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CENSUS OF INDIA 1961

TRIPURA

Vol. 26



Part 76

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CENSUS OF INDIA 1961

VOLUME XXVI

305

TRIPURA

Part VI

VILLAGE SURVEY MONOGRAPH

No. 2

*Village—*DWARIKA TALUKDAR PARA

*Tehsil—*GHORAKAPPA

*Sub-Division—*SABROOM

C. R. PAUL, M.A. (Com.),

Superintendent of Census Operations, Tripura

PRINTED IN INDIA, BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA,
AND PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, CIVIL LINES, DELHI, 1966.

Price : Rs. 1.80 paise or 4 sh. 3 d. or 66 cents.

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1961 CENSUS PUBLICATIONS, TRIPURA

(All the Census Publications will bear Volume No. XXVI)

Part I (In two Sub-Parts)	{ General Report. Subsidiary Tables.
Part II (In two Sub-Parts)	{ General Population Tables. Economic Tables. Cultural and Migration Tables.
Part III	Household Economic Tables.
Part IV	Report on Housing and Establishment with Tables.
Part V-A	Special Table on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with reprints from Old Census Report.
Part V-B	Ethnographic note on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
Part VI	Village Survey Monographs.
Part VII A & B	Survey of Handicrafts & Report on Fairs and Festivals.
Part VII	Administration Report on Enumeration.
Part VIII-B	Administration Report on Tabulation.
Part IX	Maps.

} Not for sale.

VILLAGE SURVEY REPORT

ON

DWARIKA TALUKDAR PARA

Investigators	Shri Bimalendu Ghosh and Shri Nanigopal Bhattacharjee.
Supervised by	Shri A. K. Dutta, M.Sc., Special Officer, Census Operations, Tripura.
Photographer	Shri A. K. Dutta, M.Sc., Special Officer, Census Operations, Tripura.
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Final draft & Editor	Shri C. R. Paul, M.A. (Com.), Superintendent, Census Operations, Tripura.

FOREWORD

Apart from laying the foundations of demography in this subcontinent, a hundred years of the Indian Census has also produced 'elaborate and scholarly accounts of the variegated phenomena of Indian life—sometimes with no statistics attached, but usually with just enough statistics to give empirical underpinning to their conclusions'. In a country, largely illiterate, where statistical or numerical comprehension of even such a simple thing as age was liable to be inaccurate, an understanding of the social structure was essential. It was more necessary to attain a broad understanding of what was happening around oneself than to wrap oneself up in 'statistical ingenuity' or 'mathematical manipulation'. This explains why the Indian Census came to be interested in many by-paths and 'nearly every branch of scholarship, from anthropology and sociology to geography and religion'.

In the last few decades the Census has increasingly turned its efforts to the presentation of village statistics. This suits the temper of the times as well as our political and economic structure. For even as we have a great deal of centralization on the one hand and decentralisation on the other, my colleagues thought it would be a welcome continuation of the Census tradition to try to invest the dry bones of village statistics with flesh-and-blood accounts of social structure and social change. It was accordingly decided to select a few villages in every State for special study, where personal observation would be brought to bear on the interpretation of statistics to find out how much of a village was static and yet changing and how fast the winds of change were blowing and from where.

Randomness of selection was, therefore, eschewed. There was no intention to build up a picture for the whole State in quantitative terms on the basis of villages selected statistically at random. The selection was avowedly purposive: the object being as much to find out what was happening and how fast to those villages which had fewer reasons to choose change and more to remain lodged in the past as to discover how the more 'normal' types of villages were changing. They were to be primarily type studies which, by virtue of their number and distribution, would also give the reader a 'feel' of what was going on and some kind of a map of the country.

A brief account of the tests of selection will help to explain. A minimum of thirty-five villages was to be chosen with great care to represent adequately geographical occupational and even ethnic diversity. Of this minimum of thirty-five, the distribution was to be as follows:

- (a) at least eight villages were to be so selected that each of them would contain one dominant community with one predominating occupation, e.g., fishermen, forest workers, jhum cultivators, potters, weavers, salt-makers, quarry workers

(vi)

with an eye to variation in terms of size, proximity to city and other means of modern communication, nearness to hills, jungles and major rivers. Thus there was to be a regional distribution throughout the State of this category of villages. If, however, a particular district contained significant ecological variations within its area, more than one village in the district might be selected to study the special adjustments to them.

It is a unique feature of these village surveys that they rapidly outgrew their original terms of reference, as my colleagues warmed up to their work. This proved for them an absorbing voyage of discovery and their infectious enthusiasm compelled me to enlarge the Inquiry's scope again and again. It was just as well cautiously to feel one's way about at first and then venture further a field, and although it accounts to some extent for a certain unevenness in the quality and coverage of the monographs, it served to compensate the purely honorary and extra-mural rigours of the task. For the survey, along with its many ancillaries like the survey of fairs and festivals, of small and rural industry and others, was an 'extra' over and above the crushing load of the 1961 Census.

It might be of interest to recount briefly the stages by which the survey enlarged its scope. At the first census conference in September, 1959 the survey set itself the task of what might be called a record in situ of material traits, like settlement pattern of the village; house types; diet, dress, ornaments and footwear; furniture and storing vessels; common means of transport of goods and passengers; domestication of animals and birds; markets attended; worship of deities, festivals and fairs. There were to be recordings, of course, of cultural and social traits and occupational mobility. This was followed up in March, 1960 by two specimen schedules, one for each household, the other for the village as a whole, which, apart from spelling out the mode of inquiry suggested in the September, 1959 conference, introduced groups of questions aimed at sensing changes in attitude and behaviour in such fields as marriage inheritance, movable and immovable property, industry, indebtedness, education, community life and collective activity, social disability, forums of appeal over disputes, village leadership and organisation of cultural life. It was now plainly the intention to provide adequate statistical support to empirical 'feel', to approach qualitative change through statistical quantities. It had been difficult to give thought to the importance of 'just enough statistics to give empirical underpinning to conclusions', at a time when my colleagues were straining themselves to the utmost for the success of the main Census Operations, but once the census count itself was left behind in March, 1961, a series of three regional seminars in Trivandrum (May 1961), Darjeeling and Srinagar (June 1961) restored their attention to this field and the importance of

PREFACE

The village monograph on Dwarika Talukdar Para presents a study of some tribals of the territory, where the numerically prominent and also the dominant group are the members of the Chakma Tribe. The village is distantly situated from the nearest source of communications and business centres and is not affected by the urban influence. In fact the people of this village present more or less their original mode of living, habits and customs. A study of this village therefore gives an insight to the characteristics of a true tribal village in its original set up and its natural surroundings.

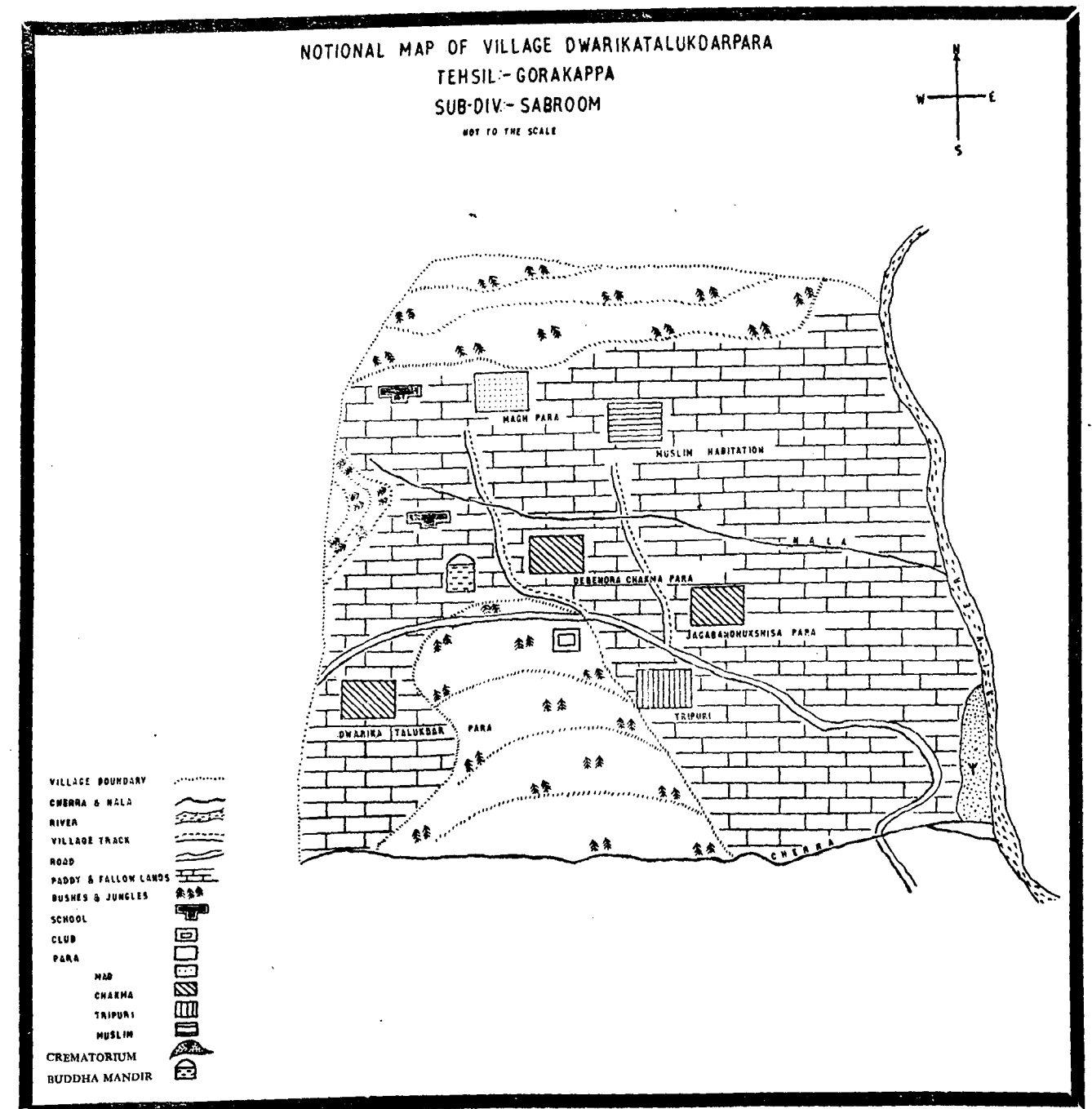
This is the second of a series of monographs of twelve which are proposed to be published on the Socio-economic aspects of the villages of the territory of Tripura. According to the criteria laid down by the Registrar General, India, discussed in his foreward, this village falls in Category 'C'.

The monograph was drafted on the basis of data obtained from the questionnaire appended to the village schedule and the household schedule by the Investigators—Shri Bimalendu Ghosh and Shri Nanigopal Bhattacharjee deputed for the purpose in the year 1961 on different stages. The information collected by the Investigators were further supplemented in detail by personal contact with the villagers by Shri Alok Kumar Dutt, Special Officer of this office in the latter stage. The final draft report was sent to the Office of the Registrar General, India for suggestions. On the basis of comments received therein it was redrafted and sent again to the Registrar General, India for approval. I am grateful to Dr. Roy Burman who helped me a lot by sending useful comments now and then. In conducting this work I have also been assisted by Shri Dutt, my Special Officer and a body of technical staff and in fact Shri Dutt took great pains to prepare the first draft.

Dated, Agartala the 2nd July, 1964.

C. R. PAUL

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CHAPTER I

THE VILLAGE

Introductory—The village 'Dwarika Talukdar Para' selected for socio-economic survey was inconspicuous by its presence so long; it has recently pushed its way in Census publications by virtue of many characteristics which are laid down for 'C' category of villages.

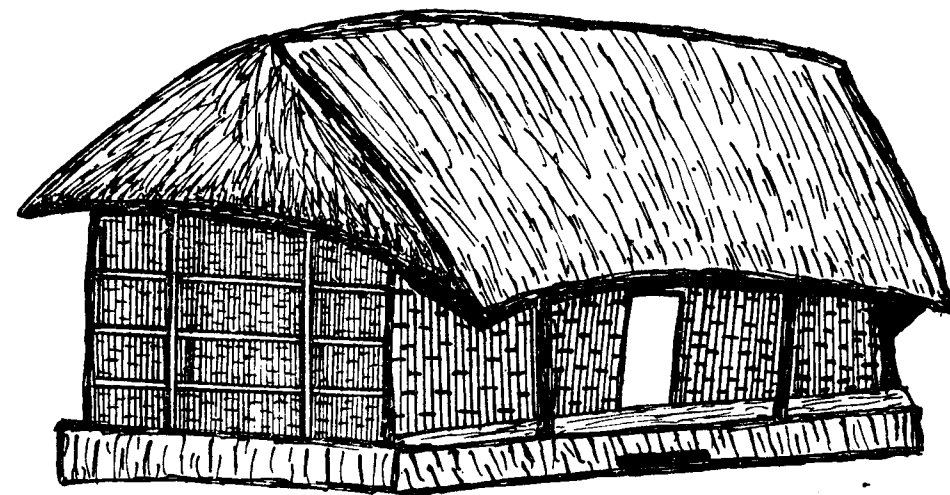
The village presents a fair size and is settled in character. The main pursuit of the villagers is agriculture and it is far away from the major sources of modern amenities. But the most salient features which have made the village unique are its isolated location and multi-tribal composition.

Lay out of the village—The village is stretched on an undulating surface in north-south direction and to some extent in north-east—north-west direction. Its altitude is 180' from the sea level and lies between 23°45'00" and 23°15'00" latitude and 91°45'00" and 91°50'00" longitude. The area of the village is 960 acres or 388 hectare and is bounded on the north by the village Patichari, on the east by the river Feni which demarcates the village from East Pakistan and on the west and south by villages Alutala Tila and Silachari respectively. The river Feni flows by the eastern border of the village in north-south direction and a rivulet named 'Khagracherra' flows through the southern border of the habitation. These two serve as the main sources of water to the villagers. The river in this part is very narrow and remains extremely shallow during greater part of the year excepting rainy season and as such it is not navigable.

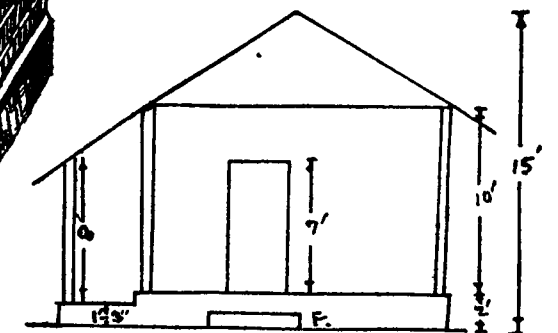
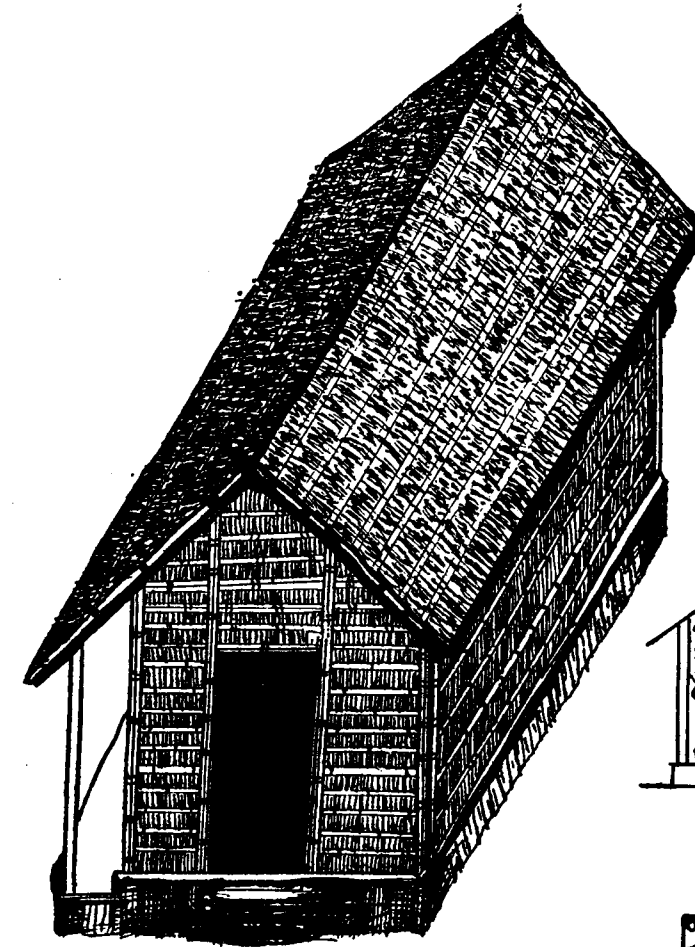
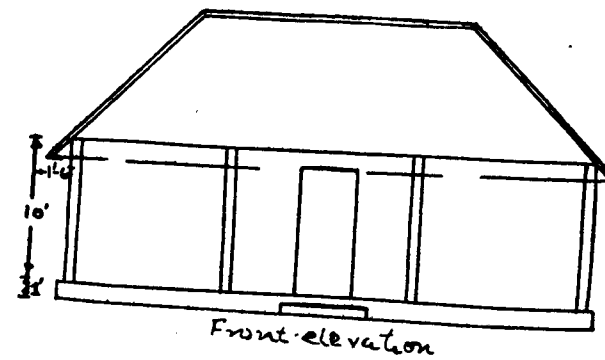
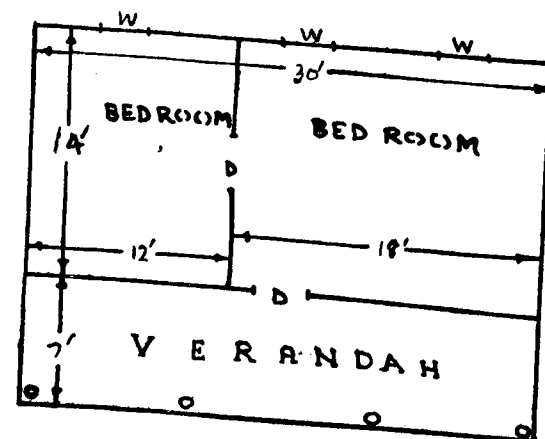
Location and distance of Police Station, Post Office, etc.—The village is situated within the Ghorakappa Tehsil of Sabroom Sub-division of the union territory of Tripura. Its distance from sub-divisional headquarters is about 48 miles by road and 80 miles by boat and about 146 miles south from Agartala, the capital of the territory.

Size of the village—It is a fair sized village comprising of 960 acres or 388 hectare, of which 280 acres are covered with jungles and bushes and 250 acres by agricultural field. An

HUT TYPES



Four sloped hut



No. 3-

SHOWING WALLS OF REEDS AND
HORIZONTAL SPLIT BAMBOO BATTENS
WITH PLUSTERING OF MUD AND ROOFS -
TWO OF SAN-GRASS

ORNAMENTS

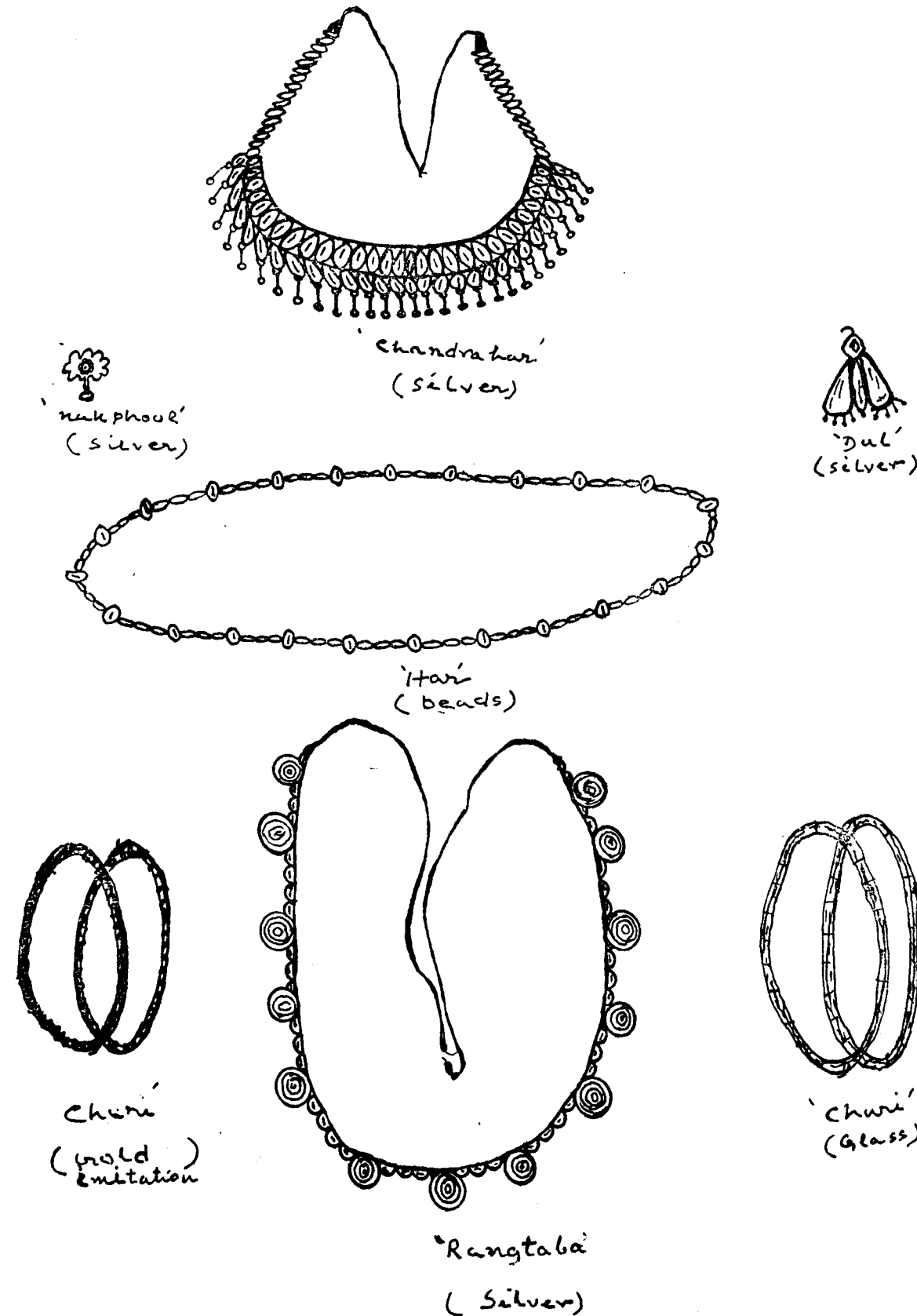


TABLE II.4

Sex and community-wise distribution of dresses and cloths

Sl. No.	Name of articles	Chakma		Mag		Tripuri		Muslims	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

'Sradha' ceremony is performed by heirs of the deceased. It is conducted by 'Samfura' among the Mags and the Chakmas, while by Brahmin among the Tripuris. Now-a-days, Chakmas of this village call Brahmin for the same. Brahmin is given remuneration in the

form of rice, vegetables, cows, cloths and cash (Dakshina), according to the means of the family. The end of the ceremony is marked in all the communities by a social feast given in honour of the deceased to all friends and relatives by his heirs.

CHAPTER III ECONOMY

Economic resources—The entire social structure and the distribution of the village population is based on the ownership of land, while the village economy is mainly woven around the occupations (i) agriculture, (ii) Household Industry and (iii) service. The villagers are mainly agriculturists and their agrarian economy may be said to be self sufficient.

Land, land distribution and utilisation in the village—38 out of total 70 households possessing lands of their own, have inherited lands. Nine households inherited between 4-6.9 acres of land, 1 below 1 acre, while four and three households have inherited lands between 7-9.9 acres and 1-3.9 acres respectively. Only 3 households have been found to have inherited more than 10 acres of land each.

TABLE IV.1

Land under possession

Community Land	Nil	Less than 1 acre	1.0—2.5	2.6—4.00	4.1—5.00	5.1+ above	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ch							

(c) Kalsi market is also a weekly market held on Saturday having all other characteristics in common excepting that it is easily approachable from various places and other business centres and as such it presents various

commodities and articles of modern use hitherto unseen in the aforesaid markets. It starts from 10 a.m. and buzzes with business activities right upto evening and is attended by people of different caste, creed and class.

TABLE IV.10
Export and Import of essential commodities

From the village	Export	Import	Market where export and import for the village take place	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Dwarika Talukdar Para	Jute, paddy, cattle, poultry, milk, tobacco, vegetables, etc.	Cloth, stationery goods, salt, chilli, spices, dry fish, kerosine, mustard oil, coconut oil, sweetmeat, brass, iron, molasses, ornament, enamel, etc.	Silachari	Transaction is effected through currency & exchange of commodities
Do.	do.	do.	Jaleya	do.
Do.	Jute, paddy, cattle, poultry, tobacco, cotton, etc.	Cotton yarn, dyes, iron, brass & enamel articles, Pen umbrella, mill made cloths, shoes, etc.	Kalsi	Transaction is effected through currency.

People of Dwarika Talukdar Para mainly visit Jaleya and Silachari markets whereas the distance from the village prevents regular visit to the market Kalsi; and a visit to Kalsi market by the villagers is thus once in a blue

moon. Since the former two markets abound in village produce only, the villagers see very little of modern articles and whatever modern articles are seen in the village have poured in mainly from the market Kalsi.

In the absence of relevant data on education and literacy, nothing worthwhile can be pointed out here but general observation reveals that ignorance is still prevalent in the village. Even in term of modest criteria of literacy, *i.e.*, ability to write and read one's

name, hardly a few can qualify. It is thus obvious that lot has to be done in this sphere. Unless and until majority of the members of the village can achieve the minimum standard of literacy the proposed improvement of the village lot will surely believe our expectations.

TABLES

APPENDIX

Table I—AREA, CULTIVATED AREA HOUSEHOLDS AND POPULATION.

Area of the village in		Total area under cultivation in acres.	Density of Population (per acre)	Total number of Households in the village.	Population of the village		
Acres	Hectares				Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
960	388	..	4	70	385	200	185

Table II—POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS.

Persons Males Females	Total of all ages	Age Groups										
		0—4	5—9	10—14	15—19	20—24	25—29	30—34	35—44	45—59	60 and above	Age not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6							

Table IVA—VIEWS OF LARGENESS OF FAMILY SIZE.

Views expressed by heads of households about the largeness of their family size	No. of households who possess the views given in column 2
1	2
1. The head of the household is in favour of large family	1
2. No response	24
3. The head of the household is in favour of small families	45

Table V—AGE AT MARRIAGE AND PRESENT AGE.

Present age groups	Persons who are at least once married (or all age groups)		Age at marriage groups															
			0—9		10—14		15—19		20—24		25—29		30—34		35—39		40 and above	
	M	F																

Statement XXXIIA—WORKERS CLASSIFIED BY SEX, BROAD AGE GROUPS AND
OCCUPATION.

Age groups	Cultivation			Service			Trade and Commerce			Household Industry			Total		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
All ages	129	93	36	1	1	..	..	..	..	83	2	81	213	96	117
0—14	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	..	33	36	2	34
15—34	76	50	26	1	1	..	..	..	..	33	..				

