

**WEST GUWAHATI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
**(TEMPLE GHAT, PANDU, GUWAHATI – 781012)**



**A REPORT ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF  
WOMEN IN BARCHANDRA VILLAGE, KAMRUP,  
ASSAM**

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## **Executive Summary**

The survey was carried out with meticulous care, and a diverse group of women, representing various age groups and backgrounds within Chandra Village, which is again divided into three small parts; Barchandra, Majuchandra and Soruchandra; were selected for participation. This allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the unique socio-economic challenges faced by women in this rural setting. The findings of this study illuminate both the areas where progress has been made and the persistent challenges that need attention. The report highlights disparities in education, employment, and access to healthcare services, which demand a targeted and multifaceted approach to improve the socio-economic status of women in Barchandra Village. By recognizing these challenges and opportunities, this report aims to provide actionable recommendations for local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and the broader community to collaborate on initiatives that will empower women, enhance their well-being, and ultimately lead to the development of a more inclusive and equitable society. The insights garnered from this study not only contribute to an informed understanding of the socio-economic status of women in Barchandra Village but also emphasize the importance of investing in their education, healthcare, and economic independence. We hope this report serves as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of women within the community.

## INTRODUCTION

### ➤ **Background**

Nestled in the heart of Assam, Chandra Village stands as a microcosm of cultural diversity and historical richness. According to Census 2011 information the location code or village code of Chandra village is 303367. Chandra village is located in North Guwahati subdivision of Kamrup district in Assam, India. It is situated 6km away from sub-district headquarter North Guwahati (tehsildar office) and 12km away from district headquarter Amingaon. As per 2009 stats, Rudeswar is the gram panchayat of Chandra village. The total geographical area of village is 198.65 hectares. Chandra has a total population of 994 peoples, out of which male population is 493 while female population is 501. Literacy rate of Chandra village is 82.49% out of which 86.21% males and 78.84% females are literate. There are about 218 houses in Chandra village. Pincode of Chandra village locality is 781030. Guwahati is nearest town to Chandra for all major economic activities, which is approximately 32km away. The village's history is intertwined with the tapestry of Assam's heritage, which reflects a rich blend of traditions, languages, and customs. Chandra is a testament to the tapestry of Assamese culture.

### ➤ **Socio-Economic Diversity**

Within the geographical confines of Chandra Village, one encounters similar communities, each with its own unique socio-economic context. The socio-economic disparities among these communities, however, are stark and undeniable. While some parts of the village has witnessed progress and development over the years, others continue to grapple with poverty and limited access to opportunities. In this backdrop of diversity and disparity, the experiences of women in Chandra Village vary widely, reflecting the broader socio-economic conditions they are born into.

### ➤ **Survey Travel Log**

On 14th October 2023, the event took place as a part of our survey activity. On this date, a group of dedicated West Guwahati College of Education teacher trainees/students, under the guidance of our faculty teachers and Principal – Dr Gitanjali Choudhury Ma'am, embarked on a journey to reach Chandra Village. This journey commenced with a ferry ride across the mighty Brahmaputra River, taking us from the southern region to the northern part of Guwahati which set sail at sharp 9:20 am.

As the ferry gently traversed the river's expanse, the weather on that day was notably characterized by cloudy skies. A sense of calm and peace prevailed in the atmosphere, allowing for reflection and anticipation of the experiences that awaited us in the village.

Upon docking at the port on the northern side, our students continued their journey, traveling in battery-driven rickshaws to reach the destination, Chandra Village. The scenic journey through this mode of transportation not only facilitated our arrival but also offered a glimpse of the picturesque landscapes that make up the local surroundings. This venture allowed us to not only collect data but also to immerse ourselves in the cultural and environmental tapestry of the region. The experiences of that day, from crossing the Brahmaputra River to arriving in the village, were instrumental in grounding our survey within the lived realities and natural rhythms of this rural setting.

By incorporating these unique experiences and moments into our survey period, we aimed to align our data collection with the rhythms of life and nature in Chandra Village, fostering a deeper and more empathetic understanding of the community.

## **Methodology**

### **➤ Sampling Strategy**

To ensure a representative sample, a rigorous sampling strategy was employed. Women from 30 houses surveyed were carefully selected to encompass the diversity present within Barchandra Village. This diversity was not limited to age groups but also considered socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, and other relevant factors. The objective was to provide an accurate reflection of the complex socio-economic landscape within the village.

### **➤ Data Collection**

Data collection was conducted through a multi-faceted approach, recognizing the importance of multiple data sources:

- **Structured Questionnaires:** A standardized questionnaire was designed to capture quantitative data. The questions covered various aspects such as education, employment, health, and family dynamics.
- **One-on-One Interviews:** In addition to structured questionnaires, one-on-one interviews were conducted to gather qualitative data. This approach allowed participants to provide in-depth insights into their personal experiences, challenges, and aspirations.
- **On-Site Observations:** Field observations were conducted to understand the local context better. These observations included visits to schools, healthcare centers, and areas of economic activity within the village. These visits helped in corroborating and contextualizing the data collected through questionnaires and interviews.

## ➤ **Data Analysis**

The collected data underwent a rigorous analysis process, combining qualitative and quantitative methods:

- **Quantitative Analysis:** For structured questionnaire data, statistical methods and software were employed to calculate averages, percentages, and correlations. This allowed for an overview of key trends and patterns in education, employment, and health among women in the village.
- **Qualitative Analysis:** Data from one-on-one interviews and field observations was subjected to thematic analysis. This qualitative approach aimed to identify recurring themes and narratives, providing deeper insights into the experiences and perspectives of the women in Barchandra Village.

The integration of both quantitative and qualitative data was vital in providing a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic status of women in the village, acknowledging not only the statistical trends but also the underlying stories and voices of the participants. This extended methodology section provides more information about the sampling strategy and data collection process, emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to capture the complexity of the socio-economic status of women in Barchandra Village.

## **GENERAL FINDINGS**

- The Dominant religion in the village is Hinduism.
- Education Qualifications of women ranges from High Secondary Pass to 8<sup>th</sup> Standard.
- The women have faced numerous challenges in their life.
- They don't feel any gender biasness in their family.
- They are not satisfied with the amenities of childcare in the village. They hardly receive any amenities form Government.
- While some women are active in Women Empowerment Initiative, others are not.
- Most of the women in the village are housewife.
- They feel there are still exists some orthodox perspective in their community towards women.
- They have savings account.
- They like to spend their leisure time by doing gardening, handloom, weaving and other household activities.
- They are aware about their family income.
- They think that education is important.
- Most of the women in village are not aware about the various Government Schemes.
- Most of the women are engaged in Agricultural work.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Awareness Campaigns on Government Schemes:** Conducting awareness campaigns, workshops, and information dissemination programs to ensure that women in the village are well-informed about various government schemes and initiatives designed to support their socio-economic development.
- **Access to Childcare Amenities:** Advocating for improved childcare amenities within the village and lobby for government support in this regard. Collaborate with local authorities to provide safe and accessible childcare options to enable women to pursue employment opportunities and personal development.
- **Encourage Women Empowerment Initiatives:** Promoting and expanding women empowerment initiatives in the village. Create opportunities for skill development and entrepreneurship to enable women to actively participate in income-generating activities and reduce their financial dependence.
- **Education Enhancement:** Recognizing the importance of education and encouraging women to pursue further studies or skill-based training. Support initiatives to improve the quality of education within the village, ensuring it is accessible and relevant to women's needs and aspirations.
- **Promote Gender Sensitization:** Organizing workshops and awareness programs aimed at addressing and eliminating the lingering orthodox perspectives within the community. Encourage more inclusive and equitable gender roles and relationships.
- **Promote Savings and Financial Literacy:** Continuing to encourage women to maintain savings accounts and enhance financial literacy. Promote the benefits of savings, investment, and financial planning to empower women to make informed decisions about their finances.
- **Diversify Employment Opportunities:** Collaborating with local authorities and non-governmental organizations to create diverse employment opportunities beyond agriculture. Explore initiatives like vocational training and job placement programs to reduce women's financial dependence.
- **Support and Strengthen Women's Networks:** Facilitating the formation of women's networks and self-help groups to provide a support system for women in the village. These networks can serve as platforms for sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources.
- **Regularly Evaluate Progress:** Implement regular assessments and reviews to measure the impact of these recommendations. This ongoing monitoring will help adapt strategies to address the evolving needs of women in the village effectively.
- **Collaborate with Local Authorities and NGOs:** Engaging in collaborative efforts with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions to ensure the effective implementation of these recommendations and improve the overall socio-economic status of women in Barchandra Village.

By implementing these recommendations, it is possible to promote women's empowerment, improve their access to education and healthcare, and create a more inclusive and equitable environment within the village. These initiatives will contribute to enhancing the socio-economic status of women in Barchandra Village, Assam, and lead to more sustainable and holistic development in the community.



## PHOTO GALLERY



 **GPS Map Camera**



Bamuni Gaon, Assam, India  
7P2P+9H, Bamuni Gaon, Assam 781030, India  
Lat 26.250402°  
Long 91.736686°  
14/10/23 01:20 PM GMT +05:30





Barchandra, Assam, India  
7P3P+WJ2, Barchandra, Assam 781030, India  
Lat 26.253536°  
Long 91.735565°  
14/10/23 11:36 AM GMT +05:30



Barchandra, Assam, India  
7P3P+WJ2, Barchandra, Assam 781030, India  
Lat 26.254583°  
Long 91.73542°  
14/10/23 11:18 AM GMT +05:30



Guwahati, Assam, India  
5MCR+HF4, Maligaon, Guwahati, Assam 781010, India  
Lat 26.171017°  
Long 91.691471°  
14/10/23 10:52 AM GMT +05:30



Guwahati, Assam, India  
5MCR+HF4, Maligaon, Guwahati, Assam 781010, India  
Lat 26.171017°  
Long 91.691471°  
14/10/23 10:51 AM GMT +05:30

## CONCLUSION

This survey has illuminated the socio-economic landscape of women in Barchandra Village, Assam, providing vital insights into their lives, challenges, and aspirations. While the findings reveal notable progress in several aspects, it is evident that women continue to face formidable challenges that require urgent attention. The dominance of Hinduism as the primary religion, the diversity in educational qualifications, and the presence of women who have surmounted considerable life challenges underscore the resilience and determination of the women in this village. The absence of pronounced gender bias within families is a positive sign, but a range of challenges, such as limited childcare amenities, persist and necessitate interventions. It is heartening to observe the participation of some women in Women Empowerment Initiatives and their awareness of family income and the importance of education. However, the lack of awareness about various Government Schemes and the prevalent orthodox perspectives within the community towards women signifies the need for comprehensive change. Collaboration between West Guwahati College of Education, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is paramount in implementing the recommendations presented in this report. The synergy of these stakeholders can foster initiatives that empower women, enhance their well-being, and promote equity and inclusivity within the village. These endeavors will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for women in Barchandra Village, foster socio-economic growth, and work towards building a more equitable and prosperous community. The insights gained from this survey are not just data points; they are narratives and stories of the women of Barchandra Village. Each data point signifies a life, and each story embodies the spirit of resilience and aspiration. The holistic development of the community hinges on the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, and it is our hope that this report serves as a catalyst for positive change and progress in the lives of these women.

This conclusion summarizes the key findings and underscores the importance of collaboration for implementing the recommended actions to improve the quality of life for women in Barchandra Village. It also emphasizes the significance of recognizing the human stories behind the data and the potential for positive change.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the women of Barchandra Village who wholeheartedly participated in this survey. Their willingness to share their experiences and insights was invaluable in the production of this report.

We extend our appreciation to the dedicated teacher trainees who worked diligently in the planning, data collection, and analysis phases of this survey under the Guidance of our Respected Principal Ma'am – Dr Gitanjali Choudhury and Faculty Teachers comprising of – Barsita Sarkar Ma'am, Papor Medhi Ma'am, Mritunjoy Das Gupta Sir and Deepak Kalita Sir. Their commitment to the project has been instrumental in achieving a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic status of women in the village.

We are also indebted to the local community members who provided their unwavering support and cooperation throughout the duration of this study. Their assistance in navigating the intricacies of the village and their invaluable input enriched the quality of the data collected. This report is a testament to the collective efforts of West Guwahati College of Education. It represents the commitment of our institution to address important socio-economic issues and contribute to the betterment of communities like Barchandra Village. It is our hope that the findings and recommendations presented in this report will serve as a foundation for future initiatives aimed at enhancing the socio-economic status of women in this village and beyond.