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## Underutilization of Agricultural Land in Assam-A Panel Analysis

Surajit Siakia\*  
Annesha Mech\*\*

### *Abstract*

*Underutilization of agricultural land is one of the emerging issues of the agricultural sector of Assam. High cost of operation and low returns in agriculture has threatened the livelihood sustainability of the rural people resulting in structural shift of workforce from farm to non-farm sector which has emerged as an important segment of the rural labour market in terms of employment generation. Moreover factors like frequent occurrence of flood destroying crops, fragmented landholdings, non-availability of institutional support like credit, irrigation facilities etc to the small and marginal farmers were the underlying causes behind underutilization of agricultural land in Assam. This paper makes an attempt to examine the land use dynamics and causes behind underutilization of agricultural land over the years in Assam. The results depicted a very stagnant picture of utilization of agricultural land in Assam with no significant improvement in net sown area, gross cropped area, cropping intensity, cropping pattern and crop diversification over the years. A panel regression model was carried out to identify the influencing factors of underutilization of agricultural land across districts. The estimated result shows that average cultivable landholdings and institutional credit has a negative impact and crop diversification has a positive impact on cropping intensity which is used as an indicator for measuring the extent of agricultural land use*

**Keywords:** *Underutilization, cropping intensity, crop diversification, institutional credit, average cultivable landholdings.*

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# Unregistered Manufacturing Sector of Assam- Its Growth, Composition and Structure

Alok Ranjan Dutta \*

## Abstract

*The paper analyses the growth, composition and structure of the unregistered manufacturing sector in the state of Assam. The analysis on growth performance suggests that the output in the unregistered manufacturing sector has although increased since 80s of the last century, its growth rate is lower than that of registered manufacturing sector. There has been a steady decline in the relative share of this sector in total manufacturing output over time. Both registered and unregistered manufacturing output in the state have shown a significant step up in their growth rates since 2001-02, indicating the presence of structural break. The paper reports that there have not been major changes in the composition of unregistered manufacturing output in Assam during the reference period. The findings further reveal that unregistered manufacturing in Assam has been dominated by the OAMEs-the tiniest household enterprises, especially in terms of number of units and workers. On the other hand the modern segments i.e. NDMEs and DMEs, have been sharing some respectable position in terms of gross value added .Further, location bias has been noticed in the unregistered manufacturing sector with rural areas dominating in almost all fronts like number of units, number of workers engaged and value added generated etc.*

**Key words-** Unregistered Manufacturing, Structural Break

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# Impact of Irrigation on Cropping Intensity in Assam:

## *An Empirical Analysis*

Jayanta Saud\*

### **Abstract**

*Importance of agriculture in Assam is very high, as 86% of population is still located in rural areas and their main source of livelihood is agriculture. Utilisation of agricultural land in Assam is low as most of the area are cultivated only once in a year. Factor influencing utilisation of land in general and cropping intensity in particular falls in various categories such as infrastructure related (irrigation), technological (HYV seeds), institutional (property rights), factor market etc. Irrigation is a key factor in raising cropping intensity in monsoonal climates. This paper presents extent and variation in cropping intensity across different agro-climatic zones of the State of Assam. This paper also investigates irrigation as a significant factor in determining cropping intensity in the State with the help of a panel data model.*

**Key- Words:** Cropping intensity, Irrigation

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## **Flood and its economic effect: A Survey**

**Ratul Mahanta\***

### ***Abstract***

*Flood is considered one of the most disastrous natural hazards and over the years its incidence has been increasing. Various researchers have tried to examine the effects of flood on different sectors. However, the studies relate to economic effects and its consequences are limited. The paper tries to summarize the work of earlier researchers who have examined the effects of flood from economic and non-economic aspects in both developed and developing countries. Though floods have several effects, the present study is confined to the effects of flood only on agriculture, property value, macro economy and some other indirect effects of it. It reveals that flood has positive, negative as well as direct and indirect effects. It is recommended that identification of risk and household action or choices can reduce the negative effects of flood.*

**Key Words-** Flood, Risk, Effect

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# Impact of Gender Disparity in Education on Economic Development of Assam: An Economic Analysis

Roselin Bosumatary\*  
Manjit Das\*\*

## **Abstract**

*Eliminating gender disparity in education has been recognized as important goal in the Millennium Development Goals of United Nations Organisation. Assam, one of the North Eastern states of India, has gender disparity in education. Most of the previous studies upon the gender disparity in education show that it lays as an obstacle in the achievement of several development goals. Using time series data and cross section data, the study attempts to investigate how and to what extent gender bias in education affects total fertility rate (TFR), infant mortality rate (IMR), birth rate (BR), death rate (DR), overall sex ratio (SR), life expectancy at birth (LE), net state domestic product (NSDP), per capita net state domestic product (PCNSDP) and development of education in Assam. The results show that, gender bias in education have significant positive linkage with TFR, IMR, BR, DR and negative linkage with SR, LE, NSDP, PCNSDP and development of education.*

**Keywords:** disparity; education; Assam; development; goals.

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# Utilization of Antenatal Care (ANC) Services in Rural Arunachal Pradesh

## A Case Study of Mebo-Subdivision

Lijum Nochi \*  
Apilang Apum \*\*

### **Abstract**

*This paper attempts to highlight the utilization of antenatal care services and the factors as well as the barriers associated with its utilization among rural women in Arunachal Pradesh. It is found that 69.2 percent of the women received ANC of which 71.4 percent received the services in the first trimester and 28.6 percent within second-third trimester. However, only 50.3 percent of them received the minimum four Antenatal checkups as recommended. Several factors like mother's educational level, age, distance from the health facility, previous obstetrics history, occupational status and birth order influences the utilization of ANC. Mother's perception towards health care services was found to be the one main barriers. About 23.8 percent felt it unnecessary to avail ANC. The conclusion that culminates out of this small research is that women, especially pregnant ones, needs more counselling and educate them about the risk associated during pregnancy.*

**Key words:** Mother, Antenatal Checkups, Health Facility, Utilization

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