

CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH DESIGN

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CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH DESIGN

1.1 Introduction

Socio-Economic philosophers of the eighteen century were much concerned about development, which according to them must be evaluated on the basis of how far it has been succeeded in enhancing the quality of human life (UNDP, 1990: 9). However, by the middle of the nineteen century when Development Economics had emerged as a full- fledged branch of Economic Science, in development debates, income and investment occupied the prime positions ignoring how far they have succeeded in changing the human life. From the experience of several countries by last twenty century it has been realized that there is no automatic link between the level of income and the state of human welfare, and which had prompted the socio-economic experts to look for alternative development paradigms, leading to the emergence of the human development approach to measure quality of life. In short, human development refers to the expansion of people's choices by enhancing their capabilities and functioning. Human Development is not a new concept, the thoughts and writings of early leaders of political and economic thoughts like Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, Adam Smith, Robert Malthus, Karl Marx gave prominence to this concept. The concept of human development assumed its popularity since 1990, the first publication of Human Development Report by the United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP).

Gross National Product (GNP) as a monetary measure of growth can not represent true index of quality of life in the society. Nature and quality of production and expenditures, nature of economic growth are beyond the GNP measure. So many aspects which has a close relationship with human welfare; non monetized activities like household services, unpaid services, subsistence agriculture etc. are not included in GNP measure. The aspects of human development, i.e. social, cultural and political choices are not within the orbit of GNP. Unless proper care is taken, there is no automatic translation of income in to the well being of the society. Pakistani Economist, Nobel laureate Mahbub Ul Haq challenged the conventional wisdom and

asserted that there is no automatic link between economic growth and human development. Economic growth is necessary, but not a sufficient condition for human progress. Government needs to actively focus on human development goals and direct and use their resources efficiently so that economic growth leads to the empowerment of people **(Haq, 1996)**.

Saudi Arabia with per capita income higher by 16 times than Srilanka, but performed very less in terms of literacy rate and life expectancy. Brazil had Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) 4 times higher than Jamaica though Brazil enjoys twice the per capita income. Oman had higher per capita income, by 3 times than Costarica but had only 1/3rd of literacy and fewer years of life expectancy; and the country also lacks most political and economic freedoms. Costarica had achieved same impressive level of human development though it has only ½ of the income of Korea. Vietnam achieved much in the sphere of human development though it has same level of income with Pakistan. Therefore, links are not automatic but can be established only through strong and effective government intervention in the social sector **(UNDP, 1996)**.

In the context of India's scenario, it has been observed that Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh achieved highest level of human development index despite relatively modest level of income, while Punjab and Haryana having substantially high income could attain lower than Kerala and Tamil Nadu in terms of human development. On the other hand, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka have differences in terms of economic development aspects, but their achievements in terms of human development are somewhat moderate **(NHDR, 2002)**.

In the case of Assam and North Eastern Region (NER) too, as per Assam Human Development Report (AHDR) 2014, Dima Hasao District attained more or less same Human Development Index (HDI) values with Kamrup (Metro) though its annual per capita income is even less than half of the annual per capita income of Kamrup Metro. Though the state of Nagaland has a annual per capita income of less than half of the Arunachal Pradesh, it attained much higher HDI value of 0.574 than the Arunachal Pradesh with 0.427 North East Region Human Development Report **(NERHDR) 2011**.

1.2 Human Development: Conceptual Clarification

The quality of life of the people in the society, in the present days is measured by the human development indicators rather than to measure it by economic indicators. The concept of human development signifies improvement in the quality of life of the people in terms of various health and educational indicators, through betterment of health, education & skills. Human development creates human capabilities that can then lead to productivity enhancement and acceleration in economic growth. The concept of human development is much broader; it considers human being not as a means but as an end of all development process. Human Development refers to the expansion of people's choices by enhancing their capabilities and functioning's. It aims at enabling environment in which people's capabilities can be enhanced and the range of their choices expanded. Capability expansion and the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are different; they are linked but not identical. All efforts at economic development are directed towards the people and their well-being who are considered to be the main objective of economic growth, and are treated merely as agents of economic development of a nation. The quality of life of the people in the society necessitates an economic development with a proper distribution of resources between the present as well as for the future generations. Thus, the concept of human development encompasses the welfare of not only the present generation, but the future generation as well (**UNDP, HDR 1995**).

The aspect of human development needs to consider both production and distribution of commodities; expansion of human capabilities in the society. Human development analyses all issues in society – whether economic growth, trade, employment, political freedom or cultural values from the perspective of people. It thus focuses on enlarging people's choices and it applies equally to both developing and industrial countries. Thus, the aspect of human development maintains not only sustained economic development, but also its quantitative and distributive aspects of human means. Most importantly, the relationship of economic development with human being and the quality of their life depends upon the attainment in the aspects of human development indicators.

The dimensions of human development can be classified between the two aspects. First, it represents the aspects of improved condition of health, knowledge and

skills which reveals the formation of human capabilities of the people; and second, it represents the aspects of optimal use of acquired capabilities for being active in cultural, social and political life. If the scales of human development do not balance, frustration appears in the society. In this sense income is clearly one of the options that people would like to have, though it is not the sum total of lives. Thus, when the countries aim at achieving higher economic development, it must focus on these two aspects. Development must, therefore, be more than just the expansion of income and wealth; its focus must be on people (**HDR, 1990**).

While attaining a desirable human development, the aspect of gender inequality in terms of economic, social and political decisions need to be addressed. There are four major elements in the concept of human development such as Productivity, Equity, Sustainability and Empowerment (**UNDP, 1995**). The objective should be focused on enhanced capabilities, the creativity and productivity of people so that they become effective agents of economic growth and development. Economic growth must be combined with equitable distribution of its benefits. Equitable opportunities must be available to present and future generation. Development should increase people's choices with two important implications. First, while enhancing the choices of one individual or a section of a society, should not restrict the choices of another. This calls for equity in human relationships. Second, while improving the lives of the present generation should not mortgage the choices of future generations (**UNDP, 1991**). In other words, the development process must be sustainable. The concept of human development has gone beyond its basic premises to emphasize sustainability of the development process. It does not only put the people at the center of the development process but also advocates protection of the opportunities of future generations and in respect of natural system on which all life system depends. Sustainable human development addresses both equity within the generation and among the generations enabling all generations, present and future, to make the best use of their capabilities; and thus, improves the quality of life of the people in a society.

The issue of sustainability has three dimensions such as capacity, environment and institutions. If the development process does not create institutions fully supportive of people's rights, it cannot be sustainable in the long run. Human

development thus emphasizes strengthening the institutions of both government and civil society so that the entire development process becomes internally sustainable (**HDR, 1995**). All these approaches have emphasized the need for people-centered development, with concerns for human empowerment, participation, gender equality, equitable growth, poverty reduction and long-term sustainability (**HDR, 1998**). According to Haq, “there are two different schools concerning economic growth and human development. The first one exclusively concerned on the expansion of single choice, i.e. income; and the second one stresses on the enlargement of all types of human choices whether it is economic, social, cultural or political aspect (**Haq, 1996**).

1.2.1 Definition of Human Development

The term human development is not really new. Right from the early days of civilization, scholars and philosophers have doubted the validity of the notion of acquisition of national wealth as the goal of human society.

Aristotle has argued that wealth is evidently not the good we are seeking for it is merely useful and for the sake of something else. He distinguished a good political arrangement from a bad one by its successes and failure in enabling people to lead “flourishing lives” (**Aristotle, 1946**).

Immanuel Kant precedes the tradition of creating human beings as the real end of all activities. As argued in the UNDP global HDR of 1990, the concept of Human Development has been conceived first and foremost as an alternative vision to the prevailing development paradigms of the time.

Arthur Lewis defined the purpose of development as widening the range of human choice, as did the first HDR in 1991. The difference was that Lewis tended to equate wider choice merely with greater income and had more faith that economic growth would inevitably lead to human development (**UNDP, 1991**).

Abraham Lincoln opines that human development means the development of the people, for the people, by the people. The term ‘of the people’ implies adequate income generation through jobs and the generation of primary incomes; ‘for the people’ implies social services for those who need help and the generation of secondary income and by the people means participation. It could also be interpreted as the economic, social and political dimensions of development.

James D Wolfenson argues, “The realizations of the economy are build not merely through the accumulation of physical capital and human skills, but on a foundation of information learning and adoption as because knowledge matters in understanding how people and society acquire and use knowledge; and why they sometimes fail to do so is essential for the improvement of people’s lives, especially the lives of the poor.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) observed that the progress of nations will be judged not by their military or economic strength, nor by the splendor of their capital cities and public buildings, but by the well-being of their people, by their levels of health, nutrition and education, by their opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labors (**UNICEF, 1994**).

Amartya Kumar Sen has defined Development in terms of an expansion in ‘Capabilities’ and ‘Entitlement’. Capabilities refer to what a person can (not) do or can (not) be. Similarly entitlement refers to freedom from hunger, being free to participate in the political process, being adequately sheltered, access to health and education etc.

World Development Report (WDR) 1980 indicated that the qualities of people have an important influence on the prosperity and growth of the nation. It implies that human beings are the sources of ideas, decisions and actions on investment, innovations and other opportunities. The report also recognized four aspects of human development namely education, nutrition, health and fertility control (**WDR, 1980**).

In brief, the concept of human development is not new and its roots can be traced back to Aristotle who pleaded the government for promoting the “flouring lives” of the people. Over the years, however, new dimensions have been added which have made the concept a much broader in terms of scope, coverage, measurement and approach.

1.2.2 Measurement of Human Development

The measurement of human development concept is important in the ranking of countries based on their human development since its inception, several new and refined methods are being used to compute human development and the same have

been consolidated within the human development paradigm. However, the following indices deserve a special mentioning since they are the widely accepted indicators.

1.2.3 Human Development Index (HDI)

HDI is an index used to rank countries by level of 'human development, which usually implies whether a country is developed, developing or underdeveloped. It is composite index which measures the average achievement of a country in three basic dimensions of human development. These basic dimensions are represented by a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The first dimension is measured by life expectancy at birth; second is measured by the adult literacy rate and the combined gross enrolment ratio. The third component is measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, PPP US\$. These three indicators are also having three indices and these indices are: life expectancy (health) index, education (knowledge) index and the GDP or income index. The health status is measured by life expectancy; knowledge is represented by literacy and the school enrolment ratio and per capita income by the GDP at PPP rates in US dollars.

Now to calculate, HDI one has to create an index for each of the three dimensions. However, over the years certain changes are taking place in construction methodology of HDI. In human development report (HDR, 2010) UNDP has used mean years of schooling (MYS) and expected years of schooling (EYS) to calculate the educational attainment index and GNP per capita (PPP, US\$) to calculate standard of living index or income index. Maximum and minimum values (goalposts) are set in order to transform the indicators into indices between '0 to 1'. Having defined the maximum and minimum values, the HDI is constructed by the formula:

$$HDI = \sqrt[3]{I_1 * I_2 * I_3}$$

Where, I_1 (Health Index) and I_2 (Education Index) are constructed by using the formula:

$$I = \frac{\text{Actual Value (X)} - \text{Minimum Value(X)}}{\text{Maximum Value(X)} - \text{Minimum Value(X)}}$$

And the Income Index (I_3) is constructed by using the formula:

$$\text{Income Index} = \frac{\log(\text{Actual Income}) - \log(\text{Minimum level Income})}{\log(\text{Maximum level Income}) - \ln(\text{Minimum level Income})}$$

Thus, HDI is the geometric mean of the three dimensional indices, that is, **Health Index, Education Index and Income Index.**

1.2.4 Dimensions of Human Development Indices: Old and New

Over the years, certain changes are made in construction of methodology of HDI. Both old and new HDI used three dimensions of development, namely: the dimensions of health, knowledge and income. There was no addition to the existing dimensions in the revised HDI.

(1) Dimensional Index of Health

In the dimension of health, both the indices (old and new) used the life expectancy at birth, the summary measure of health. The justification of life expectancy at birth in representing the health dimension is on the ground of the intrinsic value of longevity, the association of long life with adequate nutrition, good health and education and its linkages with other values goals (**UNDP, 1990**). In the new index, the lower bound of life expectancy has reduced from 25 to 20 years and the upper bound has reduced from 85 to 82.5 years. The lower limit of life expectancy (new) of 20 years was based on long run historical trends and the upper limit was based on the observed values of Japan (2010). The methodology in the construction of a dimensional index of health remained the same. However, in the study area as analyzed in the chapter-5, since data on life expectancy is not available, infant mortality (IMR) less than 1 year of age has been used in the construction of HDI for the study area. Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths in the first year of child's life per 1000 live births. It is an important social indicator reflecting the status of public health in the country specially the status of women and child health. Generally in developing countries there is widespread poverty along with high level of illiteracy and combined with traditional and cultural factors lead to a higher level of infant mortality. It is a reflection of whether the population has access to health facilities adequately and Government succeeded while executing the policies effectively. Thus, infant mortality rate has been used instead of life expectancy rate in the calculation of dimensional index of health and human development index in present study.

(2) Dimensional Index of Knowledge

There are remarkable changes with respect to the methodology used in the construction of the dimensional index of knowledge. In the old index, the knowledge index was created by assigning two-third weight to adult literacy and one-third weight to the gross enrolment ratio (GER). In the new index, the variables are replaced by MYS and EYS. The mean years of schooling was calculated for people 25 years and older who received some education in their lifetime. The second variable used in the construction of the new index, 'expected years of schooling'. EYS represents expected number of years of schooling of a school entrance age child to receive in his or her life, if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates continue. EYS are calculated for children in the age group (6 to 18) who are currently enrolled in school. The main objective of this indicator is to know the overall level of development of an educational system in terms of the average number of years of schooling that it offers to the eligible population, including those who never enter school (UNESCO, 2009).

These changes are of important for many reasons. First, adult literacy rate used in the old human development index (which is simply a binary variable) is inadequate in measuring the attainment of knowledge. By including average years of schooling and expected years of schooling one can better capture the level of education.

(3) Dimensional Index of Income

In the income domain, while the old HDI used the GDP per capita, the new HDI used the GNI per capita. The replacement of GDP per capita with GNI per capita may be considered an improvement at the national level. GDP is the monetary measure of goods and services produced in a country irrespective of how much is retained in the country. On the other hand, GNI measures the income accrued to residents of a country, including some international flows and excluding income generated in the country and repatriated abroad. Thus, GNI is a more accurate measure of a country's economic welfare. The methodology to quantify the income dimension did not change. The log of income, which gives lower weight to a higher value and higher weight to a lower value, was used. This is on the basis premise that a minimum income is needed for a decent standard of living and that income is not the sum total of human existence.

The old methodology used the arithmetic mean while the new methodology used the geometric mean in computing the HDI. The geometric mean has been used because it captures the inequality in the dimensional indices while the arithmetic mean does not capture it. With the new method of aggregation, poor performance in any dimension is directly reflected in the HDI value. Thus, the level of substitutability between dimensions is reduced while at the same time ensuring that a 1 % decline, say in life expectancy at birth index has the same impact on the HDI as a 1 % decline in education or income index. This is the fundamental rationale for changing methodology in computing the human development index (HDI).

1.2.5 Estimation Procedures of HDI

The present study followed the same estimation procedure of UNDP's new methodology (2010) and Assam Human Development Report, 2014. The use of Assam Human Development Report, 2014 methodology by the present study is reasonable or justified as the present study area lies within the jurisdiction of the state of Assam. Moreover, the present study has made comparative study of the human development aspects of the present study area based on primary survey data with the conditions of other districts and the state as a whole. However, to overcome the problems of data limitations, some modifications have been made in the present estimation procedure as explained in the following paras.

The HDI in the present study is calculated based on three different dimensions:

Long and Healthy Life	as measured by infant mortality rate
Knowledge	as measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling
Standard of Living	as measured by per capita annual income

Infant mortality rate at the village and Block level has been estimated based on less than 1 year of age mortality rate. IMR, MYS and EYS are estimated from the primary survey data of the present study. The MYS is based on the number of years to be completed a particular level and actual level of educational attainment of individuals that obtained from the survey data; EYS is based on enrolment ratios. Moreover, instead of using district domestic product, the present study used directly obtained household income data obtained from primary survey.

The present study used the goal posts as given below (for normalization)

Indicators	Minimum (Value)	Maximum (value)
Life Expectancy	20	85
MYS	0	15
EYS	0	13
Income	5090	119032

In the case EYS, as adopted by the Assam Human Development Report, 2014 the maximum value is used as 13 instead of 18; and it is justified since India ensures the right to education for 6-14 years of age; and the rest estimation procedure are same as UNDP methodology. The present study adopted the income bounds as in Assam HDR 2014. The report had chosen minimum per capita income of the state Bihar and the maximum value for the state of Goa as per 2013-14 Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) data series.

Having defined the minimum and maximum values, the sub indices are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{Actual Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Minimum Value}} \quad (1)$$

For education, equation (1) is applied to each of the two subcomponents, MYS and EYS then a geometric mean of the resulting indices is created and finally, equation (1) is reapplied to the geometric mean of the indices using 0 as the minimum value and the highest geometric mean of the resulting indices for the time period under consideration as the maximum value. This is equivalent to applying equation (1) directly to the geometric mean of the two subcomponents. Because each dimensional index is a proxy for capabilities in the corresponding dimension, the transformation function from income to capabilities is likely to be concave (Anand and Sen 2000). Thus, for income the natural logarithm of the actual minimum and maximum values is used.

Aggregating the sub indices to produce the Human Development Index

The HDI is the geometric mean of the three dimension indices:

$$\text{HDI} = \sqrt[3]{\text{Education Index} * \text{Income Index} * \text{Life Expectation Index}} \quad (2)$$

Methodology used to express income

GNI is traditionally expressed in current terms. To make GNI comparable across time, GNI is converted from current to constant terms by taking the value of nominal GNI per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms for the base year (2015) and building a time series using the growth rate of real GNI per capita, as implied by the ratio of current GNI per capita in local currency terms to the GDP deflator.

1.2.6 Estimation of Standard Deviation (SD) and Co-efficient of Variation (CV)

The present study also made an attempt to analyze regional disparity in terms of dimensional indices of human development index, HDI, GDI and GII by using statistical tools like standard deviation and co-efficient of variation.

The formula for calculating Standard Deviation (SD) of any variable say 'X' is

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(X - \bar{X})^2}{N}} \quad (i)$$

Where,

SD = standard deviation, \bar{X} = mean of the variable X and N = the size of sample and the formula for calculating the Co-efficient of Variation (CV) is represented by-

$$CV = \frac{SD}{\bar{X}} * 100 \quad (ii)$$

The indicated formula has been applied for the estimation of SD and CV in the relevant sections of the chapters.

1.2.7 Gender Related Development Index (GDI)

GDI basically measures the achievement in three basic dimensions of HDI, but it adjusts their values according to the inequality exists between the two sexes; the higher gender inequality, the larger the retrogression in the country's HDI. **HDI** measures average achievements; GDI, on the other hand adjusts the average achievement to represent inequalities in the dimensions:

1. A long and healthy life; as measured by life expectancy at birth.
2. Knowledge; as measured by the adult literacy rate and combined gross enrolment ratio.

3. A decent standard of living; as measured by the per capita income (PPP US \$).

Health, education and income indicators are separately computed for male and female to measure GDI.

1.2.8 Gender Inequity Index (GII)

The extent of gender inequality in the society is represented by the difference between HDI and GDI ranking. In a more precise way, higher the differences between HDI rank and GDI rank; greater the gender inequity. If these two ranks represent negative differences, then it reveals better position in terms of gender equality. Gender Inequity Index (GII) thus reflects the extent of inequitable access of opportunities by the women section of the population.

1.2.9 Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)

GEM assesses women's participation in economic and political life. It uses the female share in parliament as well as in the higher occupational categories and the proportion between women and men's income as variables.

GEM is the decision making power of both male and female. GEM focuses on women's opportunities rather than their capabilities; the GEM captures gender inequalities in following three key areas:

1. Political participation and decision making power, as measured by women's and men's percentage share of parliamentary seats.
2. Economic participation and decision-making power, as measured by two indicators-women's and men's percentage share of positions as legislators, senior officials and managers and women's and men's shares of professional and technical positions.
3. Power over economic resources, as measured by women's and men's estimated earned income (PPP US dollars).

Interestingly, GDI and GEM do not measure the disparities between male and female, instead of that they penalize the disparities and compute the Human Development with gender perspective. Therefore, HDI, GDI and GEM reveal how much males and females have achieved in their respective fields, the existing differences. Disparities between male and female are considered as serious hurdles in the process of human development and achieving the welfare of the people. Existence

of differences among HDI, GDI and GEM are the clear indications of disparities between male and female.

1.2.10 Human Poverty Index (HPI)

HPI measures the extent of deprivation in HDI's three dimensions. For industrialized countries, it uses as variables the probability of dying before age 60, functional illiteracy, and the incidence of poverty and long lasting unemployment. For developing countries, its variables are the probability of death before age 40, adult illiteracy, child malnutrition and the percentage of population with no access to drinking water.

1.3 Statement of the Problem and Research Questions

It is now widely accepted that the conventional measures of well being such as per capita GDP and per capita consumption do not capture the broader concept of human capability; and such measures can't reflect the true picture of the "Quality of Life" of the people in the society. It has been observed that high economic growth do not automatically transfer in to the betterment of lives of the people, if the benefit is not accessible to all sections of the society; and it is the case which is going on in most of the Developing countries of the world, including India. In India, despite of the significant achievement in terms of economic development, basically the economic liberalization policy adopted by the then Narasimha Rao government since 2001, the proportion of the people living below the poverty line has not been decreased much. There has been wide spread poverty, low level of educational attainment, vast income gap, unequal opportunities between men and women, suppression of economic, social, cultural and political rights representing "Unhealthy Growth" in the country. The case is even more relevant in case of the state of Assam, in general, and the tribal inhabited districts of BTAD area, in particular.

Many research studies undertaken by the academicians and scholars revealed that the state of Assam is lagging behind other states in the country in terms of Human Development. As per the Human Development Report of Assam 2003, the HDI rank of Assam was 26 in the country; and the aspect of human capabilities is even more aggravated in the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar. As per the report, the HDI rank of Kokrajhar district was 15th in the state. The state of Assam was lagging behind

other states in terms of literacy rate. As per 2011 data, it was 82.42, 73.18 percent for All India average and Assam respectively; and it was too low only 66.6 percent in the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar. 2011 data shows that the life expectancy at birth for the state of Assam was only 65 years whereas for All India it was 69 years. Moreover, the per capita income (2011), which determines the standard of living of the people, was only Rs.37, 250.00 in Assam; and it was Rs.60, 972.00 for the country in average representing a vast gap. There has been a wide spread and chronicle poverty in Assam since independence; and as per the 2010 data, estimated by the Planning commission of India the people living below the poverty line was 36 percent and 33 percent respectively for the state of Assam and India in average.

So, the basic objective of research work is a systematic inquiry into the present state of the “Human Development Aspect” in the state of Assam with special reference to the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar; and to formulate suggestions to overcome the problems.

1.4 Area of Study

Area of the present study covers the entire districts of the state of Assam. However, emphasis has been given for the study of various aspects of Human Development and other related aspects in the Tribal inhabited districts of Kokrajhar. Various issues relating to socio – economic conditions and human development indicators have been examined in the current study.

1.5. Objectives of the Study

The study has been undertaken keeping in mind the following few important objectives as follows:

1. To analyze the regional disparities in human development aspects at the global, South Asia, inter- state variations in Indian context.
2. To evaluate the status and inter district variations of human development aspects in Assam.
3. To evaluate the extent and disparities of human capabilities in the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar.
4. To formulate policy measures for its suggestion to raise the status of human development and to reduce disparities in the study area.

1.6 Hypotheses of the Study

The hypothesis is a tentative statement which is to be tested. The testing of hypothesis may either accept the statement or reject it. Since the hypothesis is to be tested, the study includes the following limited hypotheses.

1. Tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar (study area) is lagging behind the other districts of the state in terms of human development aspects.
2. There is a wide disparity in terms of human development indicators in the Study Area.

1.7 Methodology and Data Sources

In this study, proper research method and relevant methodology are employed to make a systematic inquiry, data collection; data organization, data analysis and drawing the statistical inferences.

The study considers both the sources of information, i.e., Primary Data and the Secondary Data. The chapter –3 and 4 analyses are based on basically secondary sources of information. Chapter – 5 is related to the Status of Human Development in the study area and it has been analyzed by taking primary data. Secondary sources are obtained from the various reports and publications made by International Bodies like State and Central Governments reports and publications such as Economic Survey etc; Register General of India's publications of Census Reports of India; Census reports of Assam and other states of the country; Various issues of Economic Survey of Assam and India; Statistical Handbook of Assam and BTC; reports and publications of the autonomous Research Institutes such as National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi; various reputed reports, journals and publications of autonomous bodies.

In the present research work, an extensive study has been made to evaluate the status of human development in the Kokrajhar district as the study area. The primary data for the present study has been collected using the following methods.

- i) Collection of data through Schedules, and
- ii) Collection of data through Questionnaire.
- iii) Focus group discussions.

In this present study, to obtain relevant data on human deprivations in the study area, a focus group discussion has been organized in an effective way by

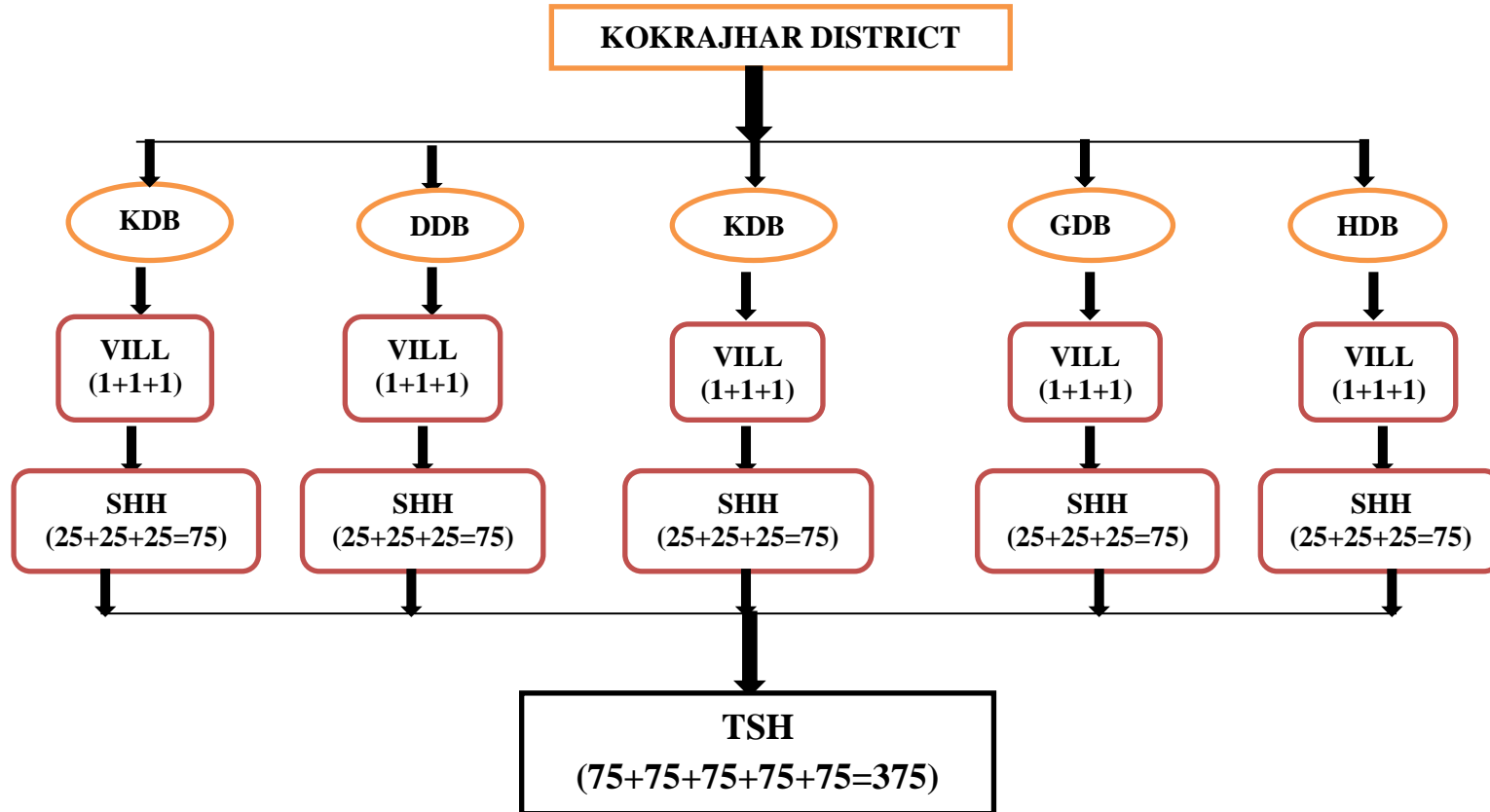
selecting different population groups, different organizations and institutions in the area. Appropriate statistical tools like arithmetic mean, correlation, coefficient of variations, bar diagram, line diagram, statistical tables and figures are employed with a proper care. Finally, the present study is based on the methodology framed by the UNDP and the Human Development Report of Assam, 2014 for the estimation of the HDI values.

1.7.1 Sample Design for Primary Data

To collect the primary data for the analysis of human development aspects in study area, an appropriate sample design has been prepared with consideration of well defined set of rules for research work. To work out the sample design for present study, the researcher has considered 'stratified sampling' and samples are selected purposively. A precise way sample design has been prepared as depicted in the Sample Chart-I below.

The tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar is the study area and it has been considered for its extensive study about the status of human development aspect. All the five (main) Blocks, namely, Kokrajhar Block, Dotma Block, Kachugaon Block, Gossaigaon Block and Hatidura Block of the district have been considered for the primary data collection. The sample covers a total of fifteen (15) villages, namely, Haloadol, Dholmara and Ghoramara in Kokrajhar Block; Singimari, Boragari and Gossainichina in Dotma Block; Gangia, 1No. Sekadani and Kumtola in Kachugaon Block; Turshibil, Habrubil and Kartimari in Gossaigaon Block and Srirampur No.1, Mechpara and Pokalagi in Hatidura Block are considered by selecting three (3) villages from each Block. In present study, sample villages are selected purposively by considering community representation, and the aspect of size of households in the villages which gives more or less same percentage of sample households. Thus, a total of 375 households are considered for the primary data collection from 15 villages, by selecting 25 households from each of the sample villages. In the present study sample households are selected from rural areas only keeping the room for extensive study to be made by other researchers on urban areas.

SAMPLE CHART-I



[KDB: Kokrajhar Development Block; DDB: Dotma Development Block; K_eDB: Kachugaon Development Block; GDB: Gossaigaon Development Block; HDB : Hatidura Development Block; VILL: Village; SHH : Sample Households; TSH: Total Sample Household]

1.8 Presentation of the Thesis

The thesis has been organized in sequences in accordance with the well defined set of rules; and to represent the whole part of the study systematically, the thesis has been prepared systematically consisting the following seven chapters.

Chapter-1: Introduction and Research Design

In this chapter, an introductory part has been presented along with the evolution of the concept of human development; conceptual clarification, definition of human development, measurement of human development and its various indices. The chapter also presents statement of the problem and research questions, area of the study, objectives of the study, hypotheses, methodology and data sources including sample design and presentation of the thesis.

Chapter-2: Review of Literature on Human Development

In this chapter, a brief review of literature on human development aspect is done. Review of literature basically includes two aspects: (1) Review on the human development in terms of theoretical aspects; and the other (2) Review on human development presented in the form of methodological aspects.

Chapter-3: Human Development: Regional Disparities Aspect

(An Empirical Analysis)

This chapter deals with present scenario of human development and gender disparities aspect in context of global, South Asian countries and inter- state disparities and progress of human development in India. Reliable secondary sources are collected for the systematic analysis and presentation of the disparities of human development at different levels.

Chapter-4: Human Development Scenario in Assam: A Perspective Analysis

In this chapter, human development scenario in the state of Assam is presented in a systematic way by taking the relevant secondary information. A short profile of Assam, and the position of Assam among the NER has been analyzed. An attempt has been made to examine the inter district variations of HDI, GDI, GII taking the Assam Human Development Report 2003 and 2014 and various census data for 1991, 2001 and 2011; and other reliable sources in this regard.

Chapter-5: Status of Human Development in the Tribal Inhabited District of Kokrajhar

In this chapter, an attempt is made to analyze different aspects of human development in the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar (study Area) of BTAD by using primary data. A detail analysis of socio-economic aspects in terms of human development and capability disparities has been presented in this chapter.

Chapter-6: Human Capability: An Observation from Sample Respondents (Focus Group Discussion)

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to deal with different aspects of human deprivations by organizing focus group discussions. Proper plan has been made to find such variables through focus group discussion by selecting different age groups and gender aspect in the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar.

Chapter-7: Findings, Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

In this concluding chapter of the thesis, an attempt has been made to present the report, findings and conclusions of the earlier chapters. However, more emphasis has been given to the report and findings from chapter 3, 4, 5 and 6. An attempt has also been made for the presentation of policy recommendations; basically keeping into the considerations for the improvement of human development aspects in the study area and further research questions that may arise in the field of human development literature.

1.9 Conclusion

In this chapter-1, evolution of the concept, methodology and measurement of human development is presented precisely along with the problem, statement and research questions. Area of the present study, objectives, and hypothesis are also analyzed precisely. Sample selection and design along with methodology of estimating HDI, data sources and statistical tools employed in the present work are clearly analyzed. The chapter indicates how whole part of the present study is analyzed in the form of presentation of thesis. This introductory chapter, in short, gives the basic idea of the present research work on the topic “Human Development in Assam: A Study in the Tribal Inhabited District of Kokrajhar.