

Chapter-IV

Development of pre-school Education in Barpeta and Bongaigaon Districts of Assam

Figure 5 Showing the Map of Barpeta District



Source: www.Barpeta.nic.in

4.0 .0 Historical Background of Barpeta District

Barpeta has been a place of great education and religious importance. Known by various names like Tatikuchi, Porabhita, Mathura, Vrindavan, Choukhutisthan, Nabaratna-Sabha, Icchakuchi, Pushpak Vimana, Kampur and Barpeta. It was Koch King Naranarayan who founded Barnagar (Sorbhog). The present District formed an integral part of the Koch-Hajo and the Ahom Kingdom till British Administration took over. From the ancient period Barpeta witnessed the rule of the Varmans (380-654) the Salasthamas (655-985) the Palas (985-1260) the Kamatas (1260-1509) & the Koches from 1509. During the Kamata & Koch rule major historical development took place. During this period large number of local feudatory-chiefs who are primarily land lords called '*Bhuyans*' ruled the region. Number of villages constituted a 'Chakla' placed under a Bhuyan was patronised by the Kamatas. These Bhuyans arrived from eastern part of India like Kanauj, Gauda and Bengal who in passage of time became general Assamese caste and accepted the Vaishnava faith under influence of Shrimanta Sankardeva.

Koch King Naranarayan established his temporary capital at Barnagar. Here he met Shrimanta Sankardeva and his renowned disciple and subsequently accepted Vaishnavism when Sankardeva was invited by the monarch to Koch-Bihar. It was during king Naranarayan's regime at Barnagar the great saint established Satra at Patbaushi to spread his Socio-religious faith. The Koch rule ended with annexation by the Mughals. The valiant Ahom fought a number of battles against the invading Mughals. Some of the well-known battles were fought at Jakhlikhana, Bhabanipur and Bhatekuchi. Ahoms were defeated and Mughals took over the Administration and systematised the entire revenue administration. Kamrupa became a Sarkar, which was divided into Parganas. Barpeta, Khetri, Bajali, Barnagar, Bahbari and Bijni became Parganas. A Gomasta was appointed to run the 'Tapa' and a number of Tapas became a Pargana. For administrative convenience the Parganas were divided into Taluks, lats and villages. Parganas were placed under Barbaruas and Choudhuries. Taluks remained under Talukdar.

They were assisted by Thakurias, Patwaries, Kakati, Gaon barika etc. who kept the revenue accounts. Judges in Parganas were called Shikdar, whereas Amin and Kanango were responsible for land-survey, assessment and collection of revenue.

With the advent of Shrimanta Sankardeva, this region turned into a religious place dotted with numerous satras and in fact Barpeta town came to be called 'Boikumthapuri Dham'. As a part of providing patronage to various religious places irrespective of religions, the Ahom rulers provided a large number of land-grants to the Satras. Dr. Maheswar Neog in his edited work "Prasya Sasanawali" has mentioned a large number of land-grants during the reign of Shiva Singha, Rajeswar Singha, Lakshmi Singha, Gaurinath Singha and Chandra Kanta Singha. Grants were made to Muslim-Darghas of Shah Madar at Baushi, Shah Fakir at Barnagar, Panch Peer at Khetri, Syed Shahnur Dewan Fakir at Bhella, where Chandra Kanta Singha granted 100 bighas of khiraj land. Grants were made to Devalaya also. These grants were made in copper-plate inscriptions which are invaluable source of history.

Wide-spread destruction of life and property took place when the Maans invaded from Myanmar. Even the Barpeta Satra was razed to the ground during this invasion. To restore peace British army entered Barpeta to drive off all the invaders. With the advent of British rule Mouzadari system came into effect. In 1841 Barpeta became a Civil Sub Division and John Batlor became the first administrator. As a part of policy of exploitation, land-revenue rates were suddenly enhanced which resulted in a number of peasant unrest in between 1893-94 particularly in Bajali and Sarukhetri area. Large numbers of arrests were carried out to foil attempts of unrest. The Lachima uprising is one such shining example of peasant revolt against British rule. Raijor Sabha constituted during this period raised the banner of revolt.

During the struggle for independence large number of people participated and were jailed. Madan Chandra Barman and Rauta Koch were first martyrs to

sacrifice their lives during Quit India Movement of 1942. Some of the important Congress leaders who lead the Freedom-struggle are Umesh Chandra Brahmachari, Dhaniram Talukdar, Ganesh Lal Choudhury, Debendra Nath Uzir, Akshay Kumar Das, Bongshidhar Choudhury, Nanamohan Mazumdar, Golak Pathak, Sonaram Choudhury, Dr. Jinaram Das, Biswanath Das, Praneswar Das, Ambikagiri Raichoudhury, Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, Madhusudan Das, Upendra Chandra Das, Debendra Sharma, Naranarayan Goswami, Kabiraj Ghanashyam Das, and Chandraprava Saikiani. Mahatma Gandhi visited Barpeta in 1934. So did Jawaharlal Nehru in 1937.

Creation

The Barpeta District was carved out of erstwhile Kamrup District of Assam in July 1983. The district derived its name from the head-quarter town of Barpeta. Created as a Civil Sub-Division in 1841 by the British Administration, John Batlor was the first administrative Officer of erstwhile Civil Sub-Division. Today the District consists of two- Civil Sub-Divisions, (1) Barpeta and (2) Bajali. This Lower Assam District covers an area of 3245 square K.Ms and is bounded by international border i.e. Bhutan Hills in the North, Nalbari District in the East, Kamrup and Goalpara District in the South and Bongaigaon District in the West. The District lies between latitude 26'5" North - 26'49" North and longitude 90'39' East - 91'17' East.

Barpeta District Population 2011

In 2011, Barpeta had population of 1,693,622 of which male and female were 867,004 and 826,618 respectively. In 2001 census, Barpeta had a population of 1,394,755 of which males were 720,069 and remaining 674,686 were females.

Barpeta District Population Growth Rate

Barpeta District has undergone a change regarding Growth Rate. With regards to growth rate, it was observed that Barpeta District recorded an increase of 19.62 percent compared to its population in 1991 and 21.43 percent compared to population census of 2001.

Barpeta District Density 2011

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Barpeta district for 2011 is 742 people per sq. km. In 2001, Barpeta district density was at 521 people per sq. km. Barpeta district administers 2,282 square kilometers of year.

Barpeta Literacy Rate 2011

Average literacy rate of Barpeta in 2011 was 63.81 compared to 56.00 of 2001. If looked at gender wise, male and female literacy rate were 69.29 and 58.06 respectively. For 2001 census, male and female figures stood at 64.23 and 47.16 in Barpeta District. . In 2001, Barpeta District had 8,803,689 male and female, whereas in 2011 Total literacy rate in Barpeta District was recorded as 897,058 out of which male and female recorded as 499,038 and 398,020 respectively.

Barpeta Sex Ratio 2011

With regards to Sex Ratio in Barpeta, in 2011 there was 953 female per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 937 female. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011, Directorate of Population Census, Govt. of India. In 2011 census, child sex ratio was 961 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 961 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.

Barpeta Child Population 2011

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 years of age was collected from all districts including Barpeta. There were a total of 287,829 children in 2011 under age group of 0-6 years against 265,173 as per 2001 census, out of which total of 287,829 male and female were 146,777 and 141,052 respectively. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 16.99 percent of Barpeta District compared to 19.01 percent of 2001. There was a net change of -2.02 percent in the child population compared to previous census of India.

Barpeta District Urban Population 2011

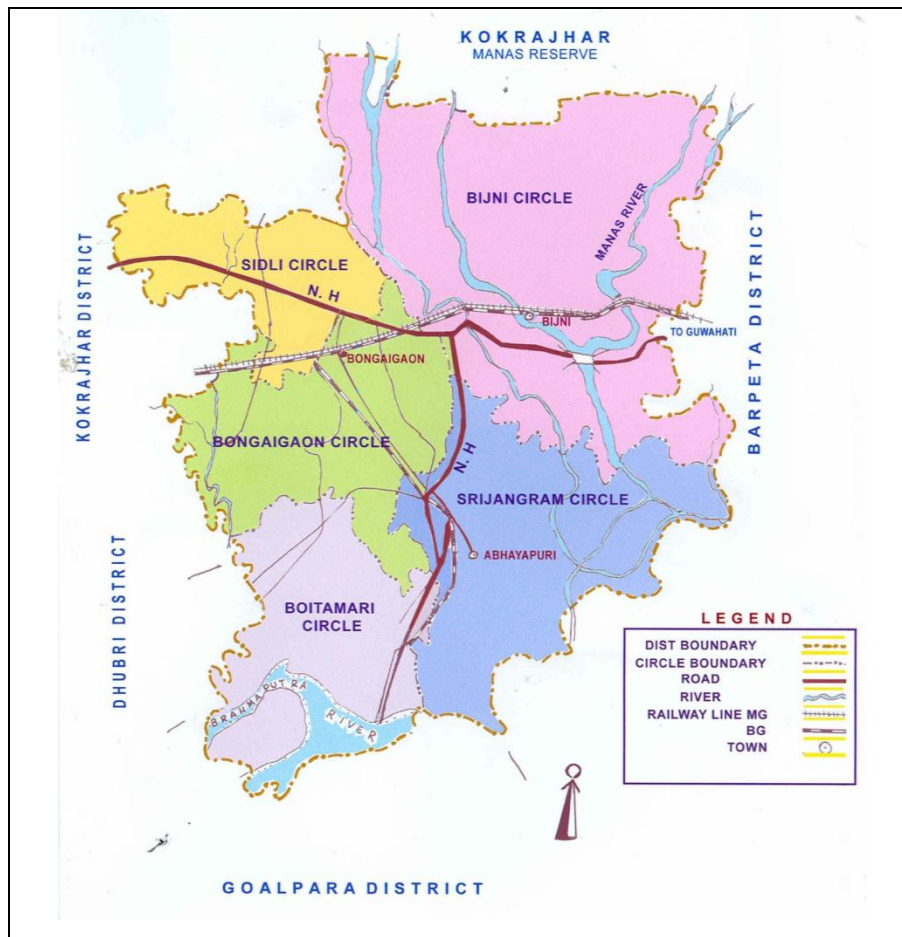
Out of the total Barpeta population for 2011 census, 8.70 percent live in the urban regions of the district. In total 147,353 people live in urban areas of which males are 75,215 and females are 72,138. Sex Ratio in urban region of Barpeta district is 959 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Barpeta district was 965 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban region was 14,533 of which male and female were 7,397 and 7,136. This child population figure of Barpeta district is 9.83 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Barpeta district as per census 2011 is 86.28 % of which male and female are 90.44 % and 81.94 % literates respectively. In actual number 114,596 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 61,336 and 53,260 respectively.

Barpeta District Rural Population 2011

As per 2011 census, 91.30 % population of Barpeta districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Barpeta district population living in rural areas is 1,546,269 of which males and females are 791,789 and 754,480 respectively. In

rural areas of Barpeta district, sex ratio is 953 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Barpeta district is considered, figure is 961 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 273,296 in rural areas of which males were 139,380 and females were 133,916. The child population comprises 17.60 % of total rural population of Barpeta district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Barpeta district is 61.47 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 67.09 and 55.56 percent respectively. In total, 782,462 people were literate of which males and females were 437,702 and 344,760 respectively.

Figure 6: showing the Map of Bongaigaon District



Source: www.Bongaigaon.nic.in

4.0.1 Historical Background of Bongaigaon District

(a): The original Goalpara district was first created in 1822 A.D. by David Scott- an employee of East India Company, who was the first commissioner of newly created North-East Rangpur district. Head Quarter at Rangpur town (now in Bangladesh) and newly created Goalpara district was also tagged with North-East Rangpur district for administration. The erstwhile Bijni Kingdom's area which included the undivided Garo Hills district area also constituted the original Goalpara district area in 1822. In 1866 Garo Hills was separated from Goalpara district area and in the same year a new district named "Greater Koch Behar" was created and the residual portion of Goalpara district was withdrawn from Rangpur and tagged with Koch Behar. In 1874 a new province named Assam Valley Province was created by British Govt. (Successor of East India Company) and Goalpara district area was withdrawn from Koch Behar and tagged with Assam Province which continues till today unless petty political gambling disturbs. Now the original Goalpara district has given birth of four districts namely (i) [Goalpara](#) (ii) [Dhubri](#) (iii) [Kokrajhar](#) and (iv) Bongaigaon.

Creation

The decision of the Government of Assam in 1989, to create a new District of Bongaigaon curving out some areas of the Goalpara and Kokrajhar District with its headquarter located at Bongaigaon was quite challenging. It was the political and administrative exigencies which had necessitated to create this new district suddenly although the people of Bongaigaon and the adjoining areas were demanding a new Sub-Division with its headquarter to be located at Bongaigaon from the very beginning.

This decision to create a new District, Bongaigaon was quite challenging because the very idea to create such a district was neither a long standing one nor a tested one. Moreover, the decision to set up a district headquarter at Bongaigaon was more challenging as there was no Sub-divisional infrastructure in this town,

whereas the other newly created district head quarters of Assam had Sub-divisional infrastructures of their own. In the absence of such basic infrastructural facilities, the initiation of the activity of the district headquarter was almost started on the street, which was not only challenging task but also novel one.

On 29th September, 1989, the creation of Bongaigaon District was declared by the Government of Assam with it's headquarter at Bongaigaon. The major portion of the areas of erstwhile Bijni and Sidli estates along with tracts of Eastern Duars was carved out of Goalpara and Kokrajhar District in October, 1989 in order to create a newest district of Assam, i.e. Bongaigaon. Although the logistic behind the creation of this new district was no doubt an administrative one but the political as well as economic exigencies were also responsible behind its creation.

(b) Hitherto referred, Bijni Kingdom was first establishment by Bijit Narayan alias Chandra Narayan in 1671 comprising the area of undivided Goalpara district. Chandra Narayan was the son of Parikshit Narayan who was the grandson of Yuvaraj Sukladhwaj alias Chilarai, the world hero (1510-1571 AD). He was the younger brother of Moharaj Naranarayan, the great emperor of Kamrup Rajya alias Kamata Empire alias Koch Empire of 16th century. The first capital of Bijni Kingdom was at modern Bijni town from 1671 to 1864 and thereafter shifted to Dumuria (now known as Dalan Bhanga) due to attack by Jhawlia Mech - a local chief under Bhutan Kingdom. The big and dreaded earthquake occurred at 5 PM, on 12th June/1897 badly damaged the royal palaces of Dumuriya caused the shifting of the Capital temporarily to Jogighopa and thereafter permanently shifted to Deohati forest area now known as Abhayapuri named after Rani Abhayeswari in 1901, which continued upto 1956 when Govt. of India took over this Kingdom. At present Bongaigaon district is having three Civil Sub-Divisions, namely (1) Bongaigaon with Hd. Qr. at Bongaigaon (2) North Salmara with Hd. Qr. at Abhayapuri town and (3) Bijni with Hd. Qr. at Bijni town. 90 % area of Bongaigaon district belonged to erstwhile Bijni Kingdom and 10% area from Sidli Kingdom, Raja Bhairabendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur and

Raja Ajit Narayan Dev were the last kings of Bijni and Sidli Kingdoms respectively. Joy Narayan, Shiv Narayan, Bijoy Narayan, Mukunda Narayan, Haridev Narayan, Indra Narayan, Amrit Narayan,. Kumud Narayan and Rani Abhayeswari were the Kings and queen in between the founder king Chandra Narayan and the last king Bhairabendra Narayan of Bijni Kingdom.

On naming the district:

The name of Bongaigaon town and district is the elongation of a fig and old village named Bongaigaon alias Bong-ai-gaon situated on the southern border of the town. According to hearsay (1) in the long past there were plenty of wild (Bon) Cows (Gai) in the surrounding hilly and forest areas. So, the villagers assembled time to time to drive away the wild cows for protecting their crops. Thus this area was popularly known as Bon-Gai-Gaon. (2) In that big village areas there dwelt one nature-poet named 'Bong' (Bong Roy) who could induce laughters to all his bye-standers with his cryptic but harmless oral composition describing the situation on the spot and in return he could collect grains or coins voluntarily offered by the audience. This was his only source of income and profession. Thus his areas was roughly identified as the village of Bong(Ray) i.e. Bong-er-Gaon=Bongaigaon that is in course of time. This Bongaigaon village area was famous for orange fruits which were sold inter-alia other agricultural products in the nearest market named Birjhora Bazar located at the heart of present Bongaigaon town. The word Birjhora was derived from Bir+Jirowa(Jirowa means resting place) of Bir(hero). It is held that the noble hero Chilarai took here rest for about two months during rainy season at the time of his invading the neighbouring Kingdoms of entire north-east India.

The People:

From the chequered historical background of this district, it can easily be surmised that the entire area was ruled by Kings/Zaminders/Feudal Lords hailing from the Koch-Rajbonshies belonging to Indo-Mongoloid ethnic group of people's

right from 15th century to the end of princely states in 1956 A.D. The kings of this area had their hoary past and can be traced back to the "Kiratees" of epic age (Mahabharata fame) that is pre-vedic age. These Kiratees of dimpast are also mentioned in Kalika Puran and Jogingi Tantra and also in histories written both by native and foreign schoolers.

Naturally Koches alias Koch-Rajbongchies and Kocharies are the original sons of the soil of this new district. Ravas, Garos, Yogis, Kalitas, Kayasthas and older Muslims are also indogenous who settled in this part of land prior to the advent of Britishers in North East Region. After advent of British Govt. in this part of land, a new term named Bodo/Boro was coined deliberately by European historian. According to them the word Bodo/Boro is a generic term and its species are (i) Kocharies (ii) Koches (iii) Rabhas. (iv) Garos (v) Lalungs (vi) Hajongs and (vii) Chutiyas.

Socio-Cultural Spectrum:

Everyman and place do possess some peculiarities and particularities that constitute the inherent identity in spite of heterogeneous elements. Apart from prevalent common environment in the erstwhile Bijni Kingdom and undivided Goalpara district of 1822, the most striking factors of Bongaigaon district are the Hilly Caves (Gumphas) and stone carvings of Jogighopa hill-rocks demonstrating the existence of Buddhist culture. The hills and the hilly rocks, the rivers, natural and manmade ponds, the deep forest, the trees, plants and the bushes –all are animated and these are either friendly gods and goddesses or evil spirits causing sufferings to men especially amongst rural areas. "Ram Rajar Garh" near Deohati village is a man-made historical pond which was excavated by Ram Singh of Ambar Kingdom of Rajasthan. Ram Singh was grandson of Man Singh of Ambar Estate (Rajasthan) who excavated here with army of Delhi Sultan at the time of invading Ahom Kingdom in the second half of 17th century.

Worshipping of benevolent gods and goddess or driving away evil spirits by incantation of "Mantras" or black-arts are the common mental makeup and 99% of indigenous rural people even today are followers of pantheism and strong believer in inevitable destiny and are guided more by heart than head, more by emotion than by reason. The prime God named Mahadev is worshipped almost universally at least in this district area. Bhairab Hills range, Mohadev Hills range and Bhumiswar Hill are famous for ruins of sculptures, idols, Siva etc. are pictorial sites awaiting archeological research works and when renovated these spots will be interesting and charming tourist centres of this district.

These potential tourist spots having rare and varied species of trees, birds, insects and even "Golden Langure" at Kakoijana Hill range, are eagerly awaiting for protection and promotion. In addition to Tam Ranga and "Konora Beels" (natural ponds) area can supply fresh and tasty fishes almost to entire Assam if commercially managed which can also be used as ideal angling spots. In spite of pantheistic view of life and worshipping of Gods and Goddesses, Shreemanta Sankardeva (1449-1569) the propagator of one Supreme God known as "Vishnu" enjoyed ample scope for spreading his Ism and received warm patronage from Koch Kings and peoples. Kotasbari, Sankarghola, Bishnupur etc are the indelible foot-prints of Shreemanta Sankardev and his associates in this district.

"Shakti Puja's" (Worshipping of female deities headed by Bageswari/Kali-Thakurani/Buri- aie/Moharani/Kalikarpat etc) are also found in every nook and corner of this district. Bageswari temple - the central and oldest Temple of Bongaigaon town area alongwith Kalimandir near Swahid Bedi, Buri Aie of Bhakaribhita, Moharani temple of Khagarpur, Kalikarpat of Kakoijana Hills range, Jogodhatri of Sidalsati etc are worth mentioning spots. It is really interesting to note that Mohadev and his entire family members are worshipped both individually and collectively in simple or gorgeous manners on different dates in their official or covering names like Buri Thakurani/Garja/Kalima/Bamboo

Puja/Madan Kam, Ganesh Puja of Lalmati near Abhayapuri town etc. are worth mentioning.

Bongaigaon District Population 2011

In 2011, Bongaigaon had population of 738,804 of which male and female were 375,818 and 362,986 respectively. In 2001 census, Bongaigaon had a population of 612,665 of which males were 315,537 and remaining 297,128 were females. Bongaigaon District population constituted 2.37 percent of total Maharashtra population.

Bongaigaon District Population Growth Rate

There was change of 20.59 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Bongaigaon District recorded increase of 22.09 percent to its population compared to 1991.

Bongaigaon District Density 2011

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Bongaigaon district for 2011 is 676 people per sq. km. In 2001, Bongaigaon district density was at 355 people per sq. km. Bongaigaon district administers 1,093 square kilometers of areas.

Bongaigaon Literacy Rate 2011

Average literacy rate of Bongaigaon in 2011 were 69.74 compared to 60.95 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 74.87 and 64.43 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 68.66 and

52.69 in Bongaigaon District. Total literate in Bongaigaon District were 434,078 of which male and female were 237,114 and 196,964 respectively. In 2001, Bongaigaon District had 4,225,078 in its district.

Bongaigaon Sex Ratio 2011

With regards to Sex Ratio in Bongaigaon, it stood at 966 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 942. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 969 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 972 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census

Bongaigaon Child Population 2011

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Bongaigaon. There were total 116,392 children under age of 0-6 against 110,839 of 2001 census. Of total 116,392 male and female were 59,099 and 57,293 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 969 compared to 972 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 15.75 percent of Bongaigaon District Compared to 18.09 percent of 2001 there was net change of -2.34 percent in this compared to previous census of India.

Bongaigaon District Urban Population 2011

Out of the total Bongaigaon population for 2011 census, 14.86 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 109,810 people lives in urban areas of which males are 56,032 and females are 53,778. Sex Ratio in urban region of Bongaigaon district is 960 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Bongaigaon district was 933 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban

region was 11,141 of which males and females were 5,763 and 5,378. This child population figure of Bongaigaon district is 10.29 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Bongaigaon district as per census 2011 is 87.37 % of which males and females are 91.42 % and 83.17 % literates respectively. In actual number 86,209 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 45,956 and 40,253 respectively.

Bongaigaon District Rural Population 2011

As per 2011 census, 85.14 % population of Bongaigaon districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Bongaigaon district population living in rural areas is 628,994 of which males and females are 319,786 and 309,208 respectively. In rural areas of Bongaigaon district, sex ratio is 967 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Bongaigaon district is considered, figure is 973 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 105,251 in rural areas of which males were 53,336 and females were 51,915. The child population comprises 16.68 % of total rural population of Bongaigaon district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Bongaigaon district is 66.42 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 71.74 and 60.91 percent respectively. In total, 347,869 people were literate of which males and females were 191,158 and 156,711 respectively.

4.0.2 (Development of pre- Schools in Barpeta and Bongaigaon Districts of Assam)

A brief History:

The analysis regarding the development of pre-school education in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts showed a phenomenal expansion of schools and enrollment of students particularly in non-governmental sector. The development

is due to the effort made by local leaders, missionaries and enthusiasts of education of the regions for the establishment of schools in both the districts.

Two year pre-primary classes were attached to primary schools since the beginning of 20th century till the recommendations of the Kothari Commission 1964-66, but the pre-primary classes were abolished from primary schools and pre-primary sections were functioning as independent unit during the period 1966-1977 in Barpeta an Bongaigaon and Bongaigaon districts of Assam along with other parts of Assam.

In 1999, government reintroduced ka-shreni and the minimum age required for admission in this class was 5 years. At present almost every government, provincialised and government-aided primary schools are attached with one class pre-school education called 'KA'Shreni. Besides in private sectors 2-3 years pre-primary classes are introduced.

The first government primary school in Barpeta district was established in 1888 during British period and non-government school in 1956 at Barpeta-road by Christian missionary. The name of the school is St.Mary's school, which is one of most prominent private English medium school in the district of Barpeta.

In Bongaigaon district in the year 1891the first government school was established and in the year 15th august 1975 first private English medium school named Menon's school was established. Most of the government schools are managed by government instructed managing Committee and non-government schools are managed by private body's i., e., NGO, trust, profit making bodies etc.

Various programmes are prevailing in various categories of pre-schools in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts of Assam. In government sector only one type of pre-school is running called Ka-shreni, besides ICDS programme. But in the private sector variety of programmes are found i.e. nursery, kindergarten in

English medium and in Assamese medium Jatiya Bidyalaya, shankardev shish nikanetan etc. exist.

Table 3.1 showing numbers of schools with pre-primary sections in Barpeta district from 2005-2010:

Year	Primary only	Primary with upper primary	Primary with secondary/higher secondary	Upper primary only	Upper primary with secondary/higher secondary	All schools
2005-06	65	3	NA	2	1	71
2006-07	1987	40	NA	37	3	2067
2007-08	1519	37	19	21	6	1602
2008-09	2321	68	29	22	4	2444
2009-10	1385	37	18	1	NA	1441

Source: NUEPA (National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi)

Table 3.1 reflects that from 2005-06 to 2008-2009 the number of pre-primary sections in various schools increased from only 71 to 2444 but in 2009-10, it decreased to 1441 in Barpeta district.

Table 3.2 showing numbers of schools with pre-primary sections in Bongaigaon district since 2005-2010:

Year	Primary only	Primary with upper primary	Primary with secondary/higher secondary	Upper primary only	Upper primary with secondary/higher secondary	All schools
2005-06	87	4	NA	3	NA	94
2006-07	844	23	7	2	NA	876
2007-08	1029	35	1	5	1	1071
2008-09	1060	38	13	2	NA	1113
2009-10	943	42	20	NA	NA	1005

Source: NUEPA (National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi)

Table 3.2 indicates that from 2005-06 to 2008-2009 the number of pre-primary sections in various schools increased from only 94 to 1113 but in 2009-10 it decreased to 1005 in Bongaigaon district.

Findings from the Head/principal regarding the development of pre-schools:

Establishment of pre-schools:

Table: 3.3 showing the year of establishment of Pre- Schools in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts of Assam.

Year	Barpeta		Bongaigaon	
	Government	Non-government	Government	Non-government
	% of schools		% of schools	
1861-1880	0	0	2.00	0
1881-1900	2.50	0	4.00	0
1901-1920	3.00	0	9.00	0
1921-1940	18.50	0	10.00	0
1941-1960	26.50	1.43	26.00	0
1961-1980	41.50	0	34.00	0.77
1981-2000	6.00	20.00	14.00	23.33
2001-2012	2.00	74.29	3.00	76.17

The above table shows that 41.5% of the attached Government Pre-schools in Barpeta was established during 1961 to 1980 and in Bongaigaon 34.0% was established during the same period. Majority (74.2%) Non-Government Pre-

schools in Barpeta and (76.6%) in Bongaigaon was established during 2001 to 2012.

3.4 Enrollment of pre-school children

Table 3.4 showing the % of enrollment in pre-school from 2008-2012 in Barpeta district of Assam:

Barpeta						
Year	Boys %		Girls %		Total %	
	Government	Non-Government	Government	Non-Government	Government	Non-Government
2008	52.25(4210)	49.21(2518)	48.75(4005)	50.79(2599)	61.62(8215)	38.38(5117)
2009	51.16(4334)	50.70(2365)	48.84(4137)	49.80(2346)	64.26(8471)	35.74(4711)
2010	50.96(4199)	50.36(3125)	49.54(4123)	49.64(3080)	57.29(8322)	42.71(6205)
2011	50.36(3276)	51.37(3663)	49.64(3229)	48.63(3467)	47.71(6505)	52.29(7130)
2012	51.41(2916)	51.68(3943)	48.60(2757)	48.32(3686)	42.65(5673)	57.35(7629)

Table 3.5 showing the % of enrollment in pre-school from 2008-2012 in Bongaigaon district of Assam:

Bongaigaon						
Year	Boys%		Girls%		Total %	
	Government	Non-Government	Government	Non-Government	Government	Non-Government
2008	52.27(1869)	49.89(1332)	47.73(1707)	50.13(1339)	57.24(3576)	42.76(2671)
2009	51.96(1759)	50.73(1110)	48.03(1626)	49.27(1078)	60.74(3385)	39.26(2188)
2010	50.93(1569)	50.78(1302)	49.07(1512)	49.22(1262)	54.58(3081)	45.45(2564)
2011	49.76(1425)	52.17(1807)	50.24(1439)	47.83(1657)	45.26(2864)	54.74(3464)
2012	48.92(1288)	53.30(1807)	51.08(1345)	46.70(1583)	43.72(2633)	56.28(3390)

Regarding Government schools, Barpeta showed the highest enrolment (64.26%) in the year 2009, in Non- Government Schools highest enrolment (57.35%) was seen in the year 2012. Whereas Bongaigaon had the highest enrolment in the year 2009 (60.74%) in government schools, in non- government schools highest enrolment (56.28%) was seen in the year 2012.

3.6 Teacher-Child Ratio:

Table 3.6 showing the findings related to teacher-child ratio in the year 2012:

Ratio	Barpeta		Bongaigaon	
	Government %	Non-government %	Government %	Non-government %
1-25	09.0(18)	67.14(47)	10.0(10)	63.3(19)
26 to 50	24.0(48)	30.0(21)	35.0(35)	23.3(07)
51 to 100	29.90(59)	2.86(02)	38.0(38)	13.33(04)
Above 100	37.5(75)	0.0(0)	17.0(17)	0.00(0)

From the study, it was found that in government sector 9.0% of the schools in Barpeta and 10.0% in Bongaigaon district teacher-child ratio is 1:25. It was also seen that in 24% schools in Barpeta and 35.0% in Bongaigaon district school's teacher-child ratio falls between 1:26 to 50 and of 37.5% schools in Barpeta and 17.0% schools in Bongaigaon, teacher-child ratio is above 1:100.

On the other hand in the non-government schools, 67.14% in Barpeta and 63.3% in Bongaigaon teacher-child ratio is 1: 1 to 25 and 30.0% in Barpeta and 23.3% in Bongaigaon School's teacher-child ratio is 1: 51 to 100.

4.0.3 Conclusion:

Expansion of pre-school education in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts started since British period but the rate of expansion were very slow in the past. Although many government primary schools were established during British period but the numbers of such schools were not sufficient to provide pre-school education to all children. Some pre-schools under the missionaries were established in these two districts after independence. Pre-school education in these two districts increased rapidly in the first decade of this century in non-government sector.