

Family Economic Status of the Boros, with Special Reference to Karbi Anglong District

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Abstract:

Karbi Anglong is the southern east part of Assam which lies border area of the Nagaland state. Karbi Anglong is a district where diversity of cast, tribe are living together. The Boro speech community is also a tribe of Karbi Anglong district. They also well spread in some areas of Karbi Anglong district like Langhin, Phuloni, Howraghat Tiniali, Howraghat, Parokhuwa, Dengaon, Dhendhaghat, Manikpur, Rajapathar, Diphu, Khotkhoti etc. Economy is the primary source to maintain the family. Without it we cannot think to maintain the family properly. According to economic condition of the Boro family, we can categories in to three category viz. Good, Average and Poor family. The Boro people are primarily agriculturalists. Their livelihood is based on agriculture. The primary income source of the Boro family is also based on it. There is some secondary income source also. The secondary income sources are- Domestic poultry, Domestic husbandry, Small business, Fishery, Sale of Rice Beer, Domestic Pupae etc. The economy is the very important to run the family smoothly. So, it is very important to do research in this topic. In this study an attempt will be made to find out the source of income, how they do income and to find out the economic status of the Boro family. In this study, both Primary data and secondary data will be collected. The field study will be done in rural areas. In the time of field study, questionnaire method, participant observation method and interview method will be applied.

Keywords: Family, Livelihood, Income, Status.

1. Introduction:

Karbi Anglong is the south east part of Assam which lies border area of Nagaland state. Karbi Anglong is a district where acute diversity of cast, tribe are living together. The Boro speech community is also an indigenous tribe of Karbi Anglong district of Assam. But they do not get hills tribe status, they are still recognized as a plain tribe even they are living in the hills area. They also well spread in some areas of Karbi Anglong district of Assam like Langhin, Phuloni, Howraghat Tiniali, Howraghat, Parokhuwa, Dengaon, Dhendhaghat, Langhin Manikpur, Rajapathar, Dhiphu, Khotkhoti etc. Family is very important in the society because family is taken a crucial role in social development. Economy is the primary source to maintain the family. Economy provides daily needs of a family. Without it we cannot think to maintain the family properly. The families of the Village are cultivator and they try to maintain the economic condition of the family through it. Apart from that, they try to develop their economic condition in various ways.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of this study are the following:

1. To find out how they maintain their family.
2. To highlight the earning sources of the Boro family.
3. To find out the family economic status of the Boro family of the Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

3. Methodology

The main source of research work would be based on field work. For this study, 100 household will be selected from the 20 villages of the whole Karbi Anglong District. In this study, both the primary data and secondary data will be collected. The field study will be done in rural areas to explore traditional earning source. In the time of field study questionnaire method, participant observation method and interview method will be applied. The analytical method will be use in case of secondary source. During the time of study, many libraries will be visited to collect secondary data. Moreover, other necessary help will be taken from various publications of national, state level and local publications i.e. the study books, journals, souvenirs, relevant research work's articles and news papers etc.

4. Review of Literature

The following books have been taken for review of literature relating the research work.

- a. Indramaloti Narzary authors a book entitled "Boro Harimu Arw Thunlai Bijirnai" (Reprint, 2010), Published by N.L Publications, Kakrajhar, Assam. It is a collection of selected prose book. There is 13 prose articles which are edited in this book and published. To highlights about the Boro Society, Culture, literature and economy, the writer compiled this book. The writer focuses about the relation of the Boro society and Bathou religion, culture, literature of the Boro. He also focuses in a article of the book entitled "Borophwrni Rangkhanti Jwuganayao Junar Phisinai" (The role of domestic husbandry in the economic development of the Boros). In this article, the writer highlights how the Boro people earn money by rearing domestic husbandry.
- b. Bhaben Narzi authors a book entitled "Boro Kacharini Samaj Arw Harimu", (Second edition, 2006), published by Chirang publication board, Kajolgaon, Assam, the writer highlights about the History of the Bodo, traditional faith and beliefs, religious festival of the Bodos etc. In his book reflects origin of the Bodos, family and marriage system, society, religion, culture. He slightly focuses on economy of the Boro family.
- c. Dr. Kameswar Brahma authors a book entitled "A Study in Cultural Heritage of the Boros"(1998), published by Assam Institute of Research for Tribal and Scheduled Cast, Guwahati. The writer highlights about the food habits, dress, ornaments, Marriage and family life of the Boros, seasonal and agricultural festivals of the Boros. He also focuses slightly about the occupation and economy of the Boros in this book.

5. Discussion

Economy is the most important to run the family. The people can earn in various ways. Agriculture is the main occupation of the Boro people of the Karbi Anglong district also and they are also based on it. They

are generally produce crops like paddy, mustard and other vegetables to use family consumption. Some people are also there who have no land to cultivate crops. They earn in various ways to run the family. Some are work as a labour to other family to fulfill their daily needs and some are have to run the family by rearing pig, fowl, duck, goat, silkworm etc., by tea shop, by betel nut shop, by selling rice beer, by selling weaving cloths etc. It is also mentionable the role of woman in tackle the economic status of the family because the women folk help in the work of agriculture. On the other hand, The women folk are contributed in the development or in the run of family by rearing fowls, ducks, goats, by selling rice beer, by rearing silkworm, by selling weaving cloth. Apart from that, the women are being seen as a tea shop keeper, betel nut shop keeper as the same level of men. Without women, a family cannot be existed or the development of the family economy cannot be fully developed. So, one saying is say in our Boro society- if woman is good then mother goddess Loxmi come, if woman is not good then run away the goddess Loxmi from the family.

5.1 Earning sources of income of the Boro Family:

In every society men and women engage themselves in different economic activities. The Boro women help in agricultural activities like uproot the paddy seedling, paddy cultivation, paddy reaping etc. The Boro people are primarily agriculturalists. Their livelihood is based on agriculture. The primary income source of the Boro family is also based on it. The secondary income sources are also there. The main secondary income sources of the Boro family are- rearing fowls, pig, duck, goat, pupae, small business, sale of rice beer etc. The money earning from rearing fowl, pig, duck, goat, pupae etc. are used in daily needs. Maximum family cannot save the money due to their poor family condition. They earn minimum 30,000/- to 40,000/- per year.

Table 2 -Income from different sources in a year.

Name	Land (In bigha)	Fowl	Pig	Duck	Goat	Sale of rice beer	Total amount in a year
Radhika Swargiary	20	30x300 (per k.g.) =9,000	8x8000 (price)= 64,000	30x400 (price)=12,000	1x5000 (price)= 5,000	6000(pm)x12 =72,000	1,62,000
Kolimai Basumatar y	6	10x300= 3,000	4x8000= 32,000	-----	-----	1000(pm)x12 =12,000	47,000/-
Sabdwi Ramchiary	3	20x300= 6,000	8x8000=64,000	50x400=20,000	-----	1500(pm)x12 =18000	1,08,000
Rodali Swargiary	4	50x300= 15,000	8x8000=64,000	30x400=12,000	-----	3000(pm)x12 =36,000	1,17,000
Gabru		20x300=	4x8000=32,00	10x400=4,000	1x7000=7,00	3000(pm)x12	

Ramchiary	6	6,000	0		0	2 =36,000	85,000/-
Basanti Swargiary	1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	60,000/- (tea stall)
Nirmali Swargiary	2	30x300 =9,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	9,000/-
Sampati Boro	1	30X300 =9,000	1X8000 =8,000	-----	-----	-----	17,000/-
Ruma Boro	4	25X300 =7,500	1X8000 =8,000	-----	-----	-----	15,500/-
Banai Boro	8	35X300 =10,500	1X8000 =8,000	30X400 =12,000	3X6500 =19,500	-----	50,000/-
Dhanmai Boro	5	12X300 =3,600	2X8000 =16,000	-----	-----	1500(pm)X1 2 =18,000	37,600/-
Gindri Boro	5	20X300 =5,000	1X8000 =8,000	28X400 =11,200	2X6000 =12,000	-----	36,200/-
Rangali Boro	6	35X300 =10,500	2X8000 =16,000	35X400 =14,000	-----	1200(pm)X1 2 =14,400	54,900/-
Sameli Basumatar y	2	Only for household not for sale	10 (Piglet) X4500 =45,000	Only for household not for sale	-----	Only for household use not for sale	45,000/-
Ponsoy Boro	20	25X300 =7,500	1X8000 =8,000	28X400 =11,200	2X7000 =14,000	Only for family use not for sale	40,700/-
Anupoma Boro	10	30X300 =9,000	1X8000 =8,000	21X400 =8,400	1X9000 =9,000	Only for household use not for sale	34,400/-

Hamfao Boro	4	32X300 =9,600	1X8000 =8,000	25X400 =10,000	2X8000 =16,000	Only for household use not for sale	43,600/-
Basnti Swargiary	8	30X300 =9,000	4X8000 =32,000	15X400 =6,000	-----	4800(pm)X1 2 =57,600	1,04,600/-
Sangmali Khakhlary	4	26X300 =7,800	4X8000 =32,000	18X400 =7,200	-----	3000(pm)X1 2 =36,000	83,000/-
Madhuri Swargiary	4	Only for household not for sale	2X8000 =16,000	15X400 =6,000	-----	5000(pm)X1 2 =60,000	82,000/-
Dumila Swargiary	2	32X300 =9,600	2X8000 =16,000	-----	3X7000 =21,000	3500(pm)X1 2 =42,000	88,600/-
Soney Khakhlary	5	28X300 =8,400	2X8000 =16,000	-----	-----	3500(pm)X1 2 =42,000	66,400/-
Minakhsi Swargiary	5	18X300 =5,400	1X8000 =8,000	12X400 =4,800	2X8000 =16,000	-----	34,200/-
Kalpana Khakhlary	1	20X300 =6,000	1X8000 =8,000	-----	-----	-----	14,000/-
Anima Swargiary	2	27X300 =8,100	2X8000 =16,000	-----	-----	3000(pm)X1 2 =36,000	60,100/-
Khothep Wary	2	20X300 =6,000	4X8000 =32,000	-----	-----	-----	38,000/-
Songina Wary	5	23X300 =6,900	2X8000 =16,000	15X400 =6,000	-----	3200(pm)X1 2 =38,400	67,300/-
Primita Wary	2	12X300 =3,600	2X8000 =16,000	18X400 =7,200	-----	-----	26,800/-
Lokhi Narzary	7	34X300 =10,200	2X8000 =16,000	-----	-----	4500(pm)X1 2 =54,000	80,200/-
Jyoti Basumatar y	8	25X300 =7,500	1X8000 =8,000	-----	4X7000 =28,000	Only for household use not for	43,500/-

						sale	
Ranjita Narzary	4	22X300 =6,600	3X8000 =32,000	-----	8X5000 =40,000	4000(pm)X1 2 =48,000	1,26,600/- -
Jinu Narzary	2	16X300 =4,800	4X8000 =32,000	-----	-----	4500(pm)X1 2 =54,000	90,800/-
Jambi Narzary	2	14X300 =4,200	2X8000 =16,000	-----	2X7000 =14,000	3000(pm)X1 2 =36,000	70,200/-
Gadali Baglary	2	23X300 =6,900	4X8000 =32,000	-----	1X9000 =9,000	3000(pm)X1 2 =36,000	83,900/-
Rahila Baglary	3	18X300 =5,400	4X8000 =32,000	-----	2X7500 =15,000	3500(pm)X1 2 =42,000	94,400/-
Sarmila Narzary	5	24X300 =7,200	2X8000 =16,000	-----	-----	4000(pm)X1 2 =48,000	71,200/-
Khajog Narzary	4	18X300 =4,500	4X8000 =32,000	-----	-----	4500(pm)X1 2 =54,000	91,400/-
Joymoti Daimary	2	Only for household not for sale	10(Piglet)X4500 =45,000	-----	2X7000 =14,000	Only for household use not for sale	59,000/-
Manisha Basumatar y	1	35X300 =10,500	1X8000 =8,000	-----	5X6000 =30,000	-----	48,500/-
Rupali Basumatar y	6	Only for household not for sale	1X8000 =8,000	-----	-----	-----	8,000/-
Kalpana Daimary	8	25X300 =7,500	2X8000 =16,000	-----	-----	6000(pm)X1 2 =72,000	95,500/-
Sukusri Basumatar y	4	60X300 =18,000	6X8000 =32,000	-----	-----	-----	50,000/-
Doshami Basumatar y	1	Only for household not for sale	3X8000 =24,000	12X400 =4,800	4X7000 =28,000	5000(pm)X1 2 =60,000	1,16,800/-
Fulmothi		20X300	1X8000				

Basumatar y	1	=6,000	=8,000	-----	-----	-----	14,000/-
Purnima Basumatar y	8	19X300 =5,700	1X8000 =8,000	10X400 =4,000	-----	-----	17,700/-
Neha Basumatar y	6	12X250 =3,000	2X8000 =16,000	12X400 =4,800	2X7500 =15,000	-----	38,800/-
Monjoy Boro	8	20X300 =6,000	1X8000 =8,000			-----	14,000/-

In case study, among the interviewee family 60% is poor family, 39% is average and only 1% is good. The main occupation of the people is daily wage earners which accounts for 65%, followed by service holders, 20% and small business persons, 15%. The daily wage earners includes person working in agricultural fields, daily labour and handmade bamboo workers, weavers etc. The service holders work in private and government establishment. Small business includes tea stall, weaving cloth sale shop, grocery shop etc.

Table 1-Occupation composition

Occupation	Number of households	Percentage (%)
Daily wage earner	65	65%
Service	20	20%
Business	15	15%
Total	100	100%

6. Findings

There are three types of family in the Boro society according to economic condition viz. Good, Average and poor. Poor percentage is high in the remote village area. The culture of livestock keeping and making rice beer is still in the Boro family of the village area. The Boro people are rearing fowl, pig, duck, goat etc along with cultivation to make strong and financially sound their family but no modern technique is applied. The people of the village area also trying to do small business by establish shops etc. to run the family smoothly. Who have no land to cultivate, they are also running their family by rearing fowl, pig, duck, goat etc. by selling rice beer, by selling handmade weaving cloth, by establishing small business etc. But weaving culture is unexpectedly decreasing day by day in the Boro family of the village of Karbi Anglong district. Only 10% Boro women weave their cloth in the district of Karbi Anglong. Rearing of silkworm is going to be extinct from the Boro society, it is seen rarely.

7. Conclusion or findings:

The Boro people of the Karbi Anglong district of Assam are also living with their distinctive language and culture. To develop their financial strenght, they earn from different sources but they do not do saving like

other people. For lack of savings, the financial status or economy condition of the Boro people cannot rise. If we try to save, then it will be possible to develop the family economic status. So, try to save and try to develop.

8. References:

1. Narzi, Bhaben, Boro Kachari Samaj Arw Harimu, Chirang Publication Board, Kajalgaon, Second edition, 2006.
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