

CHAPTER 2

DEMOGRAPHY

Demography is the study of statistical methods of human population involving primarily the measurements of the size, growth and diminution of the numbers of the people, the proportions of living being born or dying within the same area or region and the related functions of fertility, mortality and marriage” (Cox,1970). Demography presents population data in a systematic manner. Its importance could be gauged from the growing application of population figures in several disciplines of study (Sinha & Zacharia, 2000).

A. Demography of Assam and Barpeta

In 2011 census the total population of Assam is 3, 11, 69, 272. Out of them 1, 59, 54927 are males and 1, 52, 14345 are females. In Assam the sex ratio (females per 1000) is 954. The population density (per square kilometer) is 397 and decadal growth rate is 16.93%. In Assam the total literate population is 19507017. Out of them 10756937 are males and 8750080 are females. The total literacy rate is 73.18% and male it is 78.81% and the female it is 67.28%.

The total population of Barpeta district is 16, 93,190 and out of which 8,67,891 are males and 8,25,299 are females. The sex ratio (females per 1000) is 951 and the decadal growth rate is 21.40%. The population density (per square kilometer) is 632. In Barpeta district total literacy rate is 65.03% and out of them 70.72% are males and 59.04% are females (Census of India, 2011).

**Total Population, Decadal growth, Sex Ratio and Density of Population in
Assam and Barpeta District (2011)**

State/ District	Population 2011			Decadal growth rate	Sex ratio (Females per 1000)	Density (Per sq.KM)	Literacy (%)	
	Total	Male	Female	2011	2011	2011	2011	
Assam	31169272	15954927	15214345	16.93	954	397	73.18%	
							Male 78.81%	Female 67.27%
Barpeta District	1693190	867891	825299	21.40	952	632	65.03%	
							Male 70.72%	Female 59.04%
Sources: Census of India, 2011								

B. Demographic and socio-economic profile of the Kaibartas

The data for the present study have been collected from some areas of Barpeta town namely Issapurhati, Ganakkuchi patharhati, Raitpara, Majormakha, Bhakatpara, Metuwakuchi and Jailroad.

250 males and 250 females aged Kaibartas have been interviewed from 325 families. Here it has been tried to present the demographic and socio-economic background of the people.

Table 2.1

Total number of families and total aged population

Total No. of family	Aged male	Aged female
325	250	250

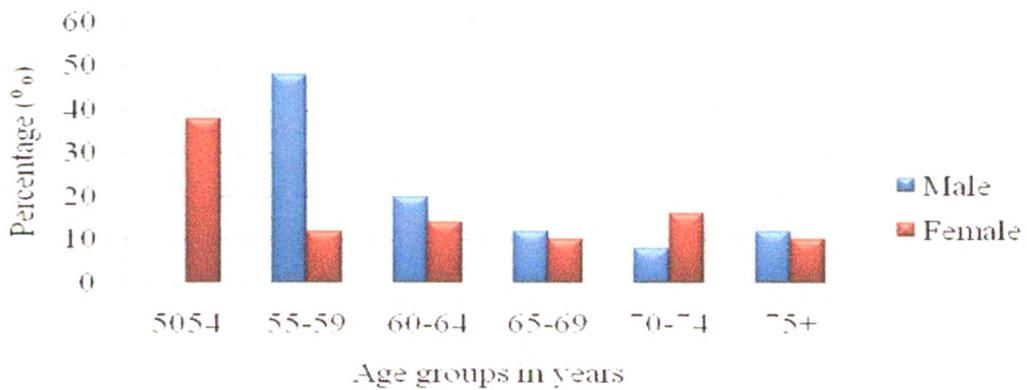
The table 2.1 shows the total number of families and total number of aged population. Altogether 325 families have been visited and from these families 250 aged males and 250 aged females have been selected for the present study.

Table 2.2

Age- sex distribution of the aged

Age group in years	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
50-54	-	-	95	38.0
55-59	120	48.0	30	12.0
60-64	50	20.0	35	14.0
65-69	30	12.0	25	10.0
70-74	20	8.0	40	16.0
75+	30	12.0	25	10.0
Total	250	100.0	250	100.0

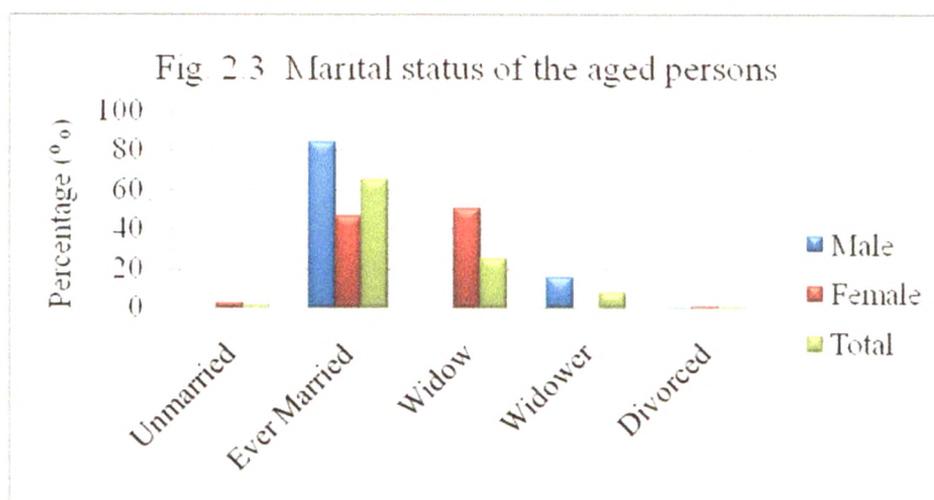
Fig 2 2 Age -sex distribution of the aged



The table 2.2 shows the age and sex wise distribution of the aged persons. From the table it is seen that out of 250 aged males, 120 are in the age group of 55-59 years and percentage is 48.0. Like the males, in the females also it is seen that the highest number (95) of females are in the age group of 50-54 years and the percentage is 38.0.

Table 2.3
Marital status of the aged persons

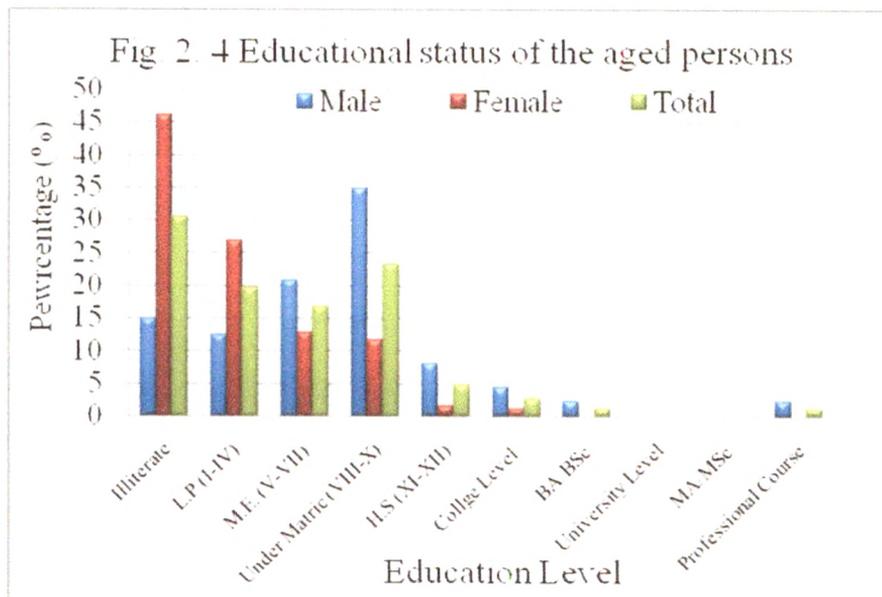
Marital status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unmarried	-		06	2.4	06	1.2
Ever Married	211	84.4	116	46.4	327	65.4
Widow	-		126	50.4	126	25.2
Widower	38	15.2	-	-	38	7.6
Divorced	01	0.4	02	0.8	03	0.6
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100



The table 2.3 shows the marital status of the aged persons. In the aged males it is seen that out of 250 males, 211(84.4%) are ever married, 38(15.2%) are widower and 1(0.4%) are divorced. But in the females, 126(50.4%) are widow, 116(46.4%) are ever married, 2(0.8%) are divorced and 6(2.4%) are never married.

Table 2.4
Educational status of the aged persons

Education level	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Illiterate	37	14.8	115	46.0	152	30.4
L.P (I-IV)	31	12.4	67	26.8	98	19.6
M.E (V-VII)	52	20.8	32	12.8	84	16.8
Under matric (VIII-X)	87	34.8	29	11.6	116	23.2
H.S.Level (XI-XII)	20	8.0	04	1.6	24	4.8
College Level	11	4.4	03	1.2	14	2.8
BA/BSc	06	2.4	-	-	06	1.2
University Level	-	-	-	-	-	-
MA/MSc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional course	06	2.4	-	-	06	1.2
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100



The above table 2.4 shows the educational status of the aged persons. From the table it can be said that out of 250 aged males, 14.8% (37) are illiterate and 85.2% (213) are literate. Though the percentage of literate person is higher yet most of them are not much educated. Only 2.4% (6) aged male persons are graduates and 2.4% (6)

aged males have diploma in professional courses. On the other hand out of 250 aged females 46.0% (115) are illiterate and 54.0% (135) are literate. Though the literacy percentage is higher but most of them studied upto high school level (VIII-X). No one is found to complete her graduation.

Table 2.5
Occupation of the aged persons

Type of occupation	Occupation					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In Service	43	17.2	13	5.2	56	11.2
Business	50	20.0	07	2.8	57	11.4
Fishing	38	15.2	-	-	38	7.6
Daily-Labour	28	11.2	33	13.2	61	12.2
Thela-Rickshaw puller	12	4.8	-	-	12	2.4
Pensioner	38	15.2	41	16.4	79	15.8
Beggar	14	5.6	06	2.4	20	4.0
Weaving	-	-	40	16.0	40	8.0
Dependent/House-wives	27	10.8	110	44.0	137	27.4
Total	250	100	250	100	500	100

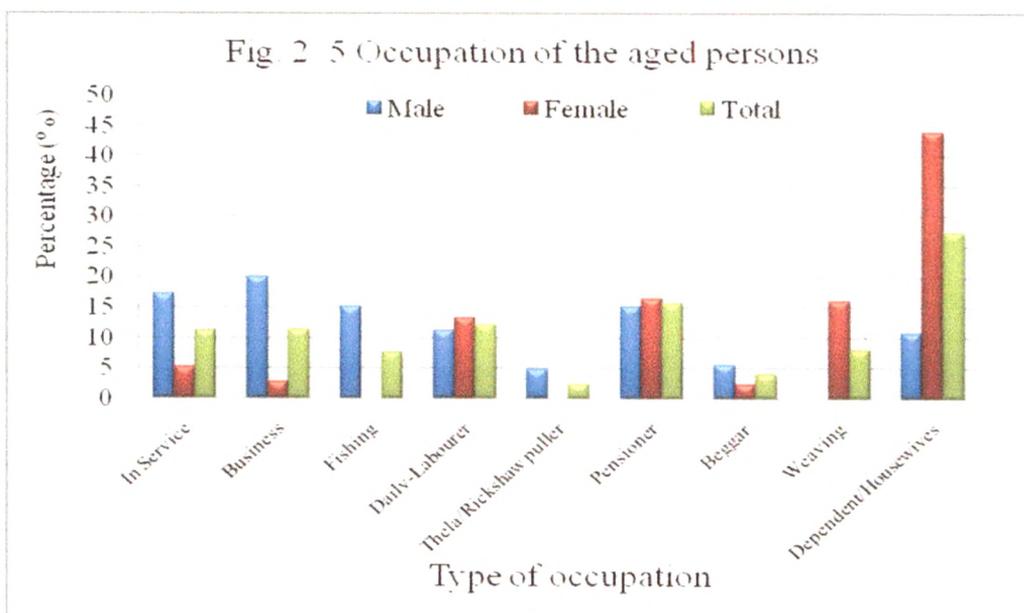
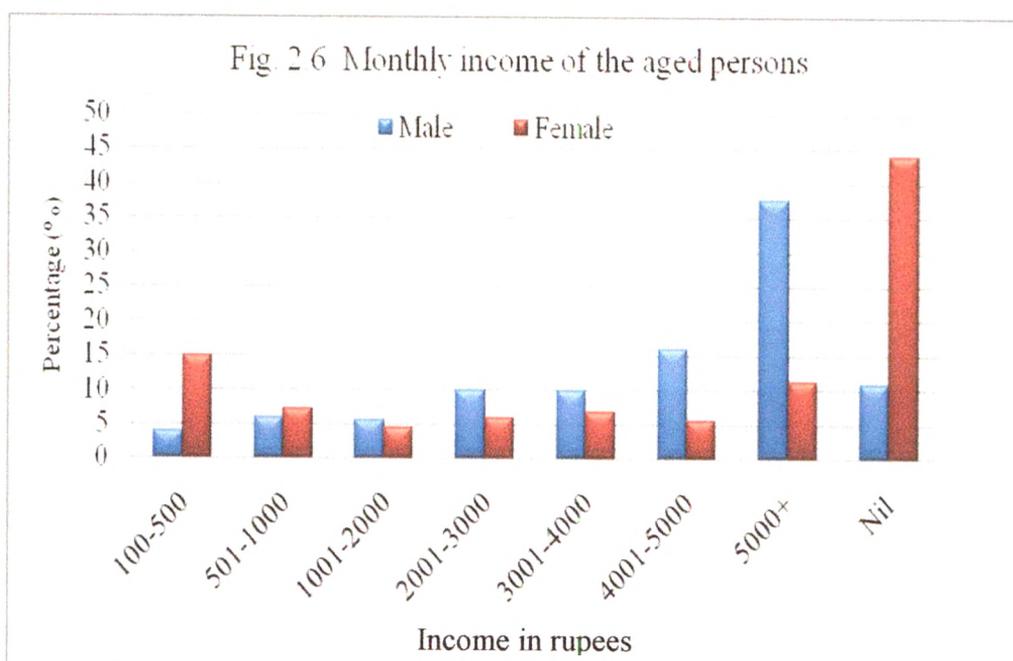


Table 2.5 shows distribution of the aged persons according to occupation. In the males it is seen that out of 250, 17.2% are in service; 20.0% are in business; 15.2% are fisherman; 11.2% are daily labourer; 4.8% are thela-rickshaw puller; 15.2% are pensioner and 5.6% are beggars and 10.8% are totally dependent. In the aged females it is found that 56.0% are engaged in different types of occupations like

service, business, daily labour, pensioner, begging and weaving and while 44.0% are house-wives and dependent.

Table 2.6
Monthly income of the aged persons

Income in rupees (per month)	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
100-500	10	4.0	37	14.8
501-1000	15	6.0	18	7.2
1001-2000	14	5.6	11	4.4
2001-3000	25	10.0	15	6.0
3001-4000	25	10.0	17	6.8
4001-5000	40	16.0	14	5.6
5000+	94	37.6	28	11.2
Nil	27	10.8	110	44.0
Total	250	100	250	100



The above table (2.6) shows the monthly income of the aged persons. From the table it is seen that out of 250 aged males, 37.6% (94) have monthly income of more than 5000/-rupees and in the females the percentage is 11.2%. 10.8% aged males and 44.0% aged females have no source of income and they are completely dependent on their sons, daughters or other relatives.

Table 2.7
Aged person and size of the family

Size of the family	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1-4 (small size)	115	46.0	88	35.2	203	40.6
5-8 (medium size)	112	44.8	140	56.0	252	50.4
9+ (big size)	23	9.2	22	8.8	45	9.0
Total	250	100.0	250	100.0	500	100.0

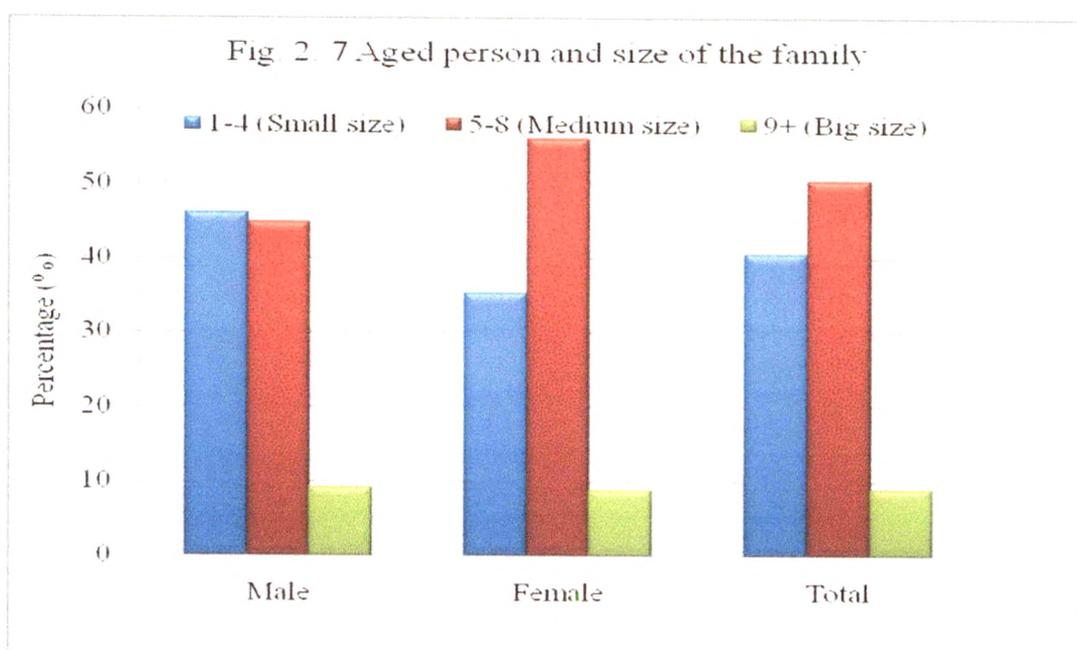
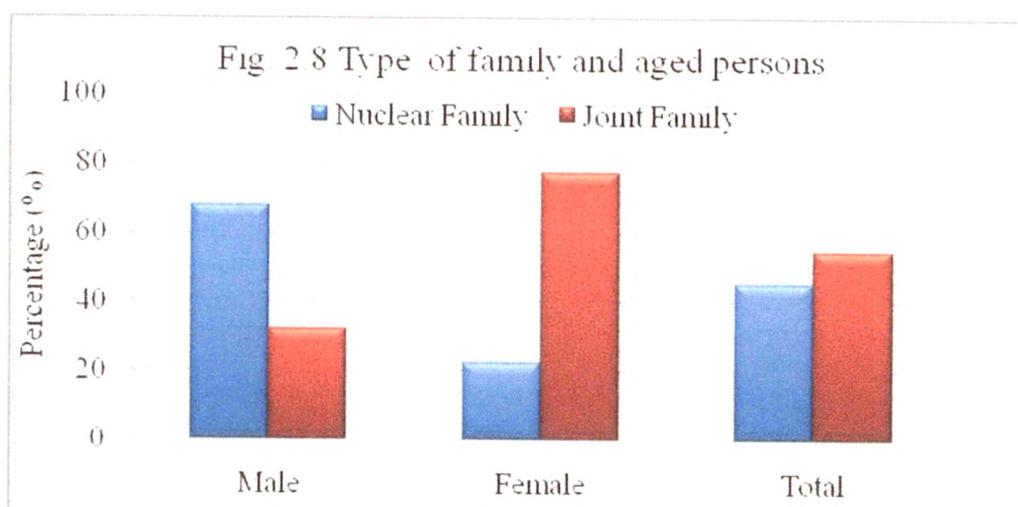


Table 2.7 shows the distribution of aged males and females according to size of the family. From the table it is seen that most of the people live in medium size families i.e. with 5-8 persons. 50.4% aged persons are living in medium size families; 40.6% are living in small size families with 1-4 members and 9.0% are living in big size families with more than nine members. Out of 250 aged male persons 46.0% are living in small size families, 44.8% are in medium size and 9.2% are living in big size families. In the aged females it is seen that most of the women i.e., 56.0% are living in medium size; 35.2% women are in small size and 8.8% women are living in big size families.

Table 2.8

Type of family and aged persons

Type of Family	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nuclear Family	170	68.0	56	22.4	226	45.2
(i) Living alone	01	0.4	03	1.2	04	0.8
(ii) Couple living without children	02	0.8	01	0.4	03	0.6
(iii) Living alone with their unmarried child	17	6.8	23	9.2	40	8.0
(iv) Couple living with unmarried child	150	60.0	29	11.6	179	35.8
Joint Family	80	32.0	194	77.6	274	54.8
(i) Couple living with their married sons and daughter-in-laws	45	18.0	81	32.4	126	25.2
(ii) Couple living with married daughters and son-in-laws	02	0.8	04	1.6	06	1.2
(iii) Father/Mother alone with married sons and daughter-in-laws	29	11.6	99	39.6	128	25.6
(iv) Father/Mother alone with married daughters and son-in-laws	04	1.6	02	0.8	06	1.2
(v) Living alone with other relatives	-	-	08	3.2	08	1.6
Total	250		250		500	



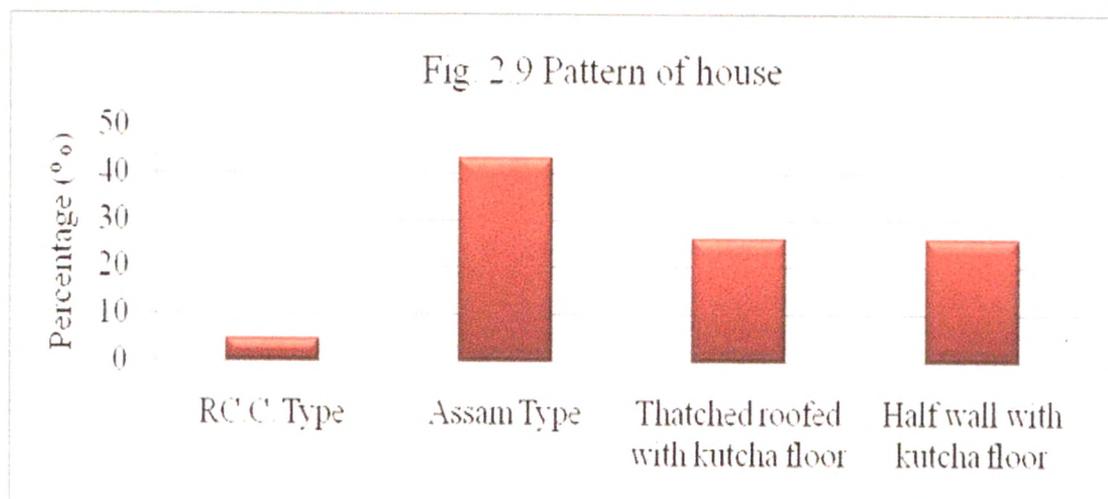
The above table 2.8 shows the distribution of the aged persons according to the type of family. From the table it is seen that out of 500 aged persons 45.2% are living in nuclear families and 54.8% are in joint families. In nuclear families, 0.8%

are living alone; 0.6% couples are living without any children, 8.0% single parents are living with their unmarried children and 35.8% couples are living with their unmarried children.

Again out of 500 aged persons 54.8% are living in the joint families. In the joint families 25.2% couples are living with their married sons and daughter in laws; 1.2% couples are living with their married daughters and son in laws; 25.6% single parents are living alone with their sons and daughter in laws; 1.2% are living with their daughters and son in laws and 1.6% are living with their other relatives.

Table 2.9
Pattern of house

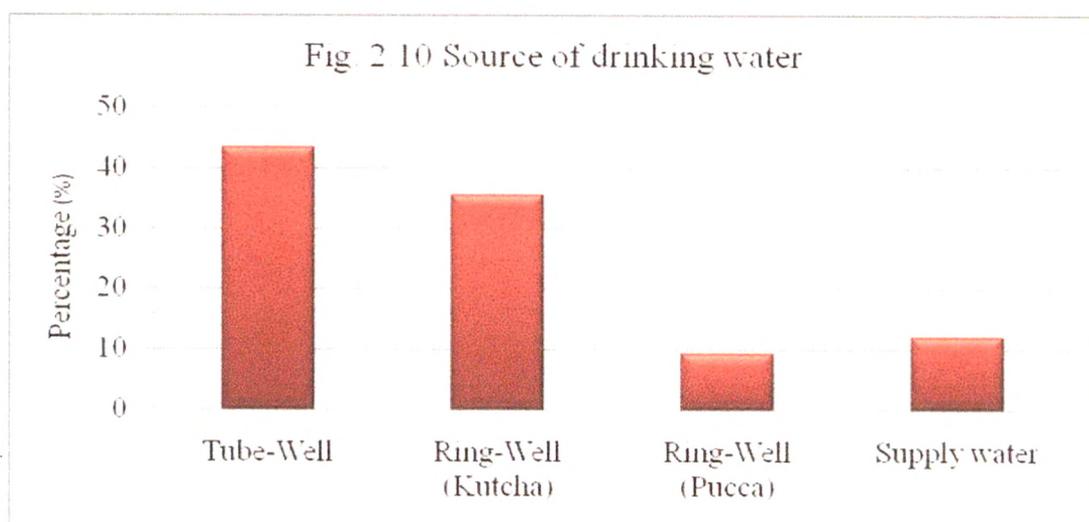
No. of families	Type of house	Total	
		No.	%
325	R.C.C Type	15	4.6
	Assam Type	140	43.1
	Thatched roofed with kutcha floor	85	26.1
	Half wall with Kutcha floor	85	26.1
	Total	325	99.9



The table 2.9 shows the distribution of pattern of the houses. From the table it is seen that out of 325 families, 43.1% families have Assam type houses, 26.1% have thatched roofed with kutcha floor type, 26.1% have half wall with kutcha floor type and remaining 4.6% have R.C.C. type houses.

Table 2.10
Source of drinking water

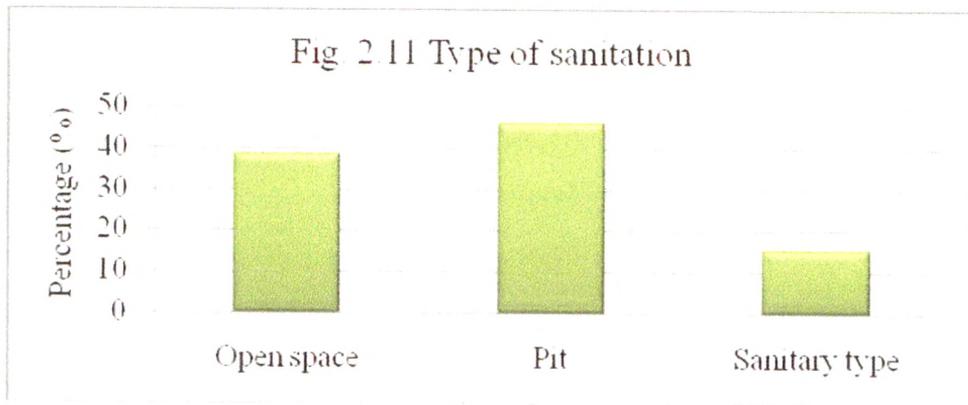
Total no. of families	Source of drinking water	Total	
		No.	%
325	Tube-Well	141	43.4
	Ring-Well (Kucha)	115	35.4
	Ring-Well (Pucca)	30	9.2
	Supply water	39	12.0
	Total	325	99.9



The table 2.10 shows the sources of drinking water of the study areas. From the table it is seen that out of 325 families, 43.4% have own tube-well, 35.4% have kutchha ring-well, 9.2% have pucca ring-well and 12.0% have provision of municipality supply water for drinking purposes.

Table 2.11
Type of sanitation

Total No. of families	Type of sanitation	Total	
		No.	%
325	Open space	125	38.5
	Pit	150	46.1
	Sanitary type (Individual & Govt. sponsored)	50	15.4
	Total	325	100.0



The table 2.11 shows the type of sanitations of the population. From the table it is seen that out of 325 families, 38.5% use open space, 46.1% use pit type of latrine, and only 15.4% use sanitary latrine for their natural calls. Some of the families have government sponsored sanitary latrines under the scheme of “Total sanitation campaign”.