

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **Socio-Economic Status of Workers in Brick Industries**

#### **6.1 Introduction:**

For every construction activities, workers are considered as the main pillar without which construction activities are almost impossible. Brick industry is such an industry which provides employment opportunities to millions of workers. With the increase in construction activities, brick industries are growing up rapidly in different parts of the country. In the study areas, in it found that though the brick industries are providing employment opportunities to a large number of unemployed persons (both local and migrant) and helping them in generating income, yet workers are still lagging behind in some areas. These workers are backward socio-economically, educationally, culturally etc. Their living conditions are not impressive at all.

#### **6.2 Objective:**

The main objective of this chapter is to find out the socio- economic profiles of the workers in brick industries in the study areas. To have an idea about the socio-economic status of workers, various aspects such as age, education, marital status, number of children, nature of house, sanitation facilities, saving habits of the workers etc are studied.

#### **6.3 Methodology:**

In this chapter, techniques like frequencies, percentages are used. Chi square test is used in this chapter. However, various tables and diagrams are also used.

#### **6.4 Age structure of the selected workers in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts**

In order to study the age group of the workers in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, the results obtained from field survey are discussed below (Tables 6.1 & 6.2).

**Table 6.1: Age group of the 260 workers in Barpeta district:**

Age group	No. Of workers	Percentages
20-29	65	25
30-39	105	40.39
40 -49	50	19.23
50 & above	40	15.38
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

The study in Barpeta district shows that most of the workers (40.39) belong to the age group 30-39. Again, 25% workers belong to the age group 20-29, 19.23% workers belong to the age group 40-49 while the remaining 15.38% workers belong to the age group 50 & above.

**Table 6.2: Age group of the 340 workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Age group	No. Of workers	Percentages
20-29	90	26.47
30-39	128	37.65
40-49	72	21.18
50 & above	50	14.71
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

In Kamrup(R) district, it is found from the survey that majority of the workers (37.65%) belong to the age group 30-39. Again, 26.47% workers belong to the age group 20-29, 21.18% workers belong to the age group 40-49 and the remaining 14.71% workers belong to the age group 50 & above.

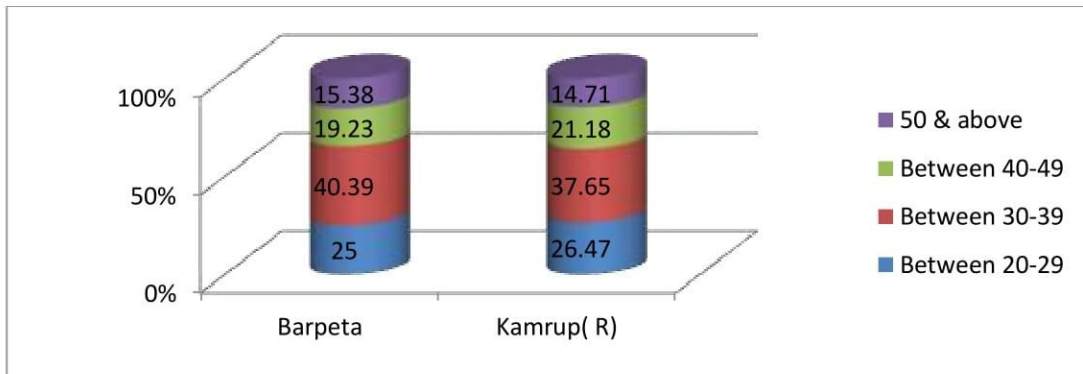
The following table 6.3 shows the comparison on age group of the workers between both the districts and the graphical representation of this information is shown below in figure 6.1.

**Table 6.3: Comparison on age group of workers between both the districts:**

Districts	Age groups of workers (in Nos.)				Total
	Between 20-29	Between 30-39	Between 40-49	50 & above	
Barpeta	65(25%)	105(40.39%)	50(19.23%)	40(15.38%)	260
Kamrup(R)	90(26.47%)	128(37.65%)	72(21.18%)	50(14.71%)	340
Total	155	233	122	90	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.1: Age group of workers in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

In Barpeta district, 40.39% workers and in Kamrup(R) district, 37.65% workers belong to the age group 30-39 which is the highest percentage of age group of workers. 25% workers in Barpeta district and 26.47% workers in Kamrup(R) district belong to the age group 20-29. 19.23% workers in Barpeta district and 21.18% workers in Kamrup(R) district belong to the age group 40-49. Again, In Barpeta district, 15.38% workers and in Kamrup(R) district, 14.71% workers belong to the age group 50 & above which is the lowest percentage of age group of workers in both the districts.

Thus, the study in both the districts shows that the highest percentage of workers belongs to the age group 30-39. In brick industries, almost in every activity, too much physical labour is required. At this age group of 30-39, workers are very young and capable of doing too much physical labour. So percentages of workers belonging to the age group 30-39 are highest. However, percentages of workers belonging to the age group 50 & above are found to be lowest because at this age group, workers are not able to perform too much physical labour and after working for a few hours, they get tired.

## 6.5 Educational qualification of the selected workers in both the districts:

In order to study the educational qualification of the workers in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, the results obtained from field survey are discussed below (Tables 6.4 & 6.5).

**Table 6.4: Educational qualification of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Educational qualification	Number of workers	Percentages
Illiterate	170	65.38
Between class I-IV	43	16.54
Between class V-IX	25	9.62
Between class X-XII	14	5.38
Above class XII	8	3.08
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the educational qualification of the workers in Barpeta district, it is found that most of the workers are illiterate who have never attended schools. The survey in Barpeta district shows that 65.38% workers are illiterate (never attended school), 16.54% workers have attended education between class I-IV, 9.62% workers have attended education between classes V-IX, 5.38% workers have attended education between classes X-XII and 3.08% workers have attended education above classes XII.

**Table 6.5: Educational qualification of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Educational qualification	Number of workers	Percentages
Illiterate	240	70.59
Between class I-IV	50	14.71
Between class V-IX	32	9.41
Between class X-XII	12	3.53
Above class XII	6	1.76
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the educational qualification of the workers in Kamrup(R) district also, it is found that most of the workers are illiterate. The survey in Kamrup(R) district shows that 70.59% workers are illiterate (not attended school), 14.71% workers have attended education between class I-IV, 9.41% workers have attended education



between classes V-IX, 3.53% workers have attended education between classes X-XII and 1.76% workers have attended education above classes XII.

However, the following table 6.6 makes a comparison on educational qualification of the workers between both the districts.

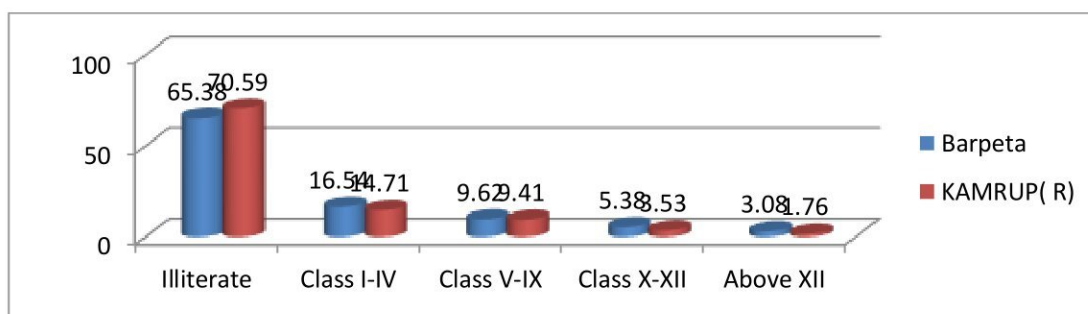
**Table 6.6: Comparison on educational qualification of the workers between both the districts:**

Districts	Educational qualification of workers (in Nos.)					
	Illiterate	Between class I-IV	Between class V-IX	Between X-XII	Above XII	Total
Barpeta	170(65.38%)	43(16.54%)	25(9.62%)	14(5.38%)	8(3.08%)	260
Kamrup(R)	240(70.59%)	50(14.71%)	32(9.41%)	12(3.53%)	6(1.76%)	340
Total	410	93	57	26	14	600

Source: Field survey

The educational scenario of the workers in both the districts is not at all satisfactory. Majority of them are illiterate (never attended school). In Barpeta district, 65.38% workers are illiterate while in Kamrup(R) district, 70.59% workers are illiterate. In Barpeta district, 16.54% have attended the education between classes I-IV while in Kamrup(R) district, it is 14.71%. Again, 9.62% workers have attended the education between classes V-IX in Barpeta district and it is 9.41% in Kamrup(R) district. However, 5.38% workers have attended education between classes X-XII in Barpeta district and in Kamrup(R) district, it is 3.53%. Again, in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, 3.08% and 1.76% workers have attended education above classes XII respectively. The data from table 6.6 are depicted below in figure 6.2.

**Figure 6.2: Educational qualification of workers in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

## 6.6 Marital status of the workers in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts

Regarding the marital status of the workers in the selected brick industries of both the districts, whatever results obtained by conducting field survey are discussed below (Tables 6.7 & 6.8).

**Table 6.7: Marital status of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Marital status	No. Of Workers	Percentages
Married	198	76.15
Unmarried	62	23.85
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the marital status of workers in Barpeta district, the study shows that majority of the workers in brick industries are married. 76.15% workers are found to be married while 23.85% are unmarried.

**Table 6.8: Marital status of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Marital status	No. Of Workers	Percentages
Married	245	72.06
Unmarried	95	27.94
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the marital status of workers in Kamrup(R) district, it is found in Kamrup(R) district also that majority of the workers in brick industries are married. 72.06% workers are found to be married while 27.94% are unmarried.

Again, the following table 6.9 makes comparison on marital status of the workers between both the districts.

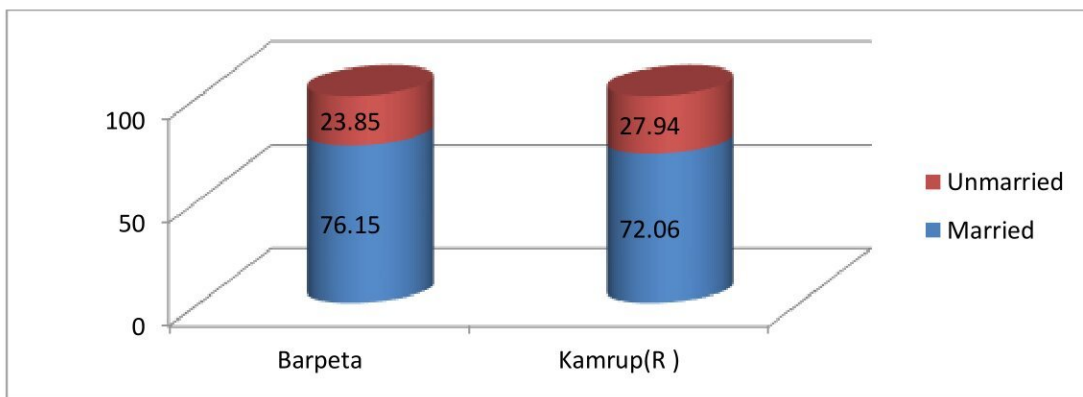
**Table 6.9: Comparison on marital status of the workers between the 2 districts:**

Districts	Marital status of the workers (in Nos.)		
	Married	Unmarried	Total
Barpeta	198(76.15%)	62(23.85%)	260
Kamrup(R)	245(72.06%)	95(27.94%)	340
Total	443	157	600

Source: Field survey

Regarding the marital status, after conducting the survey in both the districts, it is found that majority of the workers are married. In Barpeta district, 76.15% workers are married while 23.85% are unmarried. Again, in Kamrup(R) district, 72.06% workers are married while 27.94% are unmarried. The data from table 6.9 are depicted below in figure 6.3.

**Figure 6.3: Marital status of workers in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

### **6.7 Number of children each worker has excluding the unmarried workers in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts:**

Excluding the unmarried workers in both the districts, the number of children each worker has is analyzed below in the table 6.10 and table 6.11.

**Table 6.10: Number of children each worker has excluding 62 unmarried workers in Barpeta district:**

Number of children	No. Of Workers	Percentages
No child	25	12.63
1 child	20	10.10
2 children	33	16.67
3 children	42	21.21
4 children	50	25.25
5 children & above	28	14.14
Total	198	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the number of children each worker has in Barpeta district, it is found that most of the workers have 4 and 3 children each. 25.25% workers have 4 children each and 21.21% workers have 3 children each. Again, 16.67% workers have 2 children each while 14.14% workers have 5 & above children each. However, the survey shows that 10.10% workers have 1 child each while 12.63% workers have no children.

**Table 6.11: Number of children each worker has excluding 95 unmarried workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Number of children	No. Of Workers	Percentages
No child	30	12.24
1 child	22	8.98
2 children	35	14.29
3 children	50	20.41
4 children	67	27.35
5 children & above	41	16.73
Total	245	100

Source: Field survey

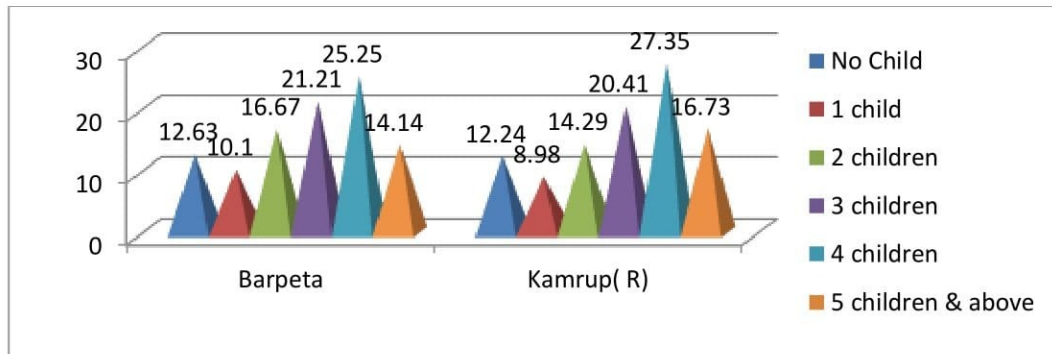
Regarding the number of children each worker has in Kamrup(R) district also, the study shows that most of the workers have 4 and 3 number of children each. 27.35% workers have 4 children each and 20.41% workers have 3 children each. Again, 16.73% workers have 5 children & above each while 14.29% workers have 2 children each. However, the survey shows that 8.98% workers have 1 child each while 12.24% workers have no children.

**Table 6.12: Comparison on number of children of workers between both the districts:**

District	No. of workers having children						Total
	No children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children & above	
Barpeta	25 (12.63%)	20 (10.10%)	33 (16.67%)	42 (21.21%)	50 (25.25%)	28 (14.14%)	198
Kamrup(R)	30 (12.24%)	22 (8.98%)	35 (14.29%)	50 (20.41%)	67 (27.35%)	41 (16.73%)	245
Total	55	42	68	92	117	69	443

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.4: Number of children of workers in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

The table 6.12 shows the comparison on number of children of workers between both the districts and the data from the table 6.12 are depicted in figure 6.4. Regarding the number of children each worker has in both the districts excluding 157 unmarried workers, it is found that majority of the workers in both the districts have the children 3 or 4 each. In Barpeta district, 25.25% have 4 children each while in Kamrup(R) district, 27.35% workers have 4 children each. Similarly, in Barpeta district, 21.21% workers have 3 children each while in Kamrup(R) district, it is 20.41%. The percentage of workers having 5 Children & above in Barpeta district is 14.14% and in Kamrup(R) district, it is 16.73%. Again, 16.67% workers in Barpeta district have 2 children each and in Kamrup(R) district, it is 14.29%. 10.10% workers in Barpeta district have 1 child each and in Kamrup(R) district, it is 8.98%. Again 12.63% workers in Barpeta district have no child each while in Kamrup(R) district, it is 12.24%.

One of the most important reasons for having high number of children is the lack of education. An educated person can understand the benefits of small families. As in brick industries, majority of the workers are illiterate, they are not aware of the family planning measures and do not realize the benefits of small families.

Again, poverty is also a strong reason for having high number of children. Poor people consider the children as an asset so that after a few years of birth of the child, they can put the child to work to earn some money.

The following table 6.13 shows the parents' educational qualification and number of children they have.

**Table: 6.13 Parents education and number of children they have:**

Parents' educational qualification	1 to 2 children	More than 2 children	Total
Illiterate	25	208	233
Between class I-IV	32	35	67
Between class V-IX	35	25	60
Between class X-XII	12	8	20
XII & above	6	2	8
Total	110	278	388

Source: Field survey

Let, the hypothesis is that there is no association between parents' educational qualification and number of children they have.

In order to test the above hypothesis, chi square test is used. The formula for calculating chi square test is -

$$\text{Chi square} = \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

The calculated value of chi square is 93.24 and the tabulated value of chi square at 5% level of significance at 4 degrees of freedom is 9.48. Since the calculated value of chi square is greater than the tabulated value, the hypothesis is rejected.

Thus, there is association between parents' educational qualification and number of children they have. Illiterate workers have more children (more than 2) and workers having some level of education have fewer children (1 or 2 children).

## **6.8 Schooling profile of the children of the workers:**

Education is made compulsory and free for the children between the ages 6-14 under the article 21A of the Indian Constitution. Though education is made free and compulsory, still receiving education is a distant dream for many children in India. In brick industries, it is found that children help their parents in the works like cutting mud, making raw bricks, carrying of bricks etc. rather than going to school. The schooling profiles of those children in brick industries are found to be not



satisfactory. Most of the children do not go to the school. Parents are also not interested in sending their children to school. Rather, they put their children to work in order to maximize the income of the family.

### **6.8.1 Schooling profile of the children of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Regarding the schooling profile of the children, the survey was conducted among 173 workers excluding the unmarried workers and those workers who have no children from total 260 workers. The results obtained from the survey are discussed below. The following table 6.14 shows the responses of the workers regarding sending their children to schools and the table 6.15 discusses the reasons behind not sending the children to schools.

**Table 6.14: Do your children go to school?**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	70	40.46
No	103	59.54
Total	173	100

Source: Field survey

The survey shows that out of total 173 workers having children, 59.54% workers do not send their children to schools while 40.46% workers send their children to schools.

**Table 6.15: Reasons for not sending their children to school in Barpeta district:**

Reasons	No. Of workers	Percentages
Migration	42	40.78
Poor economic condition of the family	22	21.36
Not interested in sending school	16	15.53
Children do not want to go to school	12	11.65
Others	11	10.68
Total	103	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the reasons for not sending the children to schools, the survey reveals that an important reason why the children do not go to school is that in brick industries,



most of the workers are migrant workers. Their nature of migration is highly seasonal. They use to come and live in the industry site only for 6-7 months in a year. This period of 6-7 months is less than of an academic year. They leave the industry sites during monsoon when the production stops due to rain. Because of seasonal migration, their children are not able to continue their education and most of the schools going children have quited their schools. Children of 40.78% of workers are not able to continue their school because of their seasonal migration.

Poor economic condition of the family is also an important reason for not sending the children to school. 21.36% workers are not able to send their children to school because of the poor economic condition of the family. Rather, parents like to engage their children to work so that they can earn some money and improve their economic condition.

Again, some parents have negative attitude regarding sending their children to school. They are not interested in sending their children to school. They think that what the children will do by going to school. They ultimately have to earn their livelihoods by doing physical labour. From the survey, it is found that 15.53% workers are not interested in sending their children to schools.

Children of 11.65% of workers do not go to the school as the children themselves do not want to go to school.

Again, from the survey, it is also found that 10.68% workers do not send their children to school due to some other factors such as children have to take care of the family specially their elder brothers or sisters in the absence of their parents.

### **6.8.2 Schooling profile of the children of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Regarding the schooling profile of the children in brick industries in Kamrup(R) district, the survey was conducted among 215 workers excluding the unmarried workers and those workers who have no children from total 340 workers. The results obtained from the survey are discussed below. The following table 6.16 shows the responses of the worker regarding sending their children to school and the table 6.17 discusses the reasons behind not sending the children to school.

**Table 6.16: Do your children go to school?**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	80	37.21
No	135	62.79
Total	215	100

Source: Field survey

The survey shows that 62.79% workers do not send their children to schools while 37.21% workers send their children to schools.

**Table 6.17: Reasons for not sending their children to school in Kamrup(R) district:**

Reasons	No. Of workers	Percentages
Migration	57	42.22
Poor economic condition of the family	23	17.04
Not interested in sending school	15	11.11
Children do not want to go to school	10	7.41
Others	30	22.22
Total	135	100

Source: Field survey

The survey reveals that the strongest factor for not sending the children to schools is migration. As the work in brick industry is seasonal, the workers have to return to their native places after 6-7 months when the work stops. Therefore, their children are not able to continue their schooling. 42.22% workers do not send their children to schools because of migration.

17.04% workers are not able to send their children to school as the economic condition of the family is very poor. In order to earn more income, parents engage their children in works rather than sending them to school.

11.11% workers are not interested in sending their children to school. They think that what the children will do by going to school. They have a negative attitude towards education.

It is also found from the survey that children of 7.41% of workers themselves do not want to go to school because of poor performance in class as well as in examination.

Again, from the survey, it is also found that 22.22% workers do not send their children to school due to some other factors such as the indebtedness of the family, taking care of the family specially their elder brothers or sisters in the absence of their parents.

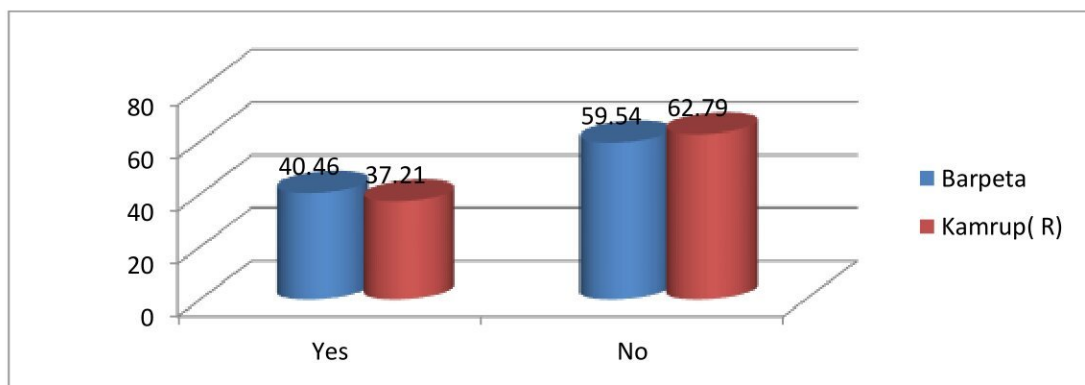
However, the comparison between the 2 districts in respect of responses of the workers regarding sending their children to schools and also the reasons for not sending the children to schools are shown below in the tables 6.18 & 6.19 respectively and the graphical representation of tables 6.18 & 6.19 are shown in figures 6.5 & 6.6 respectively.

**Table 6.18: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of responses of the workers regarding sending their children to schools:**

Districts	Responses of the workers (in Nos.)	
	Yes	No
Barpeta	70(40.46%)	103(59.54%)
Kamrup(R)	80(37.21%)	135(62.79%)
Total	150	238

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.5: Responses regarding sending the children to school in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

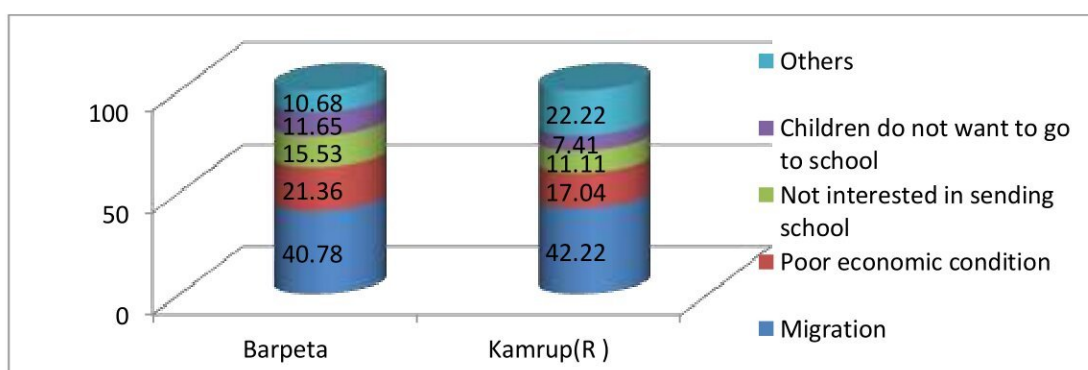
If the responses of the workers regarding sending their children to school in both the districts are compared, it is found that number of school going children in Kamrup(R) district is less than Barpeta district. The reason is that in brick industries of Kamrup(R) district, migrant workers are more than Barpeta district and it is only because of migration, most of the children are not able to continue their schooling. In Kamrup(R) district, number of school going student is found to be 37.21% while in Barpeta district it is 40.46%.

**Table 6.19: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of the reasons for not sending the children to school:**

Reasons	No. of workers	
	Barpeta district	Kamrup(R) district
Migration	42 (40.78%)	57 (42.22%)
Poor economic condition of the family	22 (21.36%)	23 (17.04%)
Not interested in sending school	16 (15.53%)	15 (11.11%)
Children do not want to go to school	12 (11.65%)	10 (7.41%)
Others	11 (10.68%)	30 (22.22%)
Total	103 (100%)	135 (100%)

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.6: Reasons for not sending the children to school in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

After making the comparison between both the districts, it is found that in Barpeta district, 40.78% workers do not send their children to school because of migration while in Kamrup(R) district, it is 42.22%. The workers who do not send their children to school due to poor economic condition of the family is found to be

21.36% in Barpeta district while it is 17.04% in Kamrup(R) district. Most of the parents are also not interested in sending their children to schools and the workers who are not interested in sending their children to schools is found to be 15.53% in Barpeta district and 11.11% in Kamrup(R) district. Again, children of 11.65% of workers in Barpeta district themselves do not want to go to school and in Kamrup(R) district, it is found to be 7.41%. From the survey, it is also found that in Barpeta district, 10.68% workers do not send their children to school due to some other factors such that children have to take care of the family specially their elder brothers or sisters in the absence of their parents. Again in Kamrup(R) district, it is found that 22.22% workers do not send their children to school due to some other factors such that the family is in debt, children have to take care of the family specially their elder brothers or sisters in the absence of their parents.

Thus, from the survey, it is clear that migration is one of the strong factors for not sending the children to school. Migrant workers have the reason for not sending their children to school. The reason is that their work in brick industry is seasonal and after 6-7 months they have to return to their native place. Therefore, their children are not able to continue their schooling. But the local workers can send their children to school if they wish. Most of the local workers are found not to be interested in sending their children to school. Parents think that what the children will do by going to school; ultimately they have to earn their livelihoods by doing physical labour. So, the parents want to engage their children in work from their childhood so that children can learn the work from their parents and in future they can earn their livelihoods. The attitude of the parents towards education is found to be negative. They are not aware of the benefits of education. Again, poverty is another strong factor which compels the poor people to engage their children into works rather than sending them to school.

### **6.9 Number of family members of the workers in both the districts:**

Regarding the number of family members of the workers in the selected brick industries of both the districts, whatever data obtained by conducting field survey are discussed below in tabular form (Tables 6.20 and 6.21).

**Table 6.20: Number of family members of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Family members	No. of workers	Percentages
3	53	20.38
4	73	28.08
5	55	21.16
6 & above	79	30.38
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the number of family members of the workers in Barpeta district, it is found that most of the workers (30.38%) have 6 & above family members while 28.08% workers have 4 family members, 21.16% workers have 5 family members and 20.38% workers have 3 family members.

**Table 6.21: Number of family members of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Family members	No. of workers	Percentages
3	62	18.24
4	112	32.94
5	63	18.53
6 & above	103	30.29
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the number of family members of the workers in Kamrup(R) district, it is found that 32.94% workers have 4 family members, 30.29% workers have 6 & above family members, 18.53% workers have 5 family members and 18.24% workers have 3 family members.

However, the comparison between the 2 districts in respect of number of family members of the workers is shown in the following table 6.22.

**Table 6.22: Comparison on number of family members of the worker between the 2 districts:**

District	No. of family members of workers				
	3 members	4 member	5 members	6 & above members	Total
Barpeta	53 (20.38%)	73 (28.08%)	55 (21.16%)	79 (30.38%)	260 (100%)
Kamrup(R)	62 (18.24%)	112 (32.94%)	63 (18.53%)	103 (30.29%)	340 (100%)

Source: Field survey

Regarding the number of family members of the workers in both the districts, the study shows that in Barpeta district maximum workers (30.38%) have 6 & above family members while 28.08% workers have 4 family members, 21.16% workers have 5 family members and 20.38% workers have 3 family members. Similarly, in Kamrup(R) district, the study shows that maximum workers (32.94%) have 4 family members while 30.29% workers have 6 & above family members, 18.53% workers have 5 family members and 18.24% workers have 3 family members.

### **6.10 Housing condition of the workers:**

Housing is a very important element that affects the living standard of people. Everyone has a desire to live in a good housing condition. To have a good health, it is very essential to live in a good housing condition. Housing and health was analyzed by Krieger. J et.al (2002). According to them, good housing is associated with wide range of health condition including respiratory infection, asthma, lead poisoning and mental health. Conditions of housing of people are also associated with their income level. In order to study whether a person has a good housing condition or not, various facilities available in his house should be taken into consideration. Housing condition is influenced by various factors such as nature of houses, provision of electricity, use of proper drinking water, proper sanitation facilities, use of cooking fuel etc. If a person has adequately available all these facilities, it is said that he has a good housing condition. Thus, in order to study the housing condition of the workers involved in brick industries in both Barpeta and Kamrup (R) districts, all those facilities are taken into account.

The following tables 6.23 and 6.24 show the nature of houses of the workers in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts respectively.

**Table 6.23: Nature of houses of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Nature of houses	No. Of Workers	Percentages
Pucca	14	5.38
Kutchra with roof	210	80.77
Tin	36	13.85
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey



In brick industries, it is found that the workers who migrate from other places live in the small huts in the industry sites constructed by the owner of the industry. But regarding the nature of houses at the permanent place of residence of the workers, it is found that in Barpeta district, 80.77% workers live in kutcha houses with roof. Only 5.38% workers live in pucca houses. Moreover, 13.85% workers live in the houses constructed with tin.

**Table 6.24: Nature of houses of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Nature of houses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Pucca	22	6.47
Kutcha with roof	268	78.82
Tin	50	14.71
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

In brick industries in Kamrup(R) district also, it is found that the migrant workers live in the small houses in the industry sites constructed by the owner of the industry. Regarding the nature of houses at the permanent place of residence of the workers, it is found that in Kamrup(R) district, 78.82% workers live in kutcha houses with roof, 6.47% live in pucca houses while remaining 14.71% workers live in the houses constructed with tin.

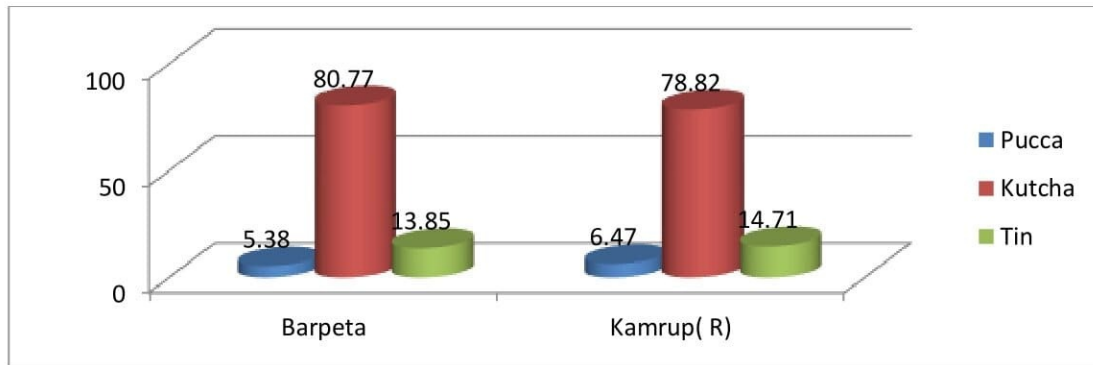
However, the comparison between the 2 districts in respect of nature of houses of the workers is shown below in the table 6.25 and the graphical representation of this information is shown below in the figure 6.7.

**Table 6.25: Comparison on nature of houses of the workers between the 2 districts:**

Districts	Nature of houses of workers (in Nos.)			
	Pucca	Kutcha with roof	Tin	Total
Barpeta	14(5.38%)	210(80.77%)	36(13.85%)	260
Kamrup(R)	22(6.47%)	268(78.82%)	50(14.71%)	340
Total	36	478	86	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.7: Housing nature of workers in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

In brick industries in both the districts, it is found that the workers who migrate from other places live in the small huts in the industry sites constructed by the owner of the industry. There is no provision of separate kitchen facilities. The whole family lives in a room where everything regarding sleeping, eating, cooking etc are done. But regarding the nature of houses at the permanent place of residence of the workers, it is found that in Barpeta district, 80.77% workers live in kutcha houses with roof, 5.38% workers live in pucca houses and the remaining 13.85% workers live in the houses constructed with tin. Similarly, regarding the nature of houses in Kamrup(R) district also, it is found that 78.82% workers live in kutcha houses with roof, 6.47% live in pucca houses while remaining 14.71% live in the houses constructed with tin.

The study between both the districts shows that number of workers living in kutcha houses is more in Barpeta district than Kamrup(R) district and number of workers living in pucca houses is more in Kamrup(R) district than Barpeta district. Thus, Kamrup(R) district is in better position than Barpeta district in respect of nature of houses of the workers.



Houses for migrant workers; Source: Field survey

**Table 6.26: Provision of electricity facilities at permanent places of residence of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	55	21.15
No	205	78.85
Total	206	100

Source: Field survey

The above table 6.26 shows the provision of electricity facilities at permanent place of the worker in Barpeta district. Regarding the electricity facilities, it is found from the survey that in Barpeta district, 78.85% workers do not have electricity facilities at their houses while 21.15% workers have.

**Table 6.27: Provision of electricity facilities at permanent places of residence of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	82	24.12
No	258	75.88
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

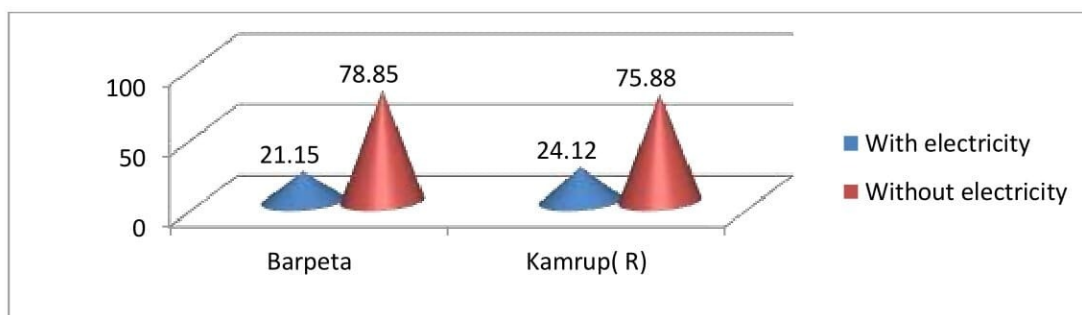
The above table 6.27 shows the provision of electricity facilities at permanent place of the worker in Kamrup(R) district. The survey in Kamrup(R) district shows that 75.88% workers do not have electricity facilities at their permanent houses while 24.12% workers have electricity facilities.

**Table 6.28: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of provision of electricity facilities at permanent places of residence of the workers:**

District	Responses of the workers (in Nos.)		
	Yes	No	Total
Barpeta	55(21.15%)	205(78.85%)	260
Kamrup(R)	82(24.12%)	258(75.88%)	340
Total	137	463	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.8: Provision of electricity facilities in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

The table 6.28 makes a comparison on the provision of electricity facilities at permanent place of the worker between the 2 districts and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.8. Regarding the electricity facilities, it is found that in Barpeta district, 78.85% workers do not have electricity facilities at their houses while 21.15% workers have. Similarly, in Kamrup(R) district, it is found that 75.88% workers do not have the provision of electricity at their houses while 24.12% workers have. Thus, the provision of electricity facilities at the houses of workers in Kamrup(R) district is more than in Barpeta district.

### **6.11 Sanitation facilities:**

The World Health Organization defines the term sanitation as “Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and feces. The word ‘Sanitation’ also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal.” (“Sanitation”. Health topics. World Health Organization)

A proper sanitation facility is very essential to prevent human being from various types of diseases as most of the diseases of human beings arise due to unsafe sanitation facilities. The sanitation facilities of the workers in brick industries are not well developed. Most of the workers do not have proper sanitation facilities.

**Table 6.29: Provision of sanitation facilities at permanent place of residence of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	190	73.08
No	70	26.92
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

The above table 6.29 shows that in Barpeta district, 73.08% workers have sanitation facilities while 26.92% workers do not have.

**Table 6.30: Provision of sanitation facilities at permanent place of residence of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	260	76.47
No	80	23.53
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

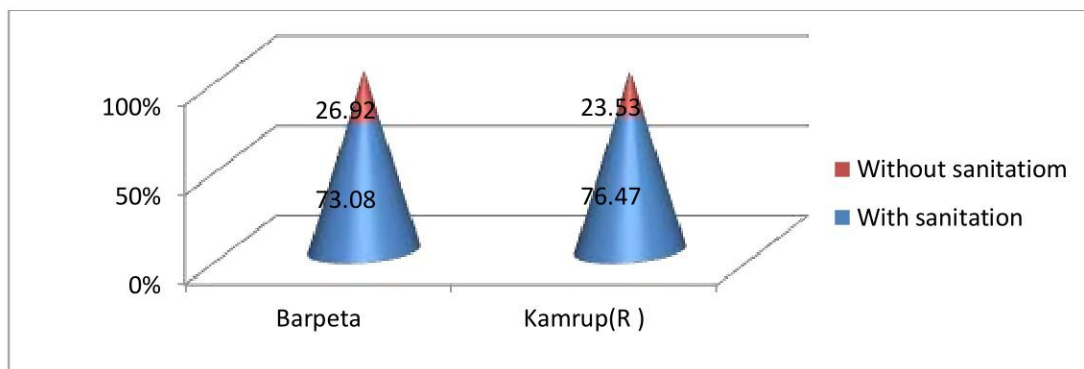
The above table 6.30 reveals that in Kamrup(R) district, 76.47% workers have sanitation facilities while 23.53% workers do not have.

**Table 6.31: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of provision of sanitation facilities at permanent place of residence of the workers:**

Districts	Responses of workers (in Nos.)		
	Yes	No	Total
Barpeta	190(73.08%)	70(26.92%)	260
Kamrup(R)	260(76.47%)	80(23.53%)	340
Total	450	150	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.9: Provision of sanitation facilities in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

The table 6.31 makes a comparison between the 2 districts in respect of provision of sanitation facilities of the workers and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.9. The study reflects that in Barpeta district, 73.08% workers have sanitation facilities while 26.92% workers do not have. Again, in Kamrup(R) district, it is found that 76.47% workers have sanitation facilities while 23.53% workers do not have. Thus, the workers having the provision of sanitation facilities in Kamrup(R) district are more than Barpeta district.

**Table 6.32: Nature of sanitation facilities of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Nature of sanitation facilities	No. Of workers	Percentages
Kutchha	170	65.38
Pucca	20	7.69
Open space	70	26.92
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

The above table 6.32 explains the nature of sanitation facilities of the workers in Barpeta district. The survey shows that in Barpeta district, 65.38% workers have kutchha sanitation facilities while only 7.69% workers have pucca sanitation facilities. Again, 26.92% workers do not have this facility and they go to open space.



**Table 6.33: Nature of sanitation facilities of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Nature of sanitation facilities	No. Of workers	Percentages
Kutchha	230	67.64
Pucca	30	8.82
Open space	80	23.53
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

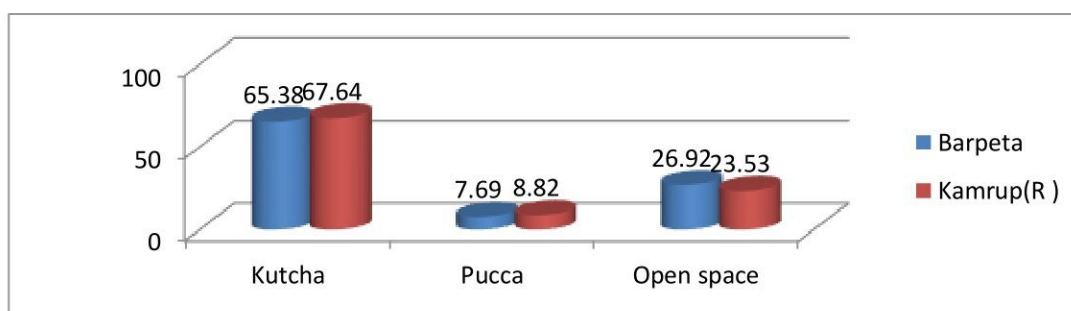
The above table 6.33 shows the nature of sanitation facilities of the workers in Kamrup(R) district. The survey shows that in Kamrup(R) district, 67.64% workers have kutchha sanitation facilities while 8.82% workers have pucca sanitation facilities. However, 23.53% workers who do not have sanitation facilities go to open space.

**Table 6.34: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of the nature of sanitation facilities of the workers:**

Districts	Nature of sanitation facilities of the workers (in Nos.)			
	Kutchha	Pucca	Open space	Total
Barpeta	170(65.38%)	20(7.69%)	70(26.92%)	260
Kamrup(R)	230(67.64%)	30(8.82%)	80(23.53%)	340
Total	400	50	150	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.10: Nature of sanitation facilities in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

The table 6.34 makes a comparison regarding the nature of sanitation facilities of the workers between both the districts and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.10. The survey shows that in Barpeta district, 65.38% workers have kutchha sanitation facilities while only 7.69% workers have



pucca sanitation facilities. Moreover, 26.92% workers do not have this facility and they go to open space. Again, in Kamrup(R) district, the survey shows that 67.64% workers have kutcha sanitation facilities while 8.82% workers have pucca sanitation facilities. Moreover, in Kamrup(R) district, 23.53% workers who do not have sanitation facilities go to open space. Thus, regarding sanitation facilities, position of the workers in Kamrup(R) district is found to be better than Barpeta district.

### **6.12 Water supply facility:**

According to the World Health organization, “Access to safe drinking water is essential to health, a basic human right and a component of effective policy for health protection.” ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drinking\\_water](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drinking_water))

Drinking water should be safe and clean free from any pollutant germs. Several health problems may arise due to unsafe drinking water. There should be provision of safe drinking water for each and every individual living in this earth. Without having the provision of clean and safe drinking water, one cannot expect to have a good and healthy health.

After conducting the survey in brick industries of both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, it is observed that there is no developed drinking water supply facility in any of the surveyed brick industries. Hand pumps and ring well are the most common source of water supply in all most all the surveyed areas. There is no proper filtration system provided in the industry. After getting the water from hand pumps as well as from ring well, workers directly use such water for drinking without making it properly filter. Due to the lack of proper and safe drinking water facilities, workers often suffer from various types of diseases such as Cholera, diarrheal etc.

### **6.13 Cooking facilities:**

In all the selected brick industries in the studied areas, it is found that workers have to prepare their meal by themselves. Those workers who live in the industry sites are provided firewood or kerosene by the owners for cooking their meal. With the help

of such firewood or kerosene, workers prepare their meal for themselves as well as for the entire family.

But regarding the cooking facilities used by the workers at their permanent place of residence in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, whatever results found from the survey are analyzed below (Tables 6.35 and 6.36).

**Table 6.35: Cooking facilities of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Cooking facilities	No. Of workers	Percentages
Fire wood	140	53.85
Kerosene	25	9.62
Both	95	36.54
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

Regarding the cooking facilities at their permanent places of residence, it is found that in Barpeta district 53.85% workers use fire wood, 9.62% workers use kerosene while remaining 36.54% workers use both. Sometimes they use kerosene whenever it is available and when it is not, they use fire wood for cooking.

**Table 6.36: Cooking facilities of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Cooking facilities	No. Of workers	Percentages
Fire wood	180	52.94
Kerosene	45	13.24
Both	115	33.82
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

The study in Kamrup(R) district regarding the cooking facilities available at permanent places of residence of the workers shows that 52.94% workers use fire wood, 13.24% workers use kerosene while remaining 33.82% workers use both depending on which one is available for cooking.

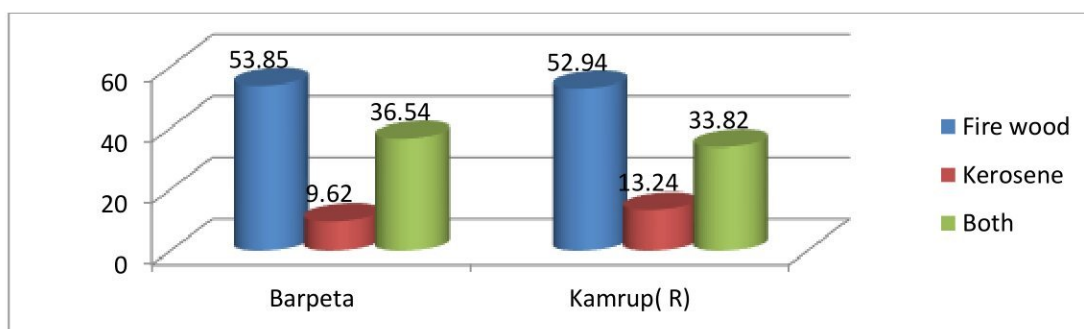
However, a comparison between the 2 districts in respect of nature of cooking facilities of the workers is shown in the table 6.37 and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.11.

**Table 6.37: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of cooking facilities of the workers:**

Districts	Cooking facilities of the workers (in Nos.)			
	Fire wood	Kerosene	Both	Total
Barpeta	140(53.85%)	25(9.62%)	95(36.54%)	260
Kamrup(R)	180(52.94%)	45(13.24%)	115(33.82%)	340
Total	320	70	210	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.11: Nature of cooking facilities in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

The survey in both the districts reveals that owners of brick industries in both the districts provide fire wood and kerosene for cooking to those workers who live in the industry sites. But regarding the facilities for cooking at their permanent place of residence, it is found that in Barpeta district 53.85% workers use fire wood, 9.62% workers use kerosene while remaining 36.54% workers use both. Sometimes they use kerosene whenever it is available and when it is not, they use fire wood for cooking. Again, in Kamrup(R) district, the survey reflects that 52.94% workers use fire wood, 13.24% workers use kerosene and remaining 33.82% workers use both.

#### **6.14 Sources of livelihood of the workers during off-season:**

As the workers in the brick industries are not able to get the employment opportunities throughout the whole year, they have to look for some other sources of livelihood. Brick industry is highly a seasonal industry where the workers get the employment opportunities for 6-7 months in a year. The workers work in the industry from October to nearly March to April. However, the industry remains

closed during the rainy season. So, in brick industry, employment of the workers is purely seasonal. Regarding the sources of livelihood of the workers during off season in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, the results found from the field survey are discussed below (Tables 6.38 & 6.39).

**Table 6.38: Sources of livelihood of the workers during off season in Barpeta district:**

Sources	No. Of workers	Percentages
Agriculture	100	38.46
Casual labour	80	30.77
Animal husbandry	30	11.54
Fishing and others	50	19.23
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

As the production in brick field takes place only for 6-7 months in a year, therefore workers have to choose some other means to earn their livelihood. After the production in brick industry stops due to rain, majority of workers in Barpeta district earn their livelihoods by means of agriculture. In Barpeta district, 38.46% workers earn their livelihoods by means of agriculture, 30.77% workers work as casual labour, 11.54% workers earn their livelihoods by means of animal husbandry and the remaining 19.23% workers earn their livelihoods by fishing or any other activities during off season.

**Table 6.39: Sources of livelihood of the workers during off season in Kamrup(R) district:**

Sources	No. Of workers	Percentage
Agriculture	85	25
Casual labour	130	38.24
Animal husbandry	55	16.18
Fishing and others	70	20.58
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

After the production in brick industry stops due to rain, majority of workers in Kamrup(R) district earn their livelihoods by engaging themselves as casual labour. In Kamrup(R) district, 38.24% workers work as casual labour while 25% workers earn their livelihoods by means of agriculture. Again, 16.18% workers earn their

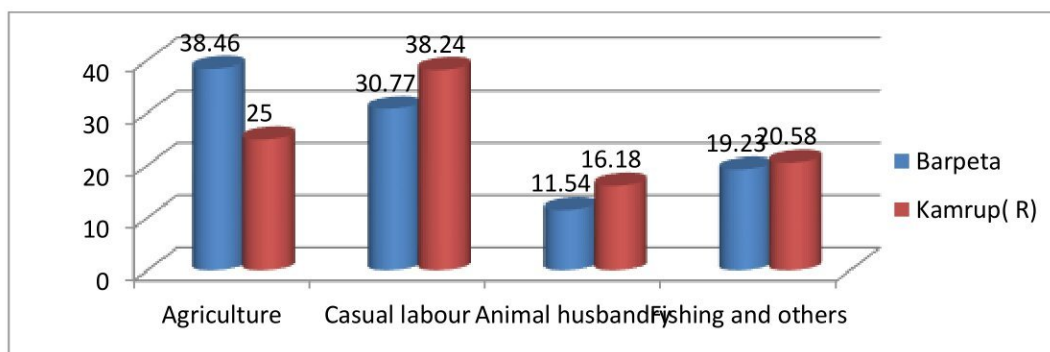
livelihoods by means of animal husbandry and the remaining 20.58% workers earn by fishing or any other activities during off season.

**Table 6.40: Comparison between the 2 districts in respect of the sources of livelihood of the workers during off season:**

Districts	Sources of livelihood of the workers (in Nos.)				
	Agricultural labour	Casual labour	Animal husbandry	Fishing and others	Total
Barpeta	100(38.46%)	80(30.77%)	30(11.54%)	50(19.23%)	260
Kamrup(R)	85(25%)	130(38.24%)	55(16.18%)	70(20.58%)	340
Total	185	210	85	120	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.12: Sources of livelihood of the workers during off season in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey

The table 6.40 makes a comparison between the 2 districts regarding the sources of livelihood of the workers during off season and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.12. The survey reveals that in Barpeta district, majority of the workers earn their livelihoods by means of agriculture while in Kamrup(R) district, majority of the workers work as casual labour during off season. As agriculture is the main occupation for most of the people of Barpeta district, majority of workers earn their livelihood by means of agriculture. In Barpeta district, 38.46% workers are engaged in agriculture while in Kamrup(R) district, 25% workers are engaged in agriculture. In Kamrup(R) district, 38.24% workers work as casual labour while in Barpeta district, 30.77% workers work as casual labour. In

kamrup(R) district, 16.18% workers earn their livelihood by means of animal husbandry during off season while in Barpeta district, it is 11.54%. Again, 20.58% workers in Kamrup(R) district earn their means of living by fishing or any other works during off season while in Barpeta district, it is 19.23%.

### **6.15 Monthly Income of a worker in brick industries in both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts:**

Regarding the monthly income of a worker in Barpeta district, the study shows that the average monthly income provided to a patheri is Rs. 4,710, Rs. 5,867 to a water supplier, Rs. 4,132 to a kessareja, Rs. 8,333 to a loadmistry, Rs. 7,944 to a rabbishman, Rs. 7,917 to a coalyaman, Rs. 8,861 to a fireman and Rs. 4,260 to a pakkareja. Again, the study in Kamrup(R) district shows that the average monthly income provided to a patheri is Rs. 5,380, Rs. 3,647 to a kessareja, Rs. 10,000 to a loadmistry or nikashi, Rs. 9,417 to a rabbishman, Rs. 9333 to a coalyaman, Rs. 11,556 to a fireman and Rs. 4,398 to a pakkareja.

Thus, the study shows that except kessareja, the average monthly income received by other categories of workers such as patheri, loadmistry or nikashi, rabbishman, coalyaman, fireman, pakkareja are higher in Kamrup(R) district than Barpeta district. As the average monthly income received by different categories of workers except kessareja is found to be higher in Kamrup(R) district, economic position of the workers of Kamrup(R) district is better than Barpeta district.

### **6.16 Habit of savings of the workers in brick industries:**

Saving is very necessary for future emergencies. Our future is uncertain. Nobody knows what is going to happen in future. So, everyone should have the habit of saving against bad days. But the survey shows that the habit of savings among brick workers is not at all satisfactory. With the little income they receive from the industry, most of them are not able to make savings. A major part of their income is spent on consumption.

Regarding the savings habit of the workers in brick industries in both the districts, the results obtained from the survey are discussed below (Tables 6.41 & 6.42).



**Table 6.41: Saving habits of the workers in Barpeta district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	25	9.62
No	235	90.38
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

The survey reveals that in Barpeta district, 90.38% workers do not save money. Only 9.62% workers save some money.

**Table 6.42: Saving habits of the workers in Kamrup(R) district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	40	11.76
No	300	88.24
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

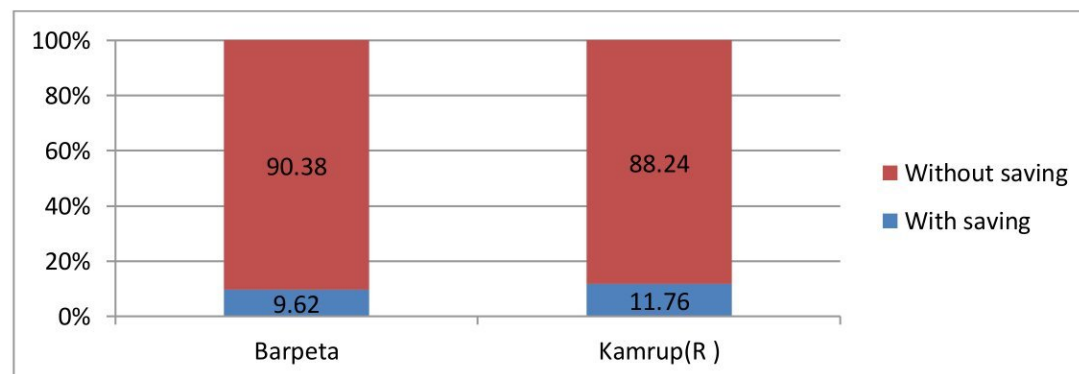
In Kamrup(R) district, the survey shows that 88.24% workers have no savings while only 11.76% workers have some savings.

**Table 6.43: Comparison on saving habits of the workers between the 2 districts:**

Districts	Responses of the workers (in Nos.)		
	Yes	No	Total
Barpeta	25(9.62%)	235(90.38%)	260
Kamrup(R)	40(11.76%)	300(88.24%)	340
Total	65	535	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.13: Saving habits of the workers in both the districts:**



Source: Field survey



The above table 6.43 makes a comparison between the 2 districts regarding saving habits of the workers and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.13. The survey shows that in Barpeta district, only 9.62% workers have saving while 90.38% workers do not save. Similarly in Kamrup(R) district, it is found that only 11.76% workers save some money while 88.24% workers do not save.

Thus, the study shows that the percentage of workers having saving is more in Kamrup(R) district than Barpeta district. So, the economic condition of the workers in Kamrup(R) district is better than Barpeta district.

### **6.17 Access to saving bank account:**

Having a bank account and depositing money in it helps us in so many ways. By depositing money in bank, we can earn some interest and at the same time we can also avoid the fear of physical harm of money like theft or fire. But regarding the habit of saving, it is found that in brick industries, most of the workers do not save or they do not have any bank account. Whatever the income they receive is totally spent on consumption and in fulfilling day to day needs of the families.

In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new scheme named Jan Dhan Yojana under which every Indian family is enrolled in a bank for opening a zero balance account. This scheme not only provides the families of India to have an account but it also offer various different profits for the poor families. But despite of providing this facility, most of the workers in brick industries do not save. It is because of their illiteracy. As most of the workers in brick industries are illiterate, they are not aware of this facility provided by the Government. Again the attitude of the workers toward saving is also negative. They are found not to be interested in saving.

**Table 6.44: Responses of the workers in Barpeta district regarding bank account:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	20	7.69
No	240	92.31
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

The above table 6.44 shows the responses of the workers in Barpeta district regarding bank account. In Barpeta district, it is found that majority of workers (92.31%) do not have a bank account while only 7.69% workers have.

**Table 6.45: Responses of the workers in Kamrup(R) district regarding bank account:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	32	9.41
No	308	90.59
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

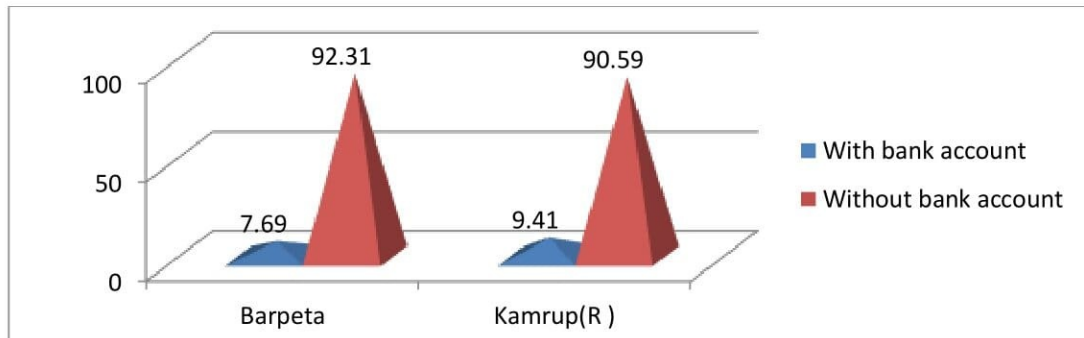
The above table 6.45 shows the responses of the workers in Kamrup(R) district regarding bank account. In Kamrup(R) district, it is found that 90.59% workers do not have bank account while only 9.41% workers have.

**Table 6.46: Comparison between the 2 districts regarding bank account of the workers:**

Districts	Responses of the workers (in Nos.)		
	Yes	No	Total
Barpeta	20(7.69%)	240(92.31%)	260
Kamrup(R)	32(9.41%)	308(90.59%)	340
Total	52	548	600

Source: Field survey

**Figure 6.14: Bank accounts of the workers in both the districts**



Source: Field survey

The table 6.46 makes a comparison between the 2 districts regarding bank account of the workers and the graphical representation of this information is shown in the figure 6.14. In Barpeta district, 92.31% workers do not have bank account while only 7.69% workers have. Again, in Kamrup(R) district, 90.59% workers do not have bank account while 9.41% workers have. Thus, the percentage of workers having bank account is more in Kamrup(R) district than Barpeta district. So, the economic position of workers in Kamrup(R) district is better than Barpeta district.

### **6.18 Food:**

Proper nutritional food is very essential for the workers working in brick industries because too much physical labour is required while working in brick fields. The study in both the districts shows that the owners of the industries do not provide any ration facilities to the workers. Workers have to purchase everything from the market at their own expenses. A large portion of their income is spent on consumption. With the little income they receive, it is not possible for them to take good foods. They only take the normal foods such as rice, dal etc. They hardly take fish, egg etc almost every after 15-20 days of interval.

### **6.19 Health condition of the workers and medical facilities provided to them by the owners:**

In brick industries, workers work in the field for long hours in a day. They work for almost 10-12 hours a day. They work 6 days in a week. In the morning, they start to

work from 6 A.M and continue to 9 A.M. After 9 O' Clock, they take rest for 1 hour and continue the work from 10 A.M to 12 P.M. Thereafter they take rest from 12 to 2 P.M. In between this time; they take their meal and start to work from 2 to 5 P.M. Those workers who are involved in firing the bricks, they continue their works after 5 P.M also. So, due to continuous working in the field, the workers suffer from various types of health related problems such as back pain, fever, eye problem, headache, respiratory disorders and so on.

**Table 6.47: Responses of the workers regarding health problems in Barpeta district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	220	84.62
No	40	15.38
Total	260	100

Source: Field survey

The above table 6.47 shows the responses of the workers in Barpeta district regarding health problems. In Barpeta district, 84.62% workers suffer from various health problems like musculoskeletal pain, respiratory problems and various other problems like fever, headache, skin, eye problems etc from time to time. However, the study also shows that 15.38% workers do not face any health problem while working in brick industries.

**Table 6.48: Responses of the workers regarding health problems in Kamrup(R) district:**

Responses	No. Of workers	Percentages
Yes	275	80.88
No	65	19.12
Total	340	100

Source: Field survey

The above table 6.48 shows the responses of the workers in Kamrup(R) district regarding health problems. In Kamrup(R) district, 80.88% workers suffer from various health problems like musculoskeletal pain, respiratory problems and various other problems like fever, headache, skin, eye problems etc. However, the study also

shows that 19.12% workers do not face any health problem while working in brick industries.

Regarding the medical facilities, the study shows that during illness, medicine is provided to the workers by the owners. But this is not at all satisfactory as the owners provide medicine to the workers only for some common types of diseases like cold, fever, headache etc. In both Barpeta and Kamrup(R) districts, it is found that in some industries, medicine is provided up to Rs. 20-30 while in some other industries, it is found that the medicine is provided up to Rs 100. But beyond that, workers have to take the medical treatment at their own expenses. The medical facilities provided by the owners vary from block to block and even from industry to industry. No dispensary is found near the industry sites.

## **6.20 Hypothesis 2: Working conditions of the workers are very deplorable**

The study reflects that in Barpeta district, 80.77% workers live in kutcha houses with roof, 78.85% workers do not have electricity facilities at their houses, 65.38% workers have kutcha sanitation facilities, 53.85% workers use firewood for cooking, 90.38% workers do not have any savings, 92.31% workers do not have any bank account etc. Again, while working in brick industries, 84.62% workers suffer from various health related problems.

Again, in Kamrup(R) district, 78.82% workers live in kutcha houses, 75.88% workers do not have electricity facilities at their houses, 67.64% workers have kutcha sanitation facilities, 52.94% workers use firewood for cooking, 88.24% workers do not have any savings, 90.59% workers do not have any bank account etc. In Kamrup(R) district, while working in brick industries, 80.88% workers suffer from various health related problems.

Thus, majority of the workers in both the districts live in kutcha houses without any electricity facilities, with kutcha sanitation facilities. Most of the workers take unsafe drinking water without any proper filtration system. Most of workers use firewood for cooking and most of them do not have any saving as well as bank

account. Food habits of the workers are also very normal and majority of workers suffer from various health related problems while working in brick industries. By taking into account all these facts, the hypothesis that the working conditions of the workers are very deplorable is accepted.

Again, by comparing the working and living conditions of the workers between the 2 districts, the study shows that percentage of workers living in kutcha houses without electricity facilities, kutcha sanitation facilities etc. are less in Kamrup(R) district than Barpeta district. Again, average monthly income, saving having, bank account etc. are found to be more among the workers in Kamrup(R) district than Barpeta district. By taking into accounts all these facts, economic condition of workers in Kamrup(R) district is found to be better than Barpeta district.

### **6.21 Conclusion:**

This chapter has highlighted various socio-economic aspects of the workers in brick industry. Majority of the workers belong to the age group 30-39 in both the districts. Majority of the workers are illiterate (never attended school). Most of them are married and have 3- 4 children each. But majority of the children of the workers do not go to schools. Regarding their housing facilities, it is found that most of them live in Kutcha houses having no electricity, proper water supply facilities, proper sanitation facilities etc. Number of workers living in kutcha houses without any electricity facilities is found to be more in Barpeta district than Kamrup(R) district. The workers in brick industries suffer from various healths related problems. Again, works in brick field is highly seasonal. Majority of the worker works as casual labour and agricultural labour during off season. Workers in the brick industries live in a very deplorable condition. Their living condition is not at all satisfactory.

### **6.22 Reference:**

Krieger, J et.al (2002) "Housing and Health: Time Again for Public Health Action", *American Journal of Public Health*, 92(5), Pp. 758-768