CHAPTER-4

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

The demographic and socio-economic profile provides data regarding samples and helps to understand whether the selected samples are representative of the target population for drawing general inferences (Salkind, 2010). So, in this chapter, an attempt has been made to present the socio-economic and demographic profile of the study area.

This chapter is based on both primary and secondary data. The key demographic and socio-economic features discussed are the population, family size, family type, sex ratio, age group, education, occupational pattern, landholding, income, and housing condition.

4.1 Demographic profile of the study area

The total number of sample households drawn from the ONGC and OIL operational areas is 630, with 443 from the oil villages and 187 from the control villages. The number of sample households from the operational headquarters, on the other hand, is 344, which includes 125 households from nearby villages and 219 households from the control villages. The sex ratios in all of the sample villages from various areas have been observed to be higher than the state average (i.e. 958) from the 2011 census.

The average family size of the sample households has been estimated to be 4.8 in the oil villages and 4.5 in the operational area control villages. The surrounding villages of the operational headquarters have almost the same average family size, 4.3 among the sample households of nearby villages and 4.6 in the control villages. The average family size of the sample households from various study locations has been found to be nearly equal to the average family size of Assam (i.e. 4.6).[1] However, the average family size of the study area is not more than that of the state average 4.9 as per 2011 census (Nayak & Behera, 2014).

In the study areas, the percentage of nuclear families seems to be higher than that of non-nuclear families. The percentage of nuclear families has been found as 66.59 per cent in the oil villages and 73.26 per cent in the control villages of the operational areas.

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[1] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (2018): NFHS-4, Assam- 2015-16 (2018), http://rchiips.org/nfhs/NFHS-4Reports/Assam.pdf p. 34

Similarly, at the operational headquarters, 67.20 per cent of nearby village households and 77.63 per cent of control village households have been found to be nuclear. By comparing these field data with the state-level statistics, it has been observed that the percentage of nuclear families in the sample villages is higher than the percentage of nuclear families in Assam (64 per cent) (IIPS & ICF, 2021).

When the sample population is distributed by age group, it is found that more than 70% of the population of the study area is between the ages of 15 and 64. This sample population classification appeared to be useful in understanding the working population ratio in the study area. This has led to a lower dependency ratio in the sample villages of the study area. The demographic information of the sample villages under different study locations has been presented in table 4.1.

Table 4.1

Demographic profile of the sample villages

Descriptions		Operational area		Operational headquarters	
		Oil villages	Control villages	Nearby villages	Control villages
No. of sample villages *(in numbers)*		30	12	9	9
Sample households *(in numbers)*		443	187	125	219
Sample population *(no. of persons)*		2125	847	537	1011
Sex ratio *(No. of females per thousand males)*		959	1091	1192	1128
Distribution of households by family type: *(in numbers)*	i) Nuclear	295 (66.59%)	137 (73.26%)	84 (67.20%)	170 (77.63%)
	ii) Non-nuclear	148 (33.41%)	50 (26.74%)	41 (32.80%)	49 (22.37%)
Average family size *(in numbers)*		4.8	4.5	4.3	4.6
Age group-wise sample population: *(no. of persons)*	i) 0-14	435 (20.47%)	149 (17.59%)	103 (19.18%)	189 (18.69%)
	ii) 15-64	1511 (71.11%)	618 (72.96%)	387 (72.07%)	743 (73.49%)
	iii) 65 & above	179 (8.42%)	80 (9.45%)	47 (8.75%)	79 (7.81%)

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.
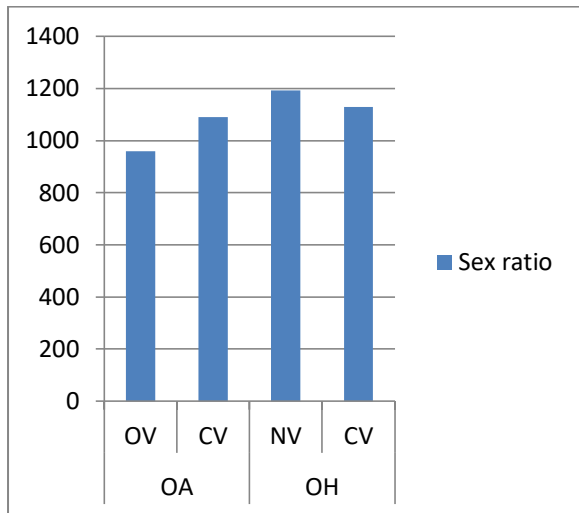
Figure 4.1

Sex ratio in the study area

Figure 4.2

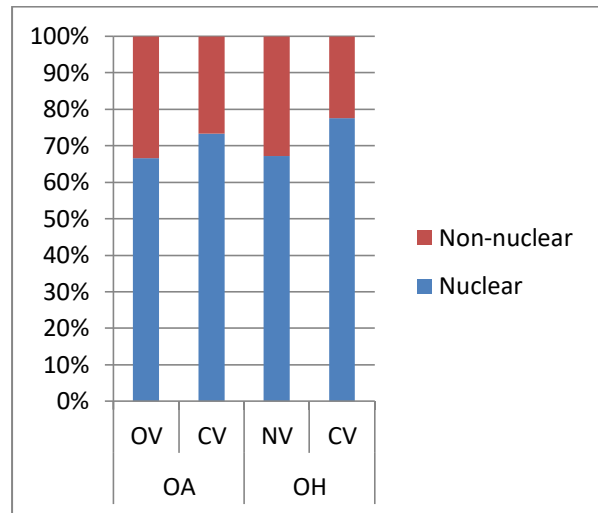**Family type in the study area**

Figure 4.3

Average family size in the study area
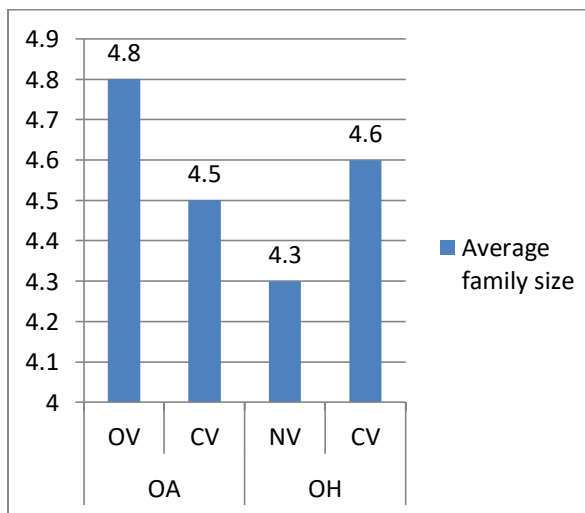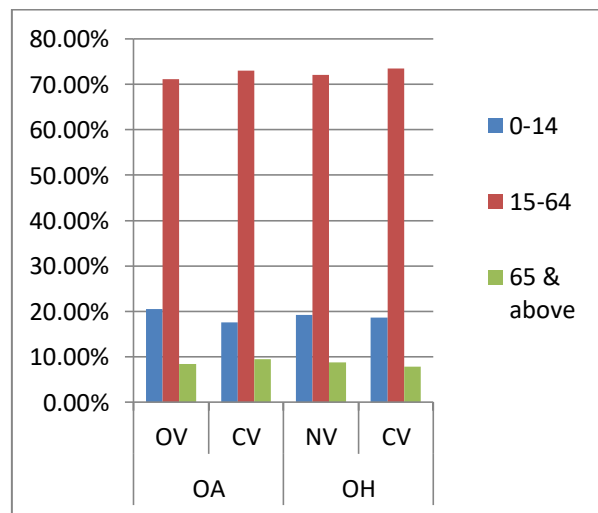

Figure 4.4

Sample Population distribution according to age

OV=Oil villages, CV=Control villages, NV= Nearby villages, OA= Operational area, OH=Operational headquarter

4.2 Level of education in the study area

Table 4.2 depicts the distribution of the sample population based on their educational level. It has been observed that the majority of the sample population has completed their education up to the high school and higher secondary school levels. In the oil and control villages of the operational areas, the percentages of people who only completed high school are 30.21 and 24.97, respectively. The same is found to be 25.16 and 19.04 per cent for the nearby and control villages of the operational headquarters, respectively.

Table 4.2

Distribution of sample population by level of education

(in number of persons)

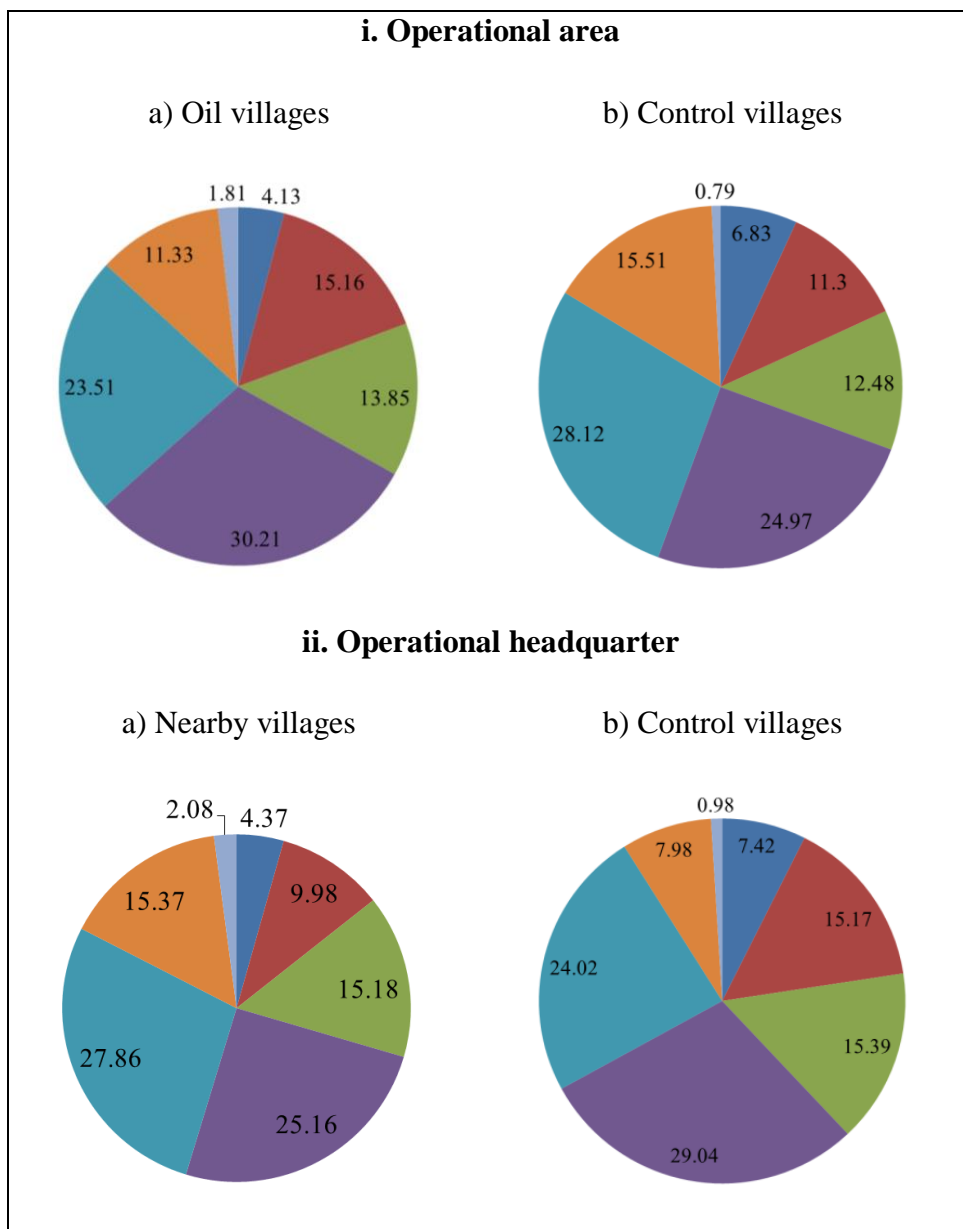| Level of education	Operational area		Operational headquarters	
	Oil villages	**Control villages**	**Nearby villages**	**Control villages**
No schooling	82 (4.13)	52 (6.83)	21 (4.37)	68 (7.42)
Up to primary level	301 (15.16)	86 (11.30)	48 (9.98)	139 (15.17)
Up to upper primary	275 (13.85)	95 (12.48)	73 (15.18)	141 (15.39)
Up to high school level	600 (30.21)	190 (24.97)	121 (25.16)	266 (29.04)
Up to higher secondary level	467 (23.51)	214 (28.12)	134 (27.86)	220 (24.02)
Up to graduation	225 (11.33)	118 (15.51)	74 (15.37)	73 (7.98)
Beyond graduation	36 (1.81)	6 (0.79)	10 (2.08)	9 (0.98)
Total	**1986** *(100)*	**761** *(100)*	**481** *(100)*	**916** *(100)*

Source: Field survey

Notes: i) Level of education is estimated excluding the population below 6 years of age.

ii) Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.

Figure 4.5

Percentage of sample population by education level

Similarly, in the operational areas, 23.51 per cent of sample people from oil villages and 28.12 per cent of sample people from control villages have completed higher secondary education, whereas, in the nearby villages and control villages of operational headquarters, this has been found to be 27.86 per cent villages and 24.02 per cent, respectively.

Again, the percentage of sample people who earned a graduate degree has been estimated to be 11.33 per cent in the oil villages, contrary to 15.51 per cent in its control villages. The same has been found as 15.37 per cent in the nearby villages as against 7.98 per cent in its control villages. Only a small percentage of the sample has completed education beyond the graduation level.

It should be noted that the sample population with no formal education was primarily composed of the elderly.

4.3 Occupational pattern in the study area

The main occupations sample households have been found to be farmers, government employees, employees of public sector undertaking, private sector employees, business and self-employment, agricultural labourers, and daily wage earners. In the oil villages, the highest percentage of people (30.64 per cent) has been seen in the private sector. But, in the control villages of the operational areas, the maximum percentage of sample people (35.86 per cent) have engaged in farming activities.

Table 4.3

Distribution of sample population by the main occupation

(In the number of persons)

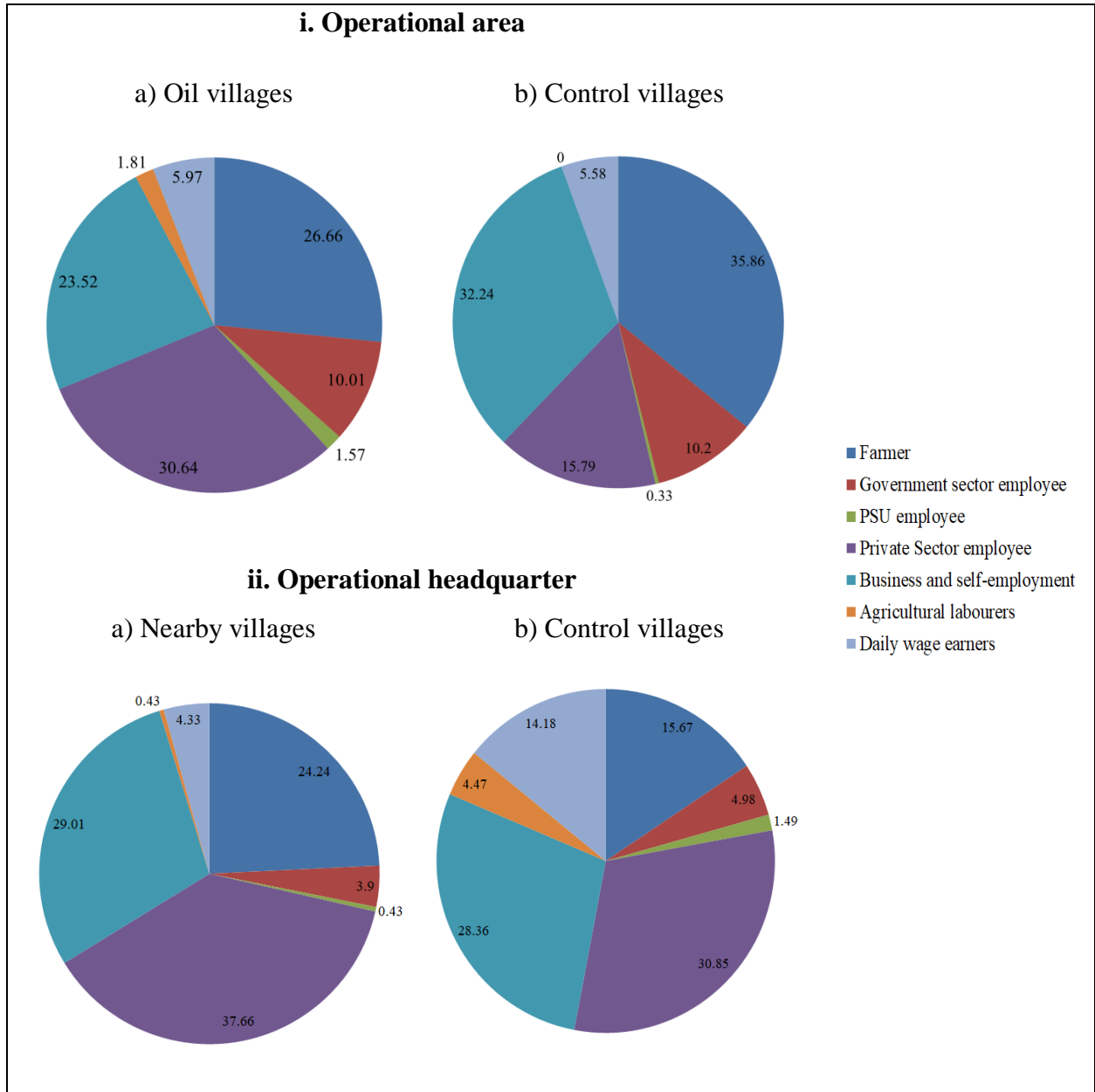| Type of occupation	Operational area		Operational headquarters	
	Oil villages	**Control villages**	**Nearby villages**	**Control villages**
Farmer	221 (26.66)	109 (35.86)	56 (24.24)	63 (15.67)
Government sector employee	83 (10.01)	31 (10.20)	9 (3.90)	20 (4.98)
PSU employee	13 (1.57)	1 (0.33)	1 (0.43)	6 (1.49)
Private Sector employee	254 (30.64)	48 (15.79)	87 (37.66)	124 (30.85)
Business and self-employment	195 (23.52)	98 (32.24)	67 (29.01)	114 (28.36)
Agricultural labourers	15 (1.81)	0 (0)	1 (0.43)	18 (4.47)
Daily wage earners	48 (5.97)	17 (5.58)	10 (4.33)	57 (14.18)
Total	**829** (100)	**304** (100)	**231** (100)	**402** (100)

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.

In the case of sample areas under operational headquarters, the highest percentage of employment for both the nearby villages and control villages has been generated by the private sector, followed by business & self-employment, and the agriculture sector. In the nearby villages of operational headquarters, 37.66 per cent of the sample population and in the control villages 30.85 per cent have earned their livelihoods from private sector employment.

Overall, the dominating sectors that offer significant employment opportunities to the people in study areas are the farm sector, private sector, business and self-employment. This is shown in table 4.3.

Figure 4.6

Percentage of sample population by occupation

4.4 Land holding pattern

Land is one of the important livelihood assets. Table 4.4 shows the land holding pattern of the sample households in the study areas. The sample households have been categorized into four categories based on their land possessions, viz., marginal holding (below one hectare), small holding (1.0-2.0 hectare), Semi-Medium (2.0-4.0 hectare), Medium (4.0-10.0 hectare) and large holding (10 hectares and above).
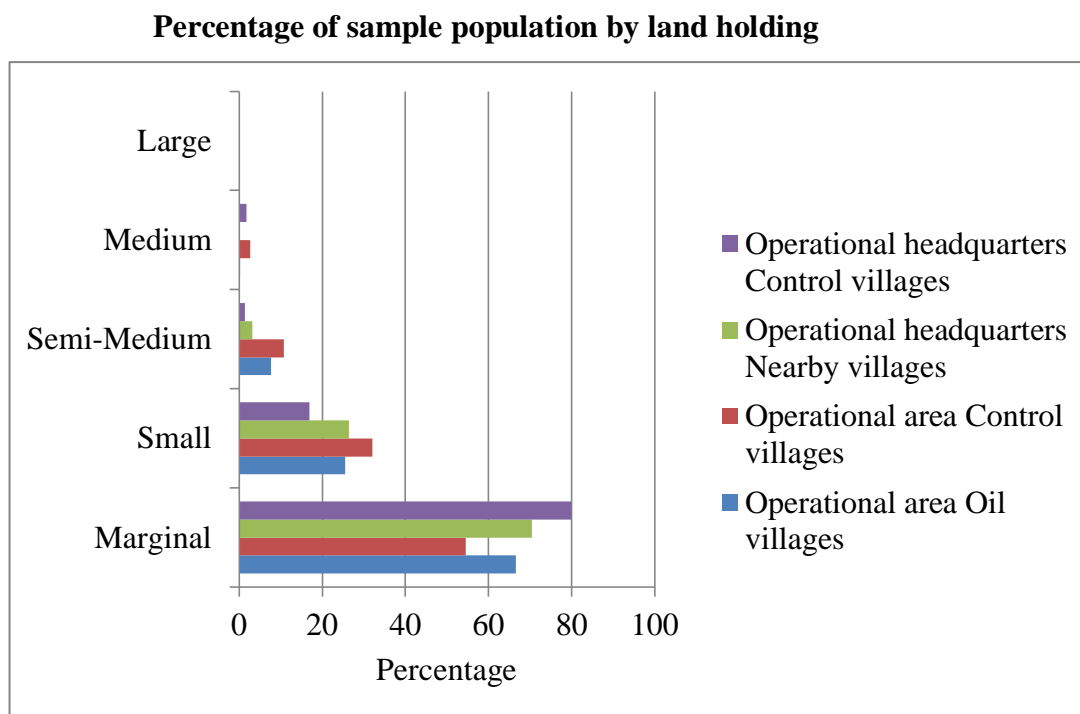
Table 4.4

Number of sample households under different land holding categories

Category land holding (in hectare)	Operational area		Operational headquarters	
	Oil villages	Control villages	Nearby villages	Control villages
Marginal (Below 1.0)	295 (66.59)	102 (54.55)	88 (70.40)	175 (79.91)
Small (1.0-2.0)	113 (25.51)	60 (32.09)	33 (26.40)	37 (16.89)
Semi-Medium (2.0-4.0)	34 (7.67)	20 (10.70)	4 (3.20)	3 (1.36)
Medium (4.0-10.0)	1 (0.23)	5 (2.66)	0 (0)	4 (1.82)
Large (10.0 & above)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total sample households	**443** (100)	**187** (100)	**125** (100)	**219** (100)

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.

Figure 4.7

Percentage of sample population by land holding

The highest percentage of sample households in the study area has been seen to be the marginal landholders, followed by the small holding category. In the operational area, the percentages of marginal landholders appeared as 66.59 and 54.55 in the oil and control villages, respectively. On the other hand, in the sample areas of operational headquarters, the percentages of marginal landholders have turned out to be 70.40 and 79.91 in the nearby and control villages, respectively.

4.5 Household income of the study area

Household income is one of the important indicators to describe the economic condition of the sample households in the study areas. It has been marked that most of the sample households in the study area have appeared in the 'below 5 lakh' annual income groups. The distribution of sample households according to their annual household income has been presented in table 4.5.

Table 4.5

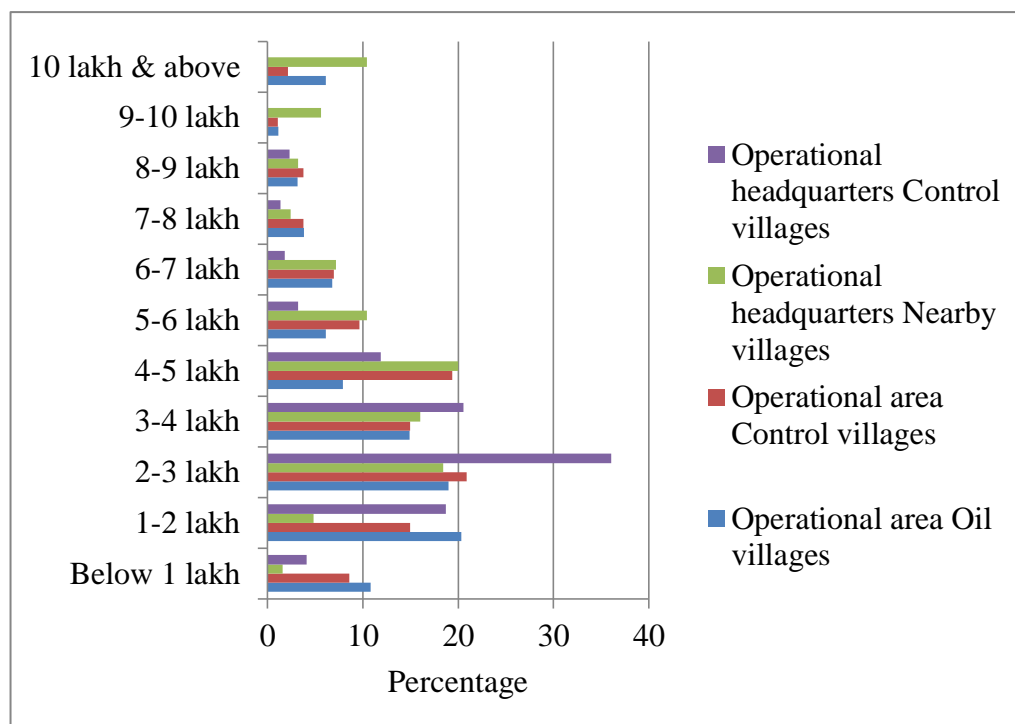**Number of households under different income categories**

Category of family income (in Rs.)	Operational area		Operational headquarters	
	Oil villages	Control villages	Nearby villages	Control villages
Below 1 lakh	48 (10.84)	16 (8.56)	2 (1.60)	9 (4.11)
1-2 lakh	90 (20.32)	28 (14.97)	6 (4.80)	41 (18.72)
2-3 lakh	84 (18.96)	39 (20.86)	23 (18.4)	79 (36.07)
3-4 lakh	66 (14.90)	28 (14.97)	20 (16.00)	45 (20.55)
4-5 lakh	35 (7.90)	25 (19.37)	25 (20.00)	26 (11.87)
5-6 lakh	27 (6.09)	18 (9.63)	13 (10.40)	7 (3.20)
6-7 lakh	30 (6.77)	13 (6.95)	9 (7.20)	4 (1.83)
7-8 lakh	17 (3.84)	7 (3.74)	3 (2.4)	3 (1.37)
8-9 lakh	14 (3.16)	7 (3.74)	4 (3.2)	5 (2.28)
9-10 lakh	5 (1.13)	2 (1.07)	7 (5.6)	0 (0.00)
10 lakh & above	27 (6.09)	4 (2.14)	13 (10.4)	0 (0.00)
Total	**443 (100)**	**187 (100)**	**125 (100)**	**219 (100)**

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.

Figure 4.8

Percentage of sample population by household income

4.6 Social composition

The sample households have been classified based on the social groups to which they belong. It has been seen in table 4.6 that the majority of the sample households belong to the other backward class (OBC) and more other backward class (MOBC). In the operational area, 77.42 per cent of sample households belonged to the OBC and MOBC category, contrary to 82.88 per cent in its control villages. The same has been marked as 81.60 per cent in the nearby villages as against 81.28 per cent in the control villages of operational headquarters. In comparison to the OBC/MOBC category, the percentage of general category, Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Scheduled Caste (SC) sample households have turned out to be very low.

Table 4.6

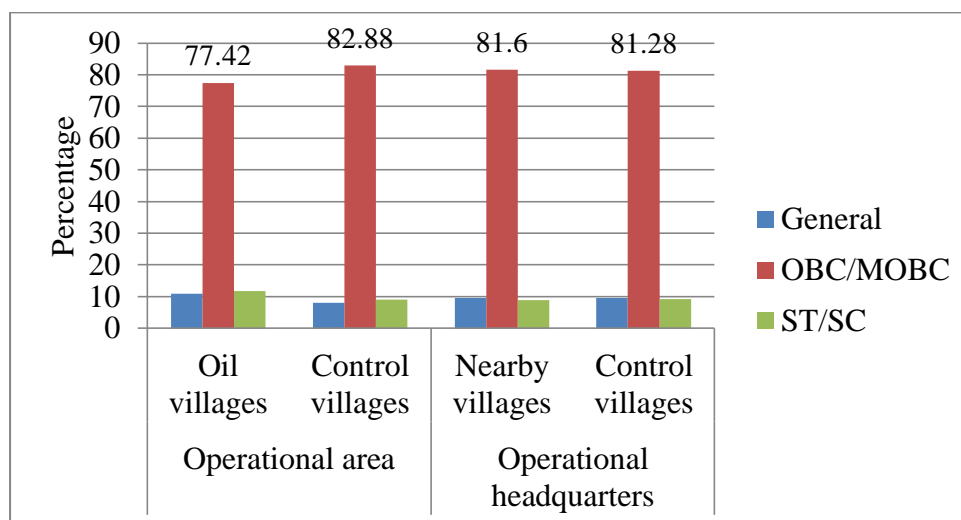**The social composition of sample households**

Category	Operational area		Operational headquarters	
	Oil villages	**Control villages**	**Nearby villages**	**Control villages**
General	48 (10.84)	15 (8.02)	12 (9.60)	21 (9.59)
OBC/MOBC	343 (77.42)	155 (82.88)	102 (81.60)	178 (81.28)
ST/SC	52 (11.74)	17 (9.09)	11 (8.80)	20 (9.13)
Total	**443 (100)**	**187 (100)**	**125 (100)**	**219 (100)**

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.

Figure 4.9

Percentage of sample population by social group

4.7 Religious composition

The religious composition of sample households of the study area has been portrayed in table 4.7. It shows that the maximum percentage of households were Hindus in all categories of sample villages. 87.81 per cent of sample households in the oil villages of operational areas and 84.49 per cent in its control villages have been reported as Hindus; while 90.40 per cent of sample households in nearby villages of operational headquarters and 85.39 per cent in its control villages have been stated as Hindus. On the contrary, the percentage of sample households belonging to other religious groups has appeared to be very low.

Table 4.7

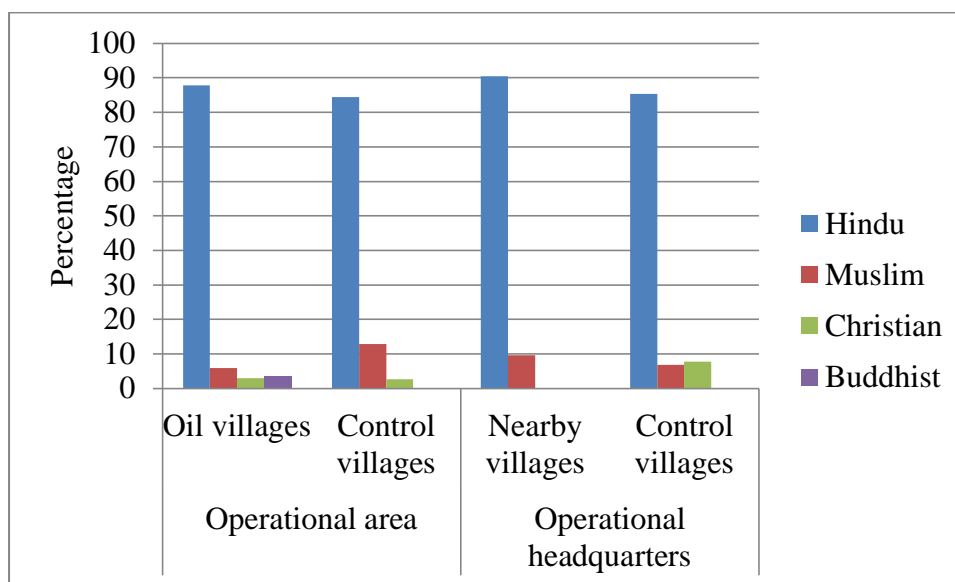**Religious composition of sample households**

Category	Operational area		Operational headquarters	
	Oil villages	**Control villages**	**Nearby villages**	**Control villages**
Hindu	389 (87.81)	158 (84.49)	113 (90.40)	187 (85.39)
Muslim	26 (5.87)	24 (12.84)	12 (9.60)	15 (6.85)
Christian	13 (2.93)	5 (2.67)	0 (0.00)	17 (7.76)
Buddhist	15 (3.39)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Total	**443 (100)**	**187 (100)**	**125 (100)**	**219 (100)**

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentage of the total.

Figure 4.10

Percentage of sample population by religion

4.8 Summing up

To sum up, there are some similarities in some aspects of demographic and socio-economic features among the sample households of the study area. The average family size, family type, percentage of the working population, land holding pattern, education level, social composition and religious composition of the sample households in all category villages have been found as almost similar. However, dissimilarity has been marked in the case of some categories of villages regarding sex ratio as well as an occupational pattern among the different sample villages.