



## **A DAY IN AMOLAPAM ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT ON UNDERSTANDING LIVELIHOOD PATTERN IN A VILLAGE**

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### **Abstract:**

*Livelihoods is an aggregate measure of how people or a given population ( as small as a household of a single person) make their living within the limit imposed by the environmental, social, economic and political conditions of the society within which they live. This determines the totality of human welfare of a household at the micro level, and a community, a region or a nation at macro level. Livelihood pattern of a population varies along with the variation in above mentioned variables.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Amolapam is a village half a kilometre away from the Central University, Napam. East Amolapam is a part of the greater Amolapam village where 38 families live. An action research is made on this tiny village to understand their livelihood pattern. At the same time attempts will be made to find out the problem that they generally face and to rectify the situation. The study is undertaken, as a part of the coursework of the National Workshop on Action Research Methodology.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Before going to the core part of the project we would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the Equal Opportunity Cell of Tezpur University for giving us the opportunity to have a practical experience of action research. We are indebted to all the villagers of Amolapam village for their support and cooperation. Special thanks goes to the Kamdhenu Self Help Group for their hospitality and lively participation in the process. Ratul Kumar Lahon, Sushmita Priyadarshini, Rajashree Sharma, Aroni Saikia, Himangrhu hallsi, Adbul Latif Hozarika and Nurjahan Begum were the part of the Research.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

It is a participatory research where it was tried to involve all the people of the village. Discussions were made with two focus groups and thereby information were collected with there active and voluntary participation. First focus group consists of nine members—four males and five females. Second focus group consists of six women members.

### **FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

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#### **OBJECTIVES:**

This action research focuses on the understanding of the livelihood pattern of the Amolapam Village. In order to achieve this main objective following specific objectives have been made-

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

- (a) To examine the means of livelihoods available to the people in this marginal area.
- (b) To examine the types of vulnerability or constraint faced by the people, and
- (c) To identify the major intervention need based on the experience of the people.

#### **STUDY AREA:**

Amolapam East is area of three square kilometres where 30 families lived. There are 20 Nepali families and 18 Muslim families. Average family size is 7.5. The village has a Kutccha road which fills with mud in the rainy season. Every family of the village has electricity connection. Out of the 38 houses 36 are pucca houses and left are kutccha houses.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

This section discussed the findings of the study in order to reveal different aspects of livelihoods pattern as observed in the community.

#### **OCCUPATION PATTERN:**

Table 1

Nature of work	Caste		No of households
	Hindu	Muslim	
Service	20	05	25
Agriculture	00	09	09
Daily Labourers	00	03	03
Business	00	01	01
Total	20	18	38

\*Note: Here the occupation of only the head of the household is considered

Most of the working people of the village are service holders. Two highly qualified persons worked as an Assistant Professor in Darrang College. Among the service holders families ,five families belong to the OBC category and the rest are of general category.

#### INCOME:

Table 1

Income Slabs	No of households	
	Hindu	Muslim
< 5000	0	02
5000-10000	0	15
10000-15000	0	1
15000-20000	18	00
20000-25000	00	00
25000-30000	00	00
30000<	02	00

Only two families of the village are extremely poor as is evident from the above table. And others have the sufficient income to live a comfortable life in a rural area.

#### LEVEL OF EDUCATION:

All the people of the village are literates. Of course only two have the Masters Degree. There is only one Madrasa High School in the village but the Muslims prefer vernacular medium schools situated nearby the University. Children of the Nepali people read in Model School situated in Napam. The dropout rate is nil up to class eight.

#### CONSUMPTION PATTERN:

There is a two way relationship between consumption pattern and livelihood pattern. While the livelihood pattern determines the consumption pattern, aspiration for the high consumption pattern influences the livelihood pattern. As most of the income earners of the village are service holders, therefore

their consumption pattern is same as the consumption pattern of any family in urban area. During the festivals they prepare traditional food items like pithas and jalpans.

#### POLICY SUPPORT:

**Table 1**

Name of the policy	No of beneficiaries
IAY	00
ICDS	15
JSY	03
Antyodaya Anna Yojana	03
Swajaldhara	00
RGREP	00
MGNREGA	00
Old Age Pension	02

Villagers of Amolapam are enjoying benefits from 4 Government policies. Interestingly there is no job card holder and no social capital formation activity is seen nearby.

#### FINDINGS:

- 1.Amolapam is non-homogeneous village in terms of culture. Despite this they live in harmony enjoying all the festivals together. So the pattern of society doesn't have any influence on their livelihood pattern.
- 2.It is found that female population of the village is not engaged in any economic activity. Though all the women of the village are associated with SHGs, the SHGs were registered only one year ago. They have not received any Government fund till date. These women folk are helping their men folk of the village in running their Kamdhenu dairy profitably. So workforce participation rate is 100 per cent for male and zero per cent for females.
- 3.Families having income of less than Rs. 5000 belong to low income group while others can be called middle income group.
- 4.Among the population of 280, all the adults (260) are found to be literate. The literacy rate is 100 per cent.
- 5.There are significant variations in occupation of males. These variations are distinctly perceptible with changing educational level. It is observed that those highly educated or those educated up to matriculation are doing governmental and non-governmental jobs. It is found that the percentage of labour taking non-farm activities increases significantly with educational level, yet the nature of employment varies with level of education. All the 9 farmer families have their own land and despite this 6 of them have to hire land for cultivation to make their livelihood.

#### PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION:

From the research work following problems have been identified-

- 1.Irrigation facility is not available and Government support is neither sought by nor approached.
- 2.Kutcha road is passing through the village and during the rainy season it becomes impossible to pass by it.
- 3.Non availability of Swajaldhara.

**Plan for solution:**

1)To approach the irrigation department for minor irrigation facility. Villagers are demonstrated how watershed management can be done- that is, they are shown how the rain water can be saved to be utilised in the cultivation.

**Only Source of Water**



2)Money has already been sanctioned for the pucca road and therefore the villagers are taught how they can accelerate the process.

3)For the swajaldhara connection villagers are taught how to contact with the PHE department of Assam Government.

**CONCLUSION:**

From the above analysis we have seen that Amolapam is a tiny village where most of the families are enjoying the modern amenities of urban life. The most influential factors that determines their livelihood pattern is education. Other secondary factors like consumption pattern, government services have little influence on livelihood pattern. It can be hoped that the Problems identified will be solved if the villagers come forward to try the solution suggested by the group.



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