

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

Methodology is the procedure of research techniques. It is the science of methods. Method is a tool or an instrument employed to gather empirical evidence and to analyse data. The present study relies on data collected from secondary and primary sources bringing out a theoretical analysis of collected resources. This present work will be conducted mainly on the basis of field work. Social science research is always done in the field. Without an accurate field study the very result of the social science research is meaningless. Methodology is an indispensable part of field investigation. Methodology includes general as well as specific steps followed in research. In the present study the following steps and methods are used.

A. Secondary Sources

Secondary data will be collected from journals, magazines, newspapers, bulletins of several departments etc. As far the library for secondary sources of data is concerned the researcher visit District Library of Nalbari, K. K. Handique Libraray, G.U., Folklore Research Department, G. U., Suren Das College Library of Hajo, University Library, USTM, Assam State Archives, Dispur, Guwahati-6, Assam.

B. Primary Sources

In the present study most of the data are primary in nature. Intensive field work is conducted to collect data and information in respect of socio-cultural life, fish lore and fishing practices. It has been carried out in the study area in several phases during the year of 2014 to 2016. Data have been collected from the field work employing various methods and techniques. At the beginning some beels along with the Kaibartta fisher folk, situated in the Nalbari district have been visited in order to gather information about the Kaibartta prominent villages. On the basis of their information the selected Kaibartta villages have been visited.

C. Methods of Field Area Selection

Nalbari district is comprised of 7 revenue circles namely Nalbari, Pachim Nalbari, Barbhag, Barkhetri, Tihu, Ghograpar and Banekuchi inhabited by the Kaibartta

people. Nalbari district is selected for the present study due to the population concerned. Besides, the district has sufficient number of fishery resources, such as Brahmaputra and its tributaries, Kapla beel, Monari beel, Kekankuchi beel, Khahimara beel etc. According to 2011 census, the total Kaibartta population of Nalbari district is 17539, of whom 8845 are males and 8694 are females. The study is confined to both male and female informants. Informant selection is highly relevant for social science research as people are looked upon for knowledge and information. For the present study 12 villages are selected by adopting the purposive method. 30 informants are selected from each of these villages, of whom 15 are males and 15 are females. Thus 360 informants are taken into consideration for detailed study. These informants are selected by adopting the purposive method. The purposive sampling technique is a type of non-probability sampling that is most effective to study a certain cultural domain with knowledgeable experts within. The purposive sampling technique, also called judgement sampling, is the deliberate choice of an informant due to the qualities the informant possesses.

D. Methods of Data Collection

Mainly, interview method is conducted for collecting data. Information from the interview have been noted and recorded. Photographs have been taken while interviewing the Kaibartta fisher folk of the Nalbari district

I. Interview Method

Interview method has been used in order to collect folk beliefs, festivals, folk medicines, games and recreations, material culture, folk performances, oral songs, proverbs, riddles, charms and folk narratives. For this method an interview schedule is prepared and survey is conducted with the help of a set of questionnaire in order to document the information of the Kaibartta community. While preparing this schedule, attempt has been made to cover all aspects of the study to be investigated. Interview method is very helpful to know a community life because those people who cannot read and write also furnish some valuable information to the interviewer through this method. Here both formal and informal interviews are conducted. Informal interview are made with the elderly men folk and women folk.

II. Recording

During field study, some of the interviews are recorded besides writing down the information. It should be noted that an android mobile has been used as a recording device during field work. During most of the interviews the informants are informed about the recording.

III. Photography

During field work, several photographs have been snapped. In taking these snaps, a digital camera has been used. Photographs of fishing tools, fishing activities, rural house of the Kaibarttas are snapped.

IV. Survey Schedule

A survey schedule which is consisted of questionnaires has been used during the field work. The sample survey schedule and a field report in its original form has been annexed with this research work.