CHAPTER: IV

METHODOLOGY

In the preceding chapter Review of related literature is presented which incorporates Research work on the Scheduled Castes in India and Studies conducted on the Kaibartta and other Fishermen communities in Assam. The present (fourth) chapter is an attempt to present 'Methodology' which includes, Introduction, Background of the Study, Area of the Study, Design of the Study, Population, Sample and Sampling Technique, Exploration of the Document (Primary Sources of Data and Secondary Sources of Data), Tools for the Study, Standardization of the Tools, Data Collection, Techniques of Data Analysis.

4.1 Introduction

Research Methodology involves systematic procedures starting from the initial identification of the problem to its final conclusion. Research methods provide the tools and techniques by which research problem is attacked. It is concerned with the processes and procedures adopted to achieve the particular objectives of a research study.

The present chapter gives detail information regarding the approach that has been adopted for achieving the objectives of the research work. It includes background of the study, detail information about the sources of data, tools and techniques, population and sample, data collection procedure, scoring and analysis procedures.

In the present study the investigator followed Descriptive Survey Method. Descriptive research studies are designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomena and wherever possible, to draw general conclusions from the facts discovered. They collect and provide three types of data of what exists with respect to variables or conditions in a situation, of what we want by identifying standards or norms with which to compare the present conditions or what experts consider to be desirable, of how to achieve goals by exploring possible ways and means on the basis of the experience of others or the opinions of experts.

Survey studies are conducted to collect detailed descriptions of existing phenomena with the intent of employing data to justify current conditions and practices or to make more intelligent plans for improving them.

4.2 Background of the Study

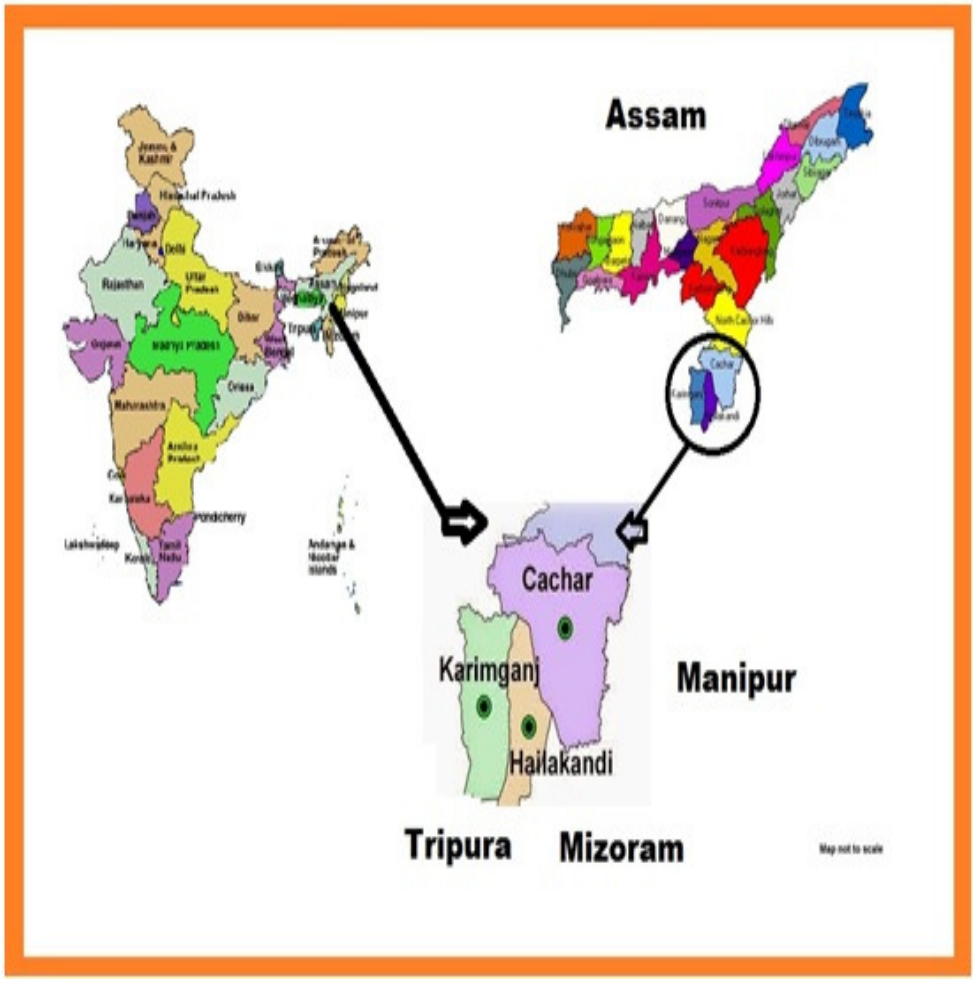
The investigator of the present study is familiar with the Kaibartta community due to her belongingness to the community. She is born and brought up in Barak Valley and developed her primary socialization within the community. Since her childhood she has been listening from her parent, grand parent and other aged persons about life of the people of the said community in Bangladesh. They too shared their various sweet and bitter experiences of day to day life in Bangladesh and of course the reason of migration. She used to relate their views with her subsequent observation of Kaibartta community. The investigator intended to know more and more about the Kaibartta community of Barak Valley and that generated her curiosity to study education of the Kaibartta in Barak Valley.

A very few literature are available on Kaibartta, but what ever literature she collected to gather knowledge and narrate their miserable education and socio-economic condition of past and contemporary life, which she has tried to discuss in subsequent chapters.

4.3 Area of the Study

Barak Valley is situated in the southern part of the Indian state, Assam. It comprises the three districts viz. Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi.

Location Map of Barak Valley



Source: http://www.google.co.in/url

Table no.4.1 Barak Valley at a Glance

Districts	Total Population	Male	Female	Literacy	Density	Area	Sex Ratio
Cachar	1,736,617	886,284	850,333	79.34 %	459 (per sq.km)	3,786 Sq.Km	959
Karimganj	1,228,686	625,864	602,822	78.22 %	679 (per sq.km)	1,809 Sq.Km	963
Hailakandi	659,296	337,890	321,406	74.33 %	497 (per sq.km)	1,327 Sq.Km	951
Barak Valley	3624599	1850038	177456	77.29%	545 (per sq.km)	6922 Sq.Km.	957

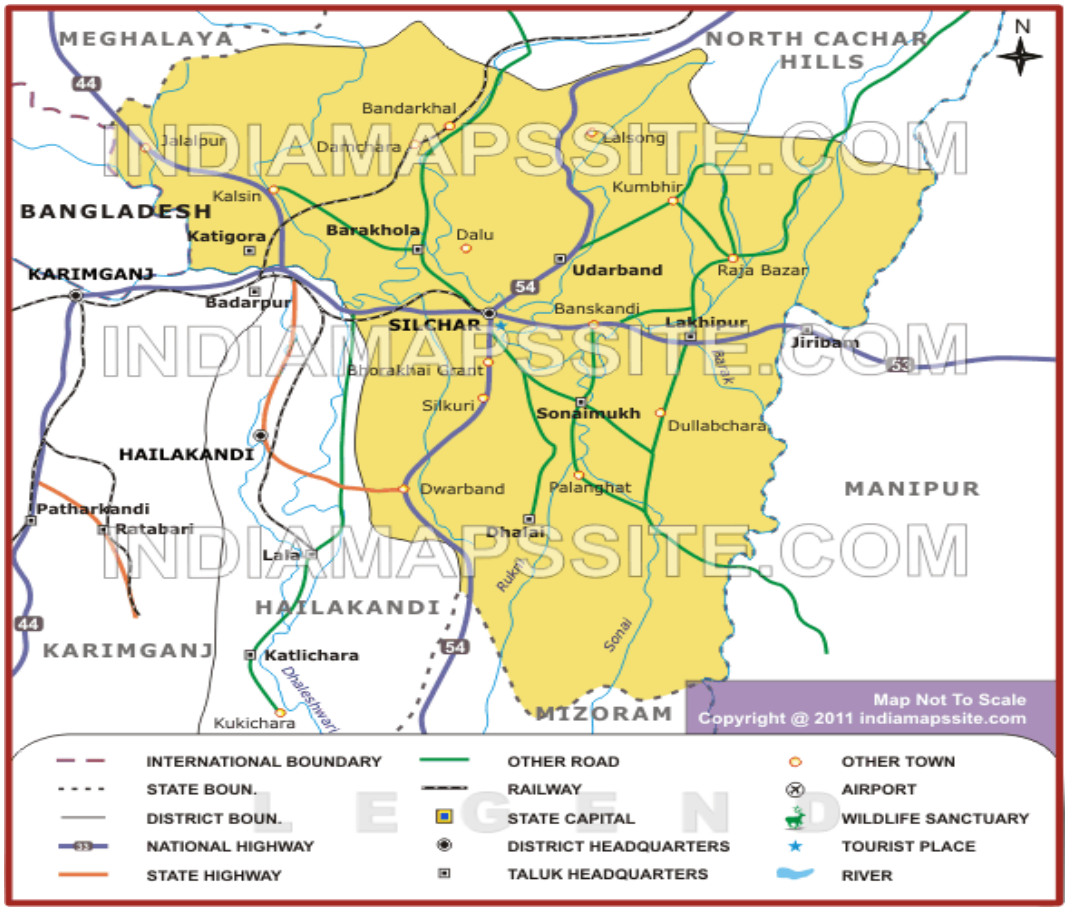
(Source: Census Report 2011)

The basic aim of the present study is to explore the education of the Kaibartta in Barak Valley. The required data were collected from all the three districts of Barak Valley viz. Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. In the present study the data were collected from different villages /areas where the the people of Kaibartta community live in large number.

4.3.1 Cachar District

Cachar is the largest district among three districts of Barak Valley. The word "Cachar" has come from the word "Kachar", which is derived from the Sanskrit word "Kaacha" which means lower region of mountain. Cachar district is bounded on the north by the

Map of Cachar District



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North Cachar Hills, on the east by the Manipur on the south by the state Mizoram, and on the west by Syhlet (Bangladesh) and Tripura, the district Cachar whose head quarter is in Silchar, covers the total area of 3,786 sq. km. with a population of with a population of 1,736,617 of which 886,284 and 850,333 male and female respectively as well as 1,421,153 81.83%) rural and 315,464(18.17%) urban population comprising density 459 per sq.km. Average literacy rate of Cachar is 79.34 and sex ratio is 959 per 1000 male (according to 2011 census). Cachar has the second largest percentage 11.4 (next to Nagaon which comprises 11.8%) of Scheduled Caste population to total State's total SC population (according to 2001 census). Hence, in Cachar the people of Kaibartta community (who also come under the domain of Scheduled Castes) found in a noticeable number. A large number of people of the Kaibartta community have migrated from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) after partition of India and scattered mainly in the areas where they can practice both fishing and cultivation simultaneously, because fishing and cultivation is their traditional occupation. They concentrated basically in the areas of Cachar Viz. Kalibarir Char, Ashram Road, College Road, Malinibil, Tarapur, Hawaithang, Khelma, Rongpur, Dudhpatil, Kathigorah, Ratanpur Colony, Silcoorie, Harinagar, Harintila, Baghmara, Irongmara, etc.

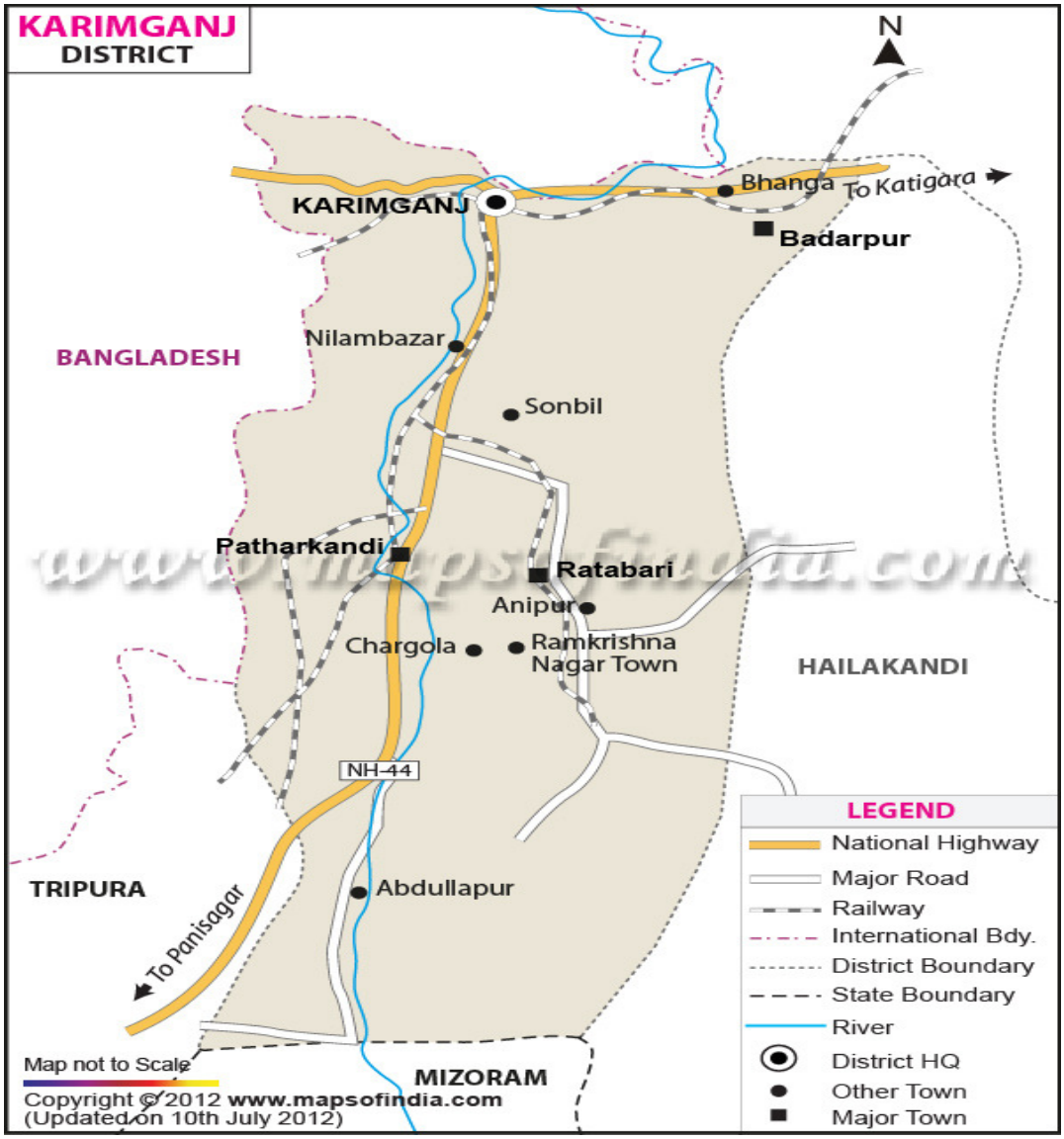
4.3.2 Karimganj District

Karimganj is the second largest district in Barak Valley. Previously it was under the district Cachar. The district has 1,228,686 populations of which 625,864 male and 602,822 female covering 1,809 square kilometers of areas. The district has 1,118,986(91.07%) rural and 109,700(8.93%) urban population. The density of Karimganj district is 679 people per sq.km. Average literacy rate of Karimganj is 78.22

and sex ratio is 963 per 1000 male (according to 2011 census). The district is glorified with B. Ed and Academic Colleges, as well as various other institutions. The famous 'Sonbeel' is also situated in the very district.

In the district Anandapur, Kalyanpur, Swastipur, Sontoshpur, Bagantila, Nabingram, Kalibaribazaar, Shantipur, Shailanagar, Nagendranagar, Phakua, Rakeshnagar, Station road, Rail-colony etc. are Kaibartta dominated village.

Map of Karimganj District:



Source: www.mapsofindia.com

4.3.3 Hailakandi District

Hailakandi is the smallest district in Barak Valley. Previously it was also under Cachar district. The district has population of 659,296 of which 337,890 male and 321,406 female covering the total area of 1,327 square kilometers with density of 497 people per sq.km. Average literacy rate of Hailakandi is74.33 and sex ratio is 951 per 1000 male.

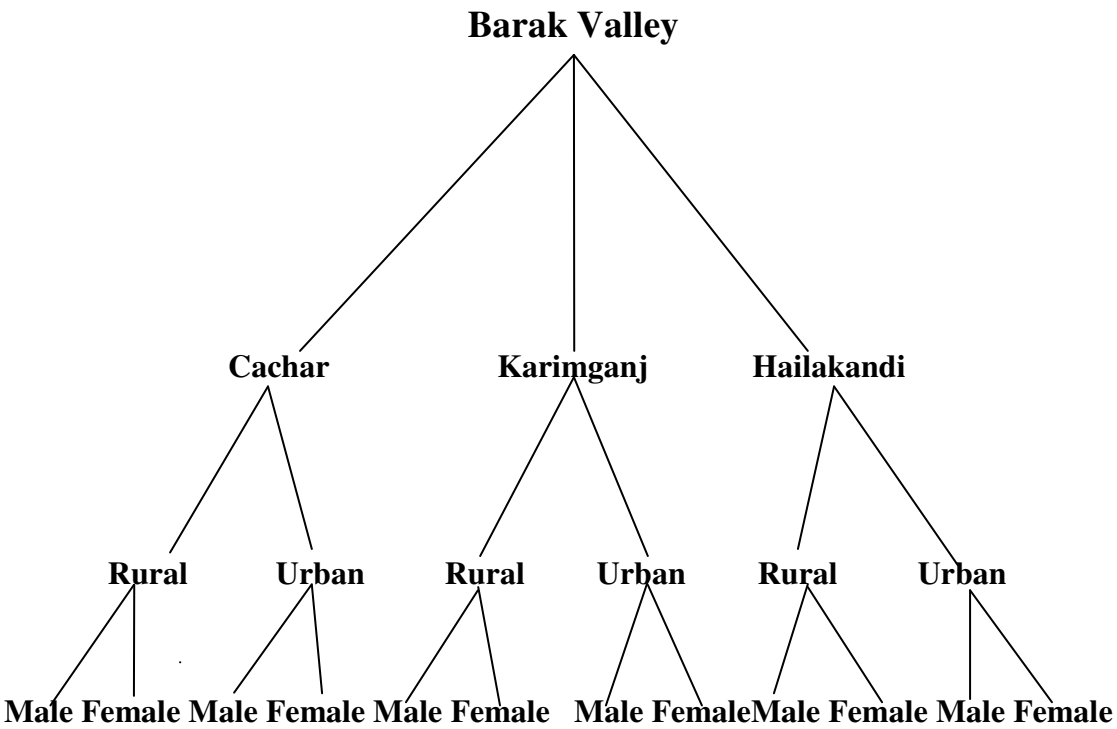
The district has 611,156 (92.70%) rural population and 48,140 (7.30%) urban population (according to 2011 census).The district has B. Ed Colleges, Academic Colleges and other important institutions. In Hailakandi district, Panchgram, Bakrihawar, Anakulnagar, Thandapur etc. are the Kaibartta dominated areas.

Map of Hailakandi District

Source: www.mapsofindia.com.

In Barak Valley, Anandapur, Kalyanpur, Santoshpur, Swastipur, Phakua, Nagendra Nagar, Kalibari Bazar, Nabingram, Rakesh Nagar, of Sonbeel area under Karimganj district in the villages viz. Dudhpathil, Kathigorah, Shilkoorie, Irongmara, Ratanpur, Harintilla, Harinagar, Baghmara, Silkoorie, Boalmara, DasPara, Amtala, Salemabad, Hawaithang, Tarapur, College Road, Ashram Road, Vivekananda Road, Rongpur, Topoban Nagar, Kalibarir Char of Cachar district and in Alambag, Bakri Hawar, Panchgram, Manacherra, Hailakandi proper etc. of Hailakandi district, people of this community are found in noticeable number.

4.4 Design of the Study



4.5 Population, Sample and Sampling Technique

4.5.1 Population

A population refers to any collection of specified group of human beings or of non-human entities such as objects, educational institutions, time units, geographical areas, prices of wheat or salaries drown by individuals.A population is any group of individuals that have one or more characteristics in common.Hence, the population for the present study consists of people of Kaibartta community in Barak Valley.

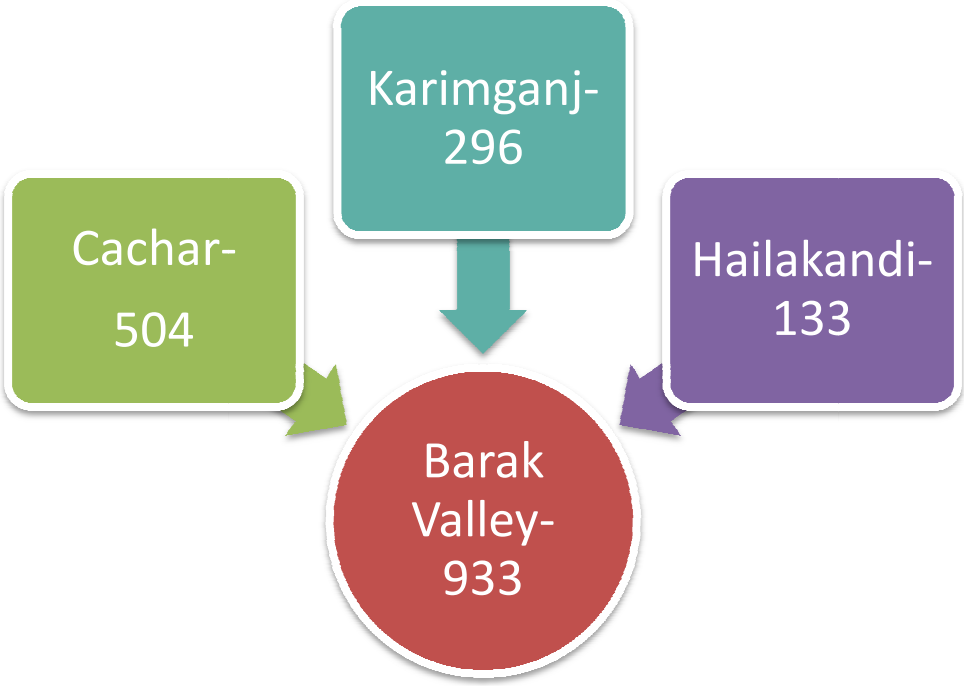
4.5.2 Sample

Sampling is the process by which a relatively small number of individuals or measures of individuals, objects or events are selected and analysed in order to find out something about the entire population from which it is selected.

Keeping in view the constraints viz. time, finance etc. the investigator has decided to pickup the people of Kaibartta community only and those people are selected from Barak Valley under the state Assam. For the present study the group of respondents as sample has been taken from Kaibartta Community of Barak Valley and only those areas / villages are selected which are Kaibartta dominated as well as easily accessible, such as Irongmara, Baghmara,Ratanpur, Harintilla, Shilkoorie, Boalmara, Dudhpatil, Puticherra, Kathigorah, Salemabad, Hawaithang, Tarapur, College Road, AshramRoad, Rongpur, Vivekananda Road etc.of Cachar district, Anandapur, Kalyanpur, Santoshpur, Swastipur, Nabingram, Phakua,Nagendranagar,RakeshNagar of Karimganj District and Manacherra, Panchgram, Alambag, Bakrihawar etc.of Hailakandi district.The people of Kaibartta community of Assam has constituted the Universe for the present study, the people of Kiabartta community of Barak Valley has constituted the Population and from that

population 933 respondents(covering three districts viz. Cachar-504, Karimganj-296 and, Hailakandi-133) have constituted the Sample for the present study.The sample of the present study includes both male and female respondents who are above 18 years of age. From one family only one member is considered as a respondent.

Table no. 4.2 Distribution of the Respondents of the Present Study



4.5.3 Sampling Technique

A Purposive Random Sampling technique is applied in the present study to select the the areas/villages and to select respondents to collect the necessary data. It is very difficult if not impossible for an investigator to incorporate each and every individual of each and every area in his/ her study. The people of Kaibartta community are also not residing in a single village or two/three villages rather they are scattered in different areas of Barak Valley. In some areas they are found in a large number and in some areas they

are less. In some places they are majority and in some areas they are minority as compare to other caste. In Barak Valley such villages are also there where not even a single other caste family are found which are the completely Kaibartta villages.As for example we can cite the name of the village Anandapur pt-II (popularly known as Mokamtila). For the purpose of the present study, among the all villages /areas of Barak Valley only the such villages are randomly selected where the people of Kaibartta community are found and among those villages / areas only the people of Kaibartta community are taken as respondents of the present study on the basis of age norm (above 18 years of age). The required data is collected through personal visit to different areas where the people of Kaibartta community are living.

Table no.4.3 Area/Village-Wise Distribution of the Respondents in Barak Valley

Districts	Name of the Areas/Villages	No. of Ares/ Villages	No. of Respondents
Cachar	Amtila, Alambag, Bhairabpur, DasPara, Damcherra, Harinagar, Irongmara, College Road, Link Road, Ashram Road, Lalmati, Lalcherra (Hawaithang), Kolicherra (Hawaithang). Malinibill, Tapoban Nagar, Radha Nagar, Puticherra, Dudhpatil, Khelma, Baghmara, Silcoorie Camp, Ratanpur Colony,	35	504

	Karatigram (Rongpur), Shimultala(Rongpur), Narapati, Salemabad, Nadiapur, Saidpur, Boalmara (Uttar), Boalmara (Dakshin), Kalibarir Char, Das Colony, Itkhola, Ghoniala, Katigorah etc.		
Karimganj	Anandapur, Anipur, Arjun Nagar, Bagantila, Bargool, Birgram, Chotakona, Dargarbond Bazar,Debigarh(RakeshNagar), Eraligool (Rakesh Nagar), Gopika Nagar, Kalibaribazar, Kalyanpur, Nabingram, Nagendra Nagar, Nischintapur, Nivia, Phakuagram, Rakesh Nagar, Rail Colony, Sambridhipur, Santoshpur, Shantipur, Swastipur, Sangatipur, Station Road.	26	296
Hailakandi	Anakul Nagar, Santosh Nagar, Shiv Colony, Thandhapur, Panchgram, Tool Road, Lakshmishahar, College Road, Lala, Nutan Para, Narainpur.	11	133
	Barak Valley	72	933

4.6 Exploration of the Document

Data is very much important requirement for any research work. There are two types of data viz. primary data and secondary data. Primary data are the first hand data and these are collected fresh and thus happen to be original in character. This type of data is collected by the researcher from the field through direct interaction to the respondents. Secondary data are those which have already been collected by some one else. In the present study both type (Primary and Secondary) of data has been used. The Documents that were explored by the investigator of the present study are:

4.6.1 Primary Sources of Data

The main sources of primary data are a "Questionnaire" and a "Problem Checklist" which were administered on the people of Kaibartta Community in Barak Valley. Besides these, the researcher of the present study also interacted directly to respondents collected information regarding the 'Oral History' of the Kaibartta in Barak Valley and took relevant photograph of the very sight of the Village/Areas/people of the Kaibartta Community are concentrated.

4.6.2 Secondary Sources of Data

The main sources of secondary data are books, journals, periodicals, articles, thesis, web-sights etc. For the necessary information (secondary data) the investigator of the present study visited the famous libraries of different Universities both inside the and outside the State (Assam) and consulted Books, Journals as well as Periodicals.The famous Libraries visited by the investigator are Central Library of Tripura University**,** Central Library of Jadavpur University, K.K.Handique Library of Guwahati University,

Central Library of Calcutta University,National Library, Kolkata and Rabindra Granthagaar (Central Library) of Assam University, Silchar.

Beside these the investigator also has gone through the various Census Reports of India as well as Assam which are Census Report of India 2001, 2011, Census Report of India (Assam) 2001, 2011, Statistical Handbook of Assam (Cachar) 2005 etc.

4.7. Tools for the Study

For the present study a **'Questionnaire'** was prepared by the investigator which incorporates Socio-economic, Socio-cultural Status and other information regarding the people of Kaibartta community in Barak Valley which includes Identifying Data and 37 (thirty seven) items (Both the open and closed type) and a **'Problem Checklist'** related to Education of the Kaibartta in Barak Valley (Problems in Educational Attainment) which includes General Information and Issues related to Continuation of Education-5, Issues related to School Environment-5, Issues related to Infrastructure-6, Issues related to Curriculum-5, Issues related to Co-curricular activities-5 and Issues related to facilities for students-9 items, total = 35(thirty five) items are developed by the investigator for collecting data and all the items followed by three point scale (always, sometimes and not at all) and after standardization both the tools have been administered on the people of the Kaibartta community of Barak Valley, who were the respondent of the present study.The Problem Check-list incorporates only problems related to School Education. The tools were prepared in English version, though the tools were administered by the investigator through personal visit on each of the respondents so as per the requirement

she translated the items orally in Bengali language and if necessary in their own colloquial language.

4.8. Standardisation of the Tools

Standardisation is very important to check the validity and authenticity of the tools and procedures to be used for the final study in a research work.In the present study the people of the Kaibartta community who were the respondents of the present study were to give their views and responses on various information related to their education and socio-economic status. So the items included in both the tools viz.Questionnaire and Problem-checklist had to be made simple and easily understandable to all of them. As the common people of Kaibartta community are not well aware about research related to education,so they may find little bit difficulty in handling this type of Questionnaire and Problem-checklist in general. So, to make the Questionnaire and Problem-checklist easily understandable and to ensure that the respondents follow instruction with care, both the tools to established reliability and validity seeking the opinion of the experts and administered on 20 people of the Kaibartta community in Cachar district. The draft tools were administered on twenty people of Kaibartta community for the standadisation and test-retest method was applied and the reliability of which was .87 for the 'Questionnaire' and .92 was for the 'Problem Checklist'. Accordingly both the tools were finalized and then the printed copies of final Questionnaire and Problem-checklist were prepared by the investigator and administerd on each of the 933 respondents of three districts of Barak Valley.The Questionnaire and Problem-checklist are given in the Appendices as Appendix-I and Appendix-II.

4.9 Data Collection

After selecting the sample and preparing the tools the next step for the investigator was to collect the data from the people of Kaibartta community who were respondents of the present study.To administer the tools the investigator personally visited each of the selected villages/areas(35 villages/areas from Cachar district, 26 from Karimganj district and 11 from Hailakandi district of Barak Valley) and gave the Questionnaire and Problem-checklist to the people of Kaibartta community and where ever necessary the investigator herself filled up the tools putting the questions orally to the respondents and if necessary reading out the items of the Questionnaire and Problem-checklist for them and recorded the responses. In this way the investigator collected the required data regarding education and socio-economic status of the Kaibartta living in Barak Valley.

The investigator of the present study administered both the tools over each and every of the 933 respondents of Kaibartta Community who are the inhabitants of different areas/villages of Barak Valley viz. Irongmara, Baghmara, Ratanpur, Harintilla, Shilkoorie, Boalmara, Dudhpatil, Puticherra, Kathigorah, Salemabad, Hawaithang, Tarapur, College Road, AshramRoad, Rongpur,Vivekananda Road etc.of Cachardistrict, Anandapur, Kalyanpur, Santoshpur, Swastipur, Nabingram, Phakua, Nagendranagar, RakeshNagara of Karimganj District and Manacherra, Panchgram,Alambag, Bakrihawar, College Road, Lakshmi Shahar etc.of Hailakandi district. Rural and Urban both areas were included in the study which comprised both Male and Female, (Literate and Illitereate) respondents.

4.10 Techniques of Data Analysis

After collecting the required data, the investigator is to analyze the collected data which were collected by administering two tools viz. Questionnaire and Problem-checklist developed by her for the purpose of the present study. The collected data is analyzed both qualitatively and quantitavely basing on the nature of the data using simple mathematical calculations like addition ,substraction and percentages etc. and accordingly interpretations have been made. The responses are analyzed in terms of; 1 for Yes and 0 for No and then the total score is turned in to percentages. The Problem checklist incorporated the three point scale of always/ sometimes/ not at all and scoring procedures was 2 for always, 1 for some times and 0 for not at all. Then the responses are analyzed in terms of frequency of the respondent's agreement or disagreement with a particular statement / item. Further the frequency is converted in to percentages. Response of each item is recorded in the form of a table and then analyzed. Graphical representation of the data is given as per requirement. The data obtained from respondents regarding the study are analyzed and interpreted descriptively also.