



## **KOCH-RAJBANGSHI PEOPLE OF NORTH SALMARA SUB-DIVISION AND THEIR ECONOMIC TRAITS**

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### **ABSTRACT :**

*The study explores the socio-economic and cultural aspects of the Koch-Rajbongshi community residing in the North Salmara Sub-Division. Agriculture forms the mainstay of their livelihood, yet it also contributes to economic stagnation and low literacy rates. The research examines demographic traits, occupational patterns, and income–expenditure trends of the community, while also highlighting their distinctive cultural practices such as traditional attire and ornamentation. Despite post-independence development in infrastructure, education, and agriculture, the community continues to face backwardness due to poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunities, and inadequate utilization of resources. The study identifies the key factors hindering their progress and suggests possible measures for socio-economic upliftment.*

**Keywords:** Koch-Rajbongshi community; North Salmara Sub-Division; Socio-economic aspects; Cultural practices; Backwardness

### **I.Introduction:**

The North Salmara Sub-Division has been established in 1983. When the newly formed Bongaigaon District came into existence. Earlier, this Sub-Division as well as the district was a part of Goalpara District. Due to public demand and administration feasibility, the Bongaigaon District and the North Salmara Sub-Division were newly formed under the Act of Assam Legislative Assembly.

The study area, i.e. the present North Salmara Sub-Division was a small part of Great Koch-Kingdom. At the very past the area was under the reign of Maharaj Narnarayana. Later, the area was under the reign of Bijni Estate. The first owner of this estate, Raja Kumud Narayana was the 12th descendant of Maharaj Naranarayana. It is seen that before the days of



this Kumud Narayana the said area was not experienced with proper development in all respects.

In the first half of reign of Kumud Narayana, the general people of the area were shaken with a new motion of enlighten socio-economic life and it was bloomed in full in the last days of Raja Kumud Narayana. Sharing the marital life of Raja Kumud Narayana, Rani Abhayeswari came into association with him as his second wife. Upto this point each plan or programme of Raja Kumud Narayana had a positive touch of his first wife Rani Sidheswari in his first days. But after having his second wife Abhayeswari, he was seriously opposed by Rani Sidheswari. This family turmoil of Raja Kumud Narayana had affected the people of his Estate. Rani Sidheswari became almost all-in-all about the throne and started to be tyrannical. After a stormy fight for the Royal right Rani Abhayeswari had defeated. Sidheswari and crowned ownership of the estate and it was the turning point of dreamly upliftment of the Estate people's life. Setting the capital of Bijni Estate at Abhayapuri during the ending part of the last decade of 19th century, Abhayeswari started her most valuable public welfare works to be performed in different ways of civil life. She established the first High School in the area in 1904 at Abhayapuri. In the same decade a Sanskrit Tol was also established at Abhayeswari under her guidance. Following these cultural movation there were some other educational institutions in the next decades. These new experiences motivated the rural villagers towards the educated life. In a few decades of early 20th century the area, mainly around the capital Abhayapuri, which was highly settled then by the Raj-Bongshi People, had a great Socio-Cultural utliftment where the native people had gaining there new life expectation both in social and political stages. Renovation of Jamidari rules, re-orientation of different farming Acts and different favourable policies that taken by the ruler had influenced the poor people and hence the real developing scenario among the native crowds had been experienced. The local Raj-Bongshi people has also been organised in different ways for their ethnic and socio-cultural developments and it was in a breeding trend which was later bloomed.

It can be said that this is the time from which the new thoughts and assumptions about their legal right of fundamental prosperity and autonomy has been fermented and garmented and later it was seedling out to a complete sphere that we see today. Different kinds of organization for this ethnic group are, now, on the road. From this point of view it can be said



that more or less, the time from the first decade of the 20th century to the pre-independence period, is showing the conspicuous rising trend in socio-economic as well as cultural life of the Koch-Rajbongshi people of the stated area. However, the area is, presently complex on in case of its inhabitants in relation to their religion and custom.

**II. Objectives of the Study:** The main objectives in this study are -

1. To analyze the economic and demographic aspects of the Koch-Rajbongshi community and their effects on society.
2. To examine occupational patterns, income–expenditure trends, and their impact on the community.
3. To identify the causes of socio-economic backwardness and explore possible solutions.

**III. Methodology:**

Some common techniques will be used to survey the area to find out economic aspects of the inhabitants. At the pre-field work the theoretical knowledge was gathered by reading some books and journals relating to the problems.

Data collection, tabulation and analysis will form the core of this endeavour questionnaires will be prepared for the household survey. For collection of household data. Some Koch Rajbongshi community dominated villages of different parts of the Sub-Division were selected a total of ten members of villages were taken as samples, out of which two hundred household were selected for collection of data.

Three principal sources such as written records, Field survey and survey maps have been tapped for collecting relevant data concerning the study.

Written records, aiding in the present work are various type ranging from settlement reports, census handbooks, survey report etc. These are well preserve in different administrative offices. The traditional social customs. economic activities of the society have been verified by the field work.



From these analyses, the socio-cultural aspect of the Koch-Rajbongshi community of North Salmara Sub-Division has been studied.

#### **IV. Analysis and Discussion:**

North Salmara Sub-Division was created in 1983 with the formation of Bongaigaon district, earlier part of Goalpara. The name “Salmara” has two views: one links it to Lord Krishna’s killing of the demon *Salba*, the other to the abundance of *Sal* trees once covering the area. Historically, the region was part of the Koch Kingdom under Maharaj Naranarayan and later the Bijni Estate ruled by Raja Kumud Narayan and Rani Abhayeswari. Under their reign, especially Rani Abhayeswari’s initiatives, education and socio-cultural life flourished with schools, Sanskrit Tol, and reforms in farming and administration. By the early 20th century, the Koch-Rajbongshi people developed socio-economically and politically, leading to a rise in awareness of rights and autonomy.

The Koch-Rajbongshi community speaks *Koch-Rajbongshi Bhasha* (a local dialect of Tibeto-Burman origin) in daily life, though it has no script and uses Assamese script for writing. Assamese, Hindi, English, and Bengali are also used when needed.

Men traditionally wear *Angsa* or *Aosa*, while for festivals they use *dhoti*, shirts, or trousers. Women wear *Patani* or *Mekhela*, and younger women use *Mekhela-Chaddar* with blouse. During winters, *Endi Chaddar (pachara)* is common. Bengali Rajbongshis prefer saree-blouse for women and dhoti-punjabi for men.

Women wear ornaments on neck, nose, ear, forehead, wrist, waist, and leg—made from gold, silver, or brass. Married women wear *shankha* (conch bangles) and apply *sindur*. Men use *Lagoon* (thread across the body) and silver rings.

Rice is staple. About 99% are non-vegetarian, consuming fish, meat (except beef), and eggs, along with pulses and vegetables. Special dishes include *sukati*, *sidal*, *khoriha*, *kolakhar*, *patao*, *cheka sak*, etc. They also eat rice products (*chira*, *muri*, *pitha*), curd, milk, and sweets. Tea is the main beverage, though some consume alcohol; smoking and betel nut chewing are common.

The community is rich in folk traditions like *Kushan Nritya*, *Deodhani Nritya*, *Biya Geet*, *Dhuani Geet* etc. Major rituals include *Bash Puja*, *Hudum Puja*, *Katika Puja*, *Charak Puja*, *Kechaikhaiti Puja*, and *Garza Puja*. Many are linked to agriculture—*Kechaikhaiti* before



cultivation, *Garza* before harvest, and *Hudum Puja* for rain. Some practices, like *Hudum Puja* and *Katika Puja*, are disappearing but their songs and dances remain alive.

## ECONOMIC TRAITS OF POPULATION

### Manpower and workforce

The Koch Rajbonshi community living in the North Salmara Sub-Division is poor in workforce, though it has a big amount of manpower. About 64.5% of the total population in the district is of working age group. But the percentage of workers to total population is only 39.45. Among the workers 23.03% is main workers and 16.42% is marginal workers. A greater number of women population of working age group are still engaged in household duties. Moreover, many of the boys and girls of working age group have to spend their time without work because of lack of proper job.

The existing workforce of the community in the Sub-Division is dominated by the male members. About 53% of the total male population is engaged in works. Among them 35% is main workers and 18% is marginal workers. Female workforce is comparatively low in number Fig-4.1(1). According to the survey conducted by the researcher, the percentage of female workers to the total female population is only 24.07. the number of main workers among the female workers is very few. Only 9.81% of the total female workers is engaged in main works. The rest are marginal workers. Household duty, lack of education and mobility, age-old social customs of the society etc. are the main cause of the lower number of female workforce. Number of male workforce also not satisfactory. The table 4.1(A) shows the workforce of the community living in the North Salmara Sub-Division [Fig 4.1(1)]

Table 4.1 (A) : Workforce of the Koch-Rajbongshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

| Categories                            | Manpower or population of working age group | Total workers | Main workers | Marginal workers | Non workers |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| P.C. to total population              | 64.43                                       | 39.45         | 23.03        | 16.42            | 60.54       |
| P.C. of male to total male population | 63.31                                       | 53.49         | 35.09        | 18.39            | 46.50       |



|   |       |       |      |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| P.C. of female to total female population | 65.65 | 24.07 | 9.81 | 14.26 | 75.92 |
|---|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|

Source : Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09.

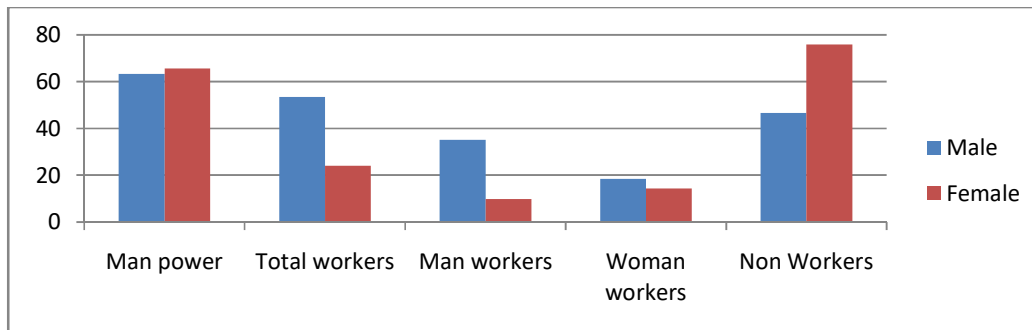


Table 4.1 (1) : Workforce of the Koch-Rajbongshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

### Employment Status

Employment status of the community is very poor. Only 36.45% of the total population is employed. Among them 23.03% is fully employed and 16.42% is under employed. Percentage of unemployed people is 29.97. About 53.5% of the total employed is male. Number of female employee are still very few in comparison to male employee. Though the number of male employee is higher than that of female, many of the economically active young people are still have to remain without proper job. On the other hand, most of the employed are engaged in primary activities. People, employed in Govt. Services are very few in number. It is only 11.61% of the total employed people. From the table 4.2 (B) it is clearly seen that the rank of employed of the community in Govt. Services is very poor. Most of them are employed in services of 4th grade. So from the analysis it can be concluded that the community is very poor in secondary and tertiary activities. Their income coming from service sector is not satisfactory. The table no. 4.2(A) and 4.2 (B) shows the employment status of the community.

Table 4.2 (A) : Employment status of the Koch-Rajbonshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

| Categories | Total population of working are group | Total employed | Fully employed | Under employ ed | Unemployed | Population of non working age group |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
|            |                                       |                |                |                 |            |                                     |



|                                 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| P.C. to total population        | 64.43 | 39.45 | 23.03 | 16.42 | 25.70 | 35.56 |
| P.C. to total male population   | 63.32 | 53.49 | 35.09 | 18.39 | 9.82  | 36.68 |
| P.C. to total female population | 65.65 | 24.07 | 9.81  | 14.26 | 41.58 | 34.34 |

Source: Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09.

Table 4.2 (B) : Employment status of the Koch-Rajbonshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

| P.C. of total Govt. Employee |        |       | P.C. of employee in grade-I services |        |       | P.C. of employee in Grade-II services |        |       | P.C. of employee in Grade-III services |        |       | P.C. of employee in Grade-IV services |        |       |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Male                         | Female | Total | Male                                 | Female | Total | Male                                  | Female | Total | Male                                   | Female | Total | Male                                  | Female | Total |
| 89.61                        | 10.39  | 100   | 1.2                                  | -      | 1.2   | 5.45                                  | 2.59   | 8.04  | 22.51                                  | 3.46   | 25.97 | 60.02                                 | 4.33   | 64.35 |

Source: Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09

Existing of child labour is another important characteristic features of the society. About 7% of the total child i.e. people of non-working age group, of the community is engaged in different works in different places such as tea stall, hotel, garage, etc. Some of them engaged in works to other families. Many of the male child found engaged him daily labour also. Among the Childs labour 68.18% of the total is male Moreover, most of the child have found engaged in different domestics works of their own family Fig-4.2 (1). This higher number of child. labour indicates the backward economic conditions of the community.

### Occupational Structure

The working population constitutes 37.79% to the total population in the Sub-Division. Among them 68.58% is male and 31.41% is female, while non-workers groups is dominated by the female. It thus present an example of traditional economy where females are still confined to indoor domestic works, leaving the entire burden of earning livelihood to the male members of the family. This result in problem of under employment amongst the females and leads to lesser per capita income and low standard of living. The predominance of cultivators in the working force (39.59%) to total working



force, proves the overwhelming importance of agriculture which is the main source of livelihood of the community in the Sub-Division. Agricultural labourers comprise 3.15% of the total working force in the district. A declining trend is noticed in their percentage in the vicinity of towns and market centers have to the availability of non farm opportunities. As a result an increasing trend of daily labourers is found amongst the people in the Sub-Division. Daily labourers comprises 31.09% of the total workers. It is also an indication of landlessness of the cultivators. Service sector comprises 19.49% of the total workers, while the business sector comprises only 8.05% of the total workers. This lower number of tertiary workers indicates the traditional form of economy of the community. The occupational structure of the community shown in the table-4.3 (A)

Table 4.3 (A): Occupational structure of the Koch Rajbanshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

| Categories                         | P.C. of workers to total population |        |       | P.C. of workers to total workers |        |       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|
|                                    | Male                                | Female | Total | Male                             | Female | Total |
| Total worker                       | 26.91                               | 11.87  | 37.79 | 68.58                            | 31.41  | 99.99 |
| Cultivator                         | 7.48                                | 7.56   | 15.04 | 19.80                            | 19.79  | 39.59 |
| Business                           | 2.79                                | 0.26   | 3.05  | 7.37                             | 0.68   | 8.05  |
| Service                            | 6.98                                | 0.39   | 7.37  | 18.44                            | 1.05   | 19.49 |
| Agricultural labour                | .24                                 | 0.95   | 1.19  | 0.63                             | 2.52   | 3.15  |
| Daily labour                       | 9.75                                | 2.01   | 11.76 | 25.77                            | 5.32   | 31.09 |
| Construction works                 | 0.35                                | 0.02   | 0.37  | 0.94                             | 0.05   | 0.99  |
| House hold industry                | 0.02                                | 0.01   | 0.03  | 0.05                             | 0.02   | 0.07  |
| Livestock                          | 0.07                                | 0.00   | 0.07  | 0.21                             | 0.00   | 0.21  |
| Processing Servicing and repairing | 0.04                                | 0.00   | 0.04  | 0.11                             | 0.00   | 0.11  |
| Transport and communicatio         | 0.17                                | 0.00   | 0.17  | 0.47                             | 0.00   | 0.47  |
| Other                              | 0.19                                | 0.34   | 0.53  | 0.53                             | 0.89   | 1.42  |

Source : Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09.

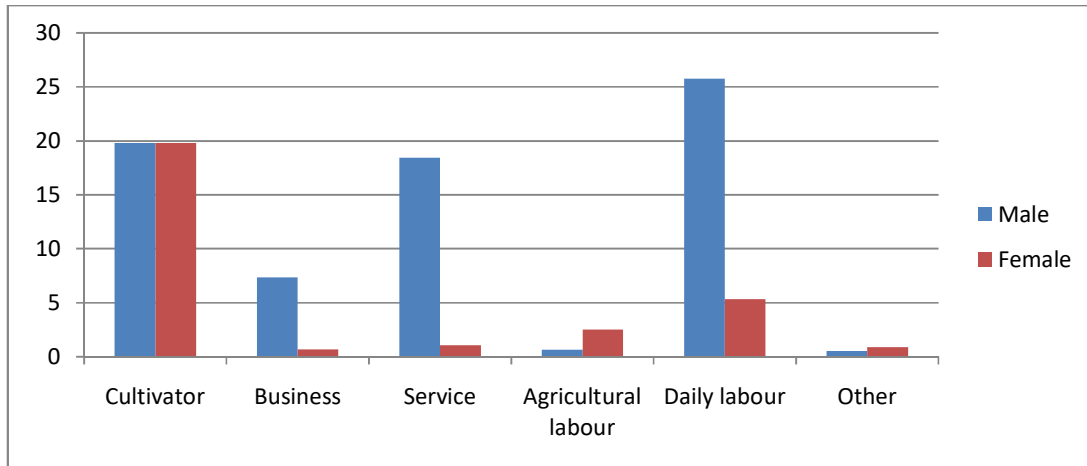


Fig 4.3 (1): Occupational composition of the Koch Rajbongshi in North Salmara Sub-Division (2008-09)

#### **Income and Expenditure pattern:**

The level of income of the community in the sub-division is very poor. The total income provided by different sectors like agricultural, business, service, daily labourers, etc. are not satisfactory in comparison to their number of workers.

The major part of the total income of the community provided by the service sector. This sector provided 35.84% of the total income. In this sector, 19.49% of the total workers engaged. But their income is only 35.84% of the total which is very low comparatively. This is because of higher number of 4th grade employee amongst the total service holder.

The main occupation of the community is agriculture. But the income from this sector is only 15.31% of the total wherein the percentage of workers is 39.59 to total. In comparison to the number of workers, the income is very low, Traditional method of agriculture, lack of irrigation facilities, and landlessness are the main causes of the low productivity in the agricultural sector.

Daily labourers provided comparatively a big part of the total income. 18.20% of the total income provided by this sector. But in comparison to the number of daily labourers. (31.09% to total workers) the total earnings of this sector is not satisfactory. This is because of not getting of wages according to the government wage rate. So, the total income pattern of the community is very low in comparison to the number of workers. The per capita income of the community is very low. It is only Rs. 97.00. The total income pattern is shown in the table 4.4 (A)



Table 4.4 (A) : Annual income pattern of the Koch Rajbanshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

| Sector             | P.C. to total income | P.C. of total income |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture        | 16.31                | 58.71                |
| Service            | 36.84                | 132.62               |
| Business           | 10.85                | 39.06                |
| Daily labourer     | 20.70                | 74.52                |
| Pension            | 8.82                 | 31.75                |
| Household industry | 1.15                 | 4.14                 |
| Other              | 5.34                 | 19.22                |

Source: Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09.

$$\text{Per capital income} = \frac{\text{Total income} - \text{Total expenditure}}{\text{Total population}}$$

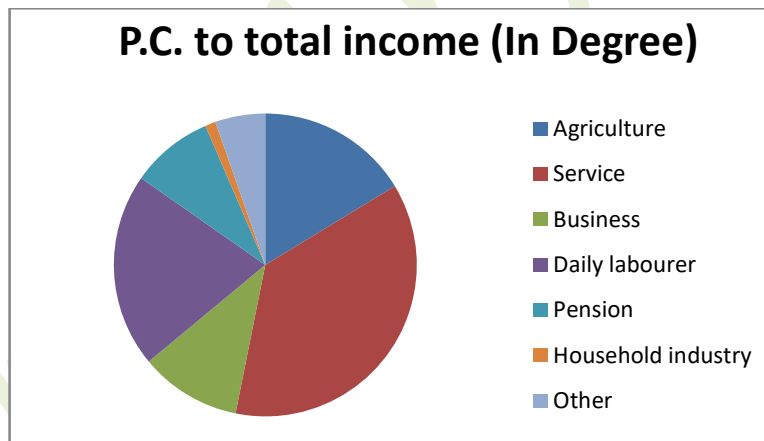


Table 4.4 (1) : Annual income pattern of the Koch Rajbanshi community in the North Salmara Sub-Division 2008-09.

In comparison to income, the expenditure is very high. The major part (74.7% to total expenditure) of the total expenditure is expended for foodstuff, whereas, the amount of expenditure in purpose of medical treatment and education are only 4.13% and 3.48% respectively (see table 4.4 (2) and Fig 4.4 (B) Transportation covers 4.87% only the total expenditure. For clothing, people are able to spend only 6.67% of their total expenditure. Table -4.4 (B)



| Categories                               | Percentage of Total expenditure | Percentage of total expenditure in degree |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Fooding                                  | 74.72                           | 268.99                                    |
| Clothing                                 | 6.67                            | 24.01                                     |
| Transportation                           | 4.87                            | 17.53                                     |
| Education                                | 3.48                            | 12.53                                     |
| Medical treatment                        | 3.13                            | 11.26                                     |
| Housing                                  | 3.03                            | 10.90                                     |
| Luxurious goods                          | 1.44                            | 5.18                                      |
| Religious function and festival purposes | 1.03                            | 3.71                                      |
| Others                                   | 1.65                            | 5.94                                      |

Source : Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09.

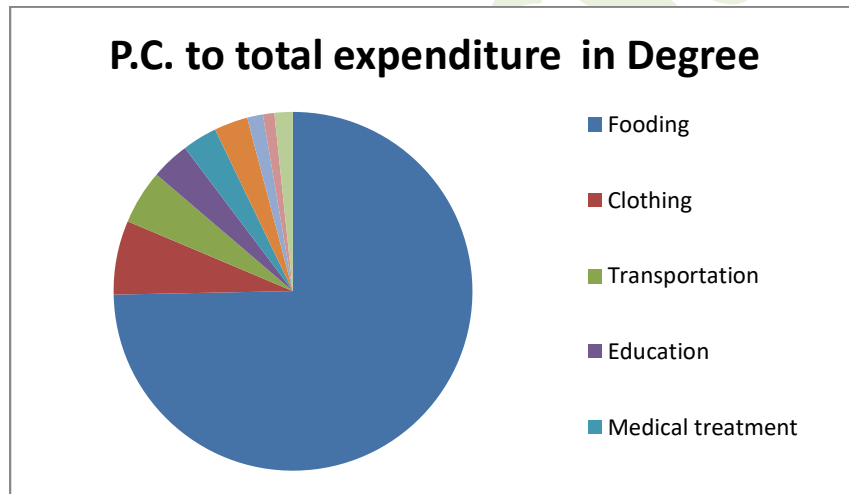


Table 4.4 (2) : Annual expenditure pattern of the Koch Rajbonshi community in North Salmara Sub-Division (2008-09).

From the income and expenditure pattern of the community living in the sub-division, it is clearly seen that the living standard of the community is very poor. Per capita income is found Rs. 97.00 only. This is an index of very poor economic condition. People have to spend a major part of their income for fooding and clothing. As a result, they are unable to spare money for education, house construction etc. For the low level of income people have to suffer from poor health, high infant mortality, low life and work expectancy.



#### 4.5 Agriculture

The main occupation of the Koch Rajbanshi community inhabited in the North salmara is agriculture. The climatic condition of the subdivision is controlled by the monsoon winds. Topographically the subdivision is consist of hills, 'tilas', comparatively uplands and "Croplands" Most of the people belongs to the Koch Rajbanshi community inhabited in the upland areas. These areas are comparatively less fertile and low productive. Yet, the livelihood of the community depends mainly on agriculture. But the per household and per capita cultivable land averages area very low, 1.64 and 0.26 acres respectively. Similarly the lack of irrigational facilities, obsolete methods of farming, indebtedness and illiteracy amongst farmers, less use of quality seeds, fertilizers and insecticides the lack of socialistic and tenure system have their ullocks le effects in undermining the conditions of agriculture. It is therefore, imperative that with the improvement in farming techniques, use of HYV of seeds, chemical fertilizers, insecticides et new land reforms should be enacted to improve the conditions of agriculture in the area.

#### 4.6 Cropping Pattern

The cropping pattern practiced by the Koch Rajbanshi community in the subdivision is typical of an under developed agricultural economy in which most of the cultivated area is devoted to subsistent food crops mainly for self consumption, while the cash crops received only a negligible percentage of the average farm. According to the surveyed year 2008-09 about 71% of the total cultivated land of the study area is devoted to food crops while cash crops like oil seeds, sugarcane jute etc. record a percentage of about 10 only.

Of the two cropping seasons, the Kharif season (summer crops season) is given more importance by the community. Kharif crops mainly 'Sali rice' cover an area of about 68% of the total cultivated area, while the other major part covered by the "Rabi crops" (21%) and plantation agriculture (11%). Rabi crops can be subdivided again into two groups. Oilseeds, pulses and some kinds of vegetables Fig 5.0 (1) are grown in the early part of winter season and harvested in the mid winter season, while others such as jute, some kinds of vegetables, "Ahu" rice are sown in the month of February, March and April and harvested in early and mid summer season. "Bao" rice (one kind of Kharif crops), and sugarcane are sown in the month of March/April and harvested in the early winter season. Amongst the kharif crops, the summer



rice, generally known as "Sali" rice, which is the principal food crops of the community is sown in the summer season and harvested in the early winter season.

#### 4.7 Agricultural innovations and its impact

From the study it is found that the farmers belongs to the Koch Rajbangshi community are not impacted by the modernized agricultural methods. Uses of HYV seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides etc are not adequate, Cropping pattern is traditional. Use of improved seeds also not adequate. The farmers are not conscious about the applications of insecticides and pesticides. This is because of lack of education and agricultural facilities.

Uses of modern agricultural instrument are not adequate, because of fragmented land holdings of the farmers and unplanned agricultural fields, lack of irrigation facilities, etc. Poor economic condition of farmers also the cause of unutilization of modern agricultural instrument. Therefore, the traditional methods are still followed by the farmers. The plough and the pair of Bullocks are the main implements of the farmers [see fig. 5.0 (3)]. A very few farmer uses tractor or power tiller partly. Majority of the products carried from the fields by the farmers either on shoulder Fig 5.0 (4) or on head or "Thela". A very few farmer still uses bullock car to carry agricultural products. From the above analysis we may conclude that no impacts of modern innovations in agriculture in the study area have found. Still it is based on traditional method. The table 5.0 (A) shows the status of agricultural method of the community.

Table 5.0 (A): Status of agricultural methods practiced by the Koch Rajbangshi community in the subdivision 2008-09.

| Categories                                 | Application | P.C. of farmers to total formers |
|--|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Application of chemical fertilizers        | Fully       | 2.57                             |
|  | Partly      | 30.80                            |
|  | Totally Not | 66.62                            |
| Application of insecticides and pesticides | Fully       | 2.33                             |
|  | Partly      | 24.32                            |
|  | Totally Not | 73.34                            |
| Use of HYV and improved seeds              | Fully       | -                                |
|  | Partly      | 6.26                             |



|                                      |             |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
|                                      | Totally Not | 93.74 |
| Application of crop rotation methods | Fully       | -     |
|                                      | Partly      | 5.03  |
|                                      | Totally Not | 94.97 |
| Use of tractor or power tiller       | Fully       | -     |
|                                      | Partly      | 3.80  |
|                                      | Totally Not | 96.20 |

Source: Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09

#### 4.8 Land use pattern

Landholdings of the community is very small. Most of the family (58.91% of the total family) hold lands less than 4 bighas (1.25 acre). Only 5% of the total family hold above 10 bighas (3.12 acre) of land. The main occupation of the community is agriculture. About 93% of the total land area uses for agriculture. Housing lands cover about 5% of the total land area. Most of the land area uses for Kharif Crops, mainly for rice. About 65% of the total land area uses for rice cultivation. Comparatively uplands are uses for Rabi crops. Like master seed, vegetables such as potato, tomato, etc. A very few amount of land uses for jute and sugarcane cultivation. About 10.5% of the total land uses for plantation agriculture like betel nut, tea, rubber, banana, etc. Table 4(A) and fig... 4.0(1) shows the landuse pattern of the community in the subdivision.

Table 4(A): Pattern of land area used by the community in the North Salmara subdivision 2008-09.

| Categories                   | P.C. to total land area | P.C. to total land area in degree |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rice land                    | 64.90                   | 233.64                            |
| Crop land other than rice    | 9.70                    | 34.92                             |
| Land area for vegetables     | 8.00                    | 28.80                             |
| Plantation agricultural land | 10.41                   | 37.50                             |
| House building land          | 4.50                    | 16.20                             |
| Other                        | 2.54                    | 9.14                              |

Source : Surveyed by the researcher 2008-09.

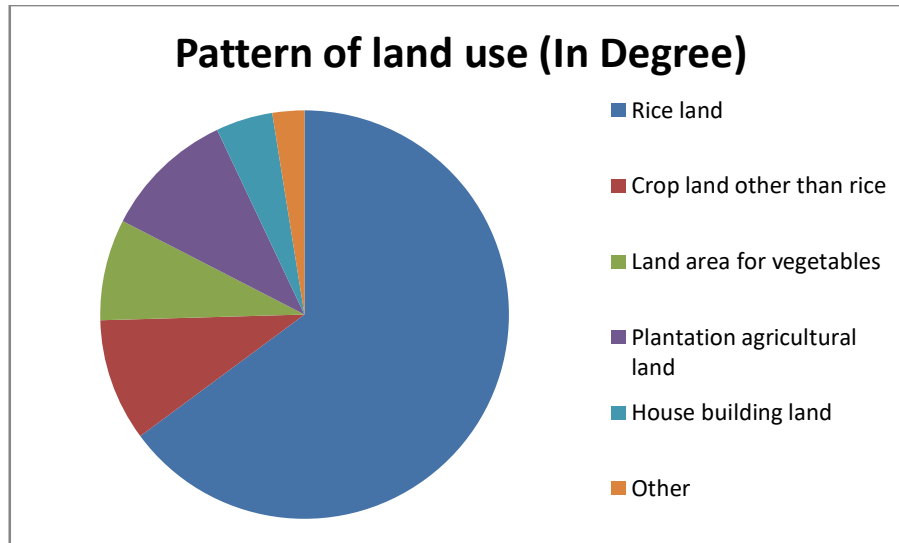


Fig 4.0 (1) : Pattern of land area use by the Koch Rajbongshi community in North Salmara Sub-Division (2008-09)

## V. Conclusion:

The study focuses on the socio-cultural aspects of the Koch Rajbongshi community in North Salmara Sub-Division and their role in socio-economic transformation. Agriculture is the main occupation but also a cause of economic stagnation and low literacy. The community uses both traditional and modern dress—men wear *dhoti*, *shirts*, *angsa*, while women wear *mekhela*, *patani*, and ornaments such as *earrings*, *necklaces*, *bangles*, and *nose rings*. Despite post-independence development in roads, education, health, and agriculture, progress remains slow due to population growth, poor policies, lack of opportunities, and weak infrastructure. The community continues to face economic, educational, and cultural backwardness, with problems like poverty, poor health, unemployment, and landlessness.

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