

EFFECT OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES ON RURAL URBAN CONTINUUM AND LITERATURE IN ASSAM: SPACIAL REFERENCE TO JORHAT DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to find out the continuum of rural economic activities covering both rural and urban settings. Furthermore, industrialization and technological advancements can shape the form and content of literature. The rise of the industrial revolution, for example, led to significant social and economic changes. This had a profound impact on literature, with many writers reflecting on the alienation, dehumanization, and loss of connection to nature brought about by industrialization. The total households of Komar Gaon i.e 113 is the source of collecting primary data for the study. The study is structured on the basis of exploratory research design and used both interview schedule and observation method. The analysis indicates that occupational sources and workplace are the prime factor of creating relation between rural and urban as collaboration to each other.

KEYWORDS: *economic activities, literature, rural-urban continuum*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The society has turned around the cluster of rural-urban connections. So, the nature of rural communities calls for a re-examination of the efforts at understanding their interactions with other similar communities and urban centers. Some of these interactions had always existed but their studies took a long time to come beyond the village. To conceptualize the relationship between various types of societies three broad perspectives have so far emerged on the basis of perception of dichotomy, continuum and interaction among societies. Dichotomous constructions of human society are as old as the social science. In this characterization of societal types the two worlds have been viewed as systems with distinctive and often contradistinctive elements. There are a number of familiar distinctions between 'primitive' and 'civilized' society in terms of number and diversity of social groups within them. In his studies of Tepoztlan and Yucatan (1930, 1940) Redfield Concluded that increase of contact, bringing about heterogeneity and disorganization of Culture, constitutes one sufficient cause for secularization and individualism. The folk-urban continuum deals with the problems of relative degree of presence or absence of polar Characteristics, which vary not only among cultures but also within them. Thus, the real societies varying in terms of constituent elements are conceptualized to be lying in-between the two polar opposites of folk and urban societies on a continuum. Generally the village economy characterizes the traditional way of cultivation. It also signifies the attitude of villagers towards establishment of cottage industries. The circulation of economic activities can have a significant impact on literature. Economic factors such as wealth distribution, globalization, and industrialization can shape the themes, content, and styles of literary works.

One way in which economic activities influence literature is through the portrayal of social classes and their interactions. Literature often reflects the socio-economic divisions and struggles present in a society. For example, during periods of economic inequality, literature may highlight themes of social injustice, poverty, and class conflict. On the other hand, during periods of economic prosperity, literature may focus on themes of materialism, consumerism, and upward mobility.

Globalization is another economic factor that affects literature. The interconnectedness of economies and cultures can introduce new perspectives and experiences into literary works. Globalization can lead to the emergence of literature that explores themes of cultural hybridity, migration, and transnational identities. Authors may incorporate elements of different cultures, languages, and traditions to reflect the changing economic landscape.

Economic activities also influence the publishing industry and access to literature. Economic disparities can result in unequal distribution of resources, limiting the availability and accessibility of literature to certain groups. Economic factors can also affect the market for literature, with publishers and authors being influenced by market demand and profitability. This can shape the types of literary works that are produced and promoted.

In conclusion, the circulation of economic activities can profoundly influence literature. Economic factors such as social class, globalization, industrialization, and market forces can shape the themes, content, and accessibility of literary works. Literature often reflects the economic realities and social dynamics of a society, providing insights into the human experience in relation to economic activities. The villagers in Komar Gaon took the cultivation of seasonal crops for their survival. The majority of the households were involved in the blacksmith cottage industry as their main traditional occupation. This gave the name of the village Komar Gaon. It had regular and effective ties established through selling and purchasing things with other villages of the district. Its relations with the Jorhat town were also effective and after Independence the village became increasingly integrated with the economic system of the town. Since then, urban linkages have been observed in all the three sectors of economy - the primary, the secondary and the tertiary. This study explores the presence of urban economic components in the village.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Considering that isolated studies of urban and rural situations by themselves failed to grasp the nature of urban-rural interactions, a dozen of social scientists drawn from ten countries spread over five continents met under the auspices of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in New Delhi from September 19 to 22, 1978 to thrash out pertinent issue in the area of research on urban-rural interactions and to articulate points of common concern and methodology in a way that might permit the scholars from different countries to concentrate on questions thought to be most significant in their own areas. Discussing along the Marxian and functional perspectives yielded points that could be thrown open for further inquiries: the exploitative or co-operative nature of rural-urban relations, the respective spheres of economic, political and cultural activities in relation to social structure and the way rural-urban relation reflected the same.

In an extensive paper Brij Raj Chauhan outlined the need for taking into account the cultural, political and economic factors in the process of interactions between urban and rural in Indian settings. Even in the traditional setting of cultural life in India, the existence of the literate great tradition and its relation to the little traditions in the rural setting had been taken note of and their two way process highlighted in the concepts of parochialisation and the complementary process of upward movement, that of universalization, by McKim Marriott.

Srinivas had seen the process of Sanskritization which too is a case of interaction between lower and higher cultural groups, the former accepting the models of behaviour of the latter for emulation.

Beteille (1966) in his book "Caste, Class and Power: Changing Patterns of Stratification in a Tanjore Village" identifies the political party, linking the rural electorate to the legislature and the Panchayat system as the new institutional arrangement connects the individual village to the block and district.

Chauhan (1979: 237-49) emphasized the relevance of the concept of social network in the analysis of articulation between rural and urban communities and suggested that the concept is helpful in analysing the cultural, political, administrative and economic dimensions of the social phenomenon. Chauhan (1990) has extensively shown various rural-urban interactions and intermediaries in day to day life in the villages of western Uttar Pradesh.

3. FIELD OF THE STUDY:

Komar Gaon in Jorhat district constitutes the universe of study. The village Komar Gaon is situated 10 km north east ward from Jorhat and is well connected by roads with the Jorhat town. As per the Polio Census Report of 2019 conducted by Potia Gaon Health Centre, the Komar Gaon has 609 persons living in 113 households. The literacy rate in the village is 75%. Out of the total population 29 villagers are government employees, 27 villagers are engaged in different types of businesses and the rest are cultivators. They have a pre-primary school, a primary school and a village Anganwadi centre. Besides, they have a Namghar to perform religious and cultural activities. There 15 charitable dispensary and a Post Office near the village. The people may buy their necessities from a nearby market.

Of the twenty seven districts of Assam, Jorhat is located in middle of Assam. The geographical area of the district is 2,851 sq. km. comprising 2,772 sq. Km. rural and 78.55 sq. km. of urban area. It is surrounded by Sivasagar district in the East, by Golaghat and Karbi Anglong districts in the West and by Lakhimpur district in the North and by Nagaland state in the South. According to the Census 2001, out of the district's total population rural population is 8, 27,901 (82.86%) and urban population is 1,71,320 (17.14%). Its rural literacy rate is 74.07% and the urban literacy rate is 86.92%.

4. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Sources and Types of Data

The proposed study will be based on primary data, which will be collected from the village selected for the purpose. Some documentary data will be collected from census records, panchayat records and other documents.

4.2 Units of Study

Households of Komar Gaon constitute the units of data collection and analysis in the study. Data are collected from all the households of Komar Gaon.

4.3 Tools of Data Collection

A structured interview schedule was constructed to collect data from the households. Besides, for historical and contextual understanding of rural-urban interactions a few case studies were made to understand. The interviews were conducted to the household dwellers during the period from 15th June to 5th August 2019.

5. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the present study is to find out the economic interaction in rural-urban continuum.

6. ECONOMIC INTERACTION:

The agriculture based economy has now turned into the economy that is based on service sector. Most of the villagers have got opportunity to engage themselves in different industries and companies in towns and cities. Now-a-days, with the emergence of proper communication in means of transportation, the villagers have entered in secondary sector occupations as well as tertiary occupation.

6.1 OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

The urban influences have changed the villagers' attitude towards selection of occupation. Urban kind of occupational mobility has generated dynamism in the traditional economy based on agriculture. The changing pattern of occupations in Komar Gaon exhibits dynamic character of the village economy. The following table shows the distribution of the villagers into the occupational sectors:

Table 6.1

Distribution of Villagers into Occupational Sectors of Economy
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Occupational Sector	Number of Villagers	
	Male	Female
Primary	172 (42.6)	108 (26.1)
Secondary	36 (8.9)	32 (7.7)
Tertiary	236 (58.4)	56 (13.5)

Number of Males = 404, Number of Females = 414 Total

Number of Villagers = 818

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

All the data are arbitrary in nature because villagers have engaged in different main or subsidiary occupations at a time. Data show that in the primary sector 34.2% villagers are engaged. Only a small fraction (8.3%) of villagers is engaged in secondary occupations whereas 35.7% of villagers are engaged in tertiary sector. To know about the rural-urban ties under three sectors of occupations in the village, an analysis of the various occupations is undertaken in the following discussion.

6.2 PRIMARY OCCUPATION

Primary occupation refers to those economic activities in which people are involved to produce directly from natural resources. These are agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing etc. Basically rural people in the developing countries are largely engaged in primary occupations. Urban areas mostly depend on rural areas for vegetables and food grains. It causes the villagers' involvement to produce these things not only for their subsistence but for consumers. Mostly, rural people are conservative in regards of their traditional occupation. Therefore, they remained stagnant in primary sector occupations. But the development of transportation breaks up the inhibitions and rigidity of rural life and makes it flexible and somewhat secular. It helps in shifting of peoples' interest from primary to other sector occupations. This changing scenario is seen in Komar Gaon. Now, only a small fraction of its population relates with primary occupations as shown in the following table:


Table 6.2

Primary Occupation of the Komar Gaon Villagers by Sex

(Percentage in Parentheses)

Primary Occupation	Sex		Total (%)
	Male	Female	
Agriculture	92 (53.5)	74 (68.5)	166 (59.3)
Animal Husbandry	06 (3.5)	0	06 (2.1)
Agriculture + Animal Husbandry	46 (26.7)	22 (20.4)	68 (24.3)
Fishing	28 (16.3)	12 (11.1)	40 (14.3)
Total (%)	172 (100)	108 (100)	280 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

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Data show that of the total population 34.2% of the villagers, comprising 61.4% males and 38.6% females, are engaged in different primary occupations like agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing. More than one half (59.3%) of them, comprising 55.4% males and 44.6% females are engaged in agricultural activities whereas only 2.1 % of male members are engaged in animal husbandry. Comprising 26.7% males and 20.4% females, about one fourth (24.3%) of the villagers are engaged in both agriculture and animal husbandry whereas more than one tenth (14.3%) comprising 16.3% males and 11.1% females are engaged in fishing. It has come to be seen in the village that among the total agriculturists, only 10% of villagers have been doing it for commercial purpose. On the other hand, one fourth of the villagers engaged in both the activities of agriculture and animal husbandry for the purpose of trading and consuming goods like rice, milk, meat and eggs. Both the males and females of the households are working to rear cattle. Infact, the males carry the products from animals for sale in both rural and urban markets and the females are not able to carry out such works. The people who belong to the fishing community (Koiborto), coming from nearest village collect fishes from the villagers of Komar Gaon who are involved in fishing. Thus, they can sell fishes without having gone to the market. But they usually keep connection with the market to know the actual market price.

Thus, rural-urban interactions have increased in primary occupations. However, to know more about the rural-urban interactions in primary occupation it is necessary to discuss about the distribution of various occupations under primary occupation.

6.3 AGRICULTURE

As the villagers mainly depend on agriculture they are largely engaged in agriculture to fulfill their basic needs. Now-a-days, most of the literate villagers are involved in searching a better job in the urban centre. However, many of them are engaged in agricultural activities, through a modern way. In majority of cases, the land owners are themselves cultivating the land. The following table shows the number of households practicing agriculture:

Table 6.3

Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture

(Percentage in Parentheses)

Whether Practicing Agriculture	Number of Households (%)
Yes	70 (62.0)
No	43 (38.0)
Total (%)	113 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

Data reveal that out of the total (113) households near about two thirds (62.0%) of the households practice agriculture. However, the cultivation is chiefly done for own consumption.

6.4 AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

The joint family provides larger labour force for performing agricultural activities. It prevents the sub-divisions and fragmentation of land-holdings and helps scientific farming. Because of that it was possible for rural families to cultivate by getting together all the members of the family. But urban way of family life has changed the views of ruralites in regards of joint family. It has weakened joint family pattern and strengthened nuclear family pattern in rural ground. The problem has come to all rural nuclear families when they become incapable of practicing agriculture

as earlier. Now, they more depend on sharecropping and hired labour. This iroblem has already come to seen in Komar Gaon. The following table shows the listribution of households into agricultural practices in Komar Gaon :

Table 6.4
Households Practicing Agriculture in Komar Gaon

(Percentage in Parentheses)

Type of Agricultural Practice	Number of Households (%)
Family based labour	48 (40.0)
Sharecropping	24 (20.0)
Family labour + Sharecropping	18 (15.0)
Family labour + hired labour	30 (25.0)
Total (%)	120 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

The data show that of the total households 63.1 % are engaged in agricultural activities.- Of them, one fourth (25%) depend on hired labour whereas two fifths (40%) are contributing family labour to cultivate their lands. One fifth (20%) of the households mostly depend on sharecropping and 15% of households depend on family labour as well as sharecropping. In fact, the urban way of living has indirectly changed .the rural way of performing economic activities.

6.5 SOURCE OF HIRED LABOUR

Hired agricultural labour has paved the way for rural-urban interactions in Komar Gaon. The labour in the village has come from both villages and towns during the agricultural season. The hired labour results into the inter-district rural-urban interactions in Komar Gaon as being shown in the following table: Table 6.5

Hired Labour for Agriculture in Komar Gaon

(Percentage in Parentheses)

Source of Labour Hired	Number of Households (%)
Village of Jorhat District (Bahek Gaon, Manimai Gaon)	06 (20.0)
Village of Nagaon District (Mayang, Jamunamukh)	12 (40.0)
Towns of Jorhat District (Moriani, Jorhat town)	08 (26.6)
Towns of Nagaon District (Nagaon district town, Lanka town)	04 (13.4)
Total (%)	30 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

The data show that 25% of the agricultural families have hired agricultural labour. Of these two fifths (40%) have hired the labour from the villages of Nagaon district; namely, Mayang and lamunamukh and one fifth (20%) have hired it from the villages of Jorhat district; namely, Bahek Gaon and Manimaji Gaon. Over one fourth (26.6%) of the families have hired labour from the towns of Jorhat district and 13.4% have hired the labour from Nagaon town. Thus, three fifths (60.0%) of the families have hired the labour from the rural areas and two fifths (40%) have hired it from the town areas. It creates a significant surface for rural-urban interaction. The labours from urban areas though get more wages in their places they prefer to work in rural areas, because of their perfection in agricultural work.

6.6 THESECONDARYSECTOR


The secondary sector refers to the part of economy concerned with the manufacture of goods from the raw materials supplied by primary sector industries (Oxford Dictionary of Sociology, 2005:309). It has become the major source of occupation and employment for the people of both rural and urban areas. The village and its relation with the wider world become possible through the extension of this particular sector in the village areas. Komar Gaonis said to be named after the blacksmith industry (Kamar Shal) which used to be in the village. Originally the people of the village were largely engaged in this cottage industry for their living. But, due to the lack of improvement in the field of communication the age-old "Komar Shilpa" of the village could neither flourish nor did yield desired results. Though the iron products made at Komar Gaon had been able to have a good market in many of the tea estates of lorhat, the people could not get enough profits according to their labour. Now-a-days, with the emergence of proper communication in means of transportation, the villagers have been able to recognize the negotiable profit of their toiling. There are five blacksmith cottage industries (Komar Shals) available in the village, now. These are not only making its owner's financially strong but also enable other villagers to earn their wages. Along with the blacksmith cottage industries (Komar Shals), the loom industries in the village are also running along with the blacksmith cottage industries; and providing the females of the village earnings. Most of the female members of the family have established their loom industries (minor) in their own houses with the help of male members of the family. They go to the markets of the lorhat town as well as to their local (rural) markets with the view of selling their own cloth products. This process opens up a great chance for them to interact with the people of town as well as those of other villages. A significant portion of the villagers have engaged themselves in these two cottage industries as shown in the following table:

Table 6.6

Secondary Occupations of the Komar Gaon Villagers by Sex
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Secondary occupation	Sex		Total (%)
	Male	Female	
Blacksmith Cottage Industry(minor)	36 (94.4%)	04 (12.5%)	40 (52.9%)
Loom Cottage Industry(minor)	02 (5.6%)	28 (87.5%)	30 (44.1%)
Total(%)	38 (100)	32 (100)	70 (100%)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

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The table shows that of the total population only 8.3% of the villagers are engaged in blacksmith cottage industry (minor) and loom cottage industry (minor). Of them, over one half (52.9%) are engaged in blacksmith cottage industry; comprising 94.4% males and 12.5% females whereas 44.1% are engaged in loom cottage industry; comprising 5.6% of the males and 87.5% of the females.

From the data it is found that most of the male members are engaged in making iron materials in their industry (Komar Shal). They usually go outside the village for getting orders from various sources such as tea estates, hardware shops etc.

On the other hand, the female members of the family are generally attached with loom industry. There are six loom industries, each one, available in SIX households in the village, where, basically the Assamese traditional cloths are produced. Very recently, these products have made their ways to the important market places of the Jorhat town along with the villages of the Jorhat district.

It's noteworthy that, to buy some materials such as coal, iron and thread for their industry the villagers have to go to the Jorhat town. The people from the urban areas are always seen to have a suitable touch with the villagers for their purpose of selling and buying. Hence, it brings a scope for the both sides to interact with each other. Besides, the selling and buying of their products paves a way of interaction for the villagers with the people of urban areas.

6.7 PLACES FOR SELLING IRON PRODUCTS

Though there is always the option for selling the products in their local markets such as *Budhboria Hat* (weekly market) in Bahona and *Deuboria Hat* (weekly market) in Chipahikhula and Kapahdhua. It is often seen that to get appropriate value for their products they go to the market of town areas. It is shown in the following table:

Table 6.7
Households of Komar Gaon Distributed By Their Places Selling Iron Products
(percentage in parentheses)

Places of Selling	Distribution of the Households (%)
Weekly Markets in the Villages of Jorhat District (Bahona, Chipahikhula, Kopahdhua) + Hardware Shops in Jorhat	04 (40.0)
Tea Estate in Village Areas of Jorhat District (Hatigarh, Chenijan, Meleng)	06 (60.0)
Total (%)	10(100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

Of the total households (113), 5.3% of the households have their ownership of blacksmith cottage industries (Komar Shals). Of them, two fifths (40%) sell their iron products in two weekly markets in the villages of Jorhat district; namely, *Budhboria Hat* (weekly market) in Bahona and *Deuboria Hat* (weekly market) in Chipahikhula and Kapahdhua as well as in hardware shops in Jorhat town while about two fifths (60%) of the households sell their iron products in the tea estates in village areas of Jorhat district; namely, Hatigarh, Chanijan and Meleng as well as daily markets in the Jorhat town; namely, *Chak Bazar* and *Station Market*.

From the data it is found that they, all, have the touch with urban people due to their selling of iron products. In this way, places of selling cloth products have also created interaction between the villagers and the people of neighboring Jorhat town. It is being discussed here.

6.8 PLACES OF DOING SERVICE

More generally, the urban area is the soul centre to establish the government or private organizations wherein people are appointed to deal with various services. At the same time, villagers have been supplying the manpower needs of the town. It has caused the rural-urban interdependence in the service sector. The places of doing services are given in the following table:

Table 6.8
Places for Doing Service by the Villagers of Komar Gaon
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Place Doing Service	Number of Service Holders (%)
Villages in Jorhat District (Nabare, Kamarkhatual, Dhekargora)	18 (12.1)
Villages in Other Districts (Sivasagar, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Golaghat)	12 (8.1)
Towns in Jorhat District (Marioni town, Jorhat town)	96 (64.9)
Towns in Other Districts (Nagaon, Tezpur, Dibrugarh)	20 (13.5)
Towns in Other State - Kohima (Nagaland)	02 (1.4)
Total (%)	148 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

From the table it is found that of- the total service holders, near about two thirds (64.9%) are doing jobs in towns specially Jorhat Mariani towns whereas 13.5% are doing jobs in towns of other districts; namely, Nagaon, Tezpur and Dibrugarh. Only 1.4% of service holders are doing service in a town area (Kohima) of other state; namely, Nagaland.

12.1 % are doing jobs In villages of the Jorhat district; namely, Nabora, Kakojan and Dhekorgora. 8.1 % of the service holders are doing services in towns. Many of them are commuting to and from the towns of Jorhat district and many others are staying in towns due to distance.

20.3% of the service holders are doing jobs in rural areas and frequently visit their head offices in the towns. Therefore, the service sector has provided a vast economic interface of the rural and the urban.

6.9 HELPING PERSONS

Without any help it is not possible to get a service for the villagers of Komar Gaon. They received help from their kinsmen, political leaders or from office of the District Employment Exchange for a job. The kinsmen have helped them by providing information about services and taking lead for bagging service. The political leaders of Jorhat town have taken initiative to giving services to the villagers at behest of the party workers of Komar Gaon. To attract the people to their party, leaders help villagers. Office of the District Employment Exchange in Jorhat has extended its services to the villagers for getting jobs. The distribution of helping persons is shown in the following table:

Table 6.9
Persons Helping to Get Service for the Villagers in Komar Gaon
(Percentage in parentheses)

Helping Person	Number of Service Holders (%)
Kinsmen in the Village	08 (5.4)
Kinsmen from the Nearest Village	12 (8.1)
Kinsmen in Jorhat Town	32 (21.6)
Political Leaders in Jorhat Town	24 (16.2)
Office of the District Employment Exchange in Jorhat Town	72 (48.7)
Total(%)	148 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

From the table it is found that near about one half (48.7%) of the service holders have got service with the help of District Employment Exchange office in the town. The villagers particularly those who have minimum education upto matriculation were all registered at the District Employment Exchange office in Jorhat town. At the time of opening of service vacancies the exchange office provided formation about services to the villagers through putting a notice on their office notice board. Of them, over one fifth (21.6%) have got service (jobs) by getting help from kinsmen in the Jorhat town.

6.10 PLACES FOR DOING LABOUR

Generally, villagers are used to go to the town in search of a daily work because various formal and informal organizations as well as institutions provide them the facilities for involving in various income sources. Moreover, they can serve for the people of the town area at their homes at reasonable wage. It is noteworthy that the amount of wage that the labours get in the town area is comparatively higher than in the village. Even though urban labours sometimes go to rural areas in search of work as their specialization of agricultural work definitely found in rural areas. It can be seen broadly that the specialization of work determines the demand of labour. In Komar Gaon, the industrial labour has to go to town for doing labour as industries are located in the town. At the same time, agricultural labourers are more needed in the rural areas. Moreover, *labourers like carpenters, masons and bamboo workers* have gone to both the rural and urban areas for doing labour. It is in demand in both the areas. The distribution of the places of labour committed by the villagers is given in the following table:

Table 6.10
Places of Doing Labour by the Villagers of Komar Gaon
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Places of Doing Labour	Sex		Total (%)
	Male	Female	
Rural	08 (13.3)	02 (25.0)	10 (14.7)
Urban	32 (53.4)	04 (50.0)	36 (52.9)
Both	20 (33.3)	02 (25.0)	22 (32.4)
Total (%)	60 (100)	08 (100)	68 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

The table shows that of the villagers 8.3% are engaged in labour. Of them, over a half (52.9%) are doing labour in urban areas whereas about one third (32.4%) are doing labour in both

the rural and urban areas. The rest (14.7%) are doing labour in rural areas. Thus, the majority of the villagers move towards urban areas for doing labour activities. In reality, urban community provides more opportunities for getting a week with higher wages.

6.11 BUSINESS

Exchange of foods between the rural-urban areas is regulated through the market. In a sense, urban areas represent the marketing complex and the rural areas, the centre for producing agricultural communities and, to an extent, consumption of products from outside the region. The present scenario of Komar Gaon is the. one of increasing interactions between it and the town. Generally, the town has entered the village physically through a number of shops and development of a small market. In Komar Gaon the villagers are largely engaged in setting up of their business in form of grocery shop, vegetable shop, cloth shop, medical shop, hardware shop, pan shop, tailoring shop and iron material shop. A number of businessmen from the village move to the town for trading. The village has got linked through two metalled roads with the Jorhat town and both are now well connected through all types of automobile transport. The neighbouring Jorhat town acts as the main marketing centre for major needs of the village and for minor and medium needs. The village shopkeepers purchase goods from the town and sell it in the village. Some of the businessmen in Komar Gaon have been doing their businesses in the district town by getting it from the predecessors. At the same time, from the new generation two or three villagers have moved to the district and the other districts for doing their business. The picture is seen in the following table: Table 6.11

Business Holders and Their Businesses in Komar Gaon
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Name of the Business	Numbers of Business Holders (%)
Transport Business	12 (15.0)
Grocery Shop	16 (20.0)
Vegetables shop	08 (10.0)
Cloth shop	04 (5.0)
Traditional Cloth and Food shop	08 (10.0)
Medicine shop	02 (2.5)
Hardware shop	02 (2.5)
Pan shop	12 (15.0)
Tailoring shop	04 (5.0)
Iron Material shop	04 (5.0)
Mobile shop	04 (5.0)
Hotel (Fooding)	04 (5.0)
Total (%)	80 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

The table shows that of the total (9.8%) of the businessmen from the village, 15% are engaged in transport business, one fifth (20%) have set up grocery shops in different places, one tenth (10%) have set up vegetable shops, 5% have set up cloth shops, one tenth (10%) have set up Assamese traditional cloth and food shops. 5% are engaged in setting up of medicine shops and hardware shops, 15% have set up pan shops and 20% have set up tailoring shops, iron material shops, mobile food shop and lodge (fooding). Thus, majority of the villagers have set up shops as their business. As the village is the centre of consumption of goods from outside the region, the villagers have interest to set up any shop in the village. On the other hand, the villagers are mostly engaged in shopkeeping because they know that the profit must come from the process of purchasing or selling. Many of the villagers are now engaged in transport business.

6.12 PLACES OF DOING BUSINESS

Places of doing business have greater effect on rural-urban interaction in economic terms. The villagers are mostly doing business in the town because it is the centre of the market complex whereas village area is the centre for producing agricultural commodities. But on theoretical ground, purchasing or selling of goods has been regulated by integrating village and the town. It is seen among the businessmen of Komar Gaon as given in the following table:

Table 6.12
Places of Doing Business
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Places of Business	Number Business Holders (%)
Weekly Market in Villages of Jorhat (Chipahikhula, Rangkopah)	12 (15.0)
Nearest Villages	22 (27.5)
Own Village (Komar Gaon)	10 (12.5)
Market in Jorhat town (Station Market and Chak Bazar)	18 (22.5)
Towns in Other Districts (Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Gulazhat)	12 (15.0)
Town (Shilong) in Other State Meghalaya	06 (7.5)
Total (%)	80 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted from 15th January to 5th March 2019

Of the total (9.7%) businesses majority are located in village areas. Over one fourth (27.5%) of them are doing business in the nearest villages; namely, Bahona and Patia Gaon as they have a larger village market centre whereas 22.5% are doing business in the markets of Jorhat town, especially in Station Market and Chak Bazaar. 15% of them are doing business in the weekly market in the villages of Jorhat district; namely, Chipahikhula, Rangdoi, Kapahdhua whereas 15% of them have established their businesses in the towns of other districts such as Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Golaghat. 12.5% of villagers have set up business in Komar Gaon itself whereas 7.5% are doing business in the town of the other state; namely, Shillong (Meghalaya). Thus, majority is doing business in the village as distance between the village market and the urban market has reduced by smooth communication system.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Summing up, the rural-urban ties are manifested and highly regulated through the three sectors of economy - the primary, the secondary and the tertiary. The socio-economic interactions of the villagers with the outside world are as follows: 1. Of the total males (404) and females (414), 42.6% males and 26.1% females are engaged in primary sector occupations, 8.9% males and 7.7% females are engaged in secondary sector occupations and 58.4% males and 13.5% females are engaged in tertiary sector occupations. 2. In case of primary occupations, more than one half (59.3%) of the villagers, comprising 55.4% males and 44.6% females, are engaged in agricultural activities whereas only 2.1% of male members are engaged in animal husbandry. Comprising 26.7% males and 20.4% females, about one fourth (24.3%) of the villagers are engaged in both agriculture and animal husbandry whereas 14.3%, villagers, comprising 16.3% males and 11.1% females, are engaged in fishing.

3. One fourth (25%) of the cultivating households depend on hired labor whereas two fifths (40%) are contributing family labour to cultivate their lands. One fifth (20%) of the households mostly depend on sharecropping and 15% depend on family labour as well as sharecropping.

4. Of the agricultural households 15.8% have hired labour. Of these two fifths (40%) have hired the labour from villages of Nagaon district such as Mayang and Jamunamukh and one fifth (20%) have hired it from the villages of Jorhat district such as Bahek Gaon and Manaimaji Gaon. Over one fourth (26.6%) of the households have hired labour from the towns of Jorhat and 13.4% have hired the labour from Nagaon district town and Lanka town. Thus, three fifths (60%) of the families have hired the labour from the rural areas and two fifths (40%) have hired it from the urban areas.

5. Of the total population 18.1% have jobs in both the service sectors of occupation as government and non-government sector. Of them 7.7% of the service holders are male and the rest (23%) are female.

6. Of the total service holders (18.1%) over two thirds (79.7%) are doing service jobs in urban areas whereas 20.3% of service holders are doing jobs in rural areas.

7. Near about one half (48.7%) of the service holders are able to get the service jobs with the help of District Employment Exchange office in the town. On the other hand, over one fifth (21.6%) have got service jobs with the help from kinsmen in the Jorhat town.

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