

The Scenario of Crime in Dhemaji District of Assam: An Analytical Study

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Abstract: *Crime is a universal phenomenon in human society. From time immemorial, different criminal activities have been occurring in society. Due to the ecological, geographical, demographical, and socio-cultural differences the individual's personalities is moulded and gradually being build up. Thus, a close connection between involvement of individual in crime and geographic location of a particular place and their surrounding circumstances is found to develop in society. So, Culture plays an important role in society in guiding individuals to learn the essentialities of society. Through the process of socialization, individual gradually introduce with the cultural aspects from different social institutions like family, kinship, education religion, law etc. Sometimes due to the impact of socio cultural and ecology, people motivate to involve in Criminal act. Thus, the present paper is an attempt to examine the geo -Physical structure and Scenario of Crime in Dhemaji District, Assam.*

Key Words: *Crime, Criminal, Socio-Cultural, Geo-Physical Structure*

I. INTRODUCTION

Crime is a major social problem in society. It refers to the illegal activities of an individual in respect of the particular societal rules, regulations and prohibited by the criminal code. Due to the different reasons criminal activities are increased very fast in present time. In that context, the geo-physical structure of a particular society also plays a major role behind them. Therefore in this paper an attempt has been made to study the crime scenario through analyse about the socio-economic and demographical conditions of Dhemaji District.

Initially, the present geographical area of Dhemaji district was a part of the Lakhimpur district with it's headquarter at Dibrugarh. In 1971 Dhemaji was declared as a sub-division, including Jonai and Dhakuakhana (presently under Lakhimpur district) 14th

Aug/1st Oct, 1989 Dhemaji was declared as an independent district covering Jonai and Dhemaji (Sadar) sub-divisions. There are number of mythological and hypothetical believes regarding the origin of the name "Dhemaji". One of the most popular believes is that - there was a river which used to change its course very frequently and resulted unanticipated flood covering different parts of the mentioned area. The river was believed to be a kind of evil spirit. The Assamese version of the words, flood and playing are "Dhal" and "Dhemali" respectively and therefore the area as flood is a perennial phenomenon, may become a playground for flood. Assamese it has become "Dhal Dhemali". With the elapse of time the word "Dhal" was omitted and also the word "Dhemali" was gradually started to be pronounced as "Dhemaji". The entire Dhemaji district was originally inhabited by various indigenous tribes like Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, Bodo Kachari, Deori and Laloong. In addition to different tribes e.g. Ahom, Rabha, Tai-Khamti, Konch, Keot, Koiborta, Brahman, Kayastha, Kalita were also migrated during different moments of time span.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are mentioned below:

- a. To examine the Geo-Physical Structure of Dhemaji District.
- b. To examine the economic conditions of the people in Dhemaji District.
- c. To analyse the trend and patterns of the criminals Lodge in Dhemaji District Jail.
- d. To examine the crime records based on their education, sex, age, caste and religion.

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This paper is prepared by the help secondary sources of data. The data are collected from census report of Dhemaji jail in the year 2001 to 2011, Government Census report of 2001 and 2011, Statistical handbook of Assam 2001 and 2011, and different websites. For the purpose of the collection of census report of Dhemaji jail in the year 2001 to 2011 the questionnaire method have been applied and the questionnaires administered through mail to collect the data from official records of the concerned Dhemaji Jail.

IV. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Based on the different objectives of this paper the findings has been tried to systematically arrange for the purpose of discussion.

Geo-Physical Structure of Dhemaji District

Dhemaji District is situated in the remote corner of Assam on the north bank of river Brahmaputra. The boundaries of the district are the hilly ranges of Arunachal Pradesh to the North and the East, Lakhimpur District in the West and the river Brahmaputra in the South. Geographically it is situated between the 94° 12' 18" E and 95° 41' 32" E longitudes and 27° 05' 27" N and 27° 57' 16" N latitudes. The district covers an area of 3237 sq. km that holding 4.13% of total areas of Assam and is a basically plain area lying at a latitude of 104 meters above the main sea level. As per census 2011, Dhemaji District is constituted with 1319 numbers of villages, 65 numbers of Gaon Panchayats, 5 numbers of community development blocks, 5 numbers of Anchalik Panchayats and 1 number of Zila Parisad.

Population of Dhemaji District is covered 2.21% of total Assam's population. Population growth rates over the decade 2001-2011 are 20.30% which is some extent greater than the previous period of 1991-2001 as 19.45%. As per census report 2001, Dhemaji district's total persons literacy rate was calculated 64.48% while male and female literacy rates were marked 74.41% and 53.86% whereas in 2011 census, it is slightly increased up to 69.07% for total persons but male and female literacy rates are observed slight inclination of percentages as 75.66% and 62.13%. Population density for 2001-2011 is observed increasing slowly from 177 numbers in 2001 with respect to 213 in 2011 census report.

Dhemaji District Urban and Rural Population Overview 2001-2011

Out of the total Dhemaji population for 2011 census, 7.04% lives in urban regions of district. In total 48,285 people live in urban areas of which males are 24,971 and females are 23,314. Sex Ratio in urban region of Dhemaji district is 934 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Dhemaji district is 930 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban region is 5,895 of which males and females are 3,055 and 2,840 respectively. This child population figure of Dhemaji district is 12.23% of total urban population. Average literacy rate of Dhemaji district as per census 2011 is 84.02%, out of which males and females are 88.42% and 79.31% literates respectively. In actual number 35,616 people are literate in urban region out of which males and females are 19,379 and 16,237 respectively.

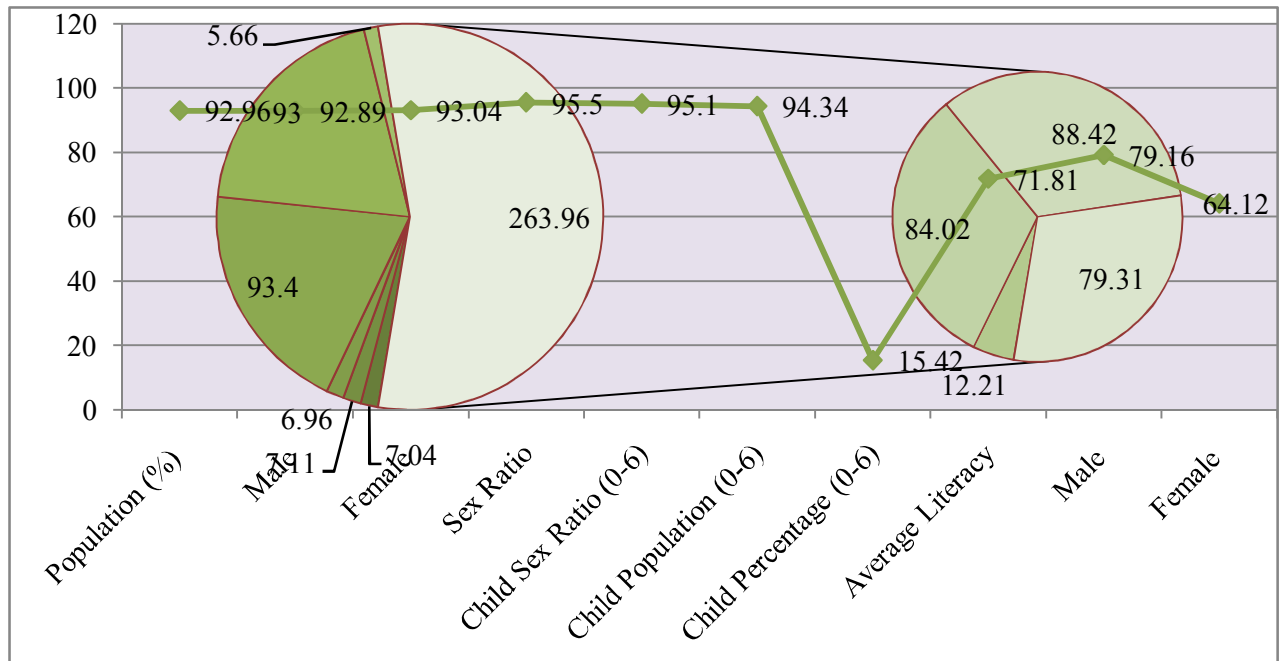
As per 2011 census, 92.96% population of Dhemaji District lives in rural areas of villages. The total Dhemaji district population living in rural areas is 637,848 out of which males and females are 326,278 and 311,570 respectively. In rural areas of Dhemaji district, sex ratio is 955 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Dhemaji district is considered, figure is 951 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 98,352 in rural areas out of which males are 50,402 and females are 47,950. The child population comprises 15.45% of total rural population of Dhemaji district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Dhemaji district is 71.81% as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy are at 79.16 and 64.12% respectively. In total, 387,412 people were literate of which males and females were 218,382 and 169,030 respectively.

Population, Growth Rate & Density of Dhemaji District						
		2011			2001	
Population Person		688077			571944	
Population Males		353043			294643	
Population Females		335034			277301	
Density		213			177	
Population Sex Ratio		949			941	
Population Growth Rate		20.30			19.45	
Year	Literate Total Persons	Literate Total Male	Literate Total Female	Literacy Rate Persons (%)	Literacy Rate Males (%)	Literacy Rate Females (%)
2011	406,388	228,330	178,058	69.07	75.66	62.13
Urban - Rural Population						
Urban 2011			Rural 2011			
Urban Population		48472		Rural Population		639605
Urban Males		25166		Rural Males		327877
Urban Females		23306		Rural Females		311728
Urban Sex Ratio		926		Rural Sex Ratio		951
Urban - Rural Literates & Literacy Rate 2011						
Urban Literates		36183		Rural Literates		370205
Urban Literates Males		19678		Rural Literates Males		208652
Urban Literates Females		16505		Rural Literates Females		161553
Urban Literacy Rate		84.36		Rural Sex Literacy Rate		67.87
Urban Literacy Rate Males		88.29		Rural Sex Literacy Rate Males		74.65
Urban Literacy Rate Females		80.10		Rural Sex Literacy Rate Females		60.73
Child Population in Age group 0-6 by Sex 2011						
Dhemaji		99,692		51,266		48,426

Population, Growth Rate & Density of Dhemaji

Sources: Census Report 2001- 2011; Director of Census Report 2011-Assam

Urban and Rural Population Overview in Dhemaji District 2001-2011



Source: Statistics Handbook of Assam 2001 and 2011

Socio Economic Condition

In Dhemaji district, majority of the people live in rural areas. The People are mainly categorized as cultivators, agricultural labours, marginal workers and other services like trade, commerce, storage, manufacturing, processing, repairing, etc. Employment in trade, commerce and other service industries is almost insignificant. Economy of Dhemaji district is mainly based on agriculture. Agriculture is the main occupation and more than 85 % of the total population depend on it. Paddy is the major agricultural crop cultivated here. Mustard is the major oil seed crop in Dhemaji district. Potato and pulses are other major crops grown in the district. Fruits and vegetables are also cultivated on a moderate scale.

Apart from agriculture and allied activities, sericulture activity is gaining around in Dhemaji district. Industrial activity is not prominent in the district and no major industrial units exist in the district. The principal mustard growing areas are Gohaingaon and Talahi. Pulses are mostly grown in all flat lands on the riverbanks. It is significant to note that over

the years people have started making experiments to see whether a shift to horticulture would be more beneficial or not.

Fish drying is another practice carried out during the monsoon season, mainly by the people living near the rivers in Dhemaji district. The market value of the produced product is high, but poor communication facilities in the district, especially during the monsoon months, result in high transportation costs. Another factor that affects the trade badly is the lack of storage facility. There are no significant small-scale industries and not a single big industry in the entire Dhemaji district. Some of the small-scale units are registered as weaving or cane and bamboo industries; however the actual production does not have any market value. Some local people of Dhemaji district also produce mustard. Thus, it is clear that the Dhemaji district mostly has agrarian societies and its economy is dependent on agriculture completely.

Moreover, most families rear pigs, goats and poultry; however lack of adequate veterinary facility and knowledge of scientific breeding people continuously lose their cattle. Further, in this district, sericulture is an age-old traditional cottage industry. In fact, next to agriculture, sericulture is the major agro-based industry generating large number of employment in the rural areas with minimum investment cost. It plays a very crucial role in the socio-economic development of the weaker section of the rural population especially during the off-agricultural season. Dhemaji district occupy a unique place in the production of the three different kinds of silks - Pat, Muga and Eri - which have a very high demand in the national and international markets. Moreover, production of silk yarn and fabric is wide spread amongst the people of Dhemaji. However due to lack of proper infrastructure and appropriate marketing facility this industry has not developed to its full potential. Dhemaji district has one Eri concentration centre and three Muga food plantation centres. However, there are fewer infrastructures for providing complete support to the silk industry. The entire Dhemaji district area was originally inhabited by various indigenous tribes like Mising, Sonowal Kachari, Bodo Kachari, Deori and Laloong. In addition to this different tribes e.g. Ahom, Rabha, Tai - Khamti, Konch, Keot, Koiborta, Brahman, Kayastha, Kalita etc. were migrated during different moments of time span. The principal languages of the region are Assamese, Mishing, Bodo and Bengali. The principal religion is Hinduism. However, Christianity and Islam are also practiced to a limited extent. There is almost no record of communal violence.

Crime Report of Dhemaji District (2007 to 2012 Census)

An attempt has been made on the basis of available Report to provide some information about the crime scenarios in Dhemaji district. The figure 2.3 below indicates the trends of cognizable crime incidences for Dhemaji district in between 2007 and 2012. Some crimes are measured more severe than others. Crimes such as murder, attempt to murder, arson, dacoity etc are generally reported but raping, kidnapping and theft are found 'frequently reported'. The year basis trend does not display any specific predictable pattern. But considerable amount of decreases have been observed in case of attempt of murder, dacoity, riots and dowry deaths incidents in the year 2012 in comparison to 2011. Other crimes are reported an inclined growth of 11% in 2012 as marked 470 with respect to 2011's marked value 421 as other crimes reports.

Nature of Crimes and Periodic Cognizable Crime Records of Dhemaji District

Nature of Crimes	Period with Cognizable Crime Records					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Murder	20	21	20	20	23	24
Attempt to Murder	19	30	27	14	14	10
Rape	70	66	62	75	62	74
Kidnapping	42	66	71	78	63	87
Dacoity	5	1	4	3	7	5
Robbery	6	23	11	13	11	15
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	90	101
Cheating	NA	NA	NA	NA	15	32
Riots	24	22	7	10	22	11
Arson	10	14	12	10	10	7
Dowry Death	NA	NA	1	5	5	2
Other	NA	NA	NA	NA	345	470

Abbreviation used: NA: Data not available in reports

Source Assam Police Crime Report 2007-2011; Crime in India 2012 Statistics; Statistical Handbook of Assam- 2001

As per official crime report of Dhemaji district, in other parts of total cognizable crime that includes burglary (Sec. 449 –452, 454,455, 457 –460 IPC), counterfeiting (Sec. 231-254, 489A- 489D IPC), criminal breach of trust (Sec. 406 –409 IPC), hurt (Sec. 23-333, 335-338 IPC), importation of girls from foreign country (Sec. 366B IPC), causing death by negligence (Sec. 304A IPC) altogether indicate another series of criminal activities that have

been occurred less. From the above figure 2.4 it can be observed that theft criminal activity marked 101 which is found the maximum followed by kidnaping, 87 and rape, 74 respectively.

Crime Scenarios of Dhemaji District based on jail census data of Dhemaji District jail of 2001 to 2011

The jail is located at Bangalmari about 6 kilometres away from the headquarters of Dhemaji District. For the purpose of the interpretation of different nature of crime wise trend and patterns of crime rates in both male and female an attempt was made to collected the primary data of crime records from Dhemaji Jail in the year of 2001 to 2011. The collected data had been presented in the tabular format which given below.

**Year wise Male Criminal Records of Dhemaji District Jail under IPC
(Data based on 31 December of each Year evening Lock-up)**

Year	Nature of Crime wise Records of the criminals									
	Famil y Confli ct	Rape	Theft	Kidnappin g	Robbery	Murder	Attempt to Murder	Cheating	Others	Total
2001	-	14	8	10	6	34	7	8	38	125
2002	-	13	6	11	5	31	9	9	33	117
2003	-	14	4	10	5	33	8	8	32	114
2004	-	30	12	9	6	41	2	-	23	123
2005	-	29	11	13	5	43	4	3	23	131
2006	-	36	10	15	6	50	9	6	34	156
2007	-	39	17	13	-	63	13	-	52	197
2008	-	31	33	2	2	78	32	7	25	210
2009		37	35	1	-	52	25	7	15	172
2010		32	21	4	1	75	30	13	35	211
2011		30	15	8	9	57	-	5	44	168
Total		305	172	96	45	557	139	66	344	1724

From the above table found that during the period of 2001 to 2011 total 1724 crime cases were recorded in the census report of the district Jail of Dhemaji District. Out of the total 1724 criminal cases 557, 305 and 139 cases were belong to the natures of crime of murder, Rape and Attempt to Murder in respectively. On the other hand from 2001 to 2011, out of the total 1724 recorded crime cases the highest crime incident was found 211 in the year 2010 and the lowest 114 crime cases found in the year 2003.

**Year wise women Crime Records of Assam under IPC
(Data based on 31 December of each Year evening Lock-up)**

Year	Family Conflict	Nature of Crime wise Records of the criminals								Total
		Rap e	Theft	Kidnappin g	Robbery	Murder	Attempt to Murder	Cheatin g	Other s	
2001	Nil	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
2002	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
2003	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
2004	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
2005	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
2006	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
2007	-	-	1	2	-	3	1	-	1	8
2008	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	6
2009	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	5
2010	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	4
2011	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Total	Nil	Nil	6	4	Nil	19	8	Nil	5	41

The above table indicated the picture of the trends and patterns of women crime of the census data of Dhemaji jail in the year 2001 to 2011. From 2001 to 2011 total women crime was found only 41. The highest recorded crime found in the year 2007 was 8. The nature of crime wise classifications of the criminals it was found that out of the total 41 criminal the highest 19 from murderer, 8 attempt to murder and 6 from theft category.

Educational background of the criminals

Based on the census data in the year 2001 to 2011 an attempt has been made to examine the educational backgrounds of the criminals. A comparative study was also presented with the help of the recorded criminal data of jail census of 2001 and 2011.

Nature wise Educational background of the Criminals in 2001 and 2011 Census Report (Data based on 31 December lock up of each Year)

YEAR	NATURE OF CRIME	A	B	C	D	E	F	TOTAL
2001	Murder	7	1	3	1	3	19	34
	Rape	3	4	2	1	2	2	14
	Family conflite	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
	Theft	1	2	-	-	4	1	8
	Kidnapping	2	1	4	-	3	-	10
	Robbery	-	1	-	-	3	2	6
	Attempt to Murder	3	2	-	-	1	1	7
	Cheating	1	-	2	-	3	2	8
	Others	15	3	-	-	4	16	38
Total	32	14	11	2	23	43	125	
2011	Murder	10	7	7	2	12	19	57
	Rape	5	3	6	1	7	8	30
	Family conflict	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
	Theft	3	4	2	-	1	5	15
	Kidnapping	2	-	1	1	3	1	8
	Robbery	-	3	-	1	2	3	9
	Attempt to Murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
	Cheating	1	1	-	-	2	1	5
	Others	9	8	5	-	10	12	44
Total	30	26	21	5	37	49	168	

The above table tried to analyse the data based on their educational backgrounds of the criminals in the year 2001 and 2011 Jail census data. In the year 2001 it has been found that out of the total 125 criminals which were divided on the basis of different nature of crime and their different standards of educational backgrounds. In the census report of 2001 out of the total 125 recorded criminals the highest 43 are belongs to illiterate, 32 and 23 criminals were literate up to primary level and graduate and above in respectively. From the table it was found that only 2 criminals literate up to above matriculation and on the other hand 14 were literate up to high school to matriculation standards.

In 2011 census report total 168 crimes has been recorded. The highest 49 criminals were illiterates. On the other hand 37, 30, 36 and 21 criminals were found graduate and above , literate up to primary level, literate up to high school to matriculation and literate up to above matriculation in respectively. Out of the total 168 criminals only 5 were found literate up to below graduate.

**Area and Religion Based Criminal Records Dhemaji District Jail of Assam Year 2001-2011
under IPC (Date based on 31 December of each year evening lockup)**

	Nature of Crime	Rural /Urban			Marital Status		Religion				
		Total	Rural	Urban	Married	Unmarried	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Others
2010	Murder	34	21	13	14	20	32	2	-	-	-
	Rape	14	9	5	5	9	12	-	-	-	2
	Family crisis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Theft	8	5	3	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
	Kidnapping	10	2	8	3	7	9	-	-	-	1
	Robbery	6	1	5	2	4	5	1	-	-	-
	Attempt To Murder	7	2	5	2	5	7	-	-	-	-
	Cheating	8	3	5	7	1	8	-	-	-	-
		38	21	17	20	18	38	-	-	-	-
Total	125	64	61	57	68	119	3	Nil	Nil	3	
2011	Murder	57	40	17	37	20	57	-	-	-	-
	Rape	30	19	11	19	11	30	-	-	-	-
	Family crisis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Theft	15	8	7	9	7	15	-	-	-	-
	Kidnapping	8	2	6	1	6	8	-	-	-	-
	Robbery	9	4	5	3	6	9	2	-	-	-
	Attempt to Murder	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cheating	5	1	4	2	3	5	-	-	-	-
	Others	44	19	25	17	27	44	-	-	-	-
Total	168	93	75	88	80	166	2	-	-	-	

The above table indicated three aspects like distributions of rural and urban criminals, marital status of the criminals and religion of the criminals based on the jail census report of 2001 and 2011. In the year of 2001 reported that out of the total 125 crime record 64 and 61 found rural and urban criminal in respectively. In case of marital status of the respondents it was found that out of the 125 crime cases the highest 68 criminals from unmarried category and 57 from married. The religion wise classifications of the respondents it's revealed that out of 125 crime cases 119 were Hindu and only 3 from Muslim religion. The table indicated that there are no any religious people recorded in jail census of the year 2001 and 2011 in Dhemaji District.

On the other hand in the jail census report of 2011 it was found that out of the total 168 Criminals the highest 93 from rural background and 75 from urban background. In case of marital status wise distributions of the respondents it was found that 88 criminals from married and 80 unmarried in respectively. From this interpretation of the jail census data of Dhemaji district the researcher has been not found any other religious group of people.

Age wise statistics of convict –under trial Criminal Records in Prisons in year 2001 -2011 Under IPC (Data based on 31 December of each Year evening Lock-up)

Age- wise	2001			2011		
	Convicted	Under-trial	Total	Convicted	Under –trial	Total
18-23	13	17	30	18	11	29
23-28	18	26	44	14	7	21
28-33	3	4	7	11	13	24
33+	44	43	87	39	12	51
Total Records	78	90	168	82	43	125

Above table indicated the record of the convicted and Under-trial criminals in the both years 2001 and 2011. In case on 2001 the highest 90 criminals was under-trial out of total 125 recorded crime cases and on the other hand in the year 2011 the highest 82 were found convicted criminals. This table revealed an opposite picture of the crime records of the convicted and under-trial prisoners of 2001 and 2011 jail census.

Caste –wise Criminal Records of Assam in prisons Year 2001-2011 under IPC (Data based on 31 December of each Year evening Lock-up)

Year	Un-reserved	SC	ST	OBC	Others
Census 2001	6	23	34	37	25
Census 2011	16	25	65	45	17
Total	22	48	99	82	42

From the caste –wise classifications of the criminals in the year 2001 and 2011 was found that the highest 99 criminals belongs to the ST people and 82 criminals from OBC and 42 were from SC people. The lowest 22 criminals were found from Un-reserved category.

V. CONCLUSION

In the study geo-physical structure and crime records a clear picture has been found through the interpretation of the demographic pictures of the people in both rural and urban areas, different religious and caste base classifications as well as the crime statistics of the people of

Dhemaji District. Comparatively the rate of population growth has been found in increased during the period of 2001 to 2011. In both the area of Rural and Urban of Dhemaji a distinct Demographical records has been drawn. Again, a clear picture of socio-cultural and economic conditions of the people of Dhemaji District has been sited through this study. Apart from that the interpretation of the nature of crime wise classifications of the criminals in Dhemaji district jail it has been found that most of the criminals literate up to graduate standards that means most of all found well educated. On the other hand age wise distributions of the criminals found that the highest 33 and above age people were involved in different criminal activities in compare to the other age categories. In case of religion wise classifications of the criminal's majority were found Hindu. The gender wise classifications of the criminal it was cleared that majority of the male people involved in criminal activities. So, the both concept geo -Physical condition and crime records of a particular place are very important aspect and this present study provide a platform to obtain data base for conduct further study.

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