

# **A Comparative Study of Demographic Profile in the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Sivasagar District of Assam**

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## **Abstract**

*Assam is one of the most important states of India known as the land of variety of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people since times immemorial. The people of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and their mode of life in different period of history mounded varied social, cultural and economic traits in the state. There exist some significant differences regarding demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people with the mainstream population of the country. Keeping these backgrounds in mind the present paper attempts to discuss on different demographic and socio-economic aspects of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people living in the Sivasagar district of Assam.*

**Key words : Age structure, Sex ratio, Child sex ratio, Age-sex composition, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes.**

## **Introduction :**

The Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Castes (SC) people have been living since times immemorial in India. Anthropological Survey of India identified 443 Scheduled Castes, 426 Scheduled Tribes and 1051 Backward Classes out of 4384 communities living in India. The term 'Scheduled Caste' was first coined by the Simon Commission in 1935. The term used for the people described as untouchables in India (Ahuja,2012). The hill areas have a greater concentration

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of tribes in comparison to the plains in India. There is no single and accepted existing definition about the concept of tribe. According to Grolier Encyclopedia of Knowledge (1999), "the term tribe has been used to indicate a group of people sharing common values, general customs, language, and usually contiguous territory." Yogesh Atal (2006) writes, "In the Indian context, the term, tribe, has been used very loosely for denoting different kinds of groups. Some use it for the groups that are the 'original inhabitants' of Indian living before the 'advent' of Aryans." It is seen that a tribe is a society the members of which have a common language, customs, traditions, religions, art, crafts and traditionally occupation of a distinct geographical areas. They are also known as 'Girijans' in the country. Most of the tribal people enjoy common property resources like water, land and forest in the country. The Scheduled Tribes population is also increasing rapidly in the country. The total number of Scheduled Tribes population was estimated at 5.29 percent, 6.85 percent, 6.93 percent, 7.53 percent, 8.10 percent, 8.19 and 8.60 percent of the total population in the country in 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011, respectively. Lakshadweep is reported as the state with the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribe populations (94.8 percent) in India. The Dhebar Commission recommended elimination of the disparity in the level of education of tribal and non-tribal people in 1961 in the country.

The Government of India Act, 1935 the Scheduled Castes were identified as, "Such castes, races, tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes, being castes, races, tribes parts or groups which appear to His Majesty in council to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as 'the depressed classes', as His Majesty in council may specify" (Kuppuswamy, 1994). M. K. Gandhi called these classes as 'Harijans' and formed ' Harijan Sevak Sangh' in 1932. B. R. Ambedkar mentioned that they were known as 'broken men' or 'outcastes' in early India. Ambedkar also formed 'All India Scheduled Caste Federation' in 1942. It is to be noted that scheduled castes are those groups of the society which are called in the scheduled caste order in force for the time being in India. The Indian Constitution expression standardized the term 'Scheduled Caste' and also adopted the term coined by the Simon Commission in 1935. The number of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes has grown faster after independence.

The Scheduled Castes comprised of 14.26 percent, 14.59 percent, 15.7 percent, 16.73 percent and 16.6 percent of country's total population in 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2011, respectively. The highest Scheduled Castes population is found in Punjab where about 31.9 percent of the total population is Scheduled Castes people.

The people of Assam can be divided broadly into tribal and non-tribal categories. The non-tribal category is classified into three major groups such as the General Caste, the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes. It is to be noted that castes in Assam have begun to be recognised in official records since 1872. Before that we find names of some castes in histories, chronicles and descriptive accounts describing their status in the Hindu society in Assam (Bania, 1992). The Constitution of India provided the political and economic safeguards and protection for the ST and SC people in Assam as well as in India. The central government also formed the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1987. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are no longer left in isolation anywhere of modern civilization and so change in their social, economic and political life also have taken place rapidly after 1947 in Assam. The total population of Assam was 26,655,528 in 2001 census. Out of total population, 3,308,570 persons (12.4%) were STs and 1,825,949 persons (6.9%) were SCs of the state. The Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes population as in percentage of total population of Assam were 12.8 percent and 7.4 percent respectively as against the national figures of 7.9 percent and 16.9 percent of the total population of country as per census 1991. The population of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes to total population is the highest in Kokrajhar and Cachar district of Assam. As per the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list modification order 1956, total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are 16 and 27, respectively, in Assam. The ST and SC are listed on the basis of their habitat, backwardness, customs and tradition in different states of India (Bhattacharya, 2000). As regards the literacy rate, much remains to be done for SC and ST. The literacy rate among ST and SC was 29.60 percent and 37.34 percent which was lower 52.20 percent of the national average in 1991.

It may be mentioned here that 29 communities are listed as Other Backward

Classes (OBC) in Assam, which are educationally and socially disadvantaged. Out of 29 communities, 7 are treated as More Other Backward (MOBC) for the purpose of educational facilities in the state. The people of the six ethnic groups namely Adivasis, Chutia, Koch Rajbongshis, Moran, Motok and Tai Ahom are demanding S T status in the state. There are large numbers of tribal and non-tribal organizations in the state. Tribal bodies like the All Assam Tribal Sangha and the All Assam Tribal Youth League are playing an important role for enhancement of their status in the state. The state organization of the Hira community known as All Assam Hira Sanmilan is associated with the overall development of the community, which is a SC group of Assam. Assam had uneven social, economic and educational backwardness amongst different groups of people. These organizations endeavour to remove the social, economic and educational gaps extent in the society and economy of Assam. The data regarding ST and SC in Assam are presented in Table- 1

**Table-1**  
**Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Assam**

Sl. No.	Scheduled Tribes	Scheduled Castes
1	Chakma	Basphar
2	DimasaKachari	Bhualimali or Mali
3	Garo	BrittialBaria or Banir
4	Hajong	Dhupi or Dhobi
5	Hmar	Dugla or Dholi
6	Khasi and Jaintia	Hira
7	Any Kuki tribe	Jalkeot
8	Abor	Jhalo, Malo or Jhalo-Malo
9	Aka	Kaibarta or Jaliya
10	Apatani	Lalbegi
11	Dafala	Mahara
12	Galong	Mehtar or Bhangi
13	Khampti	Muchi or Rishi

14	Howa	Namasudra
15	Mishmi	Patni
16	Monpa	Sutradhar
17	Any Naga tribe	
18	Sherdakpen	
19	Simpho	
20	Boro-Borokachari	
21	Deori	
22	Hojai	
23	Kachari including Sonowal	
24	Lalung	
25	Mech	
26	Mishing	
27	Rabha	

Source : Assam State Gazetteer, (1999) : Vol., 1, Government of Assam, Guwahati, PP, 277-278.

The Sivasagar district is home for diverse communities in Assam. The cultural landscape of the district is very much colourful and assimilation and association of different races. The district is known as the land of colourful tribes. The Tribal population comprises Nagas, Deoris, Garos, Kachari, Mishing, Shyams Sonowals, Bodos etc. of the district. The Kaibartas (SC) are spread over the entire district (Sivasagar District Gazetteer, 1967). It is to be noted that they have been included among the Scheduled Castes in the Constitution of India. So far as self-sufficient and livelihood is concerned, generally most members of this community preferred to live on riversides. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population as in percentage of total population of the Sivasagar district were 3.56 percent and 3.80 percent respectively as per census in 1991. The total ST and SC population in the district was 49,039 and 42,347 respectively in 2011. There exist some significant differences regarding demographic and socio-economic

characteristics of ST and SC peoples with the mainstream populations of the state as well as the country. The people of all communities in the district are basically honest, truthful, straightforward and trustworthy. They are more interested to maintain social peace and harmony in the Sivasagar district of Assam. Expansion of education as a result of basic facilities provided by the both central and state government to members of the two communities, many of them have sought enters in government jobs in different sectors. It can be said that they have moved away more or less from their traditional socio-economic life style. In contemporary society, the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are playing a very important role in social, cultural and economic development in the Sivasagar district of Assam.

**Objectives :**

The Sivasagar district is selected for our study as the district covers 3.9 percent ST and 3.4 percent of SC of the total population. The people and their mode of life in different period of history mounded varied cultural traits in the district. Considering this background, an attempt has been made to examine comparative analysis of demographic characteristics of ST and SC populations inhabiting in the Sivasagar district of Assam.

**Methodology :**

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. In order to conduct a micro level study on the demographic and socio-economic features of ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district, primary data have been collected from different social groups belonging to ST and SC categories. The selected social groups belonging to ST category are: Mishing, Deori, Sonowal Kachari, Konyak Naga and Bodo; while the selected social group belonging to SC category is the Kaibarta since the presence of other groups of SC category in the district is very less.

Fifty households of ST category of Sivasagar district, i.e., ten households from each of the selected scheduled tribes have been chosen for the purpose of collecting primary information. On the other hand, thirty households of Kaibartta

of SC category of Sivasagar district have been interviewed to gather primary information about their demographic features. Thus, total number of household of both category, ST and SC, is equal to eighty households. In addition to primary data, secondary information has been collected from various government and non-government publications. The names of the villages of each social group selected for this purpose are listed in Table-1.

**Table-1**  
**List of villages selected for primary data collection**

Category	Groups	Villages	Block
ST	Mishing	Santak Bor Mishing Gaon	Chepangani
	Deori	Chamoguri	Demow
	SonowalKachari	Jamira	Demow
	Konyak Naga	Naga Gaon	Kheluwa
	Bodo	Tiokhabi	Sapekhati
SC	Kaibarta	Darika Kaibarta Gaon	Kheluwa

On the other hand, secondary information have been collected from various government publications, viz.: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, Statistical Hand Book- Assam, Economic Survey- Assam. Various demographic ratios such as dependency ratios, index of ageing, gender ratios, etc. have been used to draw the demographic differentials between the two categories (i.e., ST and SC). The entire analysis is comparative; and comparisons have been done between the categories (i.e., ST and SC) and the national and state level statistics.

### **Results & Discussion :**

Based on field information collected from different ST and SC villages of Sivasagar district, an effort has been made to explore a few demographic characteristics of these social groups. The demographic features examined in the study are: age structure, dependency, sex ratio and age-sex composition.

### Age structure of ST and SC population in Sivasagar district :

Though age structure of a population is a biological phenomenon, it bears important demographic and economic implications. It is closely related with the indicators of fertility, mortality and morbidity. It also provides information about workforce, dependency and problem of ageing of a population (Hassan, 2005). In the present study, the measures used to assess age structure of ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district are:

i) Young dependency ratio (YDR) =  $(P_{0-14} / P_{15-64}) * 100$

ii) Old dependency ratio (ODR) =  $(P_{65+} / P_{15-64}) * 100$

iii) Total dependency ratio (TDR) =  $[(P_{0-14} + P_{65+}) / P_{15-64}] * 100$ ; or YDR+ ODR

iv) Index of ageing =  $(P_{65+} / P_{0-14}) * 100$

In the above indices  $P_{0-14}$ ,  $P_{15-64}$  and  $P_{65+}$  indicate the populations in the age groups 0-14, 15-64 and 65 years and above, respectively.

Before dealing with these technical ratios of age structure, the distribution of populations belonging to different communities has been shown in table-2 considering broad age groups 0-14, 15-44, 45-65 and above 65 years. The distribution of population in different ages has been found almost similar for the both categories. 19.78 percent of sample ST population fall in the age group 0-14, while the same figure for the SC category has been estimated to be 17.81 percent. Majority of the sample ST population ( $55.97+18.66=74.63$  percent) and SC population ( $53.42+24.66=78.08$  percent) fall in the age groups 15-44 and 45-65, which is quite optimistic scenario for the both categories. For, the populations of these age groups form a strong workforce for them. (Table-2)

Contrary to such field observations, a slight difference has been observed in the age structure of the state and the country. The percentage of population fall in the age group 0-14 has been estimated to be 32.84 percent for Assam and 30.75 percent for the country as a whole (Table-3), which are much higher than the field finding drawn from sample ST and SC population of Sivasagar district indicating relatively a higher young dependency prevailing the state and the country as well.

Similarly, the percentage of population in 0-14 age group belonging to all scheduled tribes and scheduled castes in the state have been found to be 32.18



percent and 30.65 percent, respectively. The same figures for all STs and SCs in India have been observed to be 35.41 percent and 32.76 percent, respectively, as per 2011 census report as shown in table-3. However, percentage of population fall in the age group '65 and above' have been found to be almost similar for all, viz.: sample ST and SC populations, ST and SC populations of the state and the country, and overall populations of the state and the country, which range between 3.86 and 5.46 percent.

Thus, the percentage distribution of population of sample ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district differ from that of the population distribution of the state and the country. Such asymmetry may occur due to the differences in the fertility and the mortality rates of sample area with the state and the national average.

**Table-2**  
**Age distribution of sample ST & SC population in Sivasagar district**

Age groups	ST	SC	Both
<i>Col. (1)</i>	(2)	(3)	(4)
0-14	53 (19.78)	26 (17.81)	79 (19.08)
15-44	150 (55.97)	78 (53.42)	228 (55.07)
45-64	50 (18.66)	36 (24.66)	86 (20.77)
65 & above	15 (5.59)	06 (4.11)	21 (5.07)
All ages	268 (100.00)	146 (100.00)	414 (100.00)

Note : Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to total population of all ages.

Source : Field survey

**Table-3**  
**Age structure of ST and SC population in Assam & India, 2011**

Age groups	Assam			India		
	ST	SC	Total population	ST	SC	Total population
Col.(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(6)
0-14	1250050 (32.18)	684080 (30.65)	10248899 (32.84)	37028327 (35.41)	65986401 (32.76)	372444116 (30.75)
15-44	1955545 (50.34)	1117114 (50.06)	15214872 (48.75)	48243401 (46.14)	95922815 (47.63)	579538383 (47.86)
45-64	526439 (13.55)	326318 (14.62)	4420135 (14.16)	14598923 (13.96)	28985312 (14.39)	188197343 (15.54)
65 & above	150023 (3.86)	102575 (4.59)	1302846 (4.17)	4397520 (4.20)	9760337 (4.84)	66185333 (5.46)
Age not state	2314 (0.06)	1234 (0.05)	18824 (0.06)	277545 (0.26)	723507 (0.35)	4489802 (0.37)
All ages	3884371 (100)	2231321 (100)	31205576 (100)	104545716 (100)	201378372 (100)	1210854977 (100)

Note : Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to total population of all ages.

Source : 2011 Census, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

The values of total dependency ratio for the sample ST and SC population have been found to be much lower than the state and national average. The number of total dependent persons ( $\leq 14$  &  $65 \leq$  ages) have been estimated to be about 34 for sample ST population, 28 for sample SC population and 32 for both, against per hundred working population of each tribe belonging to 15-64 ages (Table-4). But, the total dependency ratio for the ST and SC populations has been estimated to be 56.40 and 54.50 for the state, respectively; and 65.91 and 60.64 for the country, respectively. On the other hand, total dependency ratio of the state has been observed to be 56.40 as against the national figure of 57.13 (Table-5). Like the total dependency ratio, relatively lower values of young dependency

ratio, i.e. number of young population of 0-14 ages per hundred working population of 15-64 ages, have been experienced by the sample ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district in comparison to state and national average. On the other hand, the values of old dependency ratio have been found to be lower in case of the sample SC population (5.26) than that of the sample ST population (7.5); but these two values are below than the old dependency ratio at all India level (8.62).

Another demographic ratio, index of ageing, which indicates number of aged dependents ( $65 \leq$  ages) per hundred young population of  $14 \leq$  ages has been found to be higher in case of sample ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district as compared to the ST and SC populations of the state and the country, and overall populations of the state and the country.

**Table-4**

**Dependency indicators of sample ST and SC population in Sivasagar district**

Indicators of age structure	Sivasagar District		
	Sample ST	Sample SC	Both
Young dependency ratio*	26.50	22.80	25.15
Old dependency ratio*	7.50	5.26	6.68
Total dependency ratio*	34.00	28.07	31.84
Index of ageing <sup>§</sup>	28.30	23.08	26.58

Source : Field survey

Note : \*Number of dependents in the population for every 100 working persons of 15-64 age group.

<sup>§</sup>Number of aged dependents in the population for every 100 young population of 0-14 age group.

**Table-5**  
**Dependency indicators of sample ST and SC population in Assam and India**

Indicators of age structure	Assam			India		
	ST	SC	Total population	ST	SC	Total population
<i>Col.(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(6)</i>
Young dependency ratio	50.36	47.39	50.19	58.92	52.83	48.51
Old dependency ratio	6.04	7.11	6.64	6.99	7.81	8.62
Total dependency ratio	56.40	54.50	56.83	65.91	60.64	57.13
Index of ageing	12.00	14.99	12.71	11.87	14.79	17.77

Source : Estimated from the data of 2011 Census, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

#### **Sex ratio of ST and SC population :**

Imbalance in the sex ratio is one of the important demographic issues for both, the state and the country. As per 2011 census, Assam has experienced 4 percent (approx.) deficit in the female population as against the national figure of 6 percent (approx.), implying male dominance in the state and the center as a whole. Researchers have found significant difference in the sex ratio among different social groups. Sex ratio, i.e., number of females per thousand males, is more balancing among the scheduled tribes of India, as females in the tribal societies are not neglected; the social and cultural values protect their interest (Basu, 1993). But, the number of females relative to males has been consistently low for the mainstream Hindu population (Mitra, 2007).

To assess gender imbalance among the populations of different social groups following three demographic ratios have been used:

i) Masculinity proportion =  $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_f} \times 100$  or  $\frac{P_m}{P_t} \times 100$

ii) Sex ratio =  $\frac{P_f}{P_m} \times 1000$

$$\text{iii) Deficit/surplus in the female population} = \frac{P_f - P_m}{P_m} \times 100 ;$$

where,  $P_m$ ,  $P_f$  and  $P_t$  represent male population, female population and total population, respectively.

**Table-6**  
**Sex ratio of sample ST and SC population of Sivasagar district**

	Male population	Female population	Total population	Sex ratio	Masculinity proportion	Deficit/surplus in the female population
Col. (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
ST	140	128	268	<b>914</b>	<b>52.23</b>	<b>-8.57</b>
SC	76	70	146	<b>921</b>	<b>52.05</b>	<b>-7.89</b>
Both	210	194	404	<b>924</b>	<b>51.98</b>	<b>-7.62</b>

Source : Field survey

**Table-7**  
**Comparison of gender imbalance at district, state and national level, 2011**

	Category	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio	Masculinity proportion	Deficit/surplus in the female population
Col. (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Sivasagar Dist.	Overall	589454	560799	1150253	<b>951</b>	<b>51.25</b>	<b>-4.86</b>
Assam	ST	1957005	1927366	3884371	<b>985</b>	<b>50.38</b>	<b>-1.51</b>
	SC	1145314	1086007	2231321	<b>948</b>	<b>51.33</b>	<b>-5.17</b>
	Overall	15939443	15266133	31205576	<b>958</b>	<b>51.08</b>	<b>-4.22</b>
India	ST	52547215	51998501	104545716	<b>990</b>	<b>50.26</b>	<b>-1.04</b>
	SC	103535314	97843058	201378372	<b>945</b>	<b>51.41</b>	<b>-5.49</b>
	Overall	623270258	587584719	1210854977	<b>943</b>	<b>51.47</b>	<b>-5.72</b>

Source : 2011 Census, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

Sex ratios of both ST and SC populations of the state and the country have

been observed to be higher than the overall sex ratios. The estimated sex ratio for ST populations of Assam has been found to be 985 as against the overall sex ratio of the state (958). Similar results have been experienced by the country too. The estimated figure of sex ratio of ST population has been found to be 990 which is much higher than the overall sex ratio of the nation (943), as shown in Table-7. On the other hand, sex ratio of SC population of Assam has been found to be 948 which is lower than the state level figure, while it is 945 which is slightly above the national level figure.

One important finding obtained from Table-7 is that the sex ratio of ST population is higher than the SC population in the state and the country as well. Moreover, sex ratio of ST population has been found higher as compared to the mainstream population.

Contrary to such findings drawn from the secondary information, a huge deficit of female population has been observed in the sample population of Sivasagar district belonging to both ST and SC categories. As such, sex ratios of sample ST population and sample SC population of Sivasagar district have been estimated to be 914 and 921, respectively, and their combined sex ratio has been estimated to be 924 females per thousand males as presented in Table-6.

It is a matter of worry that the sex ratio of the sample ST and SC population of Sivasagar district is much lower than the overall sex ratio of the district (951). Several socio-cultural and economic conditions may influence on declining sex ratio of sample ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district.

#### **Age-sex composition of ST and SC population :**

Age-sex composition implies distribution of population in different ages according to gender, which is more popularly portrayed by a population pyramid. Based on such distribution of population, the present study estimates child sex ratio, sex ratio of working class and old dependents for sample ST and SC population of Sivasagar district as well as for the populations of the state and the country.

**Table-8**  
**Age-sex composition of sample ST and SC population in Sivasagar district**

Age groups	ST				SC			
	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
<i>Col. (1)</i>	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<b>0-6</b>	15	14	29	<b>933</b>	7	6	13	<b>857</b>
<b>7-14</b>	13	11	24	<b>846</b>	5	8	13	<b>1600</b>
<b>15-64</b>	105	95	200	<b>905</b>	60	54	114	<b>900</b>
<b>65≤</b>	7	8	15	<b>1143</b>	4	2	6	<b>500</b>
<b>Total</b>	140	128	268	<b>914</b>	76	70	146	<b>921</b>

Source : Field survey

**Table-9**  
**Age-sex composition of population in Assam and India**

Age groups	Assam				India			
	Male	Female	Overall	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Overall	Sex ratio
<i>Col. (1)</i>	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)		
<b>0-6</b>	2363485	2274645	4638130	<b>962</b>	85752254	78762999	164515253	<b>918</b>
<b>7-14</b>	2867164	2743605	5610769	<b>957</b>	108599121	99329742	207928863	<b>915</b>
<b>15-64</b>	10038646	9596361	19635007	<b>956</b>	394175879	373559847	767735726	<b>948</b>
<b>65≤</b>	660254	642592	1302846	<b>973</b>	32370123	33815210	66185333	<b>1045</b>
Age not stated	9894	8930	18824	<b>903</b>	2372881	2116921	4489802	<b>892</b>
<b>Total</b>	15939443	15266133	31205576	<b>958</b>	623270258	587584719	1210854977	<b>943</b>

Source : 2011 Census, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

The child sex ratio, i.e., the number of female child per thousand male child of 0-6 ages, of the sample ST and SC populations of Sivasagar district has been found quite uneven. The child sex ratio of the sample ST population (933) has been estimated to be higher as compared to the sample SC population (857) of the district. These ratios have been observed to be much lower than the child sex ratio of the state (962). Such observations may occur due to high levels of

female mortality which arises at birth, after birth or even before birth (Chakraborty & Sinha, 2006).

On the other hand, a smaller difference has been observed in the sex ratio of working class of sample ST and SC population of Sivasagar district, but these ratios are lower than the state and national averages (Table-8 & 9).

Again, the sex ratio of old dependents has been estimated to be significantly lower in case of sample SC population (500), which is indicative of higher mortality of females in the age group  $65\leq$ . Against such observation, sex ratio of old dependents of sample ST population of the district has been found to be higher than the state and national level (Table-8 & 9).

### **Conclusion :**

The sample ST and SC populations of the district are achieving a better position as compared to the state and national level regarding some demographic aspects such as age structure. Considering the lower dependency ratio experienced by the sample ST and SC population it can be concluded that they are young communities in the district with higher percentage of population in the working ages (15-64). But, the lower overall sex ratio and child sex ratio are the two of major issues faced by the sample populations of both the categories. Expansion of education and awareness, launching of special schemes for girl child, economic empowerment of women section will be some important driving forces to achieve balancing child sex ratio in study area. Government has to pay careful attention on the issue of gender imbalance in the ST and SC population under the sample area. The issues such as gender imbalance in the infant mortality, maternal mortality, sex selective abortion etc. need extensive study to find out ground level facts.

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