CHAPTER-V

Socio Economic Conditions of the Artisans and Traders of Bell Metal Industry of Sarthebari

5.1 Introduction:

A study of an industry is never complete without studying the socio-economic status of the individuals involved in it. The American Psychological Association has defined Socio Economic Status as the social standing of a group or individual[1]. The socio-economic status can be measured by three dimensions- education, income and occupation. It can be seen that socio-economic status is a very important indicator of the level of development of a group of people. Access to resources and basic amenities like health and education is very important to judge that. Over the last few years, there has been exponential growth in the analysis of Socio Economic Profiling of the respondents in Social Science.

The Government of India is also giving more and more importance in the social service sector. In absolute terms, the budgetary allotment in social service sector has increased from 32.85 lakh crore in 2014-15 to 60.72 lakh crore in 2019-20. As share of GDP, it increased from 6.2% in 2014-15 to 7.7% in 2019-20. Again expenditure on education increased from 2.8% of GDP in 2014-15 to 3.1% in 2019-20. But the allocation in health sector didn't increased much, it was 1.2% of GDP in 2014-15 which increased to 1.6% in 2019-20.[2]

The Human Development Report 2019 ranks India at a global position of 129 with a HDI index of 0.647 with a life expectancy of 69.4 years and expected years of schooling of 12.3 years. During the period, India experienced a HDI growth rate of 1.34 which is one of the highest in the world. In this respect, India was ahead of China (0.95) and South Africa (0.78) but behind Bangladesh (1.4) and Myanmar (1.39). If India has to improve its rankings

[1] https://www.apa.org/topics/socioeconomic-status
[2] Govt. of India, *Economic Survey* 2019-20, Vol II.

in HDI index then it must maintain this momentum and increase its public expenditure in health and education. For that, it is absolutely necessary to identify the core areas where to invest more.

Sarthebari is a small town in the district of Barpeta which still has rural characteristics. Again the study area consists of five villages which increase the rural character of the respondents. Thus we are looking at a rural set up which is less developed in comparison to urban area. It is, therefore, necessary to find out the socio economic conditions of the artisans engaged in the production of bell metal in Sarthebari.

In this chapter, the socio-economic status of the bell metal artisans is analysed from the point of view of demographic profile, education, income and standard of living and access to the health facilities. The marketing sector of the bell metal industry is also very important. Therefore, the socio economic conditions of the traders of bell metal in Sarthebari viz. *Mohajons* and *Arabdaris* are also analysed in this chapter.

5.2 Review of Literature:

Khan and Quaddus (2015) studied 450 informal microenterprises in Khulna district in Bangladesh and established the relationship between business environment and socio-economic performance of these firms. Sirven *et al* (2017) developed an index for the corporate social responsibility by combining the severity of the working condition and risk prevention at the workplace. This study establishes a positive relation between prevention and social conditions of the workers. Geary and Signoretti (2021) studies the family owned firms in Italy and analysed that these firms have socio-economic embededness because of family ownership which increases their commitment to the community. Khare and Middernof (2015) studies socio-economic conditions of the workers and producers engaged in the handmade paper products in Kathmandu, Nepal as result of involvement in fair trade practices. In a comparative analysis of three paper companies, it considered indicators like minimum wages, work hour, health facilities, scholarships to children and nature of job of the workers to assess their socio-economic conditions. Mukeku (2018) studies the socio-economic conditions inhabitants of Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. The study focuses on

infrastructural services, housing, sanitation facilities and service infrastructure to assess the socio- economic conditions of the tenants.

Chikala (2015) studied the socio economic changes experienced by the *Dalit*[3] agricultural labourers form Andhra Pradesh as a result of tobacco cultivation. Tobacco cultivation increased their income and brought in a very high degree of social awareness, which encouraged the so called untouchables to fight for social and political recognition. Chandra (2014) studied the socio economic impact of retrenchment of jobs in the Indian city of Allahabad (now Prayagraj). This study establishes that forceful unemployed react negatively to the situation which has negative socio-economic impact. Sheth (1977) lays down the need for a comprehensive sociology of industrial workers in India. He proposed three indicators- social background, commitment and attitude towards work as measure of sociological assessment of industrial workers of India. Patel (2013) measures the socio economic profile of Muslims in the state of Maharashtra. He studied the indicators of economic condition and educational status of the target group. Economic conditions include pattern of land holdings, unemployment, housing, migration and bank loans. Rao and Himachalam ` (1998) studies the socio-economic profile of the handloom weavers of Nellore in the state of Andhra Pradesh. This study analyses indicators including caste, time of entry to the profession, pattern of the handloom units, ownership, age, subsidiary occupation, education, family structure, gender status, and economic status of the weavers. Das *et al*. (2018) explains the sustainability status of the MSME sector in India and concludes that a large percentage of MSME firms fail to sustain itself and closes down after few years. Reasons of this unsustainably includes lack of infrastructure, lack of managerial capability, education and social conditions.

Jose (2017) studies the socio-economic conditions of the migrant teachers in the city of Pune, Maharashtra. This study analyses two dimensions of socio economic indicators- education and economic conditions. Indicators like personal income, household income, employment rates and poverty rates were considered in this analysis. Singh *et al* (2021) examines the impact of micro and macro environmental factors on socio economic benefits

[3] A person belonging to the lowest castes of Indian Society. They were often called untouchables.

in the MSME sector in Jammu and Kashmir. It studies factors like gender variations, age group and educational qualifications of the respondents.

Meher and Shahoo (2008) analysed the causes of low growth rate of small scale industries in a mineral rich state like Orissa now Odisha. This paper studied the social background of the entrepreneurs, education level, family set up and background and economic factors like level of income to assess the socio economic impacts of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in Odisha. Due to a change in technology and other social factors more and more new avenues of employment have been opening for women in India. Along with this, the socio-economic status of the women is also improving. Sabarinathan and Ganapathi (2011) study the women textile workers of Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu, India. They took into account indicators like age, education, marital status, and status of employment, skill level, and size of the family, monthly income, with level of job satisfaction of the respondents. Marmot and Smith (1997) studies the socio economic differential in health, particularly mortality, morbidity and psychological conditions. Patel (1967) studies the potential transformation of the rural population to industrial workers as case study of Atul Industries, Gujarat.

The Global Health Security Index (Bell and Nuzzo; 2021) collected data from 195 countries during the Covid 19 pandemic and prepares an index for the countries and ranks them. This report measures the health security capacities of the participating countries. Along with that this report also evaluates the public health and public health capacities of the countries. Based upon three fundamental principles, *viz*. Transparency, Preparedness and Responsibility, the Global Health Security (GHS) index was calculated. The GHS Index thus calculated has become an important tool of assessing a country's health infrastructure and its preparedness to face medical emergency situation.

Agarwal *et.al* (2020) in their report on "State of Electricity Access in India: Insights from the India Residential Energy Survey (IRES) 2020" finds that 97% of the Indian households are electrified. This multi stage stratified sampling of nearly 14,850 Indian households across 21 States of India studies three objectives- is the claim of Universal Electrification in India true, reliability and quality of electricity supply and the process of metering, billing and collection of the Discoms. The study finds that till now 2.4% of the

Indian households still do not have an electricity connection. The main reason is that most of these households cannot afford an electricity connection and they have no information about government schemes like *Saubhagya*[4]. This study also finds that the average hours of electricity supply is 20.6 hours. While states like Delhi and Gujarat has electricity supply of up to 23 hours, states like Assam gets an average of 18 hours of electricity supply. Mani *et.al.* (2021) in their report, "State of Clean Cooking Energy Access in India: Insights from the India Residential Energy Survey (IRES) 2020" examines the current status of access of Indian households to fuel. Based on data from *Indian Residential Energy Survey 2020*, this study is based on three objectives- role of government schemes in LPG uptake, extent of reduction of solid fuel waste as a result of increased LPG connection, and strategies to make LPG, the primary source of cooking fuel. The study concludes that as a result of government schemes like *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* (PMUY) households using LPG as a primary source of cooking fuel increased from 28.5% in 2011 to 71% in 2020. The study also reveals that in Assam 88% of the households has accessed to LPG which is well above national average. The survey concludes that the main hurdles in getting an LPG connection are affordability and administrative process.

For classifying families into different strata different scales are considered, among them the Kuppuswamy Scale is the most widely used scale for classifying the socioeconomic status of urban / semi urban families in India.Kuppuswamy and Singh (1967) compared the scales proposed by Kuppuswamy, Varma, Lewis and Dhillon, Pareekh and Trivedi and Radhukar Scale. In this study, the authors used the Kuppuswamy Scale for urban areas on rural families and found that the scale suitable for rural families also. The study found that the scale, originally created for the urban families of Mysore can also be used on rural families of Western Uttar Pradesh. Due to devaluation of money and the rising Consumer Price Index, the cost of living and income have been increasing continuously over the time. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to update the income criterion of the Kuppuswamy Scale. A number of attempts have been made to update the income criterion of the scale over the years. Mishra and Singh (2003) modified the scale by updating the income criterion for the year 1988. Khairner *et al* (2016) updated the income and occupation criteria of the

[4] Launched in October 2017 by Govt. of India, this is world's biggest universal electrification scheme aims to provide electricity connection to all the un electrified households in India.

Kuppuswamy scale for the year 2016. This study divided the occupation criterion into ten categories in place of the original seven categories. Wani (2019) updated the Kuppuswamy Scale and the Udai Parekh Scale till the January, 2019 based on the February 2019 Consumer Price Index which was based on 2001 as the Base Year. Saleem and Jan (2021) updated the Modified Kuppuswamy index to the year 2021 on the basis of the Wholesale Price Index of India. This study revised the range of family income defined in the Original Kuppuswamy Index and updated to values for four years *i.e.* 2012, 2018, 2020 and 2021. Ain *et al.*(2022) revised the income criterion of the Kuppuswamy Index by using a conversion formula based on Consumer Price Index. This paper updated the scale till the year 2021. Kumar *et al.* updated the income criterion till the year 2022. This study has adopted the ten point modification of the occupation criterion as suggested by Khairner *et al* (2016).

It has been observed there have been many studies regarding the socio economic status of various group of people, from slum dwellers to female teachers over the years. But it has been observed that not much is studied about the socio economic profile of the workers of a handicraft industry like bell metal industry. Therefore, this chapter will bridge the research gap in this regard.

5.3 Methodology:

For assessing the socio economic profile of the artisans involved in the bell metal industry, it is very important to determine the demographic profile of the *Kohars* and the Traders. This is determined by analysing the caste, linguistic group, sex ratio and the age group of the *Kohars*.

One of the most important indicators of socio-economic Status is Education. Analysis of the level of education is done on the basis of field survey. Data regarding education level of the *Kohars* and the Traders were collected on the basis of the seven Categories of education in India *viz* Illiterate, Primary Level i.e. up to Class V, Secondary level i.e. Class VI to VIII, Senior Secondary i.e. from Class IX to XII, Graduate i.e. B.A. /B.Sc. and B.Com., Post Graduate and Technical education Degree i.e. B.E./ B.Tech. The collected data are then analysed on the basis of Cluster/Villages. Percentage method was used to categorise and analyse *Kohars* and the Traders into what different levels of education. The collected

data are also analysed on the basis of type of production also. Here, the percentage method was applied.

The standard of living is a very important indicator of socio-economic status of a group of people. The standard of living of the *Kohars* and those of the Traders are analysed on the basis of six indicators *viz.* Electricity, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Flooring, Cooking Fuel and Assets. These indicators give an idea about the living standard of a group of people. Regarding Electricity the numbers of households who have Electricity connection were determined from the field survey. Again regarding assets, nine types of consumer durables which have resale value and necessary for comfortable living were identified. They were- Mobile Phones, Bicycle, Two Wheeled Motor Bike, Car, Television Sets, Refrigerators, Music Players, Computer and Others. Other Assets include any item or Consumer Durables which are not among the previous eight identified assets. Data were collected from the field regarding possession of such assets and percentage method was used to analyse the results. The other dimension of standard of living is Sanitation facilities. Data regarding Nature of sanitation facilities, *viz*. *Kutcha* Latrines[5], Toilets or Open space were collected and compared using the percentage method. Another dimension of the standard of living is the nature of the house. Data regarding the nature of the house, *viz.* nature of the floor, whether mud or concrete, nature of the wall, whether mud, bamboo or reed mash or bricks, nature of the roof- whether tin or thatch, availability of separate kitchen, availability of bathrooms and overall nature of the house i.e. RCC, Assam Type or *Kutcha*. Cooking Fuel is another important dimension of standard of living. Clean cooking fuel is very important from the point of view of Health and environment. Data regarding nature of cooking fuel used were collected from the field and analysed using the percentage method.

Health is of paramount importance when we analyse the socio-economic profile of a group of people. The *Kohars* have to work in unhygienic conditions for long hours. They have to work in close contact with *Bhatti* which are fuelled by *Bogorir Angar.* Again they have to use hammers constantly for ten to twelve hours. This type of hard work may be the cause of some chronic health problems. Five types of chronic health problems related to this type of work were identified and data were collected from the respondent *Kohars,* regarding

[5] Single pit latrine with no slabs

these. The chronic health problems were- Eye Problem, Pain, Heart problem, Skin Problem and Asthma. Data were also collected regarding basic health facilities availed by the *Kohars*. Data were collected regarding the type of health facilities they avail during medical emergency. The categories of medical facilities that the *Kohars* visit during medical emergency were identified as Government Hospitals, Private Medical Practitioners, Alternative Medicine and Traditional/ Local medicine practitioners like *Bez*[6], *Ojha*[7] etc. The nature of the job of the Traders is not as physically demanding as that of the *Kohars*. Therefore, no chronic health problems could be identified with the nature of their job. Thus, data regarding the type of health facilities they avail during medical emergency, access to vaccinations etc, were collected from the Traders and analysed as mentioned above.

For profiling of the Socio economic Status of the *Kohars* the Modified Kuppuswamy Scale was used in this study. The original Kuppuswamy Scale considered seven criteria in the occupation section *viz.* Professional (white collar), Semi-professional, Clerical, shop-owner/farm, Skilled worker, Semi-skilled worker, Unskilled worker and Unemployed (Kuppuswamy, 1981). In the modified Kuppuswamy Scale suggested by Khairner *et al* (2016) suggested ten criteria in the occupation section based on the National Classification of Occupations – 2004(Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)[8]. Table 5.1 gives the details of the Occupation criterion of the Kuppuswamy scale.

Table-5.1: Occupation Criterion of Kuppuswamy Scale

Sl. No.	Occupation	Score
1	Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	10
2	Professionals	9
3	Technicians and Associate Professionals	8
4	Clerks	7
5	Skilled Workers and Shop & Market Sales Workers	6
6	Skilled Agricultural & Fishery Workers	5
7	Craft & Related Trade Workers	4
8	Plant & Machine Operators and Assemblers	3
9	Elementary Occupation	2
10	Unemployed	1

Source: Khairner *et al(2016)*

[6] Local health practitioners who treat people using herbs, medicines, by chanting *mantras* etc.
[7] Exorcist
[8] https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/CodeStructure.pdf accessed on 12/10/2022 11.33 P.M.

As the *Kohars* are engaged themselves in the craft of Bell Metal production, they are categorised into the criterion seven of Craft & Related Trade Workers and assigned a score of Four (4) each.

There have been many revisions of the Kuppuswamy Scale, particularly on the Income criterion. To normalise the price rise the income ranges have been changed based on the consumer price index of India. This study considers the income ranges modified in the year 2016 as the data for the study was collected during the year 2017. Table 5.2 gives the details of the income criterion of the Kuppuswamy Scale.

Table-5.2: Income Criterion of Kuppuswamy Scale

Sl. No.	Monthly Family Income in Rs. (1976)	Updated Monthly Family income in 2016	Score
1	≥ 2000	≥ 40,430	12
2	1000–1999	20,210–40,429	10
3	750–999	15,160–20,209	6
4	500–749	10,110–15,159	4
5	300–499	6060–10,109	3
6	101–299	2021–6059	2
7	≤ 100	≤ 2020	1

Source: Khairner *et al(2016)*

The monthly family income of the *Kohar* is calculated by dividing the Net Annual Income of the *Kohars* by a factor of 12 assuming that the *Kohars* have a uniform income all year round. Table 5.3 gives the education criterion of the Kuppuswamy Scale. This criterion has remained unchanged from the original version of the scale.

Table-5.3: Education Criterion of Kuppuswamy Scale

Sl. No.	Education of the Head of the Family	Weight
1	Profession or Honours	7
2	Graduate	6
3	Intermediate or diploma	5
4	High school certificate	4
5	Middle school certificate	3
6	Primary school certificate	2
7	Illiterate	1

Source: Khairner *et al(2016)*

Kuppuswamy divided the families into five categories of socio economic class based on the score from the three criteria of the scale. Table 5.4 shows the distribution of various socio economic classes depending on the Scores.

Table-5.4: Distribution of Socio Economic Class according to Kuppuswamy Scale

Sl. No.	Socio Economic Class	Score
1	Upper Class	26 to 29
2	Upper Middle Class	16 to 25
3	Lower Middle Class	11 to 15
4	Upper Lower	5 to 10
5	Lower	Less than 5

Source: Kuppuswamy (1967)

5.4 Results and Discussions:

The results of the analyses of the socio economic conditions of the *Kohar* and the traders are enumerated below.

5.4.1 Demographic Profile of the *Kohars*:

Production sector of the whole bell metal industry is dominated by members of the Hindu religious community. All the *Kohars* belong to the Hindu religion with none from the religious minority (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Zorastrians). Out of 172 *Kohars* interviewed, 167 were from the General Caste whereas only five belong to the OBC category. This shows that 97% of the *Kohars* are from the General Caste whereas only 3% belonged to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. None of the *Kohars* are from Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.

If we consider the linguistic group, all the *Kohars* engaged in the bell metal industry are from Assamese speaking community.

As the bell metal industry is a highly physical job requiring on an average 10.39 hours of work each day which ranges from 8 to 12 hours as shown in Chapter-II (2.4). All the artisans engaged in the production of bell metal are males with no females. In the marketing sector also, all the persons engaged are males. Thus it is purely a male dominated industry

where there is no direct role of females. Again, as the *Garhshalls* are located inside the premises of the *Kohars*, the females of the household help in serving refreshments to the artisans. But for this they are not paid any remuneration. That is why we can say that there is no economic contribution of women in this industry.

The average age of the *Kohars* is determined as 41.48 years with a standard deviation of 10.014. Table 5.1 gives the age wise distribution of *Kohars*.

Table 5.5: Distribution of *Kohars* in Age Group

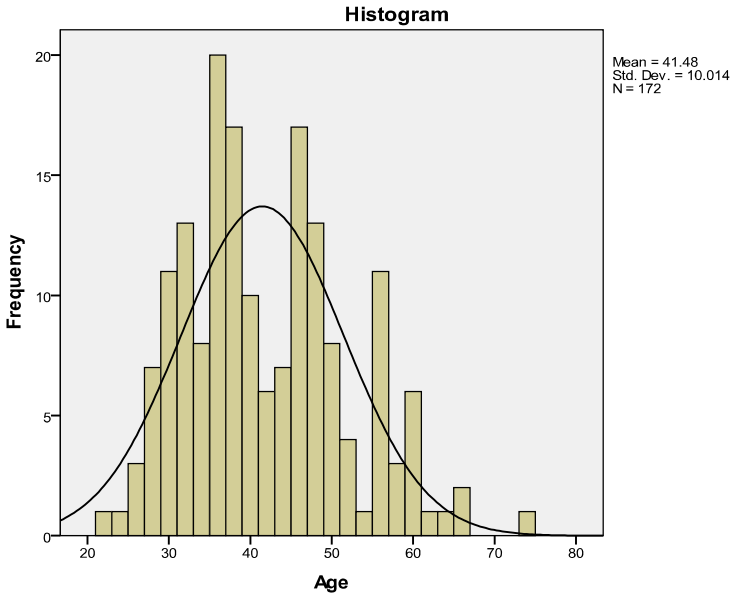
Age Group	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
20-30	23	13.4	13.4	13.4
30-40	68	39.5	39.5	52.9
40-50	51	29.7	29.7	82.6
50-60	25	14.5	14.5	97.1
60-70	4	2.3	2.3	99.4
70-80	1	.6	.6	100.0
Total	172	100.0	100.0	

Source Field Survey

Table 5.5 shows that 68 *Kohars* (39.5%) belong to the age group of 30 to 40. Again 51 *Kohars* (29.7%) belong to the age group 40-50. 23 (13.4%) and 25 (14.5%) *Kohars* belong to the age group 20-30 and 50-60 respectively. The number of *Kohars* decreases drastically after the age of 60. Only 5 (2.9%) *Kohars* are found active after the age of 60. Out of them, only one *Kohar* is above the age of 70. He is one of the two *Kohars* producing *Lota* in the village of Namshala. This is because due to the physically demanding nature of the job they start leaving the *Garhshall* passing on the mantle to their sons or one of their able *Aidhas* once they become old. Maximum number of *Kohars* belongs to the age group 30-40. The *Kohars* start learning the trade early in life. They start working in the *Garhshall* in early 20's. So by the time they earn experience for 10-15 years and they become ready to be a *Kohar*.

Figure 5.1 shows the distribution of the *Kohars* according to their age. The youngest *Kohar* is of 22 years. The distribution is approximately symmetric with Coefficient of Skewness at 0.488. Again the mean and median age of the *Kohars* stand at 41.48 and 40 respectively. The variance of age distribution of the *Kohars* is determined as 100.28 years

Figure 5.1: Distribution of *Kohars* According to the Age Group



Source: Field Survey.

The Coeffecient of Variation of age distribution of the *Kohars* is determined at 24.14

Nine out of Ten *Kohars* are married, while none of them are divorcee. 155 out of 172 *Kohars* are married (90.12%) while 17 are unmarried.

5.4.2 Demographic Profile of the Traders of Bell Metal in Sarthebari:

The marketing sector of the whole bell metal industry in Sarthebari is dominated by members of the Hindu community. All the Traders belong to the Hindu religion with none from the religious minority (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Zorastrians). Out of 71 traders, which include 41 *Mohajons* and 30 *Arabdaris*, all are from the General Caste. None of the Traders belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) or Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

If we consider the linguistic group, all the Traders engaged in the bell metal industry are from Assamese speaking community. The average age of the Traders is determined as 43.31 years with a standard deviation of 8.412. Table 5.2 gives the age wise distribution of Traders.

Table 5.6: Distribution of Traders in Age Group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20-30	5	7.0	7.0	7.0
	30-40	24	33.8	33.8	40.8
	40-50	28	39.4	39.4	80.3
	50-60	14	19.7	19.7	100.0
	Total	71	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.6 shows that 28 (39.4%) Traders belong to the age group of 40-50. Again 24 (33.8%) Traders belong to the age group 30-40. 14 and 5 Traders belong to the age groups 50-60 and 20-30 respectively. No Traders involved in the marketing of bell metal in Sarthebari are above the age of 60 years. Out of the 41 *Mohajons*, four are of age 60, whereas all the *Arabdaris* are below the age of 60. The youngest Trader is of age 25.

Out of the 71 Traders of bell metal, 65 (91.55%) are married, while the rest six are unmarried. The variance of age distribution of the Traders is determined as 70.76 years and the co efficient of variation of age distribution of the Traders is determined at 19.37.

Comparison of the co efficient of variation of age distribution of the *Kohars* and the Traders reveal that the age distribution of the Traders is more concentrated as compared to that of the *Kohars*.

5.4.3 Level of Education of the *Kohars*:

Education is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic profile. Knowledge is one of the most important components of any index which measures the level of economic or social development of a country.

Table 5.7 shows cluster wise distribution of level of education of the *Kohars*. It can be seen that none of the *Kohars* have a Masters Degree or Degree in Technical Education (B.E., B.Tech, Diploma in Engineering, B.Sc. in Agriculture etc). Only three *Kohars* are graduates (B.A.) out of them two are from Sarthebari and the remaining one is from Gomurah. There are 10 *Kohars* who are illiterates. Out of them, four are from the village

Amrikhawa and out of the remaining six, three are from Lachima, two are from Gomurah and just one is from Sarthebari.

Table 5.7: Level of Education of *Kohars*

Cluster	Illiterate	up to V	vi-viii	ix-xii	Degree	Master	Technical	TOTAL
Sarthebari	1 (10)	17 (43.59)	20 (43.48)	37 (50)	2 (66.67)	0	0	77
Namshala	0	9 (23.08)	8 (17.39)	11 (14.86)	0	0	0	28
Gomurah	2 (20)	5 (12.82)	10 (21.74)	17 (22.97)	1(33.33)	0	0	35
Karakuchi	0	3 (7.69)	3 (6.52)	7 (9.46)	0	0	0	13
Lachima	3 (30)	2 (5.13)	0	2 (2.7)	0	0	0	7
Amrikhawa	4 (40)	3 (7.69)	5 (10.87)	0	0	0	0	12
TOTAL	10	39	46	74	3	0	0	172

Source: Field Survey.
Note: Figures in Parentheses indicate the percentage of concerned total value

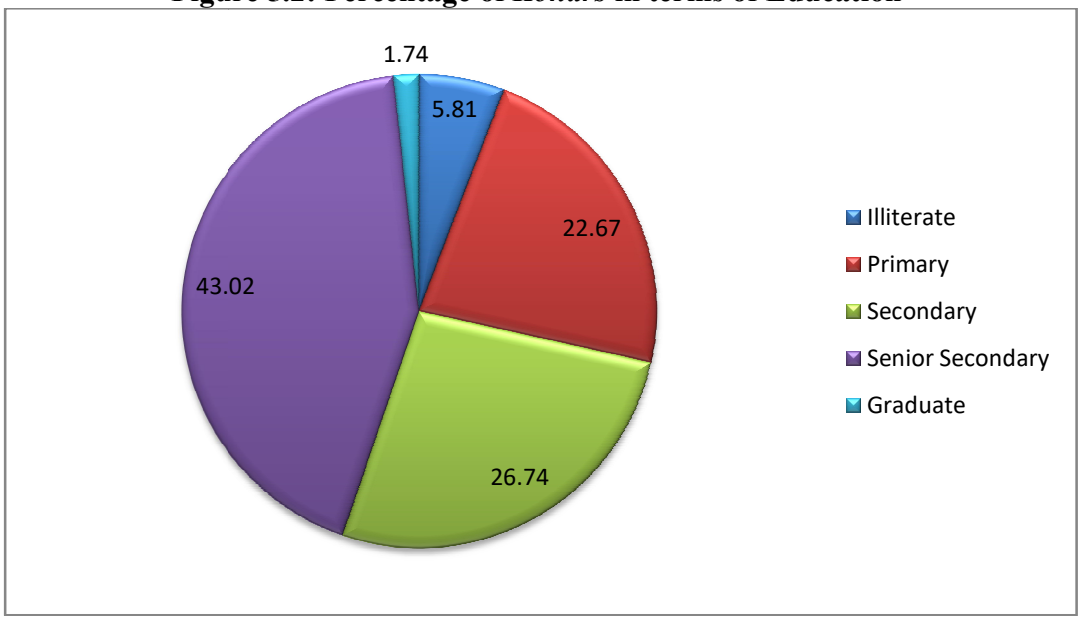
Out of all the *Kohars,* 43.02% have attained the Senior Secondary Level, i.e. they have studied from Class IX to Class XII. Out of the 74 *Kohars* who have attained this level, 37 (50%) come from Sarthebari, 17 (22.9%) come from Gomurah and 11(14.86%) come from Namshala. 46 *Kohars* which is 26.74% of all *Kohars* have studied up to class VIII. Among them, 20 (43.48%) are from Sarthebari, 10 (21.74%) are from Gomurah and eight (17.39%) are from Namshala. Again out of the remaining eight, three are from Karakuchi and five are from Amrikhawa. It is observed that 22.67% of the *Kohars* (39) have only studied up to the primary level i.e. Class V. Out of these 39 *Kohars*, 17(43.59%) are from Sarthebari; nine (23.08%) are from Namshala; five (12.82%) are from Gomurah; three each are from Karakuchi and Amrikhawa and the remaining two are from Lachima.

It is noted that out of these 172 *Kohars* only 1.85% went on to complete their graduation which is 3 out of 162 who were enrolled in a school. 24.1% did not study beyond the Primary level and 28.4% did not did not reach the Senior Secondary level. This shows that these *Kohar* do not have much formal education but they became fairly successful in the profession of bell metal production. One of the major causes of school dropout is that as the *Garhshalls* are in their home premises, they got interested in the trade and gradually starts helping their fathers and uncles in making bell metal products and ultimately joins a

Garhshall as an *Aidha*. And in the long run, they become *Kohars* as they gain expertise and experience.

Figure 5.2 shows the percentage wise distribution of educational qualification by the *Kohars*. This comparative diagram shows that majority of the *Kohars* leave their study during the classes IX to XII. An explanation to this phenomenon is that the children of the bell metal artisans join the *Garhshall* once they reach the age of 18/19. Usually it is seen that, most of the children of bell metal artisans who are weak in studies leave their studies midway to join the *Garhshall*s as *Jogali*. This is because of the fact that they realize that as they are weak in studies and there is little chance that they will get a Government job after attaining graduation. That is why, they consider it more practical to join the *Garhshall* and learn the art of manufacturing bell metal products.

Figure 5.2: Percentage of *Kohars* in terms of Education



Source: Field Survey

Table 5.8 shows that out of the 10 illiterate *Kohars,* seven produce *Kahi* whereas two produce *Bati* and the remaining one produces *Taal*. There are 39 *Kohars* who have attained primary education only. Out of them 18 (46.15%) produce *Kahi*, Nine (23.08%) produce *Taal*, Seven (17.95%) produce *Bati*. On the other hand, two each (5.13%) produce Bell/Others and *Bata*, and a single one produces *Lota*. Out of the 46 *Kohars* who have studied up to class VIII, majority (39.13%) produce *Kahi*. If we analyse the number of 74

Kohars who have reached the senior secondary level, we can see that 30 of them (40.54%) produce *Kahi*, 16 (21.62%) produces *Bati*, 13 (17.57%) produce *Taal*. Among the three graduate *Kohars,* one each produces *Kahi*, *Taal* and *Bata*. Analysis of table 5.3 shows that there is no particular pattern emerges about the education of the *Kohars* and their products.

Table 5.8: Level of Education of *Kohars* Productwise

Products	Illiterate	Up to Class V	Class VI to VIII	Class IX to XII	Graduate	Masters	Technical Degree	Total
Kahi	7 (70)	18 (46.15)	18 (39.13)	30 (40.54)	1 (33.33)	0	0	74
Bati	2 (20)	7 (17.95)	12 (26.09)	16 (21.62)	0	0	0	37
Bata	0	2 (5.13)	9 (19.57)	8 (10.81)	1 (33.33)	0	0	20
Taal	1 (10)	9 (23.08)	4 (8.7)	13 (17.57)	1 (33.33)	0	0	28
Baan Bati	0	0	3 (6.52)	5 (6.76)	0	0	0	8
Maihang	0	0	0	1 (1.35)	0	0	0	1
Lota	0	1 (2.56)	0	1 (1.35)	0	0	0	2
Bell/ Others	0	2 (5.13)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	10	39	46	74	3	0	0	172

Source: Field Survey.
Note: Figures in Parentheses indicate the percentage of concerned total value

5.4.4 Level of Education of Traders:

In comparison to the *Kohars*, the Traders of bell metal in Sarthebari are more educated. While there were no *Kohars* with a post graduate degree, two traders have attained the post graduate degree. Table-5.9 gives the details of educational degrees of bell metal Traders of Sarthebari.

Table 5.9: Level of Education of Traders

Level of Education	Number of Traders	Percentage
Senior Secondary	58	81.69
Graduate	7	9.86
Secondary	4	5.63
Post Graduate	2	2.82
Total	71	100

Source: Field Survey

Table-5.9 shows that out of the 71 Traders, 58 (81.69%) have attained the senior secondary level of education. While seven traders are graduates, two are post graduates. From Table-5.3 we can see that among the *Kohars*, there are 10 (5.82%) illiterates and 39 (22.67%) attained only primary level schooling. But none among the traders are either illiterates or attained only primary level schooling. This shows that the traders of bell metal are more educated in comparison to the *Kohars*.

5.4.5 Income of the *Kohars* :

The income earned by the *Kohars* is already discussed in Chapter II of this study. To analyse the Socio Economic Status of the artisans of the bell metal industry, it is important to study the income of the *Kohar*s. Table 5.10 gives the average annual income of the *Kohar*s.

Table 5.10: Average Annual Income of *Kohars*

SL. No.	Product	Average Annual Income of *Kohars* (In Rs.)
1	*Taal*	236680.00
2	*Kahi*	225090.00
3	*Maihang*	196725.00
4	*Bati*	143045.00
5	*Bata*	109495.00
6	*Lota*	97295.00
7	*Baan Bati*	87535.00
8	Bell/ Others	72285.00
Average Annual Income of All *Kohars*		146019.00

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.10 shows that the average annual income of the *Kohars* from the production of bell metal stands at Rs. 146019.00 which is more than the Per Capita GSDP of Assam at Rs. 101851.00 in 2019-20. Again among the *Kohars* producing different products, the ones producing *Taal* has the highest annual income of Rs.236680.00 and those producing *Kahi* come second at Rs. 225090.00. The *Kohars* producing *Baanbati* and Bell/ Others earn the lowest income at Rs. 87535.00 and Rs.72285.00 respectively.

It has been observed that bell metal craft is the primary occupation of all the *Kohars*. Bell metal craft is very time consuming and physically demanding that it cannot be treated as a part time job. It was also observed that 12 *Kohars* undertook other earning activities while

their *Garhshalls* remained closed for the lack of raw materials. But when the *Garhshall* is under operation, he cannot think of other activities. Again 11 of the 172 *Kohars* have agricultural land from which they earn a little income. Most of these are given for cultivation to others on contractual basis.

5.4.6 Living Standard of the *Kohars*:

The living standards of a group of people are one of the most important indicators of the socio-economic conditions of them. The Alkire-Foster[9] method of Multidimensional Poverty Index mentions six dimensions of Living Standard *viz.* electricity, sanitation, drinking water, flooring, cooking fuel and assets. This study analyses these dimensions of the *Kohars* engaged in the production of bell metal.

Assets refer to valuable owned by a person that has monetary value. In Assamese culture and society, land and gold are considered as the most important asset that a family can hold. But in our study, we have considered those assets which are directly related to the standard of living. In other words, we have considered consumer's durables which are owned by the *Kohars*. Eight assets were identified viz. Mobile Phones, Bicycles, Bikes or motorised two wheelers, Television Sets, Music Player, Refrigerators, Cars and Computers which includes Laptops and Desktops. Apart from these any other assets owned by *Kohars* are categorised as 'Others'. This includes any other assets other than these for e.g. Tablets, Rice Cookers, Washing Machines, Mixer Grinders, Microwave Ovens, OTG etc. The details of consumer durables owned by the *Kohars* engaged in the production of bell metal products are explained in Table 5.11 below.

Table 5.11: Assets Owned By the *Kohars*

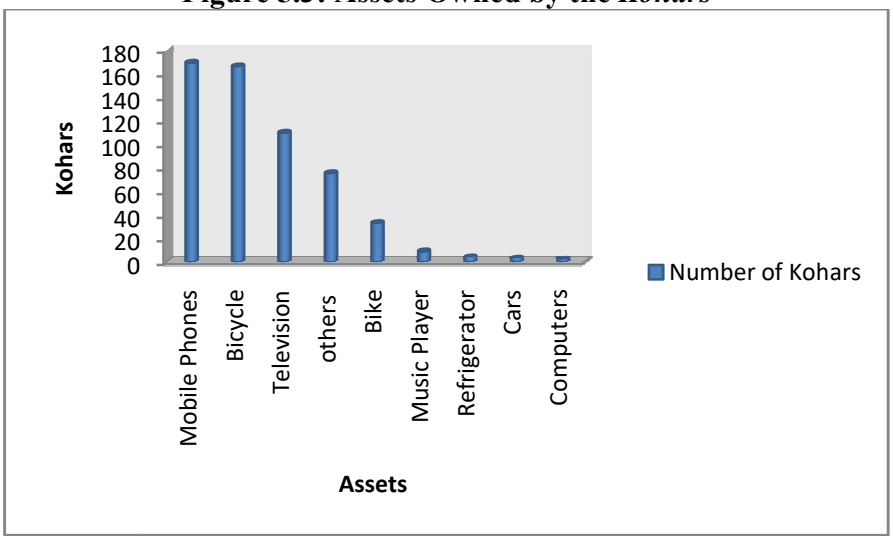
Sl.No.	Type	Numbers	Percentage
1	Mobile Phones	169	98.26
2	Bicycle	166	96.51
3	Television	110	63.95
4	Others	76	44.19
5	Bike	34	19.77
6	Music Player	10	5.81
7	Refrigerator	5	2.91
8	Cars	4	2.33
9	Computers	3	1.74

Source: Field Survey

[9] https://ophi.org.uk/research/multidimensional-poverty/alkire-foster-method/

Table 5.11 shows that 98.26% of the *Kohars* own a mobile phone while 96.51% of them own a bicycle. It shows that almost every *Kohar* owns either bicycle or a mobile phone. 63.95% of the *Kohars* own TV sets at home whereas only 10 *Kohars* have a music system at home, 34 (19.77%) of the *Kohars* own bikes. It shows that one out of five *Kohars* own a Bike. Though Bicycles are primary mode of individual transport among the *Kohars*, the younger ones prefer bikes. Only four *Kohars* own cars at home and three own laptop computers at home. This shows that the *Kohars* still think that computer is a luxury item rather than a necessity. Figure 5.3 shows the relative importance of assets owned by *Kohars*.

Figure 5.3: Assets Owned by the *Kohars*



Source: Field Survey

Another important dimension of standard of living is sanitation facilities. Table 5.12 gives the details of Sanitation Facilities of the *Kohars*. 58.14% of the *Kohars* have proper toilet facilities at home, whereas 38.37% of them still use *Kutcha* Latrines. Six families do not have latrine facility at home, they use open spaces.

Table 5.12: Sanitation Facilities of *Kohars*

Kutcha Latrines	66 (38.37 %)
Sanitary Toilets	100 (58.14%)
Open Space	6 (3.49%)

Source: Field Survey

When we study the living standard of a group of people, the condition of their home gets paramount importance. The nature of the homes includes type of flooring, wall, and

roof, type of house, kitchen and bathroom. Table 5.13 gives the details of nature of house of the *Kohars* of Sarthebari. Out of the 172 houses under study, 101 (58.72%) are Assam Type[10] houses, 68 (39.53%) of the houses are *Kutcha*[11]. Only three houses are of RCC[12] type. All the *Kutcha* and Assam Type houses of the *Kohars* have tin roofing (98.26%). The three RCC type houses have concrete roofing. When we consider the type of floor of the houses, all the *kutcha* houses have mud floor, along with them 39 Assam Type houses also have mud flooring. Thus in total 107 (62.21%) houses have mud floor. All the other houses (65) have concrete floor. Out of them, three are RCC houses and the other 62 are Assam Type houses. When we consider the walls of the houses 77 of the houses have Bamboo or Reed Mesh[13]. Out of these 68 are *Kutcha* houses and the other nine are Assam Type houses with Plaster over the mesh with half bricked walls. The other 95 (55.25%) have brick wall, out of which 92 are Assam Type and the remaining three are RCC buildings. More than half (56.98%) of the houses have separate kitchens and the others do not have a separate kitchen. They do their cooking in their homes. Almost two third of the houses (73.26%) have separate Bathrooms while the others do not have separate bathrooms. It is observed that among the *Kohars* who live in *Kutcha* houses, only 22 have bathrooms whereas the other 46 do not have their own bathrooms.

Table 5.13: Nature of House of *Kohars*

Flooring	Mud	107 (62.21%)
	Concrete	65 (37.79%)
Wall	Bamboo/ Reed Mash	77 (44.77%)
	Brick	95 (55.23%)
Roof	Tin	169 (98.26%)
	Concrete	3 (1.74%)
Type of House	*Kutcha*	68 (39.53%)
	Assam Type	101 (58.72%)
	RCC	3 (1.74%)
Separate Kitchen	No	74 (43.02 %)
	Yes	98 (56.98 %)
Bathroom	Yes	126 (73.26%)
	No	46 (26.74 %)

Source: Field Survey
Note: Figures in Parentheses indicate the percentage of concerned total value

[10] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam-type_architecture
[11] https://www.magicbricks.com/blog/what-is-kutcha-house/125260.html
[12] https://civilsir.com/what-is-rcc-full-form-and-meaning-in-civil-engineering/
[13] *Ikora* in Assamese.

If we observe the housing pattern of the *Kohars,* we observe that most of them do not have the basic minimum housing facilities. Only about half of the *Kohars* live in conditions suitable for healthy and comfortable living, e.g. good comfortable home which can withstand the rigours of extreme weather and rain.

The other important dimension of standard of living is Facilities of Drinking Water, which is very important from the point of view of health. The number of Indian people who do not have access to clean water is very high; it is in fact the highest in the world. Around 163 million people of India do not have access to clean drinking water[14].

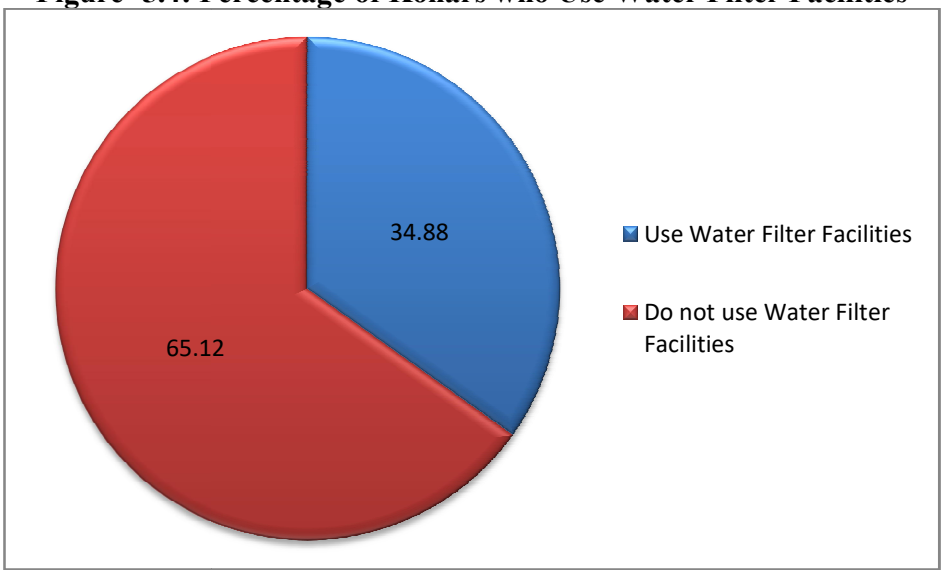
Table 5.14: Drinking Water Facilities of the *Kohars*

Tube Well	157 (91.28%)
Ring Well	12 (6.98%)
Running Water	3 (1.74%)

Source: Field Survey
Note: Figures in Parentheses indicate the percentage of concerned total value

Table 5.14 gives the details of drinking water facilities of the *Kohars*. 91.28% of the *Kohars* use tube well for drinking water, while 6.98% depend on Ring wells for that. Only three households have access to running water.

Figure- 5.4: Percentage of Kohars who Use Water Filter Facilities



Source: Field Survey

[14] https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/19-of-world-s-people-without-access-to-clean-water-live-in-india-60011#:~:text=More%20than%20163%20million%20people,the%20highest%20in%20the%20world.

Figure 5.4 shows the percentage of *Kohars* using water filter facilities. Out of the 172 households under study, only 60 (34.88%) have access to water filter facilities. The other 112 (65.12%) of the households do not use water filter facilities. They drink water directly from the source. This shows low level of health consciousness on the part of the *Kohars*.

Another dimension of standard of living is Electricity. Electricity connection is one of the basic minimum facilities required for living a decent size. During the recent years, the rate of electrification in India has improved immensely. In 2015, only 88 % of Indian households were electrified. Due to some very effective schemes of the government, in 2020 the percentage of electrified household in India has increased to 97.03%, out of which 96.7% are connected to the Grid and the remaining 0.33% rely on off grid electricity (Agarwal *et al*. (2020). Among the 172 families of *Kohar*, 152 had electricity connection while 20 families did not have electricity connection. This means 88% percent of the families of *Kohar*s have electricity connection, which is well below the national average.

Traditionally in Assam, families used firewood as the main source of cooking fuel. Apart from firewood, sources like agricultural residues and charcoal were also used. Another widely used cooking fuel is Kerosene. But due to importance of clean fuel, the use of LPG has increased manifold. More than 85% of Indian households have LPG connections. But only 70% of Indian households use LPG as primary source of cooking fuel. It should be noted that 54% of Indian household use traditional cooking fuels like firewood, agricultural residue, charcoal, dried cow dung, etc along with Kerosene (Mani *et al*, 2021).

Table 5.15: Details of Cooking Fuel Used by Families of *Kohars*

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. Of Families	Percentage
1	Total LPG Connections	133	77.33
2	Families which use both LPG and traditional fuel	86	50
3	Families which uses LPG exclusively	47	27.33
4	Families who do not have an LPG Connection	39	22.67
5	Families which use Agricultural Residue	2	1.16

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.15 shows details of cooking fuel used by the families of the *Kohars*. 133 out of the 172 families (77.33%) have an LPG connection but all of them do not use LPG as the primary source of fuel. Only 46 (27.33%) families use LPG exclusively, the remaining 86

families use LPG along with traditional fuel, which is primarily firewood. Only two families use agricultural residue along with firewood. One of them also has an LPG connection. It has been observed in the field study that 50% of the families use firewood along with LPG. They mainly use firewood for making lunch and dinner while make breakfast and tea in LPG stoves. The primary reason for widespread use of firewood is cost. The firewood including dried bamboo is easily available and comparatively cheaper than LPG Cylinder. Again most of the families don't have to buy firewood, as they can collect them from their own campus garden and plantation. It is noteworthy that even as Kerosene is an important source of alternative cooking fuel to the Indians, none of the families surveyed use Kerosene as cooking fuel. In the study area, Kerosene is primarily used as a source of lighting. As the area is subject to frequent power cuts and most of the families do not have inverters, they are dependent upon Kerosene lamps as a source of light.

5.4.7Living Standard of the Traders:

The details of consumer durables owned by the Traders engaged in the production of bell metal products are explained in Table 5.16 below.

Table 5.16: Assets Owned By the Traders

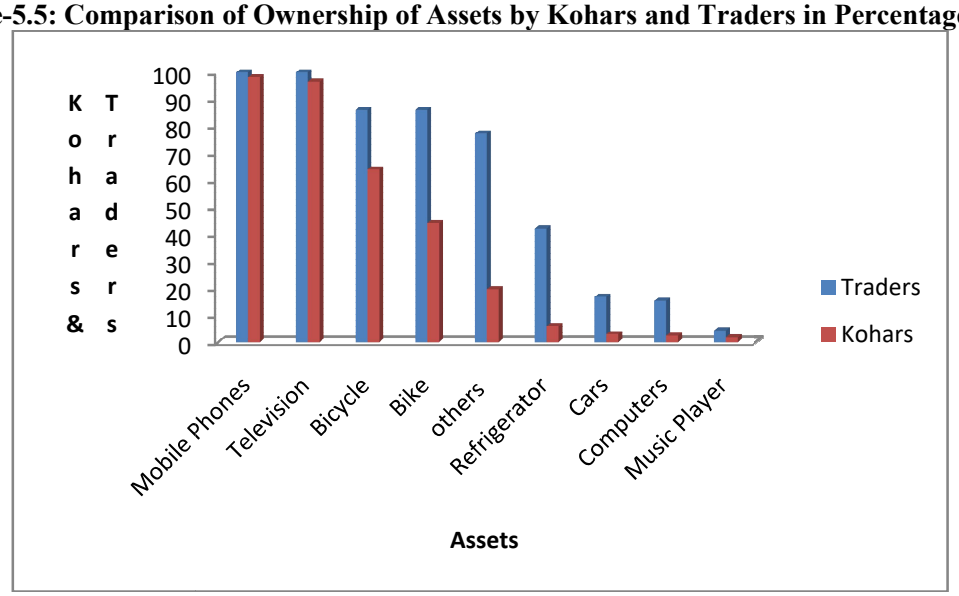
Sl. No.	Type	Numbers	Percentage
1	Mobile Phones	71	100
2	Television	71	100
3	Bicycle	61	85.92
4	Bike	61	85.92
5	Others	55	77.46
6	Refrigerator	30	42.25
7	Cars	12	16.9
8	Computers	11	15.49
9	Music Player	3	4.23

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.16 shows that 100% of the Traders own a mobile phone and a Television set. While 85.92% of them own a bicycle and bike, whereas only three (4.23%) Traders have a music system at home. 12 (16.9) Traders own cars at home and 11(15.49) own laptop computers at home. This shows that the Traders of bell metal are better placed in terms of ownership of assets in comparison to the *Kohars.* Most of the traders own durables which are

considered important for a comfortable life. This is an indication that the *Mohajons* and *Arabdaris* are better placed than the *Kohars* in terms of standard of living.

Figure-5.5: Comparison of Ownership of Assets by Kohars and Traders in Percentage



Source: Field Survey

Figure- 5.5 gives a comparison of the assets owned by the percentage of *Kohars* and Traders of their respective totals.

Table 5.17 gives the details of sanitation facilities of the Traders. Almost all of them (94.37%) use sanitary toilets, whereas only four families (5.63%) still use *Kutcha* Latrines.

Table 5.17: Sanitation Facilities of Traders

Kutcha Latrines	4 (5.63 %)
Sanitary Toilets	67 (94.37%)
Open Space	0 (0%)

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.17 gives the details of nature of house of the Traders of Sarthebari. Out of the 71 houses under study 62 (87.32%) are Assam Type houses, only four (5.63%) of the houses are *Kutcha* and five houses (7.04%) are of RCC type. All the *Kutcha* and Assam Type houses of the Traders have tin roofing (92.96%). The five RCC type houses (7.04%) have concrete roofing. When we consider the type of floor of the houses, eight houses (11.72 %) have mud floor including four *Kutcha* and four Assam Type houses. All the other 63 (88.73%) houses

of the Traders have concrete floor. Out of them five (7.04%) are RCC houses and the other 58 (87.32%) are Assam Type houses. When we consider the walls of the houses of the Traders, only four (5.63%) of the houses have walls of Bamboo or Reed Mesh. The other 67 (94.37%) of the houses have brick wall, out of which 62 (87.32%) are Assam Type and the remaining five (7.04%) are RCC buildings. Almost all the houses (94.37%) of the Traders have separate kitchens while only four houses do not have a separate kitchen. Again almost all (98.59%) of the houses have separate Bathrooms while only one does not have separate bathroom. It is observed that all the four *Kutcha* houses belong to *Arabdaris*, and all the five RCC houses belong to *Mohajons*.

Table 5.18: Nature of House of Traders

Flooring	Mud	8 (11.27%)
	Concrete	63 (88.73%)
Wall	Bamboo/ Reed Mash	4 (5.63%)
	Brick	67 (94.37%)
Roof	Tin	66 (92.96%)
	Concrete	5 (7.04%)
Type of House	*Kutcha*	4 (5.63%)
	Assam Type	62(87.32%)
	RCC	5 (7.04%)
Separate Kitchen	No	4 (5.63 %)
	Yes	67 (94.37 %)
Bathroom	Yes	70 (98.59%)
	No	1 (1.41 %)

Source: Field Survey
Note: Figures in Parentheses indicate the percentage of concerned total value

By comparing Table-5.13 with 5.18, we can see that the conditions of the houses of the Traders are far better than those of the *Kohars*. This is another indicator which reiterates the facts that the *Mohajons* and the *Arabdaris* are living in a better conditions then the *Kohars*. To be more precise *Mohajons* of Sarthebari area is having better living conditions than that of the *Arabdaris* also.

Regarding drinking water facilities of the Traders, 63 households (88.73%), use tube well for drinking water, while 10 households (14.08%) have the running water facilities. On the other hand, three (4.23%) families depend on ring wells for that. Among them four households use both tube well and running water, while one family has accessed both ring

well and tube well. Again, out of the households of the Traders, almost all (90.10%) have accessed to water filter facilities at home.

Table -5.19: Details of Cooking Fuel Used by Families of Traders

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. Of Families	Percentage
1	Total LPG Connections	71	100.00
2	Families which use both LPG and traditional fuel	15	21.13
3	Families which uses LPG exclusively	56	78.87
4	Families who do not have an LPG Connection	0	0.00

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.19 shows details of cooking fuel used by the families of the Traders. All the 71 households of the Traders have an LPG connection but, all of them do not use LPG as the only source of fuel. 56 (78.87%) families use LPG exclusively, the remaining 15 (21.13%) families use LPG along with traditional fuel, which is primarily firewood. No families of Traders use other traditional fuels like agricultural residue or dried cow dung. Again no households are found to be using electric heaters or induction cook tops as a source of cooking fuel. Comparison of Tables 5.15 and 5.19 shows that the Traders have better access to clean cooking fuel than the *Kohars*. While all the Traders have accessed LPG connections at home, only 133 (77.33%) households of the *Kohars* have accessed that.

5.4.8Health Indicators of the *Kohars*:

Health is one of the most important indicator of the standard of living and the level of development of a group of people. The importance of health and health infrastructure has increased manifold during the Covid 19 pandemic. Need for proper and basic healthcare facilities *e.g.* Availability of Doctors, Hospital Beds and Vaccination etc have increased. In the Global health Security Index 2021, India′s position is 66 with a score of 42.8 which is better than the world average of 38.9. In the NITI Ayog Health Index 2021, Assam is ranked at 14 among the large states with a score of 50.02 for the reference year 2019-20.[15] It should be noted that along with Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, Assam is among the three best larger states of India in terms of annual incremental performance.

[15] https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/niti-aayog-health-index-2021-see-ranking-of-states-and-uts-based-on-performance-101640601217921.html

The *Kohars* of the bell metal industry have to work for 10 to 12 hours in a day in physically demanding conditions. The *Kohars* have to spend the whole day in the *Garhshall* where they make bell metal products in charcoal furnaces. Because of the nature of their work, they suffer from some chronic health problems which are due to the nature of the work. Table 5.20 shows extent of chronic health problems from which the *Kohars* suffer.

Table 5.20: Extent of Health Problems Faced by *Kohars*

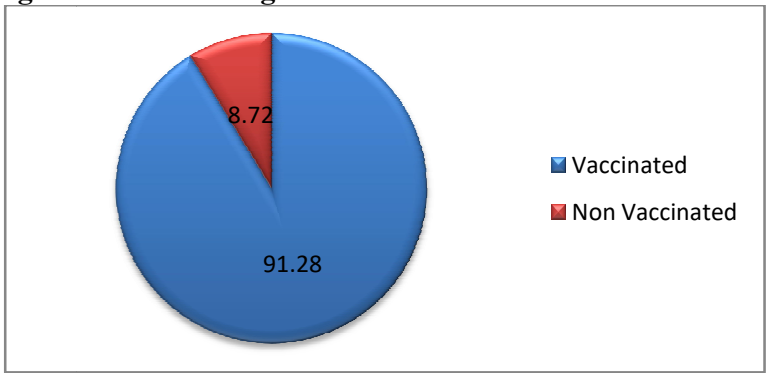
Sl.No.	Nature of the Problem	No of *Kohars*	Percentage
1	Eye	85	49.42
2	Pain	40	23.26
3	Heart Problem	16	9.3
4	Skin Problem	5	2.91
5	Asthma	3	1.74
6	No Problem	65	37.79

Source: Field Survey

Table 5.20 shows that 37.79 % of the *Kohars* do not suffer from any chronic health problems. But majority of the *Kohars* i.e. 62.21% of them suffer from at least one chronic health problems. The most common health problem faced by the *Kohars* is eye problem. Half of the *Kohars* (49.42 %) suffer from eye related problems. This may be because of the fact that they have to work in among dust and smoke of Charcoal. Again one out of four *Kohars* (23.26 %) suffer from chronic pain. This is because of the day long use of hammers and lifting heavy weight. One out of ten *Kohars* (9.3%) suffer from heart problems. The number of *Kohars* suffering from problems like respiratory diseases, like Asthma or Skin problem is very less at 1.74 and 2.91 percent only.

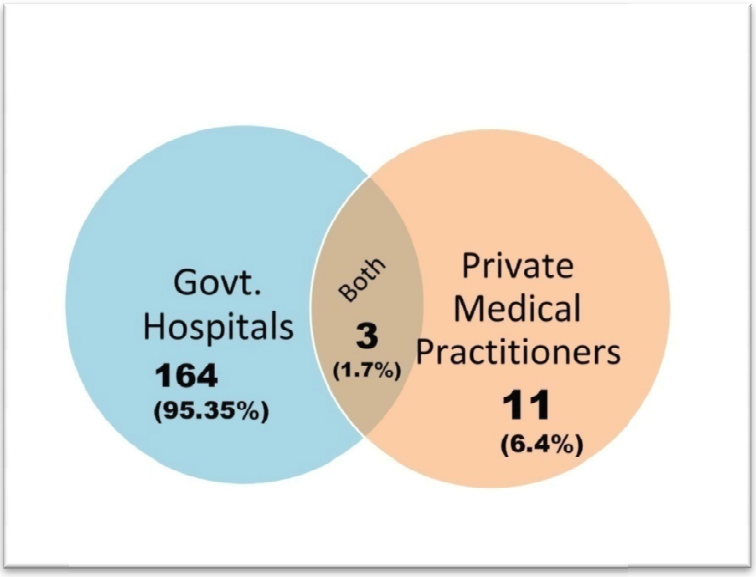
Another important health indicator is Vaccination. Among the 172 *Kohars* surveyed 157 (91.28 %) has done vaccination of the children of the house. Figure 5.3 gives the comparison between the Vaccinated and non vaccinated families of *Kohars*.

Figure 5.6: Percentage of *Kohars* who has done Vaccination



Source: Field Survey.

Figure 5.7: Nature of Medical Facility Availed by the *Kohars*



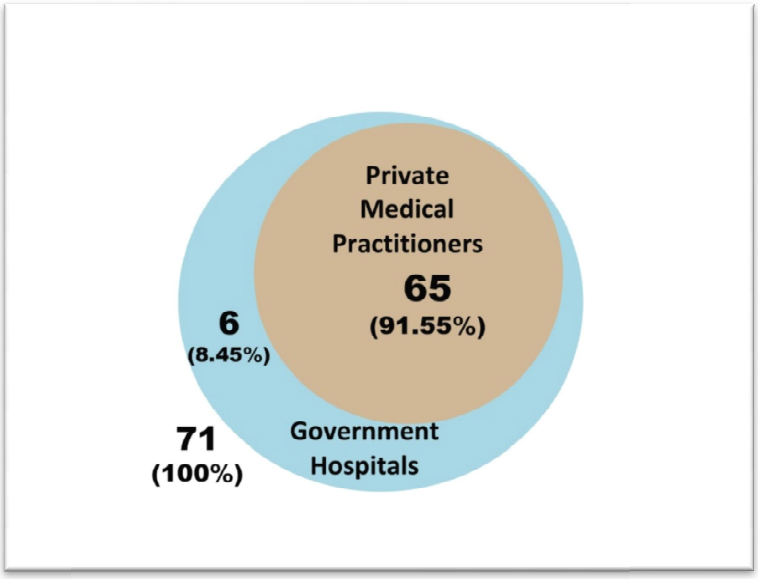
Source: Field Survey.

Being a rural area, it is natural that residents of Sarthebari and its adjacent villages should go to practitioners of alternative and native Medicine. But it should be noted that all the *Kohar*s in the survey area visits Allopathic Medical Practitioners at the time of health emergency. Most of the *Kohars* visits Government Hospitals while a few visit private medical practitioners. Figure-5.4 shows the nature of medical facilities availed by the *Kohars*. 164 (95.35%) out of 172 *Kohars* visit Government Hospital at the time of medical emergency while only 6.4% visit private doctors. There are three (1.74%) families who visit both the Government Hospitals as well as private doctors as per their convenience.

5.4.9 Health Indicators of the Traders:

As the job of the Traders are not as physically demanding as that of the *Kohars*, there is little scope of suffering from chronic health problems which are due to the nature of the job. Moreover, it is observed in the field survey that the Traders have better access to health facilities as compared to the *Kohars*. Figure-5.8 shows the nature of medical facilities availed by the Traders.

Figure 5.8: Nature of Medical Facility Availed by the Traders



Source: Field Survey

All the households of the Traders have accessed vaccination. Again when they fall sick, 100% of the families of the Traders take resort to Allopathic Medicine. It was also observed that almost all the families of Traders visit both Government Hospitals as well as private medical practitioners when they get sick. All the families of the Traders visit the Government Hospitals, while 65 (91.55%) families use the service of private medical practitioners also. Only six (8.45%) families (Two *Mohajons* and Four *Arabdaris*) visit Government Hospitals exclusively.

5.5 Socio Economic Status of the *Kohars*:

The average score of the families of the *Kohars* in the Kuppuswamy Scale stood at 12.84 with a median and modal value of 12.00. The maximum value is 16 which are scored by the family of a *Kohar* producing *Kahi*. The minimum score is 8 (Eight) which is scored by the two *Kohars* producing Bell/ Others.

If we see product wise the *Kohars* producing *Taal* has the best socioeconomic scores while those producing Bell/ Others have the least socio economic scores. Table 5.22 gives the details of socioeconomic scores scored by *Kohars* producing different products.

Table-5.21: Kuppuswamy Scale Values of *Kohars*' Families Producing Different Products

Product	Average Index Value
TAAL	13.79
KAHI	13.66
MAIHANG	12.00
LOTA	11.81
BAANBATI	11.63
BATA	11.30
BATI	10.50
OTHERS	8.00

Source: Field Survey

The families of the *Kohars* did fairly well in the evaluation of the socioeconomic status through the Kuppuswamy Scale. Out of the 172 families, 156 (90%) families were categorized into the lower Middle Class Category. Only two families (1.2%) got into the Upper Middle Class Category. Table 5.22 gives the details of the classification of the socioeconomic status of the families of the *Kohars*.

Table-5.22: Socio Economic Classification of *Kohars*' Families

Socio Economic Status	Score	Number of Families of *Kohars*	Percentage of Families of *Kohars*
Upper Class	26 to 29	0	0
Upper Middle Class	16 to 25	2	1.2
Lower Middle Class	11 to 15	156	90.7
Upper Lower	5 to 10	14	8.1
Lower	Less than 5	0	0

Source: Field Survey

5.6 Conclusion:

It can be said the bell metal Artisans are living in a very delicate condition. They are not highly educated. Only 1.74% of the *Kohars* in the sample are Graduate with none having a Masters Degree. The general degree of education determines the success and modernization of an industry. But as the *Kohars* are not very highly educated, they are lagged behind in many aspects. Due to this, they have to depend upon the outsiders for many things. Most of the *Kohar*s do not know how the *Gorhoni* is distributed among themselves and the *Aidhas*. For this, they are dependent upon *Mohajons* or the Cooperative. Because of

this, there is always an element of exploitation by the *Mohajons*. They are also not able to reap benefit of different Government schemes because of ignorance.

In the analysis of the Kuppuswamy Scale, it has been observed that almost all the families of *Kohars* belong to the lower strata of society. Nine out of Ten *Kohars* fall in the lower middle class category while the rest except two fall in the Upper Lower Category.

If we compare the socio-economic indicators of both the *Kohars* and the Traders, it becomes evident that the Traders, particularly the *Mohajons* are far better placed in all aspects of the socio-economic profile. The Traders are better educated, have more access to standard of living indicators and better health facilities than the *Kohars*.

The study of the bell metal industry will not be complete without analysing the problems and prospects of the industry, which are discussed in the following chapter.