APPENDIX - I

SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

For existence and stability of every social structure, there is need to have some system or organization in it. The urban Barman community has a number of socio-cultural and socio-political organizations in addition to the main executive body Silchar Dimasa Samaj. Their objectives are to protect and preserve their cultural identity and historical heritage as well as to carry out various socio-economic developmental programmes for upliftment of the Barman community of Cachar district as a whole. Through these organizations the distinguished persons of their community want to integrate the rural Barmans and urban Barmans for their social, cultural and economic upliftment.

Besides Silchar Dimasa Samaj, there are some other organizations whose objectives are different from one another, viz, Nikhil Cachar Haidimba Barman Samiti, Dimasa Sanskriti Parisad, Dimasa Historical Heritage Foundation, Silchar Bahumuki Barman Mohila Samity, All Dimasa Students Union, Phonglo Assam Association and Langtasa welfare Association.

Nikhil Cachar Haidimba Barman Samiti

Nikhil Cachar haidimba Barman Samiti is one of the strongest and oldest social organizations of the Barmans of Barak Valley. This organization has got its initiation within a public meeting of all Barmans of Cachar held on 31st December 1945 A.D. in the temple of the Goddess Ranachandi of Bijaypur a Barman village under Borkhola police station. After 25-30 years of the reign of the Kacharii kings, all

the Barmans of Cachar tied up io a common thread through this organization. Since then this organization has been working for socio-economic upliftment of the poor and peace, harmony and brotherhood among the Barmans of Barak Valley. In 1981 this organization was registered under the society Act. Mr. Manindra Kumar Barman (Borkhola) was the founder president and Mr.Digombbar Barman (Darmikhal) was the founder general secretary of this organization. Other executive members were Nirad Chandra Barman (Dolai), Nanigopal Barman (Bijoypur), Bhobendra Barman (Taligram), Rajendra Barman (Doloichoda), Lalitmohan Barman (Joypur), Chandramoni Barman (Dholai), Shailesh Barman (Armikhal), Anil Chandra Barman (Darmikhal), Ramchandra Barman (Bijoypur) and Kalisadoy Barman (Dolu). But within one or two years, the president of this organization was replaced by Mr. Nirod Chnadrs Barman. Besides socio-ecomonic development , this organization gives emphasis on social , economics, literacy, cultural, educational and political upliftment of the Barman of Cachar district (Barman 2006 : 57-58).

The Samiti struggled for a long time to register the Barmans as 'Plains Barman' in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Indian constitution. As a result the Barmans in Cachar are identified as a Scheduled Tribe of Plains (S.T.P). Under the provision of Article 342, the Barmans in Cachar are enjoying a lot of facilities provided by the constitution for the Scheduled Tribes in India. Therefore, the Barmans of Cachar get priority in Government services for the Scheduled Tribes (Barman 2006 : 53).

This Samiti has reviewed a historical decision of the Kachari kings. During the reign of the Kachari Kings some Barmans were ex-communicated by the Kings due to

their failure to fulfil some obligation. Those ex-communicated 60-70 families were living in Nunchudi, Katakhal and Leburbond villages of Cachar. The Haidimba Barman Samities has re-admitted them in the Barman society and the Barman people have recognized them for martial relations (Barman 2006 : 58).

Besides, the Samiti has taken significant decisions such as curtailment of elaborate marriage custom, minimization bride price, of duck, hen and pig domestication within the boundary of a village in order to maintain better health and hygiene .

The Samiti is concerned about the exploited labours. Around 1940s the Samiti concluded an agrement with Timber Merchants. At that time the Timber Merchant appointed the Barmans as a trained labourers in their business. About 6-7 months in a year they remain engaged in dense forests by making temporary camp there. But the Merchants did not provide them proper daily wages, balanced diet, medicines, etc. and they lived hand-to-mouth . Under the terms and conditions of the agreement in 1999, the Samiti pressurized them to improve the condition of those daily labourers by increasing their wages, providing fish, meat and other nutritious meals at least once in a week; necessary medicines and to grant them leave with full payment during the period of illness. As a result the Merchants have to fulfill these demands (Barman 2006 : 58).

The Samiti also extends support for improvement of technology in cultivation, weaving, handicraft, etc. and a lot of people have been benefited. Under Article 275 one state dispensary was opened by this Samiti in Thaligram village of Khaspur for welfare of the poor people in 1977 A.D. (Barman 2006 : 58).

In order to disseminate education, the Samiti has remarkably worked for establishment of many schools and their provicialisation, opening of hostels and appointment of Scheduled Tribe teachers in the Barman areas. Almost every Barman village has primary or high school; viz., Raja Gobindra Chandra Memorial High School in Borkhola, Bam Nittyananda Public High School, Joypur Rajabazar Ramchnadra Barman Public High School, Khaspur Krishnadhan Barman M.E.School, Khaspur Krishnadhan Barman Janakee Roy Memorial High School, Langalachara Baniram Barman Public M. E. School, Hairam Barman Dinomoyee Shuklarance Rajabazar Maddha Banga Biddyaloy, Hawaithang High School, Nikama M.E. School, Nikama High School and so on . For the schools the required land and money was donated by the local Barman people. The schools are named after their donors. In response to the request of the Haidimba Barman Samiti , many hostels have been established from the Scheduled Tribes Development fund of the State Government such as Gbinda Chandra Memorial High School (Borkhola), Morli High School (Shalgagnga) Ramcjhnadra Barman Public High School (Joypur Rajabazar) and Bam Nittananda High School (Dholai). For spreading education, the Samiti established a Barman hostel named Barman Chatrabash (est. 1954A.D.) at Tarapur in Silchar for the Dimasa and Barman students from North Cachar Hills, Karbi Anglong and the village of Cachar (Barman 2006 : 58-59).

In 28th annual meeting in 1973 A.D. this Samiti placed 18 proposals before the Governemnt related to education, medical facility, health and hygiene, drinking water, club, library, temple, communication, bridge, historical temple, tribal belt formation and various socio-economic development in different Barman villages of Cachar. Since

1980 A.D., this organization has been loosing its connection with most of its subbranches and resultantly , it has lost its impact on Barman society. This degradation owes to deaths of most of the founder members of the Samiti, decline in respect towards elders and so on. After its extreme degradation the Samiti has regained its strength in 2000 A.D. with the support from many well wishers. The Samiti has again engaged in various developmental works for upliftment of the Barmans and Cachar district (Barman 2006 : 60-61).

Time to time the organization placed many demands before the Government. Some of the demands are as follows :

1. Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Tribes (S.T.) population

(i) One Zila Parishad member constituency, i.e., 03.12% Udharbond East Constituency under Cachar Zila Parishad.

(ii) Four constituencies for members; viz.,

(a) 93 Harinagar, (b) Kanakpur, Doloicherra under Rajabazar Block, (c) 79 Lakhinagar Block and (d) 29 Sewratal under Narshingpur Block.

(iii) Four Gao Panchayat (G. P.) President constituencies; viz.,

(a) 90 Langlacherra Joypur, (b) 93 Harinagar under Rajabazar Block, (c) 79 Lakhipur under Lakhipur Block, and (d) 29 Sewratal under Narshingpur Block.

(iv) 23 members of Barman S.T. population G. P. ward member constituencies; viz.,

(a) 9 Sewrartal G. P. under Narshigpur Block, (b) 5 and 9 Lakhipur G. P. under Lakhipur Block, (c) 6 Chandranathpur G. P. under Borkhola Block, etc.

were reserved for the Barman S.T. candidates considering all aspects, acts and rules.

2. Government financial assistance for the construction of permanent office building at Tarapur Silchar
3. For construction of hostel for tribal girls students in Silchar town.
4. For construction of tribal rest house / guest house at Silchar town.
5. Immediate filling up of all the reserved vacancies of posts in the various State Govt. offices / departments and educational institutions to clear up back log.
6. Allotment of land to the landless tribal villagers living in the reserved forest villages.
7. Nomination of Tribal members in the various Boards and council under different departments
8. Electrification water supply medical and health facilities development of roads and communications in all the reserved forest villages.
9. Accommodation of one M.L.A (Reserved Seat) for tribals in Barak Valley.
10. Protection and preservation of historical monuments at Khaspur, Dimapur, Maibang and Haritkar
11. Opposition of fictitious Census Report - In the Barman dominated areas S.T. population was not shown in the census of 2001 for instances;

    (a) Bagerkona, a Barman dominated village under Khaspur within Udharbond Block of 12 Udharbond constituency.

    (b) Kullicherra Forest village totally inhabited by Barman population under Shewratal G. P.

(c) Dhanipur under Shewratal G. P.

(d) Bijaypur under Rampur G. P.

(e) Kurkuri under Kukuri G. P.

(d) Lailapur uinder Channighat G. P.

(e) Maruacherra under Bara Rampur G. P.

(f) Kachari Gaon under Bara Rampur G. P.

(g) Bara Salganga Tribal village G. P.

(h) Chota Salganga Tribal village G. P.

(Source : Barman, R. R.(ed.), 2002, **Sainjalee : A Quarterly Dimasa Magazine** 16th -21st Issue, 6- Silchar, Assam : Graodima Jnadaorine Hoshom, Pp .ii-vi)

The members of the committee Nikhil Cachar Haidimaba Barman Samiti of 2006 (48th General Conference).

Executive Committee

1. President - Sri Rohini Barman
2. Vice -President- Sri Mohanjoy Barman
3. Secretary - Sri Santosh Barman
4. Joint Secretary - Sri Sunirmal Barman

Other members

5. Sri Birlal Barman
6. Sri Prakash Barman
7. Sri Monilal Barman
8. Sri Bhupendra Barman
9. Sri Praphulla Barman

(Source : Barman, B. (ed.), 2006, **Souvenier,** Cachar : Nikhil Cachar Haidimba Barman Samiti).

The Samiti has 13 branches; viz.,

(1) Bikrampur Branch

Villages - Goderbhitor, Balirbond, Naturband, Andorgol, Nunchudi, Karkaree, Talichora.

(2) Borkhola Branch

Village - Borkhola, Dhomkar, Ujannagar, Maluya, Bijoypur, Dolu, Borbond, Leburbond, Lalbag, Cimtibil, Chandrapur.

(3) Kashpue Branch

Village - Thaligram, Bagerkona, Thikolpar, Shiberbondh, Noyarbondh, Guabaree, Tratanpur.

(4) Joypur Branch

Village - Joypur 1st subdivision, Joypur 2nd subdivision, Muliura, Lanlachoda, Laduma, Kankpur, Chalamatpur, Chotokumpee, Thailu, Ladi, Railung, Narainpur.

(5) Doloichoda Branch

Village - Doloichora, Shanpur, Chataidisa, Krishna nagar, Thaipunagar, Dharampu.

(6) Kumachora Branch

Village - Kumachoda, Putachoda, Harinagar, Kalinagar, Diphuchora, Baigajignee, Gembru, Diglee, Diglang, Nagarbasti.

(Source : Barman, B. (ed.), 2006, **Souvenier,** Cachar : Nikhil Cachar Haidimba Barman Samiti).

Dimasa Sanskriti Parisad

This is one of the oldest socio-cultural organization of the Barmans of Cachar district, registered in 1974-75. The main objectives of this organization are :

(i) To improve the ancient and modern Dimasa culture, language and literature.

(ii) To encourage enthusiastic Dimasa artist in the field of traditional music and dance.

(iii) To collect their traditional and modern Dimasa songs.

(iv) To collect Dimasa folklore, folk drama, etc.

(v) To preserve ancient memories of Kachari kings.

For functioning of the Parishad there is an executive body of the members selected or elected annually in its annual meeting . At present the executive members are as follows.

1. President - Sri Suresh Chandra Barman
2. Vice -President - Expired
3. General Secretary - Sri Sunil Barman
4. Assistant Secretary - Sri Mohitosh barman
5. Treasurer - Sri Babul Barman

Being a registered organization it is entitled to get financial assistance from Government through Tribal Development Department. Besides, many times M. P.s , M.L.A.s and Ministers have donated funds to the organization. All the executive members of the body have to subscribe Rs. 20/- per month for its functioning. The executive body utilizes the funds in the following ways :

(i) For publication of books especially on Dimasa-Kachari history and literature written by Barman people.

(ii) Annual worship of the lord Shiva in Sonai Shiva Tila temple in the month of *Kartik mash* (November) of the Bengali calender.

(iii) For the expenditure of their annual meetings.

(iv) For providing free training in their traditional dance and music especially to enthusiastic Barman youths.

This organization welcome all the Barman people of Cachar district who are interested in the field of their traditional music and dance. Any one who violates its rules is expelled from the Organization. This organization conducts the traditional music and dance items on invitation. The Sanskriti Parishad has constructed its own building near the Employment Exchange, India Club Road, Silchar, from the grant-in-aid by the State Govt. and Govt. of India (Source : S. C. Barman, president).

Silchar Bahumukhi Barman Mohila Samity

The Barman Mohila Samity, a social welfare organisation, established on the 18th August 1994, aims to carry out the activities for welfare of socio-economic, literary and cultural upliftment of the women folk of Barman community. Its executive body consists of the following members :

1. President - Smti. Sarupama Barman
2. Vice-President - Smti. Niroda Barman
3. General Secretary - Smti. Obja Barman
4. Assistant Secretary - Smti. Gita Rani Barman
5. Treasurer - Smti. Uma Sashi Barman

The main objectives of this Samiti are as follows :

(i) Socio-economic and literary development of the Barman womenfolk.

(ii) Cultural upliftment among the Barman people.

(iii) Movement against all kinds of social evils which demoralize social prestige of the Barman women.

(iv) Promotion of commercial plantation of Endi-muga, Mulbery silk, etc.

(v) Encouragement of the womenfolk in the activities of weaving, spinning, tailoring and knitting and arrangement of training classes.

(vi) Helping the most needy women by monetary support purchasing handloom and sewing machines.

(vii) Encouraging the unemployed women of different kinds for food-producing and food-processing activities.

(viii) Encouraging the women for different kinds of cottage industries.

(ix) Campainging for prohibition of alcohol in the district.

(x) Launching movement against all blind prejudices.

To fulfil these objectives, the Samiti possesses a fund raised from the contributions of the executive members of Rs. 25/- each, per month, and other interested members of their community and also by donations. The Samiti holds annually a meeting of the executive committee to assess their activities. Besides, whenever necessity arises, the executive members hold their meetings. But the Samiti does not have its own building and therefore their meetings are held in the house of any member (Source : Smti. Obja Barman General Secretary).

Dimasa Historical Heritage Foundation

Dimasa Historical Heritage Foundation established in 2005, initiated research works on ancient historical places of Dimasa-Kachari for protection and preservation

of their historical heritage. It has a strong body with efficient and interested members. The members of this body are :-

1. President - Sri. Uttam Chand Barman
2. Vice-President - Sri Ratan Moni Barman
3. Secretary - Sri Shumit Kumar Barman

   and other 22 executive members.

The research workers conduct their works mainly in Khaspur, Sonai-Shivtila and other historical places in the district of Cachar. The president Sri Uttam Chand Barman, Biswajoti Barman, Gouri Sen, Tushar Kanti Nath and many other writers wrote many books and articles on Dimasa-Kachari history and Literature. They collect data from elderly persons living in the villages of Khashpur. To conduct research work, the committee managed its own funds (Source : Sri U.C. Barman, president).

All Dirnasa Students Union

It is an organization of all the Barman students of the Cachar district registered in 1991, which aims to launch movement for greater interest of the Barman community in general and the Barman students of the district in particular. The executive members of this union are as follows :

1. President - Sri. Kuntal Barman
2. Vice-President - Sri Biman Barman
3. General Secretary - Sri Sanjoy Barman
4. Sports Secretary - Rintu Barman
5. Advisor - Sri Dhiraj Kanti Barman and Sri Sanjoy Barman

Any Barman student who has attained the age of 18 years any can join the union and remain an active member till he or she gets a handsome job or married. Every year the union organizes a freshers' welcome programme for all the Barman students who come to Silchar town for education. It is a moral duty of all the students attend the programme wherein the newcomers are introduced.

It takes all the responsibilities of taking care of the students' their benefits. Every year they organize a conference in the District library Hall for Barman students. In the conference the body chalk out its round the year activities. Whenever any emergency arises they conduct their meetings in their main office at the Barman Chatrabash, i.e., the boys hostel of the Barmans. For the functioning of the body, the executive members collect annual subscription from all of their community members. One of the most important activity of the union is to provide some monetary support to poor students who are unable to get admission in schools or colleges or unable to pay the examination fees (Source : Sri Biman Barman, ex-member).

Phonglo Assam Association

This association belonging to *Phonglo Sengphong* of the Barmans of Cachar aims the welfare of poor and needy *Phonglo* people. Sri Sachindra Barman is the founder of this association, who has established it in 1987 A.D. and is continuing as its president. The executive members collect their funds from all the *Phonglo* people annually and spend for welfare of the poor *Phonglo* people (Source : Sri Mukul Barman, member).

Langtasa Welfare Association

This social organization formed by all the *Langtasa* people of Cachar in 1985 A.D. for the upliftment of the downtrodden people of *Langtasa Sengphong* only. It has a president (Sri Sunil Barman), a vice president (Sri Sudhir Barman), and 21 executive members. All the *Langtasa* people of Cachar contribute funds to this association and the executive body utilizes these for needy and poor *Langtasa* people mainly in the villages. This association also provides a prize of Rs. 1000 to 2000/- and certificate to meritorious *Langtasa* students every years. To conduct their activities, the executive members conduct annual meetings in Kalyan Ashram or in any member's house (Source : Sunil Barman).

APPENDIX - II

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

House hold No. House Address

Head of the Family

Name of the respondent- Phone No.

Name of the Family Members	Sex	Age	Relation with Head	Patri/ Matri Clan	Educational Qualification	Name of the Institution and Medium	Occupation		Monthly Income	Marital Status	Age at Marriage	Any Disease	Place of Birth
							Pri-mary	Subsi-diary					

Process of Migration

1. In which year did you migrate ?
2. Causes of Migration ?
3. Mode of migration - Individual / with family
4. Why did you choose Silchar for migration?
5. Who helped you in migration ?
6. How they helped you ?
7. Is there any body in your family who migrated else where from Silchar ?

   Who is he/ she and what is the reason ?
8. Before you settled in Silchar, was there any place to which you migrated first from

   your original place ?
9. Where did you settle in Silchar ?
10. Reasons for migration from that place?
11. Except the primary kins, whom do you consider your nearest kin ?
12. Have you faced any conflict situation in the family ? Yes / No
13. If yes , what kind of valiance shouting/ Abusing/ Beating ?
14. Who committed that violence in the family ?
15. What consequences of the violence have been for your family ?

    Separation/ Desertion/ Divorce/ Death
16. How is your relation with in-laws ?
17. How is your relation with other affinal kins ?
18. With whom you observe avoidance usage and how ?
19. Among whom joking relationship prevail ?

Marriage

20. What kinds of marriages have taken place in your family, and among whom ?

Among the people	Mode of Marriage	Way of Marriage	Place of Marriage

21. Is there any spouse in your family from any other community ?

    Yes/ No. If yes, mention the name of that community

22. Is there any divorce case happened in your family ?

    Yes/ No, If yes, who is he / she

23. Is there any remarriage case happened in your family ?

    Yes/ No, if yes who is he/ she

Religious Activities

24. Are you follower of any dharma ? Yes / No

25. If yes, mention the name of the dharma guru

26. What are the religious activities (both Tribal & non-tribal) you follow in a year ?

Name of the Activity (both tribal & non-tribal)	Date	Name of Deity	Level of activity			
			Family	Community	local	regional

Other Fairs and Festivals

27. What are the fairs and festivals (other than religious activities) you follow in a year

Name of the Fairs and festivals	Date	Name of Deity	Level of activity			
			Family	Community	local	regional

Economic life

28. Traditional occupation of respondent's Father-

Grand father-

Great grand father-

29. Do you posses land in town ? Yes / No

30. How much ?

31. Do you possess land in village ? Yes / No

32. How much ?

33. Average monthly expenditure of your family

	Amount of expenditure
Fooding	
Lodging	
Electricity Bill	
Telephone Bill	
Education of children	
House hold items	
Full expenditure for car/scooter./ Motor cycle	

34. Which of the items do you have at home

(1) Double Bed	(2) Almirah	(3) Sofaset
(4) Showcase	(5) Dressing table	(6) Dinning Table
(7) Electric fan	(8) Wall Clock	(9) Refrigerator
(10) Sewing Machine	(11) Color TV/ Black & white TV	(12) Inverter
(13) Tape Recorder	(14) Radio	(15) V.C.D Player
(16) Micro even	(17) Washing Machine	(18) Camera
(19) Water Pump	(20) Carpet	(21) Computer
(22) Car	(23) Scooter/ Motor Cycle	(24) Cooler
(25) Air condition		

Food and Beverage

35. How do you cook food ? L.P.G Stove/ Chula/ Kerosene stove

36. What kind of food you take ? Vegetarian / non-vegetarian

37. What are the material items you have in your kitchen ?

Material item	Metals used					
	Steel	Bronze	Brass	Iron	Copper	Aluminium

House type

38. House type or pattern - R.C.C.?

Assam type with full brick wall/ Assam type with half brick wall/ Bamboo house

39. Number of living room

40. Provision of kitchen ? Yes / No

41. Provision of sanitary facility? Yes / No

42. Any gardening within boundary ? Yes / No

43. Living in rented house/ own house ? Yes / No

44. It is purchased/ inherited.

45. Any future plan about house? Yes / No

46. Length of residence in this house

(i) Since birth	(ii) below 1 year	(iii) 1-5 years	(vi) 6-10 years
(v) 11-15 years	(vi) 16-20 years	(vii) 21-25 years	(viii) 26-30 years
(ix) 31-35 years	(x) 36-40 years	(xi) 41-45 years	(xii) 46-50 years
(xiii) 51-55 years	(xiv) 56-60 years	(xv) 61-65 years	

47. Is there any residential problem ?

Dress and Ornaments

48. What kind dress ate worn by your family members ?

By whom	At home	Out Home	During marriage	During festival	On other occasions

49. On what occasion you use to wear your traditional dress ?

50. What kind of ornaments are worn by your family members

By whom	Kind of ornament	Metal used		
		Gold	Silver	Bronze

51. Do you have traditional ornament - Yes / No

52. If yes, Mention those.

53. In what occasion you use to wear those ?

Exposure to mass media

54. Do you subscribe any Newspaper ? Yes / No

55. If yes, mention the name of the newspaper.

56. If no where do you read that ?

57. Who read newspaper ?

58. Which part of the newspaper do you read mostly

(1) The whole newspaper (2) Only Headlines (3) First Page news

(4) Zodiac sign (5) Matrimonial (6) Current Affairs

(7) Employment (8) Business (9) Sports

(10) Cinema (11) Entertainment (12) Advertisement

59. Do you subscribe any magazine -Yes / No

60. If yes, mention the name of the magazine.

61. Is there any body who read books ?

62. If yes, mention his / her name and what are those books?

63. Do you have radio at home - yes / No

64. If yes, who listen that

65. Which programs do you listen most

(1) news (2) sports news/commentaries (3) Dimasa program

(4) Classical music (5) Film songs (6) Educational (7) Bhajans

66. Where do you watch TV ?

At home/ At neighbors/ Relatives/ friends house.

67. What type of programs do you watch on TV ?

(1) News (2) Dance & Music (3) Sports (4) Serials (5) Mythological

(6) Business (7) Children program (8) Films (9) Educational (10) Others

68. Do you have cable connection ? Yes / No

69. Which channels do you watch most ?

70. DO you have land phone - Yes / No

71. Who have mobile phone in your family ?

72. Do you have access to computer- yes / No

73. If Yes, where do you use computer -

Home / School / Cyber cafe / Office/ Other.

74. Purpose of Using computer

(1) Education (2) Official (3) Business (4) Games (5) Chatting (6) Others

75. Do you use to write letter to communicate with your relatives/ friends : Yes / No

76. If yes, how many letters do you send in a mouth ?

77. How many letters do you receive in a month ?

Health

78. For usual illness what do you prefer most Homeopathy ?

79. Do you believe in traditional primitive way of treatment ? Yes / No.

80. You/ Other family member go for such type of treatment ? Yes / No

81. If yes, who is he / she ?

82. Mention the reason and what is the result ?

83. Do you / any other in your family practice morning work ?

    Exercise/ pranayam in daily life ? Yes / No

84. Who is he/ she and how long ?

TH-691
21/04/09