

# Industrial Development and its Impact on the Tribals of Dimoria Development Block, Kamrup (Metro), Assam, India

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**Abstract:** *Industrial development is the period of social and economic change that transforms a human group from an agrarian society to an industrial one. It is the part of a wider modernization process, where the social and economic developments are closely related with technical innovation. It is the process in which a society or a country transforms itself from a primarily agricultural society into one based on the manufacturing of goods and services. It is the continual expanding of sophisticated technology designed to efficiently draw energy and raw material out of the environment and fashion them for human use. Due to Industrial development the tribal people and other vulnerable section of the population have been displaced from their traditional livelihood and their self-sustaining subsistence system of production. The Dimoria Tribal Development Block, which is located near the capital of Assam, i.e., Dispur, has also been influenced by the industrial development, especially by displacing the primitive socio-economic status, transforming their physical environment as well as economically empower the tribal of the block. In this background, the focus of this paper is to find out the impact of industrial development on the tribals of Dimoria Development Block of Kamrup (M) district, Assam.*

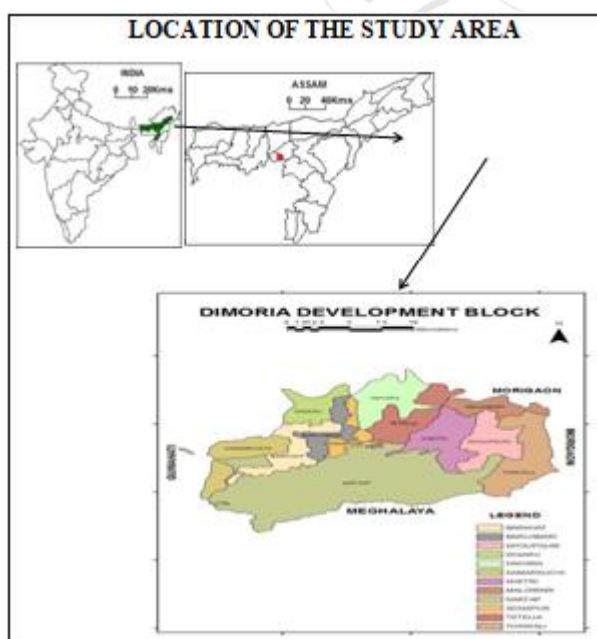
**Keywords:** Industry, Development, Tribal, Impact

## 1. Introduction

Industrial development during the post-independence period has provided employment and infrastructural growth in urban areas while little impact has been noticed in the rural economy of Dimoria. Consequently, about 80 per cent of the people of the block continue to be dependent on agriculture which is seasonal. Since the post independences period the Dimoria development block has been witnessing various changes in the field of industrialisation. A number of large, medium and small scale industries have been set up in this block. There is one large scale industry, two tea industries, four medium scale industries, four small scale industries, cottage and village industries and few tiny industries.

The Dimoria Development block lies in between 26°0' 0" to 26°10'14" North latitudes and 91°45' 5" to 92° 5'0" East longitudes (SOI). The block is situated on the south-east of Kamrup Metropolitan district as well as the state capital, Dispur, covering an area of 26,164 hectares and having 144 villages (as per census 2011). This block is bounded by the Kollong river on the north, the Greater Guwahati city on the west, Meghalaya Plateau on the south-east, Morigaon district to the north-east and Chandrapur CD Block to the north-west. National Highway 37 and North Eastern Frontier Railwayarepassing through the block.

In present day context, Dimoria is one of the thirty sixth Tribal Development Blocks of the Plains Districts of Assam. This Tribal Development Block of Assam is situated in Dispur constituency and lies at a distance of 20 kilometres from Dispur (the Capital city of Assam), having population of 143371 according to the Census of 2011, of which male constitute 50.50 per cent (72402) and female constitute 49.50 per cent (70969). The social structure of the block comprises of tribal and non-tribal population with 85.61per cent (122746) and 14.38 per cent (20625) respectively. The block has 144 villages, 25807 household with 12 Gaon Panchayats namely Barkhat, Baruabari, Dhoupguri, Digaru, Hahara, Kamarkuchi, Khetri, Maloibari, Nartap, Sonapur, Tapatoli and Tetelia. The major tribal communities under this block are Tiwa (3.15 percent), Bodo (1.42percent), Rabha (1.12percent), Deori (0.82percent), and Garo (0.70percent) and so on.



Map No. 1

## Objectives

- 1) To identify the areas of establishment of different industries within the gaon panchayats of Dimoria development block ;
- 2) To find out whether tribal industrial workers are benefitted by the industrial development or not;

- 3) To examine the impact of industrial development on the economic empowerment of tribals of Dimoria development block

### Database and Methodology

The work is carried out by following quantum of data derived from both primary and secondary sources. At first, the study tries to make an assessment of the impact of industrial development and its impact on the tribals of Dimoria development block. For this purpose, the secondary sources of data have been collected from Census of India, Tribal Research Centre, as well as from some journals, newspapers, websites (internet), published books, etc. For Dimoria development block, the secondary data related to demographic and social background of the tribal inhabitants and existing developmental schemes, etc. have been collected from the Block Development Office, Circle Office, Panchayat Office, and so on. In order to supplement the secondary data and to see the validity of findings, necessary primary data of the tribal communities have been collected through stratified sample survey (30 per cent of the total ST households of the panchayat) with the help of a detailed questionnaire from 5 sample gaon panchayats i.e. Kamarkuchi, Khetri, Sonapur, Tetelia and Tapatoli to find out the impact of industrial development on the tribals. The primary survey or data collection was done on the basis of the distance of the gaon panchayats from Guwahati city, population structure of the villages, ST population concentration among the villages, the location of villages from NH 37 and so on.

## 2. Results and Discussion

Dimoria development block is having 5 large scale, 7 medium scale industries, 10 small scale industries, a few cottage and village industries and some tiny industries. Among these types of industries, the Star Cement Industry in Sonapur, Amchang tea estate, Sonapur tea estate (Sonapur), Surya gold cement (Kamarkuchi), Shiv polymer industry

(Kamarkuchi), Rohtek professional block industry (Kamarkuchi), Super light block factory (Kamarkuchi), Himalayan distillery factory (Kamarkuchi), Raksha cement (Kamarkuchi), Delta cement (Kamarkuchi), Vinayak cement (Kamarkuchi), Progressive Fertichem (P) Ltd. (Tapatoli), Fertilizer industry (Tapatoli), Eco Fuel Industries (Kamarkuchi), Classic Agro Feeds (Khetri), Brick industries (Hahara, Dhoupguri, Barkhat, Tapatoli, Nartap, Star Cement (Sonapur), Halco Aluminium (Tetelia), Shiva Beverage Pvt. Ltd. (Khetri). Besides all these large and medium scale industries there are also various small scale industries in the block, i.e. Wire industry, Steel fabrication, Bakery, Spice grinding, Readymade garments, *Suphari*, Rubber, Printing press, Dry fish and Fishing net. The favourable climatic condition, quality soil, availability of labour, raw material and well-connected transport and communication network leads to the upliftment of industries in Dimoria block.

Developments of industries have encouraged the tribal dwellers of the block to engage themselves in secondary sources of income. Both the tribal males and females have been working in these industries and factories and earn additional money to feed their family in a better way. The respondents said that they prefer to work in the private sector industries than the government sector schemes and programmes. This is due to the job irregularities, delay in payment, and lack of basic facilities in the work place and so on. Thus, the tribal workers become irritated and frustrated with work in government implemented programmes. The respondents said that, besides earning not only weekly or monthly salaries, they also get bonus regularly in the industries. Thus, they are attracted towards this source of income which, is also claimed as better than the income generated by the traditional agricultural sources. They also expressed that they are much more satisfied with the earnings and they are able to fulfil their day to day household needs which was not possible by the earnings from government generated employment schemes.

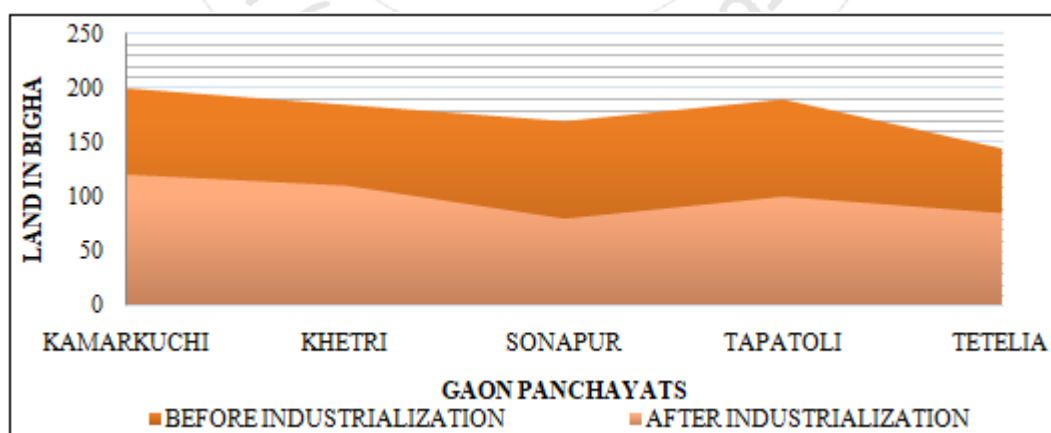


Figure 1: Status of Tribal Land before and after Industrialization

Source: Field Survey

From the primary survey, it is found that among the twelve gaon panchayats of Dimoria development block, five gaon panchayats i.e., Kamarkuchi, Khetri, Sonapur, Tapatoli and Tetelia, have experienced industrial development. It can be observed from figure 1, almost 40 per cent tribal land has

been decreased due the industrial development in these gaon panchayats.

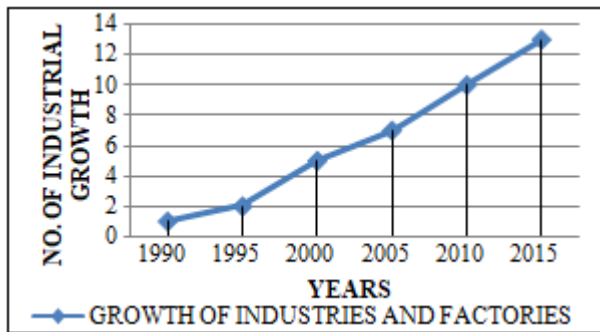


Figure 2: Growth of Industries, 1990-2015  
Source: Field Survey

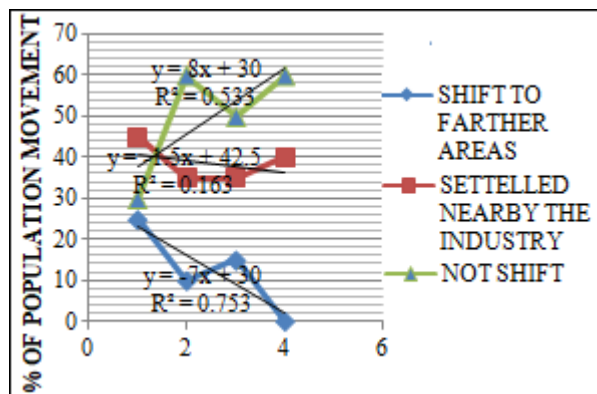


Figure 3: Residential Movement of Tribal People after Establishment of Large Industries  
Source: Field Survey

After the development of industries and factories, the tribals have been either shifted to farther areas or settled near the industries for employment purpose. Those who are workers in the industries have earned satisfactory money according to their designation and able to feed their family to a definite limit. The phenomenon is further substantiated by the fact that the tribal who sold their land to the owners of the industry, have been shifted to farther areas ( $R^2= 0.533$ ). Again, the remaining tribals are settled nearby the industries for employment purpose ( $R^2= 0.1636$ ). The higher correlation ( $r$ ) has been found among the tribal, who do not shift to any other areas ( $R^2= 0.7538$ ). The figure shows the higher correlation between the industrial location and tribal workers for income purpose have been settled nearby the industry or not shifted to other areas. The following table represents the percentage of tribal workers in the industries and factories of Dimoria development block. The engagement of tribal women is less than the tribal males. The male respondents said that the engagement of married

tribal women in the industries effect the daily household activities, i.e., cooking food, taking care of children, preparing rice beer, feeding poultry and pigs and other household activities. Thus, the percentage of women workers is much lower than that of the male workers. The women workers in the industries and factories are mostly unmarried, widows and divorced women.

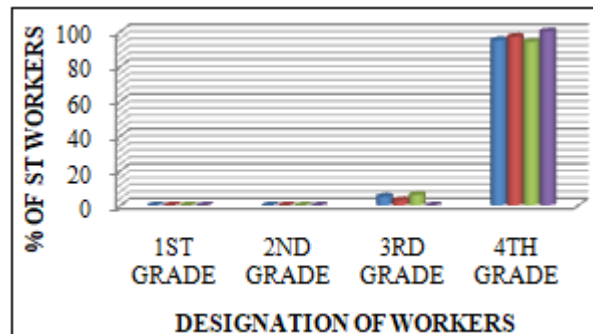


Figure 4: Designation of Tribal Workers in Industries  
Source: Field Survey

Table 1: Scheduled Tribe Workers in the Industries (Percentage to Total workers)

Name of Industries	ST Workers	ST Male	ST Female
Star Cement	48	79.17	20.83
Halco Aluminium	50	80	20
Classic Agro Feeds	40	100	0
Progressive Fertichem (P) Ltd.	43.47	80	20
Shiva Beverage Pvt. Ltd.	55	63.63	36.36
Surya Gold Cement Plant	20	77.77	22.22
Delta Cement Factory	53.33	87.5	12.5
Raksha Cement Plants	58.82	58.82	41.17
Vinayak Cement	56.25	83.33	16.66
Himalayan Disstillery Industry	60	83.3	16.7
Rohtek Professional Block Factory	50	78.57	21.42
Shiv Polymer Industry	13.33	75	25
Total	45.70	78.91	21.09

Source: Field Survey

The study reveals that the tribals working in the industries and factories are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade employees, who are generally studied up to primary and HSLC level of education. There are also illiterate tribal workers in the industries who are engaged as tea distributors, meal suppliers and other 4<sup>th</sup> grade activities (Figure 4).

Table 2: Distribution of Seasonal and Permanent Workers in the Industries (Percentage to Total Workers)

Name of Industries	ST Workers	Seasonal Workers			Permanent Workers		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Star Cement	48	71.17	80	20	28.83	91	9
Halco Aluminium	50	75	73	27	25	90	10
Classic Agro Feeds	40	68	70	30	32	87	13
Progressive Fertichem (P) Ltd.	43.47	80	76	24	30	82	18
Shiva Beverage Pvt. Ltd.	55	69.63	77	23	30.36	83	17
Surya Gold Cement Plant	20	70.77	82	18	29.22	89	11
Delta Cement Factory	53.33	81.5	80	20	18.5	87	13
Raksha Cement Plants	58.82	57.82	71	29	40.17	85	15
Vinayak Cement	56.25	80.33	79	21	19.66	88	12
Himalayan Disstillery Industry	60	83.3	66	34	16.7	90	10

Rohtek Professional Block Factory	50	75.57	74	26	24.42	91	9
Shiv Polymer Industry	13.33	75	84	16	25	83	17
Total	45.70	67.75	76	24	32.24	87.16	12.83

Source: Field Survey

Before industrialization, the tribal workers were engaged in subsistence traditional agricultural activities. But the production and income from this occupation was not enough. During the off-season period they used to remain unemployed or worked as household labours. Thus,

industrial development has brought some hope for better and higher earning to the workers. So, after the setup of different large, medium and small industries in the block, the tribals got engaged as seasonal workers at the initial stage and then gradually turned to permanent workers (Table 2).

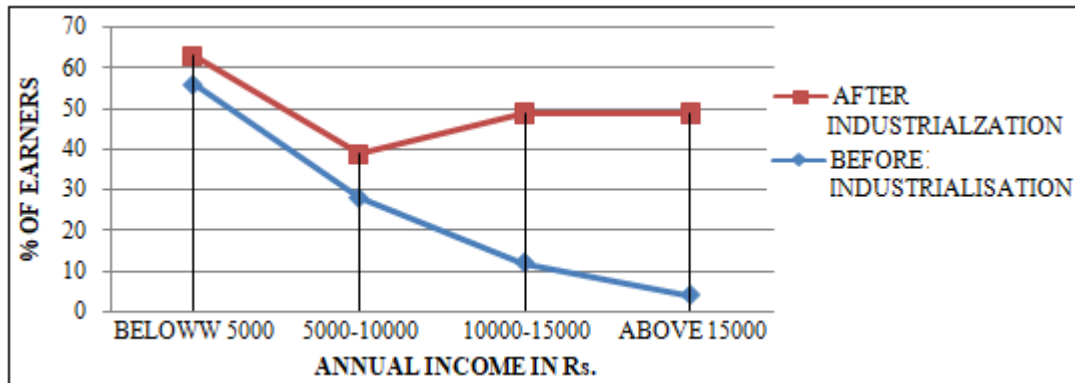


Figure 5: Annual Income of Tribal Workers

Source: Field Survey

Figure no. 5 shows the annual income of the tribals before and after the industrial periods. Before setting up of industries and factories 70 per cent of the tribals dependent on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. But after the settlement of industries the tribal found a new source of additional income during the off-season period of agriculture. Now, they have been engaged directly as industrial workers.

It has found that the tribals of the block were engaged in various part-time activities for earning additional money during the agricultural off-seasons. But after setting up of industries 43 per cent are engaged as industrial workers and rest 57 per cent are still stick to their works. The tribals employed themselves as industrial workers as because their non-permanency of works, for which they could not fulfil household requirements. But after joining industries their job become permanent and earn wages at regular basis (weekly or monthly). The industrial authorities also provide bonus to the workers during the festive season, which is another source of attraction toward industrial jobs. On the other hand, the demand of the household labours has increased due to shifting of 17 per cent household labours to industries. The wage of the household labours is increased from 150 rupees per day to Rs. 300 per day. Thus, the remaining household labours are also benefitted due to the shifting of labours. The tribals were also migrated to other regions for employment, making handloom and handicraft products (clothes, fishing equipment, bamboo craft etc.), producing rice beer for selling and self-consumption and running small shops. Others were spent time by collecting firewood, playing cards, consuming alcohol etc. thus, after industrialization they are (6 per cent) also worked in industries and feed their family.

### 3. Findings and Conclusion

Mention has been made earlier that the study area has different industries such as cement, plastic, distillery, fertilizer, brick, block, aluminium, beverage and so on. Although almost all these industries are polluting the serene rural environment and livelihood of the tribals of Dimoria, the cement industry is the major pollutant of all. In fact, cement manufacturing cause negative impact on environment at all stages of the process. These includes emission of particulate matter/dust, Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide resulting to air pollution, noise and vibration when operating heavy machines, destruction of landscape, roads while operating heavy vehicles for carrying raw materials and finished products. Deposition of particulate matter is also contaminating the adjacent water bodies. Moreover, ground water is also depleting in these areas as the content industries extract large amount of underground water.

Many a time brick-kilns situated in the interior parts of Kamarkuchi gaon panchayat are using fertile agricultural lands for operation and they transfer it into wasteland. When they abandoned it some years later, the area it is no longer suitable some years later, the area it is no longer suitable for agriculture due to soil erosion and waterlogging. Moreover, they emit toxic fumes containing suspended particulate matter rich in carbon and pollute the environment.

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