

## **CHAPTER V**

### **Socio-Economic Status and Problems of Informal Sector Workers**

In this chapter, the socio-economic status as well as the problems of male and female workers engaged in urban informal sector of Dhemaji district has been analyzed. These two objectives of the study are based on the primary data that been collected to comprehend the socio-economic status of the people and identify the problems of informal sector workers in the district.

#### **5.1: - Introduction**

The study of socio-economic status plays a crucial role in social science research as well as various developmental programmes. Majority of the workers engaged in the urban informal sectors are facing a lot of problems such as lack of basic nutrition, inadequate supply of drinking water, unhygienic shelter, poor sanitation, lack of avenues of education, shortage of capital fund to run any business etc. Living conditions and working conditions are two crucial factors on which both physical and mental health of the workers critically depend on. With a good physical and mental health, workers are able to work more and earn an adequate level of income that ensures a better living standard. The socio-economic status of a person may be implied by various types of indicators like social class, occupation, education, income, wealth and other material possessions, household facilities and other types of home appliances. Since, the formal sector employment opportunities are very limited in a developing country like India, the informal sector plays a vital role for the huge pool of unemployed workforce. As compared to the formal sector, the informal sector workers face various troubles in terms of working conditions, income and consequently their poor living conditions J.Deka, (2016). For this reason, the informal workers are always one step behind the formal sector workers. So, in this chapter, the socio-economic status of male and female workers engaged in urban informal sector of Dhemaji district has been analysed. This chapter based on primary data that have been collected from a field survey (the sampling design has been detailed in the section 1.6.2 in chapter 1).

#### **5.2 Socio-Economic Scenario of the Informal Workers: -**

##### **Age:**

The age composition of the sampled workers in the field study of Dhemaji district suggests that the age of the self-employed sample workers varies between the range of 15-55 years and above. In the study area 82 percent of the total sample population was found in the age group of 15-45 years for both male and female, which is less than 46 years of age. Moreover the largest numbers of informal workers are found in the age group of 25-35 years. Table 4.1 depicts that out of 307 informal workers, nearly 10 percent of the workers fall between the age group of 15-25 years.

Almost 40 percent of sample workers fall between the age group 25-35 years, 33 percent of the informal workers fall between 35-45 years, 13.20 percent of the sample workers fall between the age group of 45-55 years and finally it is estimated that 4.30 percent of the self-employed sample workers within age group of 55 years and above. The mean years of the sample workers are 36.16. Table 5.1 reveals that almost 73 percent of the young workers between the age group of 26-45 years are engaged in urban informal sector of the Dhemaji District. Since there is not sufficient possibility of engagement in the formal sector, so these young group of people look for economically viable employment in informal sector.

Table 5.1 Percentage Distribution of the Workers by Age

Age group	Percentage of worker
15-25	9.90
26-35	39.60
36-45	33
46-55	13.20
56 years and above	4.30
Total	100.0

Source: Field Survey

### Gender:

Gender is another social indicator influencing workers participation in informal sector. Table 5.2 shows that out of 307 samples informal workers of Dhemaji district, 67.32 percent are male and remaining 34.65 percent are female workers. Chakrawati, (2008) and Singh, 2005) in their study on Guwahati and Haryana found that almost 72 percent and 69 percent of the male workers were engaged in informal sectors respectively. Like the formal sector, a massive amount of male workers were engaged in the informal sector compared to the female workers. In this study of the sample district, the overall male participation workers are found to be higher than the female workers. Comparatively, overall female participation rates in India are merely 37 percent whereas male participation rate is 63 percent.

Table 5.2 Percentage Distribution of the Workers by Gender

Gender	Percentage of workers
Male	67.32
Female	34.65
Total	100.0

Source: Field survey

### Caste:

Dhemaji district is highly populated with Scheduled Tribes as compared to the other districts of Assam. Table 5.3 depicts that 10.12 percent and 15.68 percent workers belong to General and OBC categories respectively. On the other hand, a massive amount of 74.20 percent belongs to SC and ST category, whereas 41.20 percentage are from ST. Due to huge percentage of ST group of people, the result of the field study shows that majority of the informal workers belong to ST category.

Table 5.3 Percentage Distribution of Workers by Caste

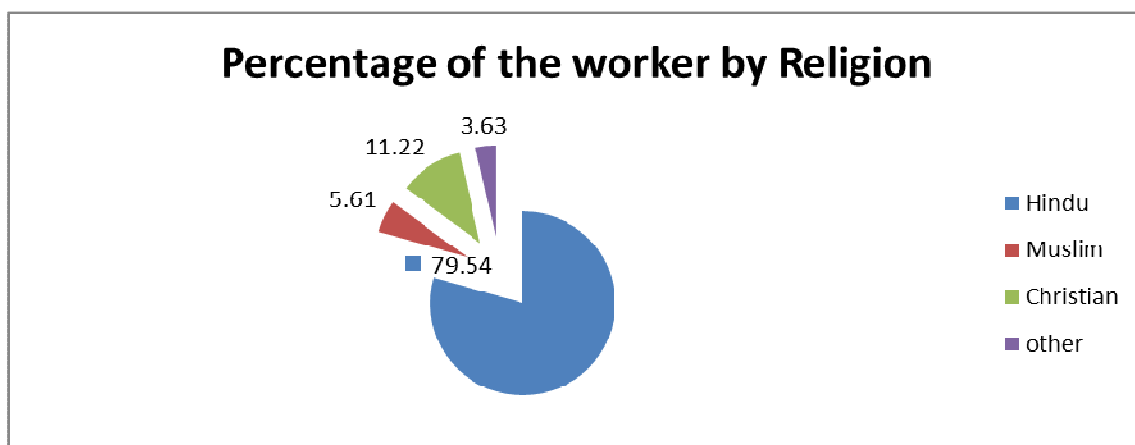
Caste	Percentage of the worker
General	10.12
OBC	15.68
ST	41.20
SC	33
Total	100.0

Source: field survey

### Religion:

Religion plays a dominant role in human society. Fig 5.1 depicts religion-wise distribution of workers in the informal sector of the Dhemaji district. Fig 4.1 shows that majority of the self-employed informal workers are Hindus which consist of nearly 80 percent. 11.22 percent are Christians, 5.61 percent are Muslim and 3.63 percent are of other religion.

Fig 5.1 Percentage Distribution of Workers by Religion



Source: Field survey

**Marital Status of worker:**

In the Indian society, marriage is considered as a religiously sanctioned social event Srinivas, (2004). Table 5.4, it is observed that nearly 65.67 percent of sample workers are married, almost 26.73 percent of the sample workers are single and remaining 7.60 percent of the informal workers are either separated or widowed. Apart from the married informal workers, the single, widow or separated workers account for about 34.32 percent which is found to be rare in present study.

Table 5.4 Marital Status of Workers

Marital Status	Percentage of the worker
Married	65.67
Single	26.73
Widow or Separated	7.60
Total	100.0

Source: Field survey

**Community:**

Table 5.5 depicts how the informal workers come from different communities. The community of Assamese occupy dominant place with the 54.78 percent and the rest of non-Assamese community i.e., Bengalis and Biharis occupy 27.39 percent and 17.16 percent, respectively. The remaining 0.67 percent is Punjabis and Gujaratis.

Table 5.5 Community wise Distribution of Sample Workers

Community	Percentage
Assamese	54.78
Bengali	27.39
Bihari	17.16
Other	0.67
Total	100.0

Source: field survey

**Educational level:**

“Education is the key that opens the door in life which is essentially social character; individual belongs from poorer sections in the society, have low level of education that compels to engage in informal sector job where they have been paid very low wages” Patrions, (2004). Socio-

economic factors heavily rest on the education attainment of the people. Table 5.6 shows that out of 307 workers 5.65 percent are illiterate. Only 15.35 percent workers have passed the primary school level of education, 21.45 percent workers have passed HSLC, 34.55 percent workers have passed HS, 19 percent are graduates and remaining 4 percent are the workers have pursued higher education. Only 23 percent of the workers with higher education are found to engage in informal activities. This means that people with higher education are not enthusiastic in joining the informal sector whereas highly educated people join various jobs in the formal sector.

Table - 5.6 Level of Educational Attainments of the Sample Workers

Level of Education	Percentage
Illiterate	5.65
Primary level	15.35
HSLC level	21.45
HS level	34.55
Graduate level	19
Graduate & Above level	4
Total	100.0

Source: field survey

The average years of schooling of sampled workers are 11.75; the standard deviation is 3.127.

Table 5.7 Mean Years of Schooling

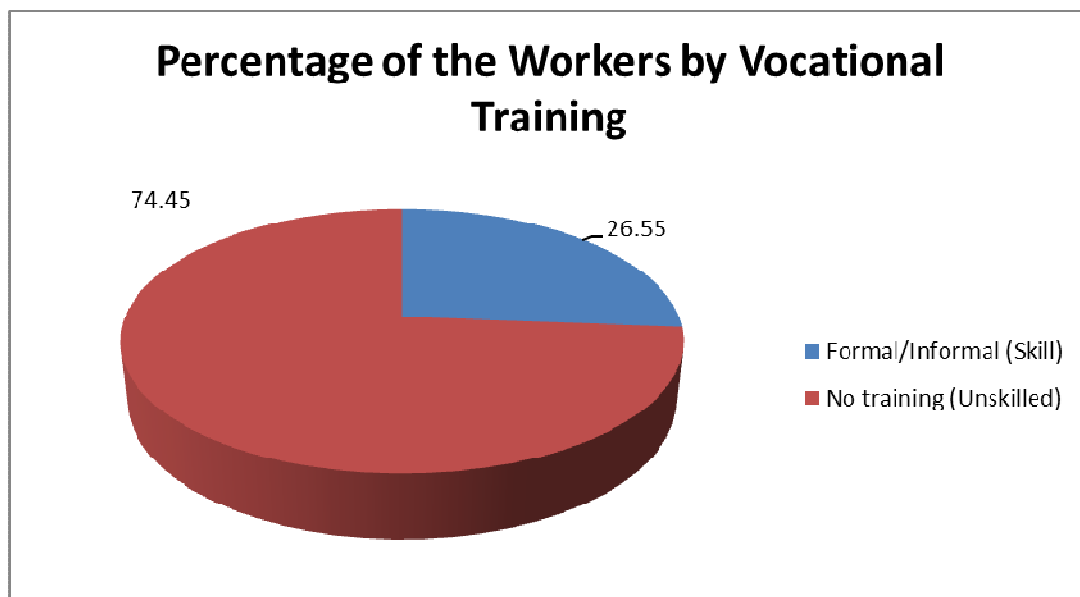
Years of Schooling	
Mean	11.75
Standard Deviation	3.127

### **Vocational Training:**

Researchers have found that through vocational training and education, people are taught productive skills and practical knowledge, which are important assets for informal workers. Rathgeber, (1988) in his study suggested that formal vocational training has a direct influence on improved health conditions and increases workers' productivity. He noted that through vocational training, workers obtain better jobs in formal sector, earn more, and consequently increase in the workers' productivity. Lauglo and Narman (1987) in their research paper on industrial sector of Kenya found that a huge percentage of school and college dropouts were absorbed into agriculture and informal sector. Vocational training increases their employment opportunities as well as earning better livelihood. So vocational training plays a vital role in case

of self-employed Informal workers. The self-employed informal workers in urban area of Dhemaji were enquired whether they had any sort of Vocational training. Fig 5.2 depicts a massive amount of 74.45% respondents did not have any kind of training, while 26.55% of the respondents have done some formal as well as informal basic training. So there is a least portion of worker which they have acquired skill knowledge.

Fig: 5.2 Percentage Distributions of the Workers by Vocational Training



Source: - Field Survey

### Family size:

Table 5.8 shows 29.63 percent of the informal workers belong to the small families with 1 to 3 members; 63 percent of the workers belong to the middle and large families with 4 to 12 members and rest 7.26 percent belong to very large families of 13 to above members. Thus, in the case of poor informal workers, large family is one of the chief causes of poverty in the urban areas of Dhemaji district. Their large family compels them to enter into this informal sector and to be satisfied with whatever they have to earn as wages from their employers.

Table 5.8 Family Size of the Respondent

Family size	Percentage
1	3.41
2-3	26.22
4-6	29.44

7-9	18.22
10-12	15.45
13 and above	7.26
Total	100.0

Source- Field survey

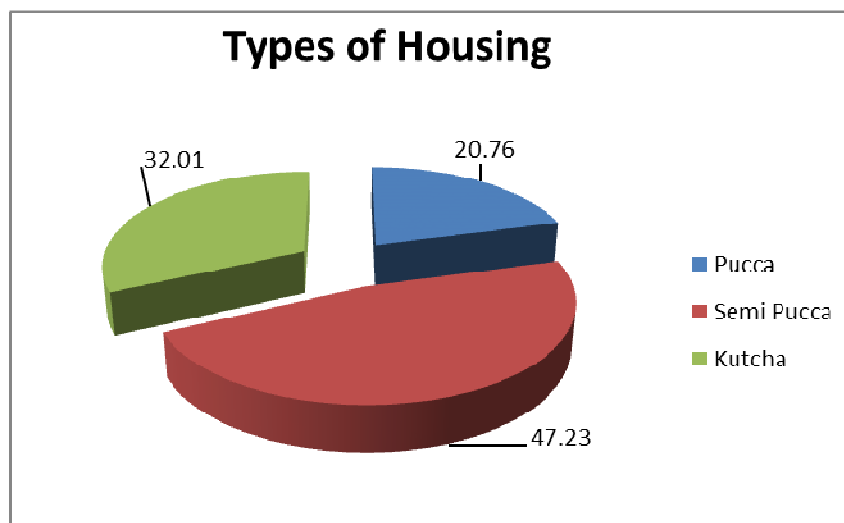
### Access to the basic amenities:

The basic amenities like housing, toilet facility, drinking water, sanitation, drainage, electricity etc. are very important component for the overall well-being of a house hold. Like other districts of Assam, Dhemaji district has also suffered from wide-spread deprivation in terms of ac basic amenities. The main components of the access to basic amenities of informal sector workers in Dhemaji district are given as follows-

### Types of Housing:

The types of house found in the study area are pucca, Semi-pucca, Kutcha etc. Fig 5.3, it is seen that 20.76% have pucca houses, 47.23 percent have semi pucca houses and rest of the 32.01 percent live in the kutcha houses.

Fig 5.3 Types of Housing



Source: Field Survey

**Types of Toilet facility:**

Table 5.10 depicts that 12.20 percent workers use Flush toilet, 40.25 percent workers use pit toilet, 41.23 percent workers use common toilet and rest of 6.32 percent workers have no toilet facilities.

Table 5.10 Types of Toilet facility

Types of Toilet	Percentage
Flush Toilet	12.20
Pit Toilet	40.25
Common Toilet	41.23
Other/ No facility	6.32
Total	100.0

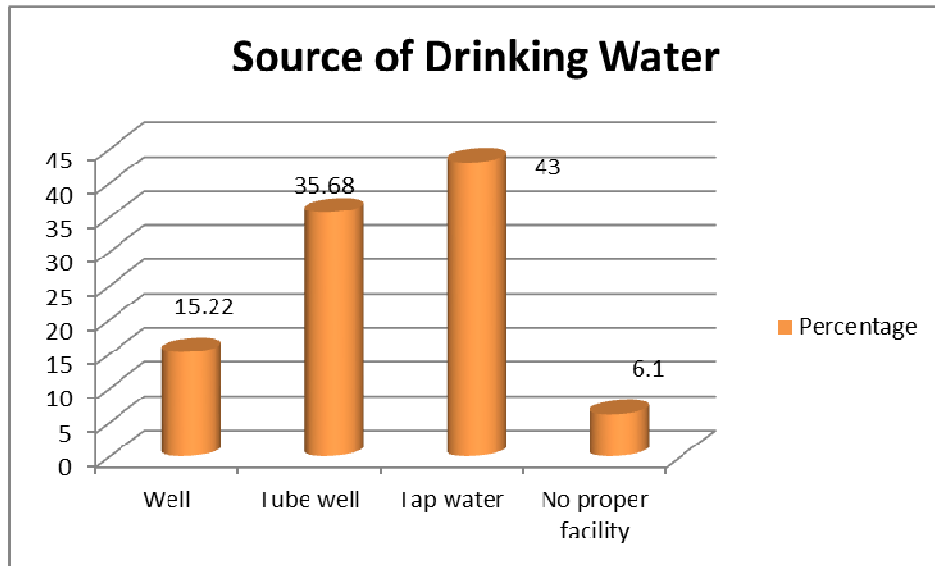
Source: - Field survey

**Sources of Drinking Water:**

Fig 5.4 depicts that 15.22 percent self-employed workers use well, 35.68 percent workers use tube well, 43 percent workers use tap water as a source of Drinking water and remaining 6.1 percent workers don't have any proper facility of water.

Fig: 5.4 Percentage of the Worker by Source of Drinking Water





Source- Field Survey

#### Sources of Lighting:

Electricity, Solar, Kerosene are the main sources of lighting for most of the sample respondents. Table 5.11, it is observed that nearly 79.82 percent sample workers have electricity as a source of lighting, 14.77 percent workers have solar facility and rest of the 5.41 percent use kerosene as a source of lighting. As such, it can be said that electricity is the main source of lighting in Dhemaaji.

Table 5.11 Sources of Lighting

Sources of Lighting	Percentage
Electricity	79.82
Solar	14.77
Kerosene	5.41
Total	100.0

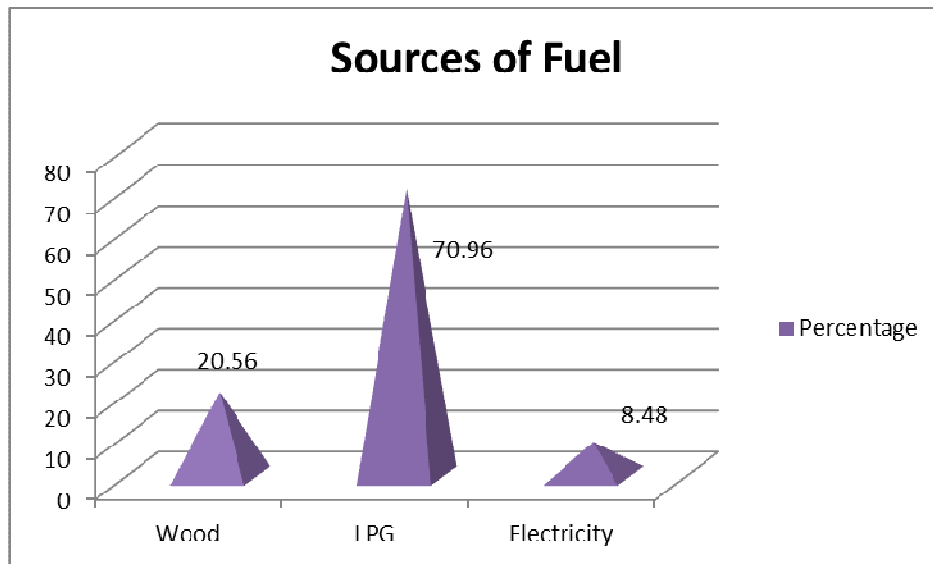
Source: Field Survey

#### Sources of Fuel:

The main sources of fuel found in the study area of Dhemaaji district are LPG, Electricity and wood. Sample data reveals that LPG is used by majority of the respondents (70.96%) as a source of fuel, followed by wood (20.56%) and electricity (8.48%). Fig 5.5, it is observed that almost 71 percent of the workers engaged in informal sector are using LPG as their cooking fuel. However, these doesn't necessarily indicate the fact that the workers in an informal sector can afford to

have an LPG connection, rather, as found in field survey, most of these workers get LPG connection from Government schemes like Ujjala schemes.

Fig 5.5 Sources of Fuel

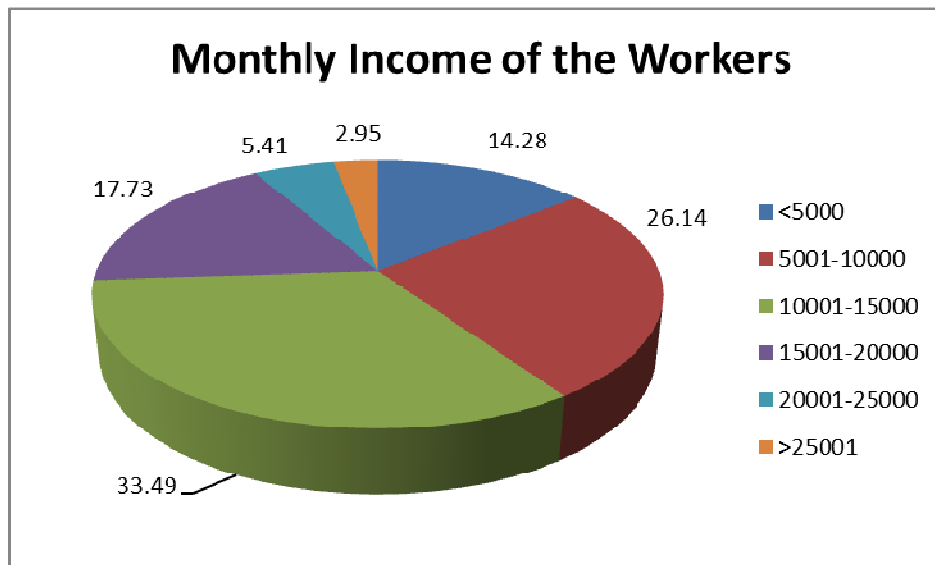


Source: Field Survey

### Monthly Income:

“The monthly earnings of the self-employed informal workers indicate their standard of living and their financial status in the society” Das, (2017). The self-earnings of the informal workers play a significant role in developing countries like India where the State government and other schemes provide little opportunity to the masses in terms of provision of basic amenities and facilities. Fig 5.6 shows the range-wise distribution of monthly income of the sample informal workers. Almost 78 percent of the self-employed workers in the informal sector of Dhemaji are earning income from Rs.5000 to 20000, whereas merely 14.28 percent of the workers earning below Rs. 5000 and nearly 8 percent of the worker earning above the range of Rs.20000. This is a most atypical feature of the study area.

Fig 5.6 Range Wise Monthly Earning of the Worker



Source: Field survey

Here in table 5.12, it is estimated that the average monthly income of the sample workers in the Dhemaji district is equal to Rs.12306.62, with a standard deviation of 4855.48.

Table 5.12 Average Monthly Income of the workers

Monthly Earning of the Workers	
Mean	12306.62
Standard Deviation	4855.48

Also, we show the average monthly income of the self-employed informal workers of the Dhemaji district with respect to the age and education level. Table 5.13 depicts that, among the various age groups of 15-55, the age group of 25-35 has a higher proportion of average monthly income which is equal to Rs.12754, followed by the age group of 35-45 and 45-55 which are Rs. 12600 and Rs. 12415, respectively. Sharma (2000) have also found in his study, that the income of the age-group 25-55 is very high mainly because this group comprises of the active and dynamic population who shoulders the responsibilities of the family.

Table 5.13 Average Monthly Income of the Workers with Respect to Age Groups

Age group	Average monthly Income
15-25	10976
25-35	12754
35-45	12600
45-55	12415
55 years and above	8623

Source: Field survey

Table 5.14 shows the average monthly income with respect to the level of educational attainment of sample workers of the Dhemaji district. In the study area of Dhemaji district, among the five different levels of education, the average income is higher in the group of 'HS' and 'Graduate & above' levels which is almost Rs. 15,600 and Rs. 14,800 respectively. Higher level of education leads to higher amount of income. Researchers find an increasing trend of average monthly income with the higher level of education. Due to higher level of education, they get better job in informal enterprises, as well as handle various types of problems, bearing risk on informal investment and earning a sufficient amount of income Chawdhury, (2003)

Table 5.14 Average Monthly Income of the Worker with Respect to Level of Education

Level of Education	Average monthly income
Illiterate	8262.5
Primary	10800.4
Secondary	11,700.8
Higher secondary	15600.4
Graduate & Above	14800.4

Source: Field Survey

### **Types of Enterprises:**

Table 5.15 depicts that among the three enterprises, the service sector have played a significant role in the sample district of Dhemaji, where approximately 64% workers are engaged in the service sector followed by street vendors 23.16% and the retail trade 13.30%. The service sector has played a dominant role in the sample district of Dhemaji. Higher percentage of e-rickshaw pullers are engaged in service sector as compared to the retail trade and street vendor.

Table 5.15 Types of Enterprises

Types of Enterprises	Percentage
Retail trade	13.30
Services	63.54
Vendor	23.16
Total	100.0

Source: Field Survey

### Income from Different types of Enterprises: -

Table 5.16 shows the average monthly income of the informal sector enterprises. In the study area of Dhemaji town, the average monthly income of the services is much higher than the street vendors and retail traders. The average income and standard deviation of the services is Rs.15652 and 10112.5 respectively; retail traders and street vendors average income is Rs.14153 and Rs.7536 respectively. So, there is a little gap in income of the services and retail trade enterprises. Besides, the street vendors lag behind in terms of income as compared to the retail trade and services. Due to low average investments, the average incomes of the street vendors are low.

### 5.16 Average Income of the Enterprises (Monthly)

Types of Enterprises	Average monthly income	Standard deviation
Retail trader	14153	9485.6
Services	15652	10112.5
Street vendor	7536	4214.1

Source: Field Survey

### Access to Conveyance and Consumer Durables: -

Table 5.17, it is observed that out of 307 self- employed workers of Dhemaji district, 27.19 percent workers don't have any type consumer durables and conveyance. Almost 3.21 percent has car, 9.31 percent has scooters, 40.21 percent has auto and 11.25 percent has refrigerators, 2.42 percent has washing machines and 6.41 percent of population have computers.

**Table 5.17 Access to Conveyance and Consumer Durables**

Means of Conveyance and consumer durable	Percentage of workers
Car	3.21

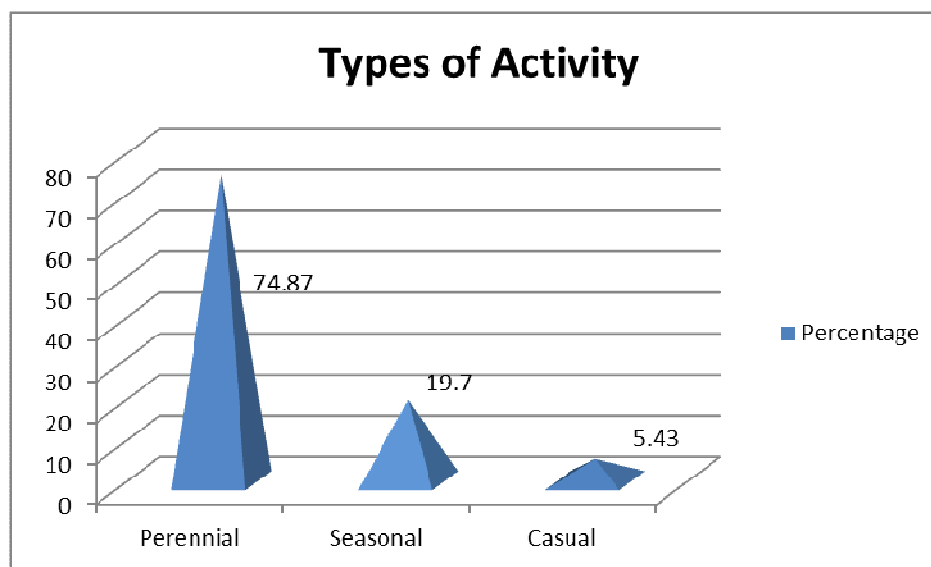
Auto	40.21
Scooter	9.31
Refrigerator	11.25
Washing Machine	2.42
Computer	6.41
None	27.19

Source: Field Survey

### Types of Activity:

In the study area of the Dhemaji district, there are three types of activities have found such as Perennial, seasonal and casual activity. Fig 5.7, it is observed that nearly 75% workers are perennial, 19.70% are seasonal, and remaining 5.43% are casual workers. However, the seasonal as well as casual activities mainly involve the street vendors together with petty traders who are mainly engaged in selling of vegetables, fruits, flowers, juices etc.

Fig 5.7 Types of Activity



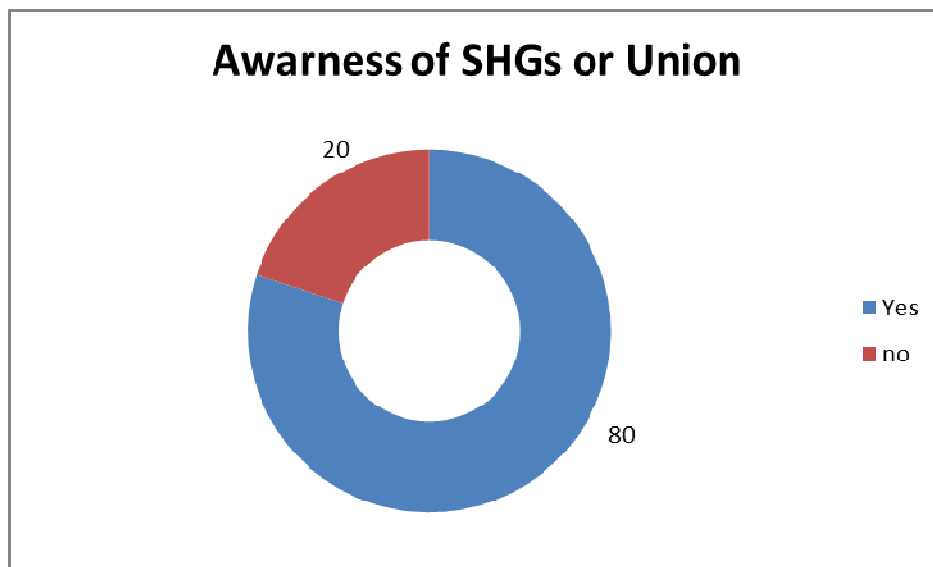
Source: - Field survey

### Self-Help Group (SHG):

Now-a-days the SHGs have become popular in the rural areas as well as urban areas of India. It plays a crucial role for the micro enterprises of informal sectors both socially and economically. In developing countries like India, SHGs fill the gap between high caste and low-caste people as well as citizens, Srija (2012). Singh, (2005) found that SHGs assist small investors, small farmers, small businessman, poor and needy people of informal sectors and also enhances

women empowerment. Gowthaman, (2017) in his study on Namakkal district of Tamilnadu, concluded that SHG is a way of delivering micro finance services to poor informal sector workers that have been difficult to reach directly through banks or other institutions which help them to meet their emergency needs at a very low rate of interest. In the study area of Dhemaji district, SHG assist the informal self-employed workers to change their living standards. Fig 5.8 shows that almost 80 percent of the informal workers are aware about SHGs. Thus, the majority of the workers, both male and female, are aware of SHGs.

Fig: 5.8: Awareness of SHGs or Unions

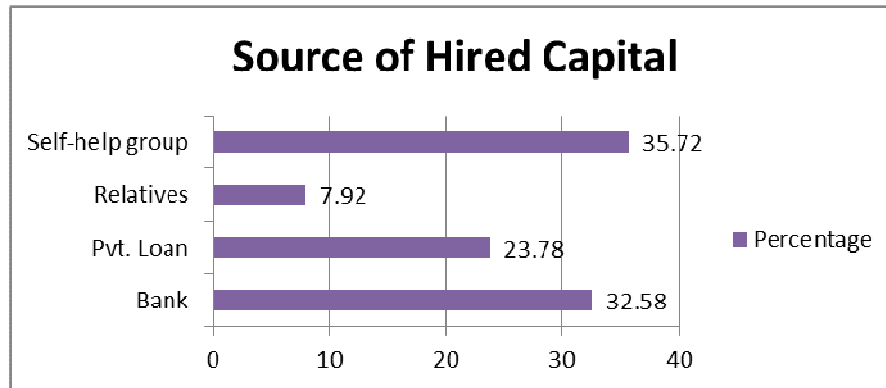


Source: Field Survey

#### **Initial Source of Capital:**

Fig 5.9, it is observed that the sources of hired capital found in the study area are banking, Pvt. Loan, Relatives, self-help group etc. Among these sources, the self- help group plays a vital role in the study area where 35.72 % workers borrow money from self-help groups, while 32.58 percent workers take loan from banks and the rest take capital from private banks and their relatives, respectively. In case of Dhemaji district, self-help groups play a crucial role.

Fig: 5.9 Source of Hired Capital



Source: Field Survey

### Economic Status of the worker:

To examine the economic status of the sample respondents, a development index has been constructed as composite index of living condition of sample respondents and their possession of consumer durables. For the living conditions of sample respondent, access to the basic amenities like types of housing, electricity, drinking water, fuel and toilet facilities have been taken. At first, these five components of the sample respondents have been given scores as per their attainment in each sub component and the given scores have been divided by the maximum score in each count and after that the geometric mean of the scores in sub-components has been taken as living condition index. After this, the consumer durable index has been formulated on the basis of whether the sample respondent possesses certain 11 numbers of consumer durables like radio, TV, fan, refrigerator, car, scooter etc. Now these items of the consumer durables have been assigned a score (if yes=1, No=0) as per their attainment in each category and these respective scores are first added and the sum divided by grand total of scores of all eleven numbers of consumer durable i.e. 11. Finally, the simple average values have been used as the consumer durable index of the respondent. Now combining these two sub-indices, the index of economic status has been calculated i.e.

$$\text{Index of Economic Status} = \sqrt[3]{\text{Living condition index} \times \text{Consumer Durable Index}}$$

In the study area of Dhemaji district, the index of economic status has been found in the range from 0.20 to 1. For the classification of the informal workers by high, medium and low economic statuses, Tiwari and Kumar's socioeconomic status scale have been used where economic status



are classified as low economic status (0- 0.3), Medium (0.4-0.8) and high economic status (0.9-1). Similarly, the economic status of informal workers of the sample district has been selected in order to fulfill the basic aims to cover the study. So, the sample informal workers have been categorized as high, medium and low economic status.

Fig: 5.10 Percentage of Economic Status of the Workers

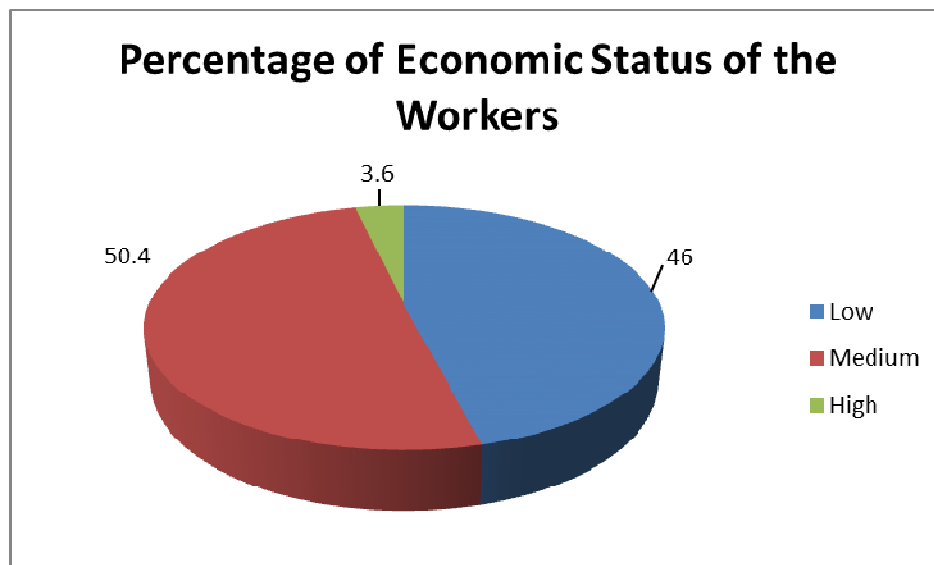


Fig: field survey

The above fig (5.10), it is seen that only 3.6 percent of the workers have high, nearly 46 percent workers have low and a higher percentage of 50.4 percent have medium economic status in the society. Among these three categories, low and medium status plays a vital role as compared to high status people in the sample area of Dhemaji district. It can be inferred that the majority of the workers in the sample area of the Dhemaji district have medium economic status.

The index of economic status of the informal workers of the Dhemaji district has been calculated and grouped under various categories with respect to different age groups, levels of education, gender, caste etc. Table 5.18 shows the economic status index with respect to different age group. Among the various age groups of 15-55, the age group of 25-35 and 35-45 has a higher degree of economic status which is 0.68 and 0.76 as compared to the other groups because people in this age group are generally very active, dynamic, energetic and responsible to their family. Apart from this, the age groups between 15-25 and 45-55 have medium as well as low degree of economic status respectively.

Table 5.18 Index of Economic Status with respect to Age group

Age Group	Index of Economic Status
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15-25	0.31
25-35	0.68
35-45	0.76
45 and above	0.40

Source: Field survey

Table: 5.19 Index of Economic Status with respect to the Level of Education

Education Level	Index of Economic Status
Illiterate	0.23
Primary	0.32
Secondary	0.46
Higher secondary	0.69
Graduate & Above	0.87

Source: Field survey

Table 5.19, it is observed that among the various levels of education, status of socio economic index is higher in the group of Graduate and HS level which is 0.87 and 0.69 respectively. Due to higher level of education, they get better job in informal enterprises and earn a sufficient amount of income.

Table: 5.20 Index of Economic Status with respect to Gender

Gender	Index of Economic Status
Male	0.76
Female	0.43

Source: Field survey

Table 5.20, it is observed that status of socio economic index is higher in case of male workers (0.76) as compare to the female workers of the informal sector (0.43) of Dhemaji district.

**Table 5.21 Distributional Respondents on the Basis of Their Permanent Place of Residence:**

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Respondent on the basis of permanent place of Residence	Percentage
People moves from rural areas to place of survey	62.9
Original residence of survey area	47.1

Source: Field survey

Table 5.21 depicts the percentage of distributional respondents on the basis of their permanent place of residence in the urban area of Dhemaji district. It is noticed that approximately 63 percent of the respondents have moved from rural areas to the place of survey and almost 47 percent of the respondents are original urban residents of the surveyed area. Due to heavy flood in every year of Dhemaji district, majority of the people have moved from rural to urban areas for searching better livelihood and thereby, have compelled them to engage in some kind of venture in the informal sector.

#### **Reason for Entering into Urban Informal sector:**

The urban informal sector provides ample scope to a major section of the city's population. Due to the limited jobs in the formal as well as private sector, many unemployed people want to join the informal sector. Also because of low level of education as well as low skill and training of the workers, they are forced to join the urban informal sector. Table 5.22 depicts the main reasons for entering into the informal sector by self-employed workers in Dhemaji town is as follows-

**Table 5.22 Reason for Entering into Urban Informal Sector**

Reasons for entering	Percentage of the worker
Flood reason	56.3
Flexible jobs	12.6
As a last resort	27.4
Other reasons	3.7

Source: Field survey

Table 5.22, it is observed that surprisingly about 56% of the self-employed workers have engaged in the informal sector due to flood reason, while 27.4% workers are entering into urban informal sector as a last resort. On the other hand 12.6% workers are entering into urban informal sector due to flexible jobs and remaining 3.7% give other reasons for entering into the informal sector.

#### **5.3 Problems of Informal Sector Workers in Urban Area of Dhemaji District: -**

In this section, the problems of male and female workers engaged in urban informal sector of Dhemaji have been analysed. The informal sectors workers of sample district have faced a lot of problems which can be explained below:

**Problems of Shortage of capital** - Due to low level of income as well as uncertain employment opportunities in the informal sector workers of Dhemaji district, their savings is very low. For running up a new business or enterprise, they don't have a proper access to institutional sources of finance. The commercial bank as well as regional rural bank hesitates to give money to the informal sector workers of Dhemaji district. Almost 46 percentages of the informal workers are facing the problems of shortage of capital. That's why, this group of the people, have to take loan from private institution with a higher amount of interest which lead to compel the informal sector worker towards below poverty line.

1. **Problems of street vendors:** - The street vendors of Dhemaji district are face a lot of harassments from different group of people including police, a section of local youth. It is observed that most of the street vendors are exploited by the local police daily and they are forced to pay 10 to 20 percent of their daily income as bribes.
2. **Problems of E-rickshaw puller:-** Majority of the informal workers in Dhemaji district are engaged as E-rickshaw pullers. According to the District Commissioner, their service is illegal because they don't have any proper registration and they create traffic jam in the center areas of Dhemaji town. Sometimes, the DC has issued a charge on e-rickshaw puller even when the general public meets accident. Thus, these workers face many problems which are exceptional to the other workers engaged in formal and informal sector.
3. **Inequality distribution of Govt. incentives:** In the study area of the sample district, most of the informal workers live below poverty line (BPL). The subsidies as well as incentives are given by government to the BPL and economically weaker sections, to improve their health as well as living standards. It is of no doubt that the government provides incentives to all BPL families, but sometimes a lot of informal workers BPL are denied access to these types of government incentives. So, in the study area of Dhemaji town, majority of poor informal sector workers are deprived of these types of government incentives.

#### **5.4 Conclusion:**

The main findings of this chapter may be summed up in the following points-

In the study area of the Dhemaji district, almost 68 percent are male and approximately 35 percent are females.

The age of the workers has been found to vary between 15-55 years and above and the mean year of age of workers is 36.16 years. It is also observed that the informal sector workers in the study area have a young force equal to almost 90 percent, which is an uncommon feature of this sample district as compared to the other studies. Due to higher percentage of ST people in the Dhemaaji district, the field study result also shows that majority of the informal workers are belonged to ST category.

- It is seen that almost 41 percent of the workers are either illiterate or literate up to HSLC. Only 23 percent of the workers with higher education are found to engage in informal activities. The average years of schooling of sample workers are 11.75 with standard deviation of 3.127. It is noticed that a massive amount of 74.45% respondents did not have any kind of vocational training, while 26.55% of the respondent did some kind of training.
- The distribution of monthly income of the self-employed informal workers in Dhemaaji varies between Rs. 5000- 25000. The average monthly income is equal to Rs.12306.62. Surprisingly; it is found that the income of the age-group between 25 to 55 is very higher because people in this age-group are generally very active, dynamic, energetic and responsible to their family. There is a positive co-relation between attainments of higher educational levels of the workers with higher level of income and vice versa. The illiterate people have no other choice, but to work in the informal economy.
- Among the three different types of enterprises, the economic conditions as well as working conditions of street vendors are very poor as compared to the other two groups in the study area of Dhemaaji town.
- By calculating the index of economic status, the informal self-employed workers of Dhemaaji town are classified by high, medium and low economic status. Among these three groups, the medium status workers play a dominant role followed by low status and high status. Approximately, 53.4 percent workers have medium economic status as well as 43 percent workers have low economic status.