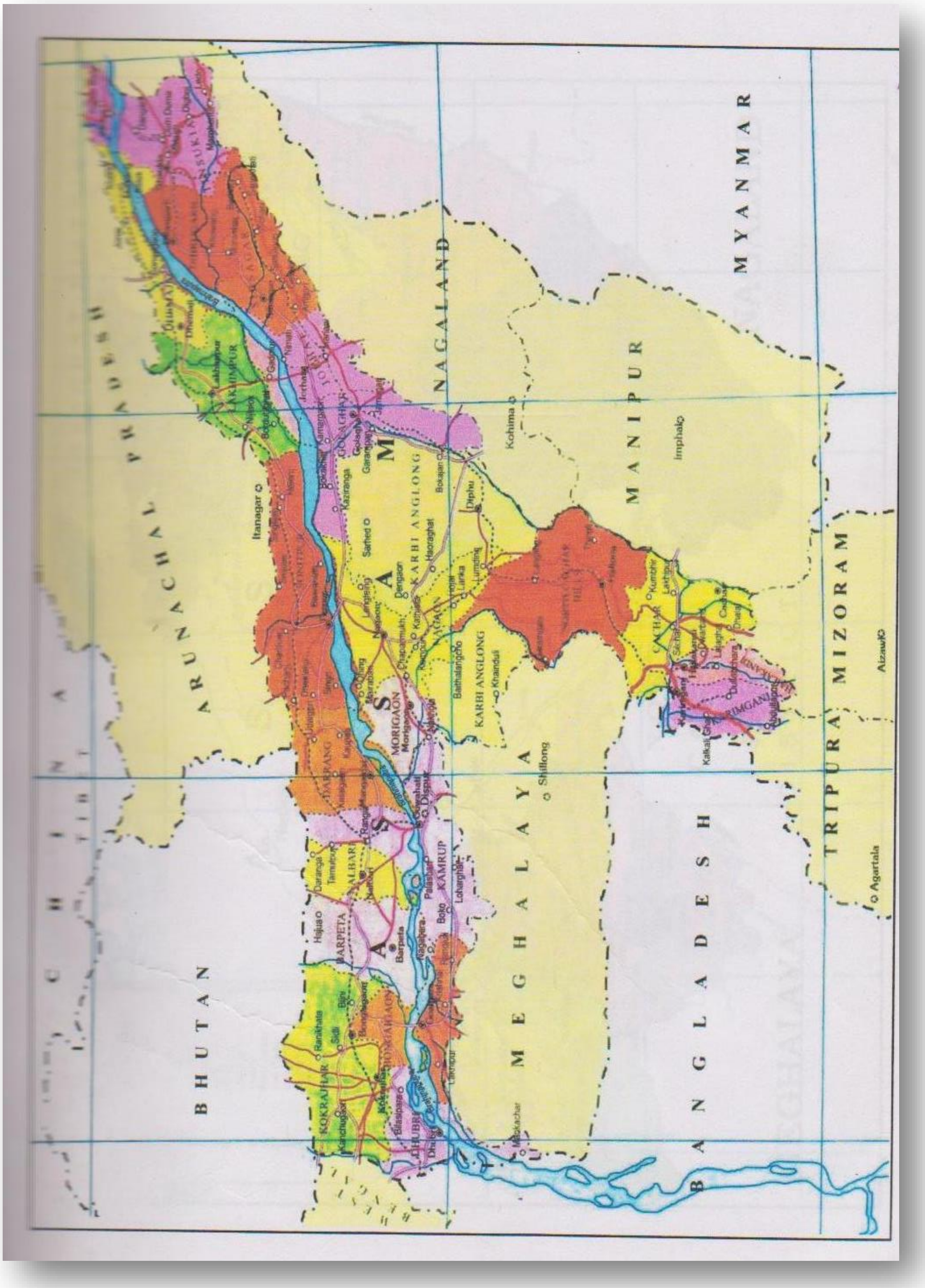
CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

Assam is situated in the North-East region of India, bordering seven states i., e. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal and two countries - Bangladesh and Bhutan. Assam is the biggest state of the North – East India. It is located in between the longitudes 89°45$^{/}$0$^{//}$E and 96°0$^{/}$0$^{//}$E and latitudes 24°0$^{/}$0$^{//}$N and 28°0$^{/}$ 0$^{//}$N. The state is broadly divided into two natural division viz., the Plains area and the Hills area. The plains area of the State consists of two valleys viz., the Brahmaputra Valley and the Barak Valley. There are twenty eight districts in Assam and out of twenty eight districts, there are two hill districts namely - Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.

1.1 Geographical Location of Karbi Anglong District:

Karbi Anglong is one of the hill districts of Assam and this is the geographically largest district in Assam, mainly dominated by the hills tribes. The total geographical area of the district is 10,434 square kilometres as per 2011 census which accounts for about 13.35% of the total area of Assam. Karbi Anglong district is bounded by Nagaon and Golaghat districts in the North, Maghalaya and North Kachar Hills districts in the south, Golaghat district and the state of Nagaland are in the East and the state of Maghalaya and Nagaon district in the west. The district with dense tropical forest covered hills and plains is situated between 25°30$^{/}$ and 26°41$^{/}$ North Latitudes and 92°7$^{/}$and 93°52$^{/}$ East Longitudes. The district is mostly rugged and hilly being part of an Achaean plateau. It is located 4000 feet above the sea level.

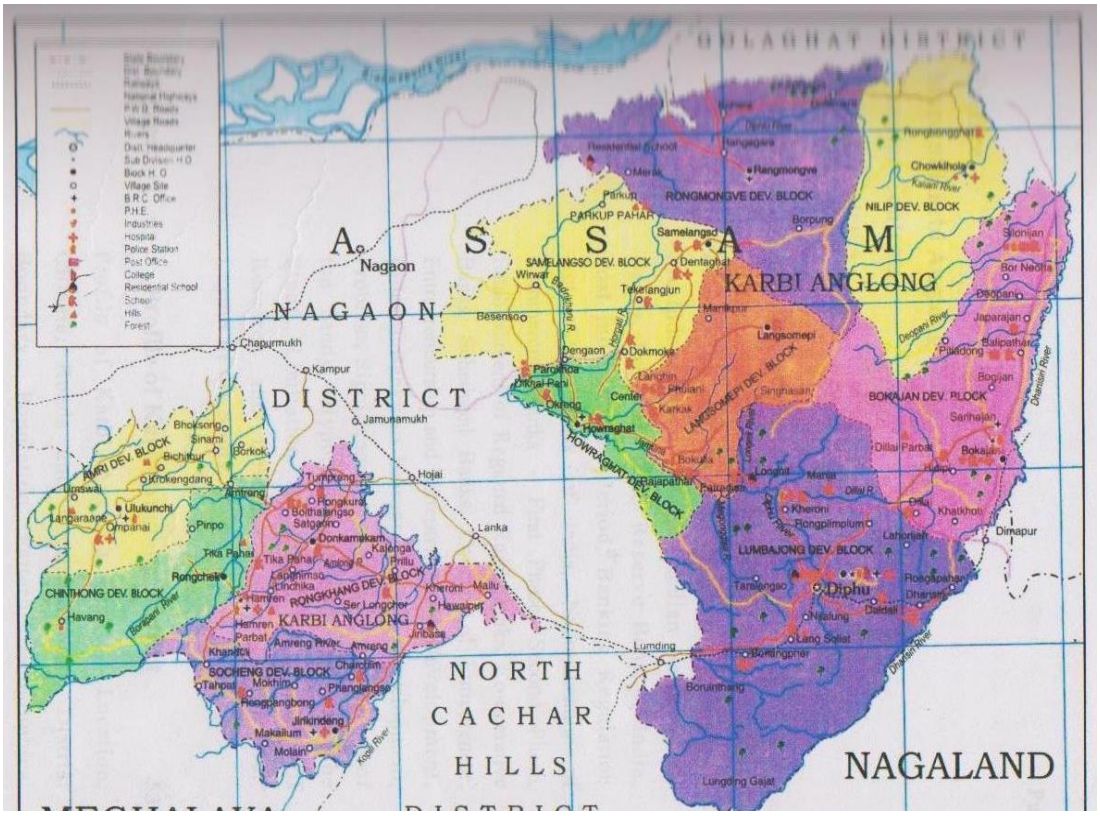


Map 1.1: Karbi Anglong District in the Map of Assam

1.2 Evolution of Karbi Anglong District :

Previously, Karbi Anlong district was a sub- division of the united Mikir and North Cachar Hills district which was inaugurated on November 17, 1951 by curving out certain portions of Nagaon, Sibsagar and United Khasi and Jayantia Hill districts (Phangcho, Dr. P.C., (2001)"Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills: A Study on Geography and Culture", page-5). On February 2, 1970, the North Cachar sub-division was declared as a separate civil district while the Mikir Hills sub-division formed the Mikir Hills district. The Mikir Hills district was again renamed as Karbi Anglong in 1976 vide govt. notification no. TAD/R/115/74/47 dated 14.10.76. In accordance with para 2 of the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution, the Karbi Anglong district council came in to existence on June 23rd 1952.

The Karbi Anglong district is blended with hills and plains. It consists of two hilly lobes of unequal size and they genetically belong to the Shillong plateau. The two lobes are supported by the Kapili valley. Its altitude of eastern lobe varies from 192 meters to 1341 meters above sea level. The highest peak Singhason is located here. The western lobe slopes from south west to north east. The peak located at the extreme western border of the lob is Umplamer (1219 meters). The altitude of the adjoining areas of the Umplamer peak various from 762 meters to 1066 meters above sea level. Again, the Kapili, Jamuna and Dhansiri valley region between Lumding, Hojai and Diphu may be referred to as undulating plain with an altitude ranging from 75 to 250 meters above the sea level. The Karbi Anglong district has three sub-divisions i. e. Diphu, Hamren and Bokajan and four revenue circles i.e. Diphu, Phulani, Silonijan and Donka.



Map 1.2: Block wise Map of Karbi Anglong District

A portion of Nagaon district divides the Karbi Anglong district in to two unequal lobes and the big lobe is known as East Karbi Anglong and the small lobe is known as West Karbi Anglong. There are two sub-divisions in East Karbi Anglong i.e., Diphu and Bokajan. The West Karbi Anglong has one sub-division i.e., Hamren sub-division. The West Karbi Anglong is backward in communication than East Karbi Anglong. The district has eleven development blocks – Amri, Bokajan, Chinthong, Howraghat, Lumbajong, Nilip, Rongkhang, Rongmongve, Samelangso, Socheng and Langsomepi.

1.3 Climate:

The climate of the district is controlled by the same factors that apply to other districts of Assam. The climate of the district is very congenial for the growth of luxuriant vegetation. It has topical deciduous and semi evergreen type of vegetation. The extensive low frat hillocks favour growth of luxuriant grass species that attain 2-4 meters heights. There are some inter hill plain, marshes, where swamp vegetaterious are seen. Because of the richness in valuable timber species, it has been the sustained attempt of the government to maintain and preserve the forest health of the district.

The climate of the district can be more correctly understood only on the basis of different area. In the central plateau, it may be described as moderate neither too hot nor too cold in summer. But it is rather cold and chilly in winter fasts in the months of November lasting up to first or second week of February. However, the climate to get warmer at the border lines where the plateau merges into the southern border areas are well as Northern border areas in the district may be due to differences in rainfall and physiography.

1.4 Rainfall and Temperature:

Climate change is now high on the public and political agenda in the international, national, regional and local level. In North East India of the subcontinent, particular attention is being paid to the impact of climatic changes on agriculture having serious implications for food security. It is general phenomenon that the average annual rainfall gradually decreases towards the central portion from above, 1,300mm to 1,100mm. Such a phenomenon could be observed due to no other factor than the rain shadow effect. The rainfall and temperature have tremendous effects of climate change on agricultural crops in the district of Karbi Anglong. It is important to note that though the average rainfall in the district is 1147mm, it is not uniform throughout the district. Kheroni and Amreng areas of Hamren sub-division and Dhansiri area of Diphu sub-division are rain shadow areas. However, other part of the Hamren subdivision and the Singhason area of Diphu sub-division, enjoy somewhat healthy climate even during the summer monsoon time. During summer, the atmosphere becomes sultry. The temperature in summer ranges from 23^0Celsius to 32^0 Celsius, while in winter, it ranges from 9 degree Celsius to 15 degree Celsius.

1.5 Soils:

The plain areas of the district are composed of new alluviums. New alluviums are somewhat sandy, medium in porosity due to fine texture and presence of some amount of clay, grey in colour and excellent from the agricultural point of view. They are often acidic and well support evergreen vegetation. Old alluviums are found along the northern part of the Hamren plateau. Old alluviums are composed of coarse gravel usually found above the flood level. Its texture varies from coarse to

clayey loam with a varying degree of Nitrogen. There is low percentage of phosphate but considerable amount of potash. These soils are used for the cultivation of rice, fruits, vegetables and tea in some areas of Diphu sub-division.

Laterites form of soil is found generally in sandstone areas under high rainfall condition. It is an end product of decomposition, found in areas of heavy rainfall, the rocks having being completely leached out, leaving high portion of iron and aluminium as residue. It is soft and sticky when wet but hard like brick when dry. This type of soil is found in the eastern part of the Hamren sub-division. The red loam and lateritic soils derived from granites, gneisses, charnokites, etc. relatively richer in clay- forming minerals and poorer silica. The texture of these soils varies from loams to silty-clay and clay loam. The red loam and lateritic belt occupies the major parts of Diphu sub-division. The soils are rich in acidity, organic matter and nitrogen. They are good for the cultivation of fruits, potatoes and rich in hill slopes and terraces.

1.6 Population Pattern of the District:

The tribal population of Karbi Anglong are migratory by nature and it is very difficult to maintain proper census or demographic records for the region. However, as per 2011 census, the total population of the district is 9,65,280 where the male population is 4,93,482 and female population is 4,71,798. The average density of population is 93 inhabitants per sq. k.m. The decennial growth rate of population of Karbi Anglong district has turned out to be higher than that of other districts of the state. The decadal growth of population of the district is shown in table – 1.1

Table – 1.1

Decadal growth of population of the district

Year	Persons	Decadal variation	% of decadal variation	Male	Female
1951	125777	+29736	+30.96	65,812	59,965
1961	225407	+99630	+79.21	1,21,040	1,04,367
1971	379310	+153903	+68.29	2,03,347	1,76,963
1991	662723	+283413	+74.72	3,47,607	3,15,116
2001	813311	+150588	+22.57	4,22,250	3,91,061
2011	965280	+151969	+18.69	4,93,482	4,71,798

Source: Zonal office, Joint Director of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu.

(Note: Population census was not done in Assam in 1981)

The population structure of Karbi Anglong district is to some extent different from the other plain districts of Assam. The tribal population is the highest in the district and among tribals the Karbi placed top position according to 1991 census report. There are more than thirty two communities in the district and the present tribal population comprises more than 60% of the total population of the district. The principal tribes inhabiting in the district are Karbis, Garos, Dimasas, Lalungs, Kukis, Khasis, Chakmas, Jaintias, Hmars, Nagas, Rengmas, Zeme Nagas etc. Other non tribes inhabiting in the district are Bengalis, general Assamese communities, Nepalis, Hindi Bhashis, Bhojpuris, Adivashis, Monipuris, Oriyas, etc. The community wise population pattern is presented in the table –1.2.

Table – 1.2

Community wise population of Karbi Anglong (According to 1991 census)

Sl. No	Community	Total Population	% of total Population	Rural	Urban	% of rural Population	% of urban Population
1.	Karbi	29,6321	44.70	2,76,476	19,845	93.30	6.70
2.	Bengali	69,126	10.43	51,758	17,368	74.87	25.13
3.	Assamese	64,778	9.78	49,194	15,584	75.94	24.06
4.	Bodo	38,475	5.81	37,149	1,326	96.55	3.45
5.	Nepali	37,570	5.67	34,600	2,970	92.09	7.91
6.	Hindi Bhashi	37,497	5.66	31,311	6,186	83.50	16.50
7.	Garo	16,044	2.42	15,605	439	97.26	2.74
8.	Bhojpuri	15,097	2.28	14,119	978	93.52	6.48
9.	Dimasa	13,287	2.01	12,604	683	94.86	5.14
10.	Lalung	12,085	1.82	11,754	331	97.26	2.74
11.	Kuki	7,196	1.09	6,944	252	96.50	3.50
12.	Khasi	7,185	1.08	7,118	67	99.07	0.93
13.	Chakma	3,925	0.58	3,924	2	99.95	0.05
14.	Kurukh or Oran	3,888	0.54	3,701	187	95.19	4.81
15.	Oriya	3,492	0.53	3,245	247	92.93	7.07
16.	Manipuri	2,917	0.44	1,958	955	67.22	32.78
17.	Others	33,843	5.11	30,797	3,046	91.00	9.00
	Total	6,62,723	100 %	5,92,257	70,466	89.37	10.63

Source: Zonal office, Joint Director of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu.

(Note : Community wise data not available for 2001 and 2011)

The Bangali is the second populated community in the district. The general Assamese people are in the third position in the district. The Bodo community is placed the forth position among all communities and it is the second populated tribal community in Karbi Anglong. The Nepali, Hindi Bhashi, Garo, Bhojpuri and Dimasa are in the fifth, sixth, seventh, eight and ninth position respectively in the district. The Manipuri is the lowest populated tribal community in the district and it placed the sixteenth position in the district.

In table 1.3, gender wise total population of rural and urban areas of the district are presented as per 2011 census report. Karbi Anglong is a hill district and majority of the people live in rural area. There are 2928 villages in Karbi Anglong district as per 2011 census report. In this table out of 9,65,280 total population, 8,51,158 persons live in rural areas and 1,14,122 persons live in urban area. The total male population of the district is 4,93,482 and female population is 4,71,798 with a sex ratio of 956 females per 1000 males. The child population in the age group 0-6 years of the district is 1,83,862 out of which 95,971 is male and 87,891 is female children.

Table – 1.3
General population and child population (As per 2011 Census Report) of Karbi Anglong

	Population			Child Population in the age group 0-6 years		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Total	9,65,280	4,93,482	4,71,798	1,83,862	95,971	87,891
Rural	8,51,158	4,33,903	4,17,255	1,71,250	89,468	81,782
Urban	1,14,122	59,579	54,543	12,612	6,503	6,109

Source: Zonal office, Joint Director of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu.

In table – 1.4 Schedule Tribe (ST) and schedule Caste (SC) population of the district is presented as per 2001 census report (ST and SC population status is not available as per 2011 census report). Schedule Tribe population of the district is 4,52,963 and it comprises more than 55 percent of the total population of the district. Schedule Caste population of the district is 29,520 and it comprises only 3.62 percent of the total population.

Table – 1.4

SC and ST population of the district

	As per 2001 census			As per 2011 census		
Parameters	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Population	8,13,311	7,21,381	91,930	965280	8,51,158	1,14,122
SC Population	29,520	26,977	2,543	NA	NA	NA
ST Population	4,52,963	4,17,150	35,813	NA	NA	NA
Male	4,22,250	3,73,300	48,950	493482	4,33,903	59,579
Female	3,91,061	3,48,081	42,980	471798	4,17,255	54,543
Literate	3,82,574	3,18,427	64,147	574509	4,84,646	89,863

Source: Zonal office, Joint Director of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu.

In the table it is reflected that as per 2011 census report 88.18 percent people of the district live in the rural areas and only 11.82 percent people live in urban area.

1.7 Birth and Death Rate: According to the data obtained from a sample Registration Bulletin published by the Registrar General of India and Director of Census, both the birth rate and death rate were found to be higher in the district in most of the year from 1991 to 2001. In 2001, the birth rate and death rate per thousand of population in Karbi Anglong were 21.00 and 9.00 respectively.

1.8 Economy of the District:

The economy of a particular region is determined by the immediate resources in the surrounding topography of the land and degree of modernisation of the area. Karbi Anglong district is a hilly region and majority of the indigenous tribal people are still living in the hilly regions. There are no industries in the district and

agriculture is the primary occupation of the people. So, the economic life of the people of the district is very simple and they depend upon their livelihood i.e. mainly on cultivation. In the hilly areas they practise shifting cultivation where besides the paddy, the staple food and also cultivate other crops and vegetables as mixed crops. The shifting cultivation which is commonly known as '*Jhum*' cultivation in the North East India, the tribal people cut the jungles in the hills during the month of January to March and then they burn to ashes. In the month of April when the monsoon-rains starts, they sow paddy seeds on the ashes and seeds of other crops including vegetables by making small holes on the top soils. The 'Jhum' fields are required top protected from wild animals, stray cattle and birds by constant watching till the harvest is completed. For this purpose they erect watch towers on the branches of big trees. After cultivating the 'Jhum' fields on a hill for two to five years they select another hill for cultivation leaving the former for herbal growth so that it can replenish its lost fertility.

In the plain areas of Karbi Anglong district the tribal people have resorted to settled cultivation like the other non-tribal people. Most of the tribal families rear domestic animals like cows, goats, pigs, buffaloes, sheep and birds like fowls, ducks, poultry, pigeons etc. The economy of the other non-tribal people also depends on rearing of domestic animals and birds. Handloom industry is very much common among all the tribal communities of the district. It is a household industry and having knowledge of spinning, weaving, bamboo and cane works is common phenomenon among the tribal communities. All the tribal women are expert weavers and most of the cloths for domestic use are produced in their family looms. In the 'Jhum' they cultivate cotton also. Spinning of yarn from home grown cotton is a common sight in

the interior hill areas. Bamboo and cane goods required for their day to day domestic use are produced by themselves.

The standard of living of the people of Karbi Anglong is pathetically poor. Among them a few people have minimum required standard of living. Many of them live in the rural areas and their houses are made of bamboos. In case of most of the people there are lack of proper sanitation and other hygienic facilities. The pattern of land utilisation has been classified in to five categories, i.e., cultivable land, land put to non-agricultural uses, barren and uncultivable land, cultivable waste land and land of under forest. Cultivable land means the land under cultivation; land put to non-agricultural uses denotes the areas which are used for homestead purposes as well as for footpath etc. Barren and uncultivable land signifies the area which is unfit for cultivation; cultivable waste land signifies the area which can be cultivated but it being left fallow for the present time and land of under forest indicates the area which is covered by jungle tree and which is not included under the net area cultivated. In brief the agriculture sector plays a vital role in the economic life of the people of Karbi Anglong.

1.9 Mineral Resources:

Karbi Anglong district is rich in mineral resources. Varieties of minerals like coal, limestone, feldspar, muscovite, mica, china clay (Kaolin) etc. are found in abundant quantity in different regions of the district.

The important areas of the district where coal seam are located are Kaliajan, 25 k. m. West-North-West of Dimapur, Silvetta, Longboi, Shemda, Kaliani etc. Limestone of high grade occurs in the eastern part of Karbi Anglong. Among all the

occurrences, Koilajan is the largest, covering a deposit area of 12 sq. k.m. having 5 different limestone bands. The limestone in Dillia Hills is being used for manufacturing cement in Bokajan Cement Plant. Limestone found here is also used in production of many chemical substances. Copper in limited quantity is found in border area of Karbi Anglong. Good quality of sand for construction is found in Manja, Bokulia etc. Clay is found in abundant quantity in Karbi Anglong for making bricks, glass, and pottery. China clay - the basic raw material for the pottery industry is found in the Silvetta area of the district. It is also used in manufacturing crockeries. Hard granite or gneiss, extremely good stone for making road boulders, metals, chips etc. are found in the Hamren Sub-Division particularly in Baithalangso and Dankamokam areas of the district. Soil for the manufacture of bricks and earthen wares is found in bordering area of the district. Gypsum used in manufacturing cement is also found in Karbi Anglong. The occurrence of oil and natural gas has been reported from near Koilajan.

1.10 Occupation:

The people of Karbi Anglong are mostly cultivators. The tribal people of the district cultivate land on Shifting basis always moving in search of fertile soil exhausting the earlier one by several doses of cultivators. The system of shifting cultivation is called *'Jhum'* is still popular among the tribal people of the district. Rice, Sugarcane, Jute, Pulse, Muster Seeds, Pine-apple, Orange, Banana, Wheat, Maize, Cotton, Orange, Turmeric and Ginger etc. are the major crops product by the people of the district. In the home stead land and on other high lands they cultivate maize, turmeric, chilly and ginger in some qualities and produced much below the commercial yields.

The tribal women folk are more laborious then their counterpart. They take part in the field more than the men. In the household work also women have more contribution in work including preparation of the meals in the kitchen. The hills tribes also take the avocation of piggery and poultry. In spite of heavy demand for consumption of meat these activities have not become commercial due to the lack of interest of the people.

1.11 Agriculture:

Agriculture is the main source of income of this region. The economic development of the district is highly dependent on agriculture and allied activities. The hill district with topography of hills, plains and valleys has its own peculiarities in the system of cultivation. Roughly 30% of the total area of the district falls either in the plains or valleys. The type of cultivation of crops varies from place to place according to the variation of relief, rainfall, soils etc. Temperature ranges from about 21°C to about 25°C on average which is adequate for the major and common crops. The system of agriculture in plain areas of the district is similar to the system that is practiced in the other plain districts of the state.

The people living in the hill areas practice terrace cultivation. This system helps in soil, moisture conservation and results in better plant growth, greater yield and better quality of the produce. This system gives a regular and assured crop production with possibilities for improved agricultural practices. The people living in the plains practice flat system of common cultivation but their methods of cultivation are not improved. Most of the cultivators do not even use fertilizers and plough only once or twice in the field and then transplant the seedlings.

The people of this district generally cultivate single crops. They rarely follow the double/multiple cropping systems. The principal crops grown in this district are maize, paddy, rape, cotton, mustard, sugarcane, jute, ginger etc.

i. Wet-Cultivation: In Karbi-Anglong, wet cultivation is extensively carried out in Howraghat, Samalagnso, Bokajan, Lumbajong and Rongkhang development blocks. It is also carried out along the narrow valleys of perennial streams known as Dong-akhok. Such valleys are usually irrigated by the cultivators from stream itself (Phangcho, Dr. P.C. (2001) "Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills: A Study on Geography and Culture", page – 62).

ii. Shifting Cultivation: Shifting Cultivation is an age old practice of traditional cultivation in the hill areas of North East. Out of the total geographical areas of the North East i.e. 25.50 million hectares, Jhum cultivation account for 2.70 million hectares. About 4.50 lakh tribal families survive on Jhum cultivation in North East. In Karbi Anglong district, about 65% of the people are dependent on Jhum cultivation ("Development Scenario of Karbi Anglong District" (2004), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, page -50). The people cultivate on the same plot of land after an interval of 8-10 years. So, the people have to move from one hillock to another in search of new plots of jhum land. But at present, due to population pressure on land, the jhum cycle has been reduced to 4 to 5 years and even in some areas, the jhum cycle has been reduced to 2-3 years.

iii. Irrigation: Due to hilly terrains in most of the areas, irrigation has not been possible to the required extent. The climate of the Karbi Anglong district is dependent upon monsoon. The production of food grains decreases when there is no monsoon. Nearly 75% of the total irrigation potential is covered under Minor

Irrigation Segment ("Potential Linked Credit Plan" 2006-07, Karbi Anglong District, NABARD, page - 1). In Karbi-Anglong the areas where medium and minor irrigation projects are available are Kollanga, Hawaipur, Horguti, Honkram, Japarajan, Bokajan, Jaradubi, Tumpreng, Sikari, Pathar etc. (Phangcho, Dr. P.C. (2001) "Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills: A Study on Geography and Culture", page – 68). As per the data available from the Joint Directorate of Economics and Statistics (Hills), Diphu, the total area covered under irrigation in Karbi Anglong district was 31,867 hectares in 2005-06.

iv. Horticulture: The agro-climatic condition of Karbi Anglong and its altitude favours growth and production of fruit crops like orange, lemon, pine-apple, banana, pomegranate, papaya etc. Species such as ginger, chillies, cardamom, turmeric etc. are also produced in large quantities in the interior hills. Horticultural crops are extensively grown in Nilip, Chinthong, Amri and Socheng development blocks of the district.

v. Sericulture: Sericulture is a very old and indigenous cottage industry among the tribal people of the region. It comprises in the culture of 'Eri' ('Endi'), 'Muga' Mulberry and Oak Tassar. 'Eri' culture has been traditionally practiced by the people as household occupation and particularly the Karbis, Dimasas, Kacharis and Tiwas have been using its clothes in various forms from very olden times. During the Ahom and the British periods, Karbi Anglong was the only major supplier of 'Eri' cocoons in the entire North-East India (Phangcho, Dr. P.C. (2001) "Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills: A Study on Geography and Culture", page – 7). . 'Muga' culture has also been recently introduced in a few foothill areas bordering Nagaon

and Golaghat district for production of 'Muga' cocoons, especially 'Muga' seed cocoons.

1.12 Plantation:

The sub-tropical and temperate climate of Karbi Anglong is congenial for growing plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber, cashew nut etc. In Karbi Anglong, plantations have been promoted under the government initiative in the post independence period. Plantation of rubber and coffee was introduced in the mid twenty century.

i. Tea Plantation: Tea is planted in different parts of the Karbi Anglong district. The area covered under tea plantation in Karbi Anglong district was 1866.12 hectares and the total production of tea was 76,57,064 kg during the year 2000-2001. At present, there are 14 tea estates in the district giving employment to 4531 labourers and employees other than labours ("Development Scenario of Karbi Anglong District" (2004), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, page -57). The registered area for tea cultivation by small tea growers in the district was 2058.39 hectares and total number of small tea growers was 302 as on 31st March, 2007 ("Statistical Handbook of Assam", 2007, Directorate of Economics and Statistics,Guwahati, page – 128).

ii. Coffee Plantation: Presently 543.24 hectares of land is under coffee plantation in Karbi Anglong District. The yield of coffee in Karbi Anglong is 120 kg per hectare which is very low as compared to all India average yields of 800 kgs per hectare ("Potential Linked Credit Plan", 2006-07, page – 30).

iii. Rubber Plantation: The total area covered under rubber plantation in Karbi Anglong district is around 1121.11 hectares. The Assam Plantation Crop Development Corporation and the Soil Conservation Department together covers

982.7 hectares of rubber plantation. The current yield of latex is 1200 kg per hectare which is 250 kg per hectare less than that of India ("Development Scenario of Karbi Anglong District" (2004), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, page -58).

iv. Bamboo Plantation: The geographical location and the climatic condition of the Karbi Anglong district favours bamboo plantation and it has the potential to be the largest bamboo growing district of Assam. In Karbi Anglong, the total area under bamboo cultivation during 2004-05 was 1325.05 hectares and area per grower was 0.010 hectares with 5,35,718 number of bamboo bushes in total and 3.84 number of bamboo bushes per grower ("Development Scenario of Karbi Anglong District" (2004), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, page -64).

v. Citronella Plantation: Since late 80's citronella plantation has been gaining popularity among the local farmers in the upland areas. Large areas which have been abandoned after one or two Jhum cycles are found to be suitable for citronella plantation. Local people are interested in citronella plantation as it is eco-friendly. In fact, Karbi Anglong contributes a substantial share to the total citronella oil production in the state. There is ample scope for tea, rubber and citronella plantation in the district with institutional credit support.

1.13 Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Facilities:

Animal rearing plays a vital role in the day to day economic and social life of the tribal people of the region. Most of the people rear pigs, buffaloes, goats as well as fowls as their source of income and for self consumption of animal protein, creating self employment avenues. Moreover, availability of good fodder throughout the year makes the rearing of livestock easy in this region. Damp climate, plenty of open space with natural grasses, marshy lands, perennial rivers, great demand for

meat and social functions etc. are the chief factors creating congenial atmosphere for rearing of buffaloes, pigs, fowls etc. in this region. There are 21 numbers of veterinary dispensaries, 42 numbers of veterinary sub-centres and artificial insemination sub-centres and 8 numbers of livestock and poultry farms.

i. Dairy Farming: Diary farming occupies an important position as an income generating factor in the eye of tribal people of the region. There is an Intensive Cattle Development Project (ICDP) to upgrade the local Non-descriptive cattle population and cattle demonstration farm at Manja. A buffalo breeding farm is located at Silonijan. The Regional Insemination Centre at Sarihajan near Bokajan alongwith 20 numbers of Artificial Insemination (A.I.) Sub-centres established by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department facilitates breeding of improved quality of cattle ("Development Scenario of Karbi Anglong District" (2004), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, page -65). As per 2003 Livestock Census, Cattle population in the district is 3, 78, 106 (including indigenous cattle – 3, 56,721) and that of Buffalo is 50,342 respectively.

ii. Poultry: Poultry is largely confined to backyard rearing due to low percentage of improved hybrid stock. There is one breeding (broiler) farm at Khatkhati of Bokajan sub division, two government poultry farms at Diphu and Hamren, one government demonstration farm at Kheroni and one government duck breeding farm at Phuloni. There is only one government feed mixing plant at Diphu ("Potential Linked Credit Plan", 2006-07, page – 44). As per Livestock Census, 2003, the total number of fowls and ducks in the district is 7, 23, 456 and 1, 00, 234 respectively.

iii. Sheep and Goatery: Small backyard goatery units are generally maintained by most of the tribal as well as non-tribal people in the plain areas of the district for sustenance or as a supplementary occupation. The famous Assam Hill Goat, a good

variety is available only in this district. There are two sheep and goat breeding farm at Diphu and Khanduli of Hamren sub-division ("Potential Linked Credit Plan", 2006-07, page – 46). As per 2003 Livestock Census, the total number of sheep and goat in the district was 1,432 and 1, 50, 398 respectively.

iv. Piggery: Pig farming is the most popular and traditional activity of the tribal people of this region, in particular. The district is self sufficient in production of both cross breed and local piglets. There are two government breeding farms at Diphu and Donkamokam and one Govt. Feed Mixing plant at Diphu (Phangcho, Dr. P.C. (2001) "Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills: A Study on Geography and Culture", page – 71). As per 2003 Livestock Census, the total number of pigs in the district is 1, 26,342

1.14 Hunting and Fishing :

The tribal people of Karbi Anglong are very fond of hunting and fishing, specially the latter in which both men and women generally take part. The chief implements used in hunting are the spear, bow and arrow, while dogs are used to track down animals. The chief objects of chase are deer, wild pigs and boars. Fishing is also practiced with as much interest as hunting and both men and women take part. A fishing party is also sometimes organised and every member carrying fishing basket and traps set out for the nearby stream. A trip is placed at one end of the following water and both men and women made into the stream and beat the water with sticks which they carry in their hands thus frightening away the fishes and driving them straight into the 'ru'. Another common method is by poisoning river or stream with a certain kind of wild plant. The plant is boiled first and the juice thus obtained from it is use to poison the fish.

1.15 Food and Drink :

Rice is the staple food of the tribal and non-tribal people of Karbi Anglong district. They take rice with meat. The tribal people eat all kinds of meat except beef. They eat pork, mutton, chicken, pigeon and such other meat. Even in many families rearing of pork is a way of life. But in case of some non-tribal people there are some restrictions in this regard. The cooking process of the tribal people is of different nature. They pick rice on bamboo and that is burnt in the fire. After that, rice is boiled. Thereby, the curry is prepared by cutting the pieces of meat or fishes according to the size of the bamboo, thus cooked with turmeric, salt etc. in the bamboo as the rice is prepared. They eat this curry with rice or other 'drinks'. Generally drink of wine is customary at time of marriage, worship, public discussion etc. among the tribal communities. 'Fatika' and foreign liquor are also used by the tribal people at present.

1.16 Industry :

There is no major industry in Karbi Anglong except the cement Co-operation of India, Bokajan, Karbi Anglong chemical industry, Dilai, Steel factory, Khotkhoty and Radian wine bottling factory, Khotkhoty. Ten to fifteen years back five ply board industries were running in the district, but the problem created by the underground organisations some of them have been closed down. Now weaving occupies the position of a very important household industry among the Karbis. A crude wooden loom called 'Petherang' or loin-loom in which cotton raised in their field is spun into thread is known as 'mithangrung'. Weaving is done mainly by women which art has been their skill and pride from time immemorial. In fact every household, where there is a woman, weaving is a 'must' as it is consider a social

degrease for a women not to know how to spin and weave. The product are not sold but are used for the industrial house hold requirement. The chief products of the loom are known as ‘vikong’, ‘Peni’, ‘Peinki’ etc. They dye their threads in blue and red colours and the dyes are obtained from the juice of certain plants grown in their homestead for the purpose.

Blacksmith is also another important industry of the tribal people, specially for the Karbis. The village smiths make ornaments such as girdles, rings, bracelets, earrings of the gold, silver and other metals all of which are in fairly good demand by the villagers. Pottery work is also undertaken by some of them. Basket and cane works are also undertaken though not on a large scale. Baskets for carrying paddy, water etc. and for storing food grains, clothes, ornaments, as well as mats and paddy receptacles are made by the smiths. But all these traditional and indigenous industries are fast dying out due to the increasing use of cheap standardized products of modern factories. There are agro-based small scale industries like rice mill, wheat grinding and mustard oil factories in the district. The cement Co-operation of India, Bokajan and Dilai use lime from Silbhata and Delai area. Besides, sulphur is found along with coal remains.

1.17 Transportation and Communication:

A portion of Nagaon distrct and Dima Hasao (North Kachar Hills) district divide the Karbi Anglong district in to two unequal lobes and the district bears a distinct hilly and rugged topography in central Assam and it plays an important role in the evaluation and development of transport and communication in the district. The road communication and transportation system is very backward in the district. Specially, the west Karbi Anglong is very backward in transport and

communication. The N.F. railway passes through the district touching only a few points along the boundary. They are Hawaipur, Lamsakhang, Borlangphar, Langsoliet, Nilalung, Diphu, Doldoloi, Dhansiri, Rongapahar, Khotkhoti and Bokajan. There are direct rail link from Diphu to other major Cities and Places of India like Delhi, Patna ,Mugalsarai, Allahabad , Siliguri, Malda by Rajdhani Express and Brahmaputra Mail. The cities and Places like Kolkata, Siliguri, Malda are connected by Kamrup Express. The Cities and Places like Kharagpur, Cuttuck, Bhubaneswar, Vishakapattanam, Vijaywara and Chennai are connected by Chennai Express. There is no airport in the district. The Dimapur airport is 54 km away from Diphu being the nearest to the district.

The road communication and transportation system within the district from one place to another place is very backward. The district is well connected with other districts through various routes. On the north it is covered by NH-36 and on the east by NH-39. The internal routes of the district are covered by the P.W.D. 36 No. National Highway joins Parakhowa, Dokmoka, Langhin, Bokalia , Manja, Delai and up to Dimapur. No. 39 Highway joins Sibsagar, Jorhat, Golaghat along the bank or river Dhansiri. Besides, it joins up Bokajan, Sukanjan, Sarihajan, Nambor, Kordoiguri, Rongapara and Dihingiargaon etc.

The Kheroni- Dongkamukam-Baithalangso road of western Karbi Anglong forms the main artery of the Hamren sub-division and the plains of Rongkhang in particular. The road has been extended from Baithalangso to Amsoi on the border of the district via Amtreng. This road has been connected with two other important roads at Baithalangso i.e., Baithalangso-Hamren-Khanduli road connecting Jaintia Hills.

Both Eastern and Western part of Karbi Anglong are very backward in transportation. There is hardly any good road between mid and North Karbi Anglong district. The Nagaon town, head quarter of Nagaon district, joins all the places of Karbi Anglong including both Eastern and Western parts. The Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council's transports and, Private Transport viz. Kareng Travels, Lisha Travels, Hills Travels etc. connect Diphu to Guwahati, Jorhat, Nagaon, Golaghat, Hamren, Bokajan, Howraghat, Chowkihola, Amtren and some places of Eastern and Western Karbi Anglong.The Hills Travels connect Diphu to Nagaon, Golaghat, Silonijan, Lumding, Lanka, Hojai, Rongmongwe, Jankha, Samelangso, Kasomari, Donkamokam, Parokhowa, Longlakso, Hamren via Baithalangso, Deithor. But the major problems are during the rainy season. The roads remain almost in operative in Karbi Anglong district. In the summer season the rivers Kopili and Dhansiri cause flood and the surplus water normally submerges the transport routes. The transportation system in some places of the district like Joipang, Jongthong, Niharlongso, Lumlangso, Singhason etc. are tremendously backward. In such places there are no facilities of market and school for providing education to the children. Even there is no medical health centre in some backward areas, so the entire process of development is bogged downs owing to the lack of proper communication. The people of such areas have to walk along from distance to fetch their daily belongings and edible things, through the fearful forests.

1.18 Literacy :

The literacy rate of the district as per 2011 census report is slight higher than the state of Assam. The total literacy rate of the district is 73.52 percent. The literacy rate of the male is 82.12 percent and female literacy rate is 64.62 percent. A

comparative statement of literacy rate of India, Assam and Karbi Anglong is presented in table – 1.5

Table – 1.5

A comparative statement of literacy rate of India, Assam and Karbi Anglong (From 1961 to 2011).

Year	India			Assam			Karbi Anglong		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1961	40.40	15.30	28.30	32.95	44.28	18.62	25.56	06.87	16.92
1971	46.00	22.00	34.50	33.94	43.72	22.76	26.93	10.29	19.17
1991	63.90	39.40	52.10	62.39	43.70	53.42	55.55	34.35	45.57
2001	75.38	54.16	65.42	71.93	56.03	64.28	68.11	48.65	58.83
2011	82.14	65.46	74.04	78.81	67.27	73.18	82.12	64.62	73.52

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Dispur, Assam.

The above table reveals that though the literacy rate of Karbi Anglong is not satisfactory in comparison to Assam and India up to 2001 census report but the literacy rate as per 2011 census report is higher than average literacy rate of Assam and slight lower than the average literacy rate of India.

1.19 Historical Background of Education in Karbi Anglong :

The modern education system in Karbi Anglong was started before independence. The British Missionaries played significant role in establishing primary schools in Karbi Anglong in the pre- independent period. In 1859, for the first time, the Karbi people came into contact with Baptist Missionaries. The Missionaries established a Baptist Mission centre at Krungjeng, near Kolonger. In 1863 Rev. Bronson and E. P. Scott of the Nagaon Mission applied to the government

for financial assistance to establish a circle of schools in the populous villages surrounding the Sadar station and also for the support of a stipendiary moral class of Kachari, Lalung, Mikir (Karbis) and Naga boys willing to be educated and return as teachers to educate their ignorant and illiterate tribesmen.

The beginning of formal education in the Karbi Anglong district has been made by the Missionaries who came solely with the purpose of proselylization. The Karbis did not have a written language and possessed no books on Karbi language during that time. The primary object of the missionaries was to spread the teachings of Christian religion among the ignorant Karbi people, but along with it, they had a strong desire to bring the tribal people to the enlightenment of knowledge through education. When we make a careful study of the activities of the Missionaries, one is compelled to infer that Missionaries used education as a tool of proselylization. The Missionaries from their practical experience learnt that their religious activities could not take a deep root in the mind of the people unless the people are first educated. Educational activities undertaken by the Christian Missionaries helped them largely to get an access to the people and rendered better opportunities for preaching them.

Alexander lish, the first Missionary to serve in the region was to establish a school (Downs, F. S., "Christianity in North East India", page-264) and the first Missionary work in Assam plains consisted of the school started by the Srerampur Mission at Guwahati. They also soon established a school at Sadiya and a number of schools were also set up in nearby villages, even though their knowledge of the local language was severely limited, in fact almost non-existent at that point and there were no qualified teachers available (Downs, F. S. "Christianity in North East India", page-264). The Welsh Missionaries also similarly got into school work

as soon as they possibly could at Cherapunji and neighbouring villages. During the year 1844-45, fourteen schools were set up in the Sibsagar district, five in Guwahati and one in Nagaon town by Missionaries.

In 1871, the present Karbi Anglong district was a part and parcel of the Nagaon district. There were 11(eleven) schools (Mission) in existence during that year in Nagaon and the entire 11 schools were situated within the present boundary of Karbi Anglong district. Most of those schools received aid from the government (Barpujari , H. K. 1983. "American Missionary Sakal Aru Unabingsha Satikar Asom", Assam Sahitya Sabha, page-29). In 1878 when the Assam government entrusted to the Baptist Missionaries the responsibility of imparting education to the Garos and simultaneously did not lay down any condition on the religious discourse and gave assurance in financial matter, the entire subject took a new turn and become more and more vigorous. As a sequel to these measurers, the number of Missionary schools in the Garo Hills rose to one hundred in 1892 (Carey, W., "The Garos", Jungle Book, page- 141, 145, 237 and 241). In Naga Hills also, till 1867, the village schools were under the control of the authorities of Missionaries (Barpujari , H. K. 1983. "American Missionary Sakal Aru Unabingsha Satikar Asom", Assam Sahitya Sabha, page-20). The achievement of the preacher of the Christian religion in the Hill areas among the faire sex was a notable feature. The number of school attending girls was 16 percent in the Hill areas of Assam during 1907 and 25% in Garo Hills (Orang, H. W.,1909. "Quinquennial Review on the Progress of Education in India" Calcutta, page-91).

Those tribes who settled near the Assamese people and who could express their feelings and thoughts through the medium of Assamese, considered that preaching of Christianity could be done in the Assamese language. In the case of

the Mikirs (Karbis), Miris (Misings), Kacharis and the Nagas instruction were imparted through the religious tenets of the Assamese language, in as much as these tribals of the ethnic group of Tibeto-Burmans had no alphabet and written literature of their own (Barpujari , H. K. 1983. "American Missionary Sakal Aru Unabingsha Satikar Asom", Assam Sahitya Sabha, page-40). It was decided in 1864 by the governor General in council that the tribes belonging to the then state of Assam would be imparted education through the medium of Roman scripts and if there was any demand from the public, Assamese or Bengali language would also continue side by side.

Practically no attempt was made during the British periods to educate the Karbi people. The British extended their administration to the Mikir Hills district in the year 1835(Thakur, Pankaj, (Editor) "India's North-East", page-130). In the late 1850, the Missionary work had begun among the Karbis, a tribal people living in the hills near Nagaon district but the response was minimal (Downs, F. S, "Christianity in North East India", Calcutta, page-107). The Christian preaching among the Karbis in the beginning was not direct. The Tika Pahar school run by Missionaries was the only school of some importance. A number of Karbis who came in contact with the Christian Missionaries in the plains were converted to Christianity. The Missionaries working in the Tikapahar belong to the council of Baptist Churches for North East India. Cyrus F. Tolman and his wife Mary (Bronson) Tolman were the first Missionaries sent to work among the Karbis in 1859 (Gohain, B.K.,1984, "The Hill Karbis", Diphu, page-69). Unfortunately he could do little work for the Karbis because he was also in-charge of the Nagaon American Mission. After Tolman, E. P. Scott entered Karbi Anglong district to take up the Tolman's half done work. But due to unhealthy climate of the district Scott fell ill

and died of Cholera in 1868. In 1871 a missionary Rev. R. E. Neighbour Came down to Karbi Anglong district and was able to some transaction work and established several schools. In 1878 he also wrote a "Vocabulary or Dictionary" and in the same year, he had to give up his service due to ill health. After him, Sardoka, a Karbi, who took up education under the supervision of the Missionary, wrote another dictionary (Rongpi, Jayanta (editor), April 1982, "Natun Banhi", Diphu, page-13). As the Assamese language had bloomed in the hands of the Missionaries so also the Karbi language began to glow by the mercy of the missionary publishing book, for the first time, written and printed in Karbi language. In 1886 there were only 41 Karbi Christian in the Nagaon Church and two in the Guwahati church (Gohain, B.K.,1984, "The Hill Karbis", Diphu, page-69). The American Baptist Missionary, led by P. E. Moore and J. M. Carwell in 1889 entered in to the Karbi Anglong District and they learned Karbi language and started their work in this region in 1891 (Neog, Maheswar, (Edited) 1960. " Pabitra Asom", Lawyers Book Stall, Panbazar, Gauhati, page-88).

In 1894, Moore, though spent much of the cold season at Kolonga in the areas of Karbi Anglong district, did not choose it as a permanent centre of his work (Neog, Maheswar, (Edited) 1960. " Pabitra Asom", Lawyers Book Stall, Panbazar, Gauhati, page-69). After extensive tours and observations carwell decided in 1896 to locate the centre at Tika Along (Neog, Maheswar, (Edited) 1960. " Pabitra Asom", Lawyers Book Stall, Panbazar, Gauhati, page-70), a hill nearby the Baithalangsu market place by the side of the river Barapani. On the eve of the Missionaries annexation of the Tika Along, the Karbi believed that it was the seat of Tika Arnam, the God of the giant rocks. Gradually the place became inhabited. As soon as Carwel took up the responsibility of the work, he began to construct school

buildings. Deobar a Karbi Christian assisted the Missionaries to establish the new centre with its school. In 1906 the Tika Church had 27 member, most of them were the school students. Moore served until 1919 and Carwel served until he died in 1925 (Gohain, B.K., 1982, "The Hill Karbis", Diphu, page-70). With the death of Carwel Tika centre was abandoned.

The Missionaries establishing Church and primary schools, endeavoured to attract and teach the Karbi children. The first Karbi newspaper 'Birta' was published and printed by the Missionary. 'Bitusu', 'Asomor', 'Akitab' etc. were the books written in Karbi language for the school students. They had a small printing press in which they printed 'Flifli'(butterfly), 'Kalakhs', (arithmatics), the 'Pratham Mikir Path', 'Ditio Mikir Path', 'Tritiyo Mikir Path', 'Chaturtha Mikir Path', 'Ning Arjan', 'Chinning Parthemi', 'Birejkeme', 'Thang Tam' a monthly magazine (Neog, Maheswar, (Edited) 1960. " Pabitra Asom", Lawyers Book Stall, Panbazar, Gauhati, page-88 & 89). Though at the inception, Assamese script was used, afterwards they had prefered to use the Roman script for those books. In this way the American Baptist Mission published many books and leaflets in Karbi and these were mostly meant for spreading Christianity among the Karbi people.

Mr. J. M. Karwel and P. E. Moore established a primary school and a primary health centre at Tika Pahar. The first teacher of this school was Thangkursing Ingti (Rongphar, B. 2005;"Karbi Anglongor Rajnoitik Itihas", Phu Phu Publication, Diphu, page-32). This is the first primary school in Karbi Anglong. According to Missionary conference report of William R. Hutton (1927) that village Churches and schools in the Tika Pahar area were most badly in need of trained, earnest teachers who would also be leaders in the Church. The short term training course that was inaugurated at Jorhat for village teachers had proved of great value

when it could adjust itself to meet the need of the teachers. The Pandit (Teacher) who attended the training course and returned to the Tika Pahar side had shown that he received some good achievement and knowledge from the training. The purpose of education was spiritual. Methods of intellectual training follow a simple pattern of demonstration and memorisation. The teacher demonstrated how to read, write and draw pictures. There was memorisation and recitation of songs, poems and stories. Most of the students could not afford to own a text book and memorisation for the particular instance was imperative. Other methods included dictation and composition of sentences. Most of the teachers did not have the slightest idea how to teach the pupils to read. They took from six month to a year to teach the children the A, B, C 's and even then the pupils did not understand words and ideas (Hutton, Williams R., Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report, Golaghat session, November 23, 1927, page-56). Sir Comfort Goldsmith also considered that rupees twenty (Rs. 20/-) is a minimum requirement to a village school to begin with. According to him, no school in the Mikir Hills had such magnificent equipment. Only four schools of Tika Pahar area purchased black-boards during the year. It was known that a little school for Mikir at Forkating was closed due to lack of funds. There were night schools with an enrolment of sixty four boys and twenty seven girls in the Tika Pahar areas (Hutton, Williams R., Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report, Golaghat session, November 23, 1927, page-56). In Farkating area there were two government schools and other eleven schools where the enrolment was 95 boys and 17 girls, total was 112. The villages were small and attempts to recruit pupils by going from one village to another had so far not met with any success.

The work in Karbi Anglong had been restricted to the fringe areas adjoining the plains of Assam. Due to lack of trained personnel and the influence of Hinduism on this tribe, the work had progressed very slowly. Though at first the condition and standard of school of Tika Pahar was not satisfactory, yet the attendance in the four government schools and two other schools was satisfactory. The children were attending more constantly than ever before and were seen to have a better idea of what a school should accomplish. In the beginning, this school had enrolled seventy four pupils of whom 25 were girls (Hutton, Williams R., Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report, Golaghat session, November 23, 1927, page-56). The girls did not attend school regularly but some of them, at least having begun to learn and continued the study. Out of the fifteen pupils in attendance, only three lived in the boarding house. Among the pupils, four children were from Gaonburah's (Village Headman) sons (Moore, P. E., Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report, Nagaon; 1916, 14th session, page-36).

Gradually in October 1916, seven girls were again on the school register and attended the school, but in December 1916 there were none. Of the eighty five reported under instruction in this field during the last year, more than twenty were girls, but they did not attend regularly as the boys did. In three outside schools, at least twelve girls reported. Mr. Hutton thus observed- "The association had started a Middle English school but is having a hard time to pay the teacher. Though the people had not asked for the Mission's help they may need it as they wanted a strictly Christian school. There were three other village schools with 130 boys and only thirty girls (Assam Missionary Conference Report, 42nd session, Jorhat-1945). Mrs. P. E. Moore reported about the Tika Kindergarten school in 1913 that- "At first, attendance of children was not satisfactory in the Tika Primary school. After

sometime, perhaps in 1913, the Baptist Missionary tried their best to start a Kindergarten school with thirty pupils" (Moore, Mrs. P. E.- Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report, 1913, 12th session). The station school pupils had asked to be allowed to attend the Kindergarten. However, children were attending more regularly than even before. They were interested in learning and happy in doing it. The last was not the least asset; the Baptist hoped that the school might serve as a training school for the older boys who wish to teach. In addition to it, there were five Mikir (Karbi) schools in the Mikir villages. The Karbi's on the Sibsagar side felt, they had lost considerably in a spiritual way because of the closing of the Mission school in Golaghat. They had another project to open a Middle English school at Deithor as a branch of the Jorhat Christian school. They had started to raise Rs. 5000/- for the school but whether it materialised or not, it was a fine thing to have them planning something and trying to stand on their own feet (Assam Baptist Missionary Conference report, 41 session, Nagaon, Assam, November 9 to 13, 1944). Gradually it was learnt that in 1965 the Puta Baptist Association had one special project in hand. They were running one Christian High School located at Tika Pahar, the old Mission Compound for which an amount of Rs. 7200/- was incurred annually (Council of Baptist Churches in North East India; page-38, 15th annual session, Resu, Garo Hills, January 6-10, 1965).

The introduction of education into the society of the hill tribes was a big step towards a change of their centaury long social structure. The confusion and hesitance born out of their habituated social behaviour could not make them fit into the framework of a new routine life easily. In spite of it, it is significant to note that the Missionaries were successful in inculcating a feeling among these backward communities that race and creed would not deprive them from getting a job or a

comfortable life under new government like the other Aryan races, if they could meet the required educational qualifications.

In Assamese speaking plain areas Christianity made important contributions in the field of education, literature and medicine, but very few non tribals became Christian. In the Hill areas where Sanskritization was well advanced before the advent of the British as among the Karbis, response to Christian evangelistic activities was very limited. Most of the Nagas, Khasis and Mizos, who profess Christianity are more literate and educated and they have been westernised in their dress and education, whereas Karbis, Kacharis, Bodos, Misings had adopted Hindu rituals and customs and have been sanskritized. In these tribes the percentage of literacy is comparatively low than the previous tribes and their way of life, economy and occupational structures were more traditional.

Mikir Hills could not progress much in case of education before independence. Under the British rule the area of Karbi Anglong was completely neglected as it was a part of Nagaon and Sibsagar district. During the whole course of British rule Karbi Anglong area was inaccessible and unsought. The British only established some revenue Mouza under Mouzaders for revenue collections and the Mouzaders were the real guide and elite in his area. Due to the highly unhealthy and unhygienic climate and the frequent outbreak of epidemics in the district the Missionary actively could not progress as expected to be. Almost the whole population was outside the orbit of formal education yet it is a wonder that area of darkness gave birth to some brilliant and prominent persons like Bonilee Khongman.

However, after the creation of Mikir Hills District in 1951, the state government of Assam very functionarily took up the question of giving the benefits

of education to this area. It is started by some elderly people that during 1946-47 the Satradhikar of Kamalabari Satra established fourteen schools in different parts of the Mikir Hills with a view to introducing the education for the natives of the district.

Before taking up of the primary education by the government the schools in Karbi Anglong were managed by the respective school boards of Nagaon and Golaghat. But as soon as separate hill district was formed, about 174 schools including six basic schools were taken up for management from the school board and also free schools from Khasi Jayantia hills by the government under one Deputy Inspector of schools with the Headquarter at Diphu. Side by side the district council also established some primary schools to cater to the needs of the local people as a certain amount was earmarked for education in their budget.

Gradually when the number of schools increased and it was found difficult to manage all the schools due to lack of communication. Another office under a separate Deputy Inspector was established at Haflong and some schools were finally transferred to Haflong. In the year 1960 there were 184 government L.P. schools, one government aided L.P. school, 39 Basic schools, six government aided Basic schools, five 'C' class primary schools and 13 project L.P. schools in Karbi Anglong district. There were 223 teachers in government L.P. school, two teachers in government aided L. P. school, 39 teachers in Basic school, nine teachers in government aided Basic school, five teachers in 'C' class L. P. school and 13 teachers in project L. P. schools (Report submitted by Deputy Inspector of schools, Mikir Hills; 1960-61 from the district council elementary board).

In Karbi Anglong, District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is being implemented from 1997 and Sarba Shiksha Abhijan (SSA) has been

implemented from 2003 as a supporting programme to the elementary education system through the Autonomous council of the district. The scenery of elementary education in Karbi Anglong district has been changed after the implementation of District Primary Education Programme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission. Joint efforts have been made by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Sarva Shikha Abhiyan Mission for the qualitative and quantitative development of the elementary education in the district. The elementary education departments extend their close co-ordination with Sarva Shikha Abhiyan Mission in implementation of the different policies and programmes recommended by the central and state government from time to time. The number of primary and upper primary school, enrolment and retention of the pupils has been increased, the percentage of dropout rate has been improved and the transition of pupils from primary to upper primary school is also increasing gradually.

At present there are 1772 primary schools, 277 Middle English schools, 137 high schools, 12 higher secondary schools, one polytechnic, one I.T.I., one basic training centre, one Hindi training centre, two residential schools and 12 colleges in Karbi Anglong. All the primary schools provide a vital role to eradicate illiteracy in the district. Lot of researches have been carried on Primary Education in India and also in Assam but hardly any in-depth study has been carried out in the district of Karbi Anglong with special reference to Primary Education.

1.20 Rationale of the Present Study :

Development of a society largely depends on the qualitative improvement of its human resources. Because, the human resource is the dynamic resource with great potential for growth and development of a nation. Education is

the pivotal means to develop the human resources. In the last five year plans our country has been emphasizing on proper development of human resources providing adequate educational facilities. Since independence, the government of India has been allocating huge amount in order to develop the literacy rate in our country. Yet after 65 years of independence, the result has not been satisfactory. The problem is more acute in the rural and tribal areas like Karbi Anglong.

Karbi Anglong is the largest district in Assam. But the number of educational institutions is lesser than that of other district of Assam. There are 1772 primary schools in Karbi Anglong, but it is not sufficient with the changing demand of the people of Karbi Anglong. According to 2001 census, literacy rate in Karbi Anglong is 58.83%, while the literacy rate in Assam and India are 64.28% and 65.42% respectively. Similarly, percentage of female literacy in Karbi Anglong in 2001 is 48.65%, while the percentage of female literacy in Assam and India are 56.03% and 54.16% respectively. It has been a matter of serious concern why these disparities been abundantly seen in Karbi Anglong and what are the drawbacks of primary education in the district ?

- What types of children go for primary education in the government and provincialised primary schools in Karbi Anglong district?
- Do the Scheduled Tribes (ST) children complete their primary education or not ?
- What are the facilities provided by the state government and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council to the primary schools children of the district ?
- What are the household, academic, social and economic problems of the primary school children of Karbi Anglong district ?

- What types of programmes and policies are taken by Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Mission for the primary school children of the district ?
- Whether the present medium of instruction create any problem for the Schedule Tribes children of the district ?

To find out the answers of the above mentioned questions the present study entitled, "Primary Education in Karbi Anglong: A Critical Study" was taken up with the following objectives.

1.21 Objectives of the Study :

In the present study an attempt is being made to realize the following objectives-

- To study the development of primary education in Karbi Anglong district.
- To examine the role of local authorities, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and the state government in the development of primary education in Karbi Anglong.
- To study the role of DPEP and SSA in the development of primary education in Karbi Anglong.
- To study the present status of primary education in Karbi Anglong with regard to –

  a. Physical facilities b. Curriculum and text book c. Teacher's qualification d. Examination and Evaluation system and e. Medium of instruction.
- To study the problems for achieving the universal primary education in the district.

1.22 Delimitation of the Study:

In this study, an attempt is being made to investigate the development of primary education in Karbi Anglong, present status of primary education, the role of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and local authorities to primary education and the recent activities of SSA in the district. The present study is limited to the government, provincialised and recognised primary schools of Karbi Anglong district located in rural, semi urban and urban areas. The present study is delimited in the following ways –

1. In this study the period from 1951 to 2012 is taken in to consideration in respect of development of primary education in Karbi Anglong district.

2. Both the male and female children of primary schools are considered.

3. The study is delimited within 177 primary schools of Karbi Anglong district.

4. The present study covers 177 teachers, 354 parents, 354 students and 18 educational administrators of Karbi Anglong district.

1.23 Operational Definitions:

Primary Education: Primary education refers to the formal education or schooling from class I to class V.

Karbi Anglong : Karbi Anglong is one of the hill districts of Assam. This is the geographically largest district of Assam.