicates the employment status of individuals, including full- time, part time, or self- employment. Occupation is linked to income levels, as different occupations often have varying levels of compensation. It can be seen primary sector 23%, secondary sector 14%, and tertiary 63%.It is seen that tertiary occupation are on the rise and secondary sector highly decreased.



Employment Status Private-sector employment dominates over government jobs and self-employment. 48% of the working population is employed in private enterprises, while only 8% hold government positions.

Summary and Conclusion The study highlights key demographic trends and socio-economic disparities in Kamrup District:

- Uneven population distribution and high rural dependency on agriculture.
- Gender disparities, particularly in literacy rates and workforce participation.
- Economic reliance on agriculture, with a growing tertiary sector.
- Limited access to higher education and formal employment opportunities.

Conclusion

The demographic analysis of Kamrup Rural District reveals significant insights into the socio-economic landscape of the region:

1. **Population Dynamics:** The district shows uneven population distribution, with pockets of high density, posing challenges for resource allocation and infrastructure development.
2. **Literacy and Education:** While literacy rates have improved, disparities persist, especially among women and marginalized communities, highlighting the need for targeted educational interventions.
3. **Economic Patterns:** The heavy reliance on agriculture underscores the need for diversification of livelihood options and the promotion of non-agricultural sectors.
4. **Gender Disparities:** The gender ratio and female participation in the workforce require attention to promote gender equality and economic inclusivity.

Overall, the study concludes that while Kamrup Rural District demonstrates resilience and growth potential, there are significant challenges in terms of socio-economic disparities, infrastructure gaps, and resource distribution. Addressing these issues through targeted policies and developmental strategies is essential for fostering inclusive and sustainable development in the region. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders in planning sustainable development strategies for Kamrup District.

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