

# **Information Needs of Deori Community at Doomdooma revenue circle in the Tinsukia district of Assam: A Study**

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# Statement of the Problem

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- They do not enjoy freedom to work as priest as earlier profession due to backwardness and disadvantageous tribal circumstances. Even they do not know about their origin and history (Goswami,1962).
- As migrated people, they are facing problems related with cultural, social, economic and demographical instability in this region (Saikia, Medhi & Medhi, 2012).
- Under developed community (Deoram, 2013)
- Ethnical tribal community (Sarmah, 2014)

# Research Questions

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- What type of information is needed by Deori people in Tinsukia district?
- What are the sources of information consulted to satisfy their information need?
- What are the social, cultural and economic status of Deori community inhabiting in upper Assam?
- Do the Deoris know the welfare schemes undertaken by the government for their betterment?
- How many library cum information centres are available to them from which they can be facilitated for their information needs?



# Review of Literature

- Chakrabarti and Basu (1997) presented an overview of tribal communities present in India, covering their information needs and their sources of information in their community.
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- Chakrabarti (1999) had explored that Totos, a small tribal community in Jalpaiguri was in utmost need of educational information. The study stated that the demand for information was closely related to the level of development of community concerned and this demand increased with the passage of time.
  - Chakrabarti and Basu (1999) worked on the various types of information requirements of Toto Community. Emphasis was given on their occupation, natural products and its market prices on which their livelihood depended
  - Chakrabarti and Basu (2000) discussed about the Totopara rural library in Jalpaiguri district and presented the library consciousness among Totos. Utilization of leisure time by library members of this community was described here.

# Cont.

- Chakrabarti (2001) explored and examined the information needs and information seeking behaviour of a marginal underprivileged tribal community namely Totos.
- Chattopadhyay and Chakrabarti (2003) observed the information need of the said community and examined the effect of information obtained from information centres like public and rural library or other belonging to this community.
- Chakrabarti (2005) identified information needs of a community namely Dhibars in Phakirala and Malopara on economic aspects, education, health and the measure taken by government and non-governmental organizations.
- Chakrabarti (2006) described that the socio-economic development of any community, engaged in a specific occupation, largely depends upon the provision of occupational information and their access to it.
- Chakrabarti and others (2008) identified the information need of the Dukpa community of Lepcha-Kha who were basically non-users of the formal information system and revealed the information needs of the villagers with their traditional information needs.



# Cont.

- Chakrabarti and others (2009) depicted a picture about the Dhimal community of Naxalbari Block of Darjeeling District covering the socio-economic condition of Dhimal community with tabular analysis considering all the aspects of their life.
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Goswami (1962) explained the origin and changing nature of Deoris in Assam. Deori people were royal priests of king Bhisma and the god and goddesses.
- Deori (1964) revealed the complete culture and history of Deori society and also studied on redistribution of Deoris after 1950s and their settlement and social problems.
- Deori (2002) defined the cultural impact of the Deori community in relation to redistribution among another tribe in the riverbank of Brahmaputra. They came to India from Chinese and Mongolian territories and settled in the valleys of river Brahmaputra, Tsangpo, Lassa, Siddhakhatri, Swati or Bidara, Kundil, Chengchukul, Laibari, Laphabari, Sadiya etc.
- Deori (2008) described about the origin and migration of Deori people in Assam as well as different clan of Northeast India by her study “Migration and transformation of Deoris in Assam-a case study of Dhemaji district”.

## Cont.

- Buragohain (2011) explored on medicinal utility of plants which was carried out among the ethnic communities of Tinsukia district of upper Assam with aims to document the traditional knowledge of the medicinal plants used in various ailments by his ethnobotanical study “Ethno-medicinal plants used by the ethnic communities of Tinsukia District of Assam, India”.

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- Das, Deka and Miyaji (2012) described the methodology of rice beer preparation and various plant materials used in starter culture preparation by some tribal communities of North-East India.
- Saikia, Medhi and Medhi (2012) described on the topic of conflict-induced displacement of Bangladeshi in Assam which looked at long term effect of migration on culture, social and economic demographic and political instability in the region through their study “spatial distribution of tribal population and their inter-tribal differences in population growth: a critical review on demography and immigration in Assam.
- Deoram (2013) presented a comparative study on socio-cultural aspect of Mishing and Deori community of Assam which provide an overview about ethno generic activity and traditional cum development background of these community.



## Cont.

- Sarmah and others (2014) depicted a picture about indigenous technique for preparation of dry fish (chachu) and fermented products by Deori community. Usually, womenfolk are involved in tradition dietary preparation from variety of dry fish which is consummated by the community as well as used to cure a variety of ailments and used as ethno-medicine.
- Pathak (2015) stated the standpoint of tribal women in India with special reference to unique reflection on the Deori women of Assam.
- Deori (2015) attempted to focus the aspiration of the Deori peoples and their struggle for a separate identity through his study “Identity formation and political assertion among the Deoris”.
- Goswami (2015) focused on the religious background of the Deori community of Assam. Deoris were involved in religious activities under different ruling dynasties to follow indigenous faiths.
- Hazarika & Dutta (2016) had provided information regarding the traditional uses of plants which played a key role in the health systems of different ethnic groups living in remote areas of North East India through their ethno-medicinal study on Deori community of Bihpuria subdivision, Lakhimpur District of Assam.



# Identification of research gap

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- Several literature have been reviewed to find out the community information needs of Deori community, but no study on information needs and information seeking behaviour has been found on this community.
- Almost of literature on Deori community have been conducted from anthropological, linguistics, ethno-botanical and agricultural point of view. There is no study to find out the information needs of Deori community and thereby the sources of information needs or queries.
- So, this study will concentrate on the information needs of Deori community that will be a unique one in true sense.

# Objectives

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- a. To draw a complete socio-economic profile of the Deori community.
- b. To identify the information needs of the Deori community.
- c. To identify the existing infrastructural facilities such as school, colleges, libraries, health centre, government and non-government office and organizations etc. available to them.
- d. To study about the different social welfare schemes and the awareness for the tribal community.
- e. To identify the role of rural library cum information centre for the community



# Scope and Coverage

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- Tinsukia district
- Doomdooma revenue circle
- Sonapur Deori village
- This study covers socio-cultural, economical, educational, occupational structure, health and hygiene, religious etc. aspects of Deori community in Doomdooma revenue circle in Tinsukia district of Assam.

# Methodology

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- Descriptive method – Schedule method using structured questionnaire, Interview and Observation method as a part of survey
- Sample has been collected by household survey
- Data collection and tabulation on basis of mainly age group and sex of respondents
- Analysis - interpretation and conclusion



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# Significance

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- To appraise the community information needs and information seeking behaviour to the Deori people.
- To make them aware of different welfare schemes and health facilities provided by the government.
- To set up a concept of establishing library-cum-community information centre for getting community information.
- To foster among them a sense of their earlier origin, history, culture etc.
- To promote the use of library cum information centre.



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# Thank You

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