



*A Survey of Shelterless People  
in Urban Areas of Assam*



*A Report*



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC COOPERATION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
Regional Centre, Guwahati



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# **CHAPTER - I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An individual without access to housing is considered as shelterless or homeless. Shelterlessness or homelessness denotes a state in which people are found to live without a structure or roof. Shelterlessness is increasing in alarming rate due to increased wealth disparity and income inequality. While some people are living in designed housing complexes, there exists a class of people who do not have access to even a simple form of shelter. The most vulnerable section of the urban poor live under the sky without any roof. These people live in the street, public places or any other open place which is not meant for human habitation. Besides the pavement, they stay in front of shops, office premises, school verandah, Railway Platform, Bus-stand, Hospital verandah, etc. A part of the urban poor also encroach government land beside the railway tracks or space adjacent to railway tracks. Some of them are houseless for a short period of time and some are houseless for a long time.

A physical structure that is intended to be a permanent residential accommodation with the basic residential conveniences is a distant dream to the shelterless. It is an irony of fate that people who are shelterless to-day, were perhaps not so initially. They probably once had enough money, had support network of family and friends, were able to look after their health and general well-being and most importantly, they were housed and had a place to call home.

Shelterlessness is a dark and gloomy picture of the society. It reflects an awful status of that segment of the population who are forced to come to the street from different background under different circumstances. So, one can not illustrate a common picture for all the shelterless people except their lack of

housing. Their unifying factor is that they have no fixed address - no stable and adequate place to live. The picture of shelterlessness reflects poverty and deep economic crisis that many people undergo in their struggle for life. It is a tragic phenomenon of poor, unemployed and helpless persons of the society.

The situation of shelterlessness in urban areas arises from numerous reasons. One major reason is urbanization. India's urban population is increasing at a faster rate. The Ministry of Housing and urban poverty Alleviation of government of India, with the support of the United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP) had launched a report on the nature and dynamics of urban poverty in the country. According to the report (2009), the pace of urbanization in the country is 28 per cent. Though, this figure has been slow and lower than the average of Asia, however, the absolute number of people in urban cities and towns of India has gone up substantially. India's urban population is increasing at a faster rate than its total population. The figure is likely to be as high as 41 per cent of the total population by 2030. It is important to understand that though on the one hand urbanisation has been recognized as an important component of economic growth, yet, on the other hand it is contributing to rise of poverty. With the growth of urban population urban poverty is also increasing. Poverty figures in urban areas is growing steadily. According to the aforesaid report, urban poverty in India remains high at over 25 per cent. Growing urban population is making housing, water, sanitation, health care, education, etc. scarce and costlier. In developing countries rapid growth of urban areas is dislocating many people who are not provided resettlement. People are forcibly evicted for new development plans like- high rise buildings, roadways and other governmental needs. The compensation may be minimal in such cases. As a result, the former occupants cannot find appropriate new housing and eventually, become shelterless. As per 2001 census, the total urban homeless population is 7,78,599.

Rapid development of cities or town areas is paving the way for migration. Urbanisation has drawn many from the rural areas to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities. With the increase of urban population there is demand of extra housing, water, electricity, health care, education, etc. Non availability of affordable housing facilities for poor migrants in towns or cities has forced some of them to seek shelter in the slums and rendered many homeless.

Natural calamities of various nature also render many shelterless. Because of natural disaster like flood, soil erosion, droughts, earthquake, etc many people lose their agricultural land and homestead property. In Assam, flood and soil erosion are two major causes of landlessness. Since in Assam, rural economy is completely based on agriculture, people do not have any option when agricultural land is affected by flood/erosion. It affects both the small and marginal farmers as well as agricultural labourers. Having no options, many people move towards town or cities in search of some employment. Until they manage to have a livelihood and a decent place of living, they are required to run their lives with a very limited amount of expenditure that turn their life even to be a beggar and shelterless.

Leaving home due to mental instability also contributes to the cause of shelterless. Mentally ill people leave their home on their own wish and choose their place wherever they like. Some of them move towards the city or town. Sometimes they are also thrown out by their family members.

Ailments, chronic diseases, disabilities also force many people to take shelter on the streets. There are incidences when persons suffering from communicable diseases like leprosy, TB, etc. are forced to leave their home and eventually become shelterless. Physically disabled from poor families are also sometimes left to live on their own on the road by their family members. Sometimes such people leave home of their own for not getting care and also thinking themselves as burden to the family.

Elderly people leave their home being neglected by their family members. Besides, violence at home, behavioural problem, anxiety and obsession, alcohol, drugs, crime, depression, eviction are some of the other causes behind people's becoming shelterless. In addition to the above, some other reasons which also make people live on the street are as follows:

- Unemployment is one of the reasons of shelterlessness. For not being able to earn adequately to fulfill their basic needs such as food, clothe and shelter, people start living on the street.
- Ethnic conflict or armed conflict which is very much common in North East India may also be one of the reasons of shelterlessness. The people affected with insurgency leave behind their property, relatives, friends, surroundings, etc. and take shelter on the streets.
- Domestic violence, relationship breakdown is also related to homelessness. Women basically living in poor family are more vulnerable to become victims of domestic violence.

Whatever the reasons may be for people to live on the street, there is no denying the fact that this section faces distinctive problems and is the most appropriate envoys of poverty. The shelterless who are the poorest of the poor are deprived of human rights to a range of basic amenities. They face acute problems of security, food, water, sanitation, health care, livelihood, education, etc. Facilities such as toilets, bathrooms are not easily accessible to them. As a result, quite often they relieve themselves in the open. They also bathe less frequently. Problems are even more serious for women, children, aged people and for people with chronic illnesses or disabilities.

Shelterlessness is a big problem not only to the shelterless people but also lays negative impact on the rest of the society. There is no denying the fact that

the living style of shelterless also cause inconvenience to the people in general. Shelterless use pavement for sleeping, cooking and having food and keep it unclean that create problems to nearby people. By choosing the pavement for their stay they obstruct the normal movement of pedestrians. Their addiction to drugs and alcohol creates serious problem to the society. They are also vulnerable to crime and anti-social activities. For lack of proper provision for toilets they go for open defecation and use drain, street, open field, etc for this purpose. This also creates health hazard. For all these, they are neglected and not accepted by the common people.

### **Definition of Shelterless:**

- From the universal definition, “Homelessness means the absence of a place to live (a house or an apartment or a room - the physical structure) - which includes the absence of belonging to a place and the people living there (a home, in the social/ psychological sense).”
- In very simple words- an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence.
- According to census of India (2001)’s definition, Shelterless are those who do not have a roof over their head.

### **Objectives of the study**

The principal objective of the study was to identify the number of shelterless people in the urban areas of Assam, so that, on the basis of the survey a comprehensive and need based programme can be designed by the Govt. of Assam to ensure minimum standard of care and rehabilitation and setting up of infrastructural facilities to address the issue. The study also aimed:-

- i) to know the factors behind shelterlessness ,
- ii) to understand the profile of the shelterless in terms of age, sex,

income, occupation, etc.

- iii) to have an insight about their living condition such as food, clothing, health and hygiene, etc.

## **Methodology**

The survey of the shelterless people was conducted in 24 districts of Assam. For this, survey was carried out in the district head quarters of all the 24 districts. The districts which were relatively new and small such as Baska, Udalguri and Chirang were not covered by the survey. The responsibility of carrying out the survey was entrusted to the local NGOs of these districts. The NGOs were selected on the basis of their background, working experience and association with NIPCCD Regional Centre, Guwahati. As the first step, their consent to be a partner with NIPCCD in data collection work was obtained. A total of 12 NGOs took the responsibilities for data collection and data compilation. (The list of NGOs and districts covered by them is given at Annexure -I). NIPCCD, Guwahati worked out a detailed guideline towards distribution of districts amongst NGOs, time-frame for conducting the survey, number of surveyors/enumerators to be appointed by them and mode of payment, etc.

## **Tool:**

An interview schedule was developed with relevant close type questions on sex, marital status, age-group, place of origin, present location, occupation, income level, reasons behind leaving home, food and clothing, sanitation, health problems, maintenance of personal cleanliness, etc. The interview schedule entails information about the family members also with their age, occupation and education. The interview schedule was first field tested by NIPCCD faculty by administering on nearly 30 shelterless people of greater Guwahati living at Sukreswarghat, Jahajghat, Railway Station and Paltan Bazaar area. Based on

the field testing it was again revised and fine tuned. (Interview schedule is given at Annexure –III).

In addition to the personal interview of each shelterless person with the help of the interview schedule, the study also encompassed data based on the observation of the shelterless people by the surveyors on items such as general health, personal cleanliness, clothing, condition of clothes, disability, etc.

### **Orientation of NGOs:**

A one day meeting was organized with the NGOs at NIPCCD, Guwahati on July 21, 2010 in which representatives of all the selected NGOs participated. NGOs were explained in detail about the survey work and the responsibilities and duties there of. A one-to-one discussion and consultation took place on the interview schedule, process of data collection and compilation. The districts were allocated to the NGOs and they were apprised about the time-frame for conducting the survey, number of enumerators to be appointed by them, their orientation to the work at the district level, and mode of payment, etc. After this, the designated NGO representative entered into an agreement with NIPCCD, Guwahati by stating their willingness to accomplish the task as per NIPCCD's guidelines .

### **Data collection:**

The NGO representatives on their return to their districts from NIPCCD appointed enumerators/surveyors and gave training to them on the survey work in general and also on use of the interview schedule in particular. The enumerators/surveyors collected the required data on shelterless people by visiting different localities of different districts allocated to them. In all, 42 enumerators were engaged by the NGOs for this work who carried out the survey of shelterless people and studied the major problems faced by them owing to non availability of housing and basic amenities. The enumerators collected the

required information with the help of the interview schedule from each shelterless respondent whom they spotted out in different localities. In case of those shelterless who were living with their family only the head of the family was interviewed. Prior to the actual survey, NGOs did an initial investigation to identify the locations where shelterless people are generally found. In this regard they also took help from the offices of the Superintendent of Police and Deputy Commissioner. The survey was carried out in all the 24 district Headquarters simultaneously.

In addition to interviewing the respondents, side by side observation was also carried out and recorded by the enumerators. Observation data included items such as general health, personal cleanliness, clothing, condition of clothes, disability, etc. The survey was conducted between August and October of 2010 parallelly in all the 24 districts of Assam.

Having collected the data same were compiled and submitted to NIPCCD in the prescribed format. On receipt of the district data, same were compiled and processed at NIPCCD, Guwahati. The findings of the survey work are presented in Chapter-II.

The findings of the survey work are presented in the following pages.

**Limitations of the study:**

The survey was confined only to the municipality areas of all the 24 district head quarters. The survey of shelterless people was mostly conducted during late evenings or early mornings, as the majority were out to work or out in search of food, etc. during the day time. In order to capture all the shelterless people in a particular area as far as possible several visits had to be made to the same place. Yet, there are chances that a few of those who were not available at the time of visits by the surveyors might have been left out. Further, there were few

persons who restrained from sharing any information. There were some respondents who were drunk, intoxicated and were not in a state of proper frame of mind. Therefore, desired information could not be gathered from them.

People have a tendency to inflate or exaggerate their past and present status; so, handling such situations became at times difficult. Some of them tried to conceal their real story of their life. Many were not in proper state of mind. People also expressed annoyance over asking/answering the similar type of questions again and again every now and then by different groups of people. It was learnt during pre testing of the schedules that quite often people posing themselves as Government/ voluntary officials ask them about their background and leave with promises of employment, shelter, health care, etc. However they never return to fulfill their promises. This was mostly experienced in Guwahati.

Because of dwelling nature it was sometimes difficult to meet the respondents again for the second time for any clarification. Several visits had to be made in search of the people for the survey that was fixed either early morning or late night for their availability.

## CHAPTER II

### FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

#### District and Sex-wise distribution of Shelterless People

The survey of shelterless people in the district headquarters of 24 districts of Assam came across a total of **1473** shelterless persons, with **1231** (83.57%) male and **242** (16.43%) female. It is noteworthy that in case of those shelterless who were found to live with their families, only the head of the family was counted for the purpose of enumeration. In all, 274 shelterless persons were found to be living with their families. With the inclusion of their family members the population of shelterless persons is **2227**.

**Table – 1: District and sex-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

Sl. No.	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Dhemaji	14 (100.00)	-	14
2.	Lakhimpur	36 (90.00)	4 (10.00)	40
3.	Dibrugarh	49 (92.45)	4 (07.55)	53
4.	Tinsukia	112 (95.73)	5 (04.27)	117
5.	Sivasagar	29 (55.77)	23 (44.23)	52
6.	Jorhat	23 (82.14)	5 (17.86)	28
7.	Golaghat	10 (83.33)	2 (16.67)	12
8.	Karbi Anglong	9 (69.23)	4 (30.77)	13
9.	N.C.Hills	2 (66.67)	1 (33.33)	3
10.	Silchar	32 (82.05)	7 (17.95)	39
11.	Hailakandi	13 (81.25)	3 (18.75)	16
12.	Karimganj	10 (43.48)	13 (56.52)	23
13.	Kokrajhar	161 (87.98)	22 (12.02)	183
14.	Bongaigaon	69 (82.14)	15 (17.86)	84
15.	Dhuburi	33 (71.74)	13 (28.26)	46
16.	Goalpara	8 (80.00)	2 (20.00)	10
17.	Barpeta	11 (45.83)	13 (54.17)	24
18.	Nalbari	20 (90.91)	2 (09.09)	22
19.	Darrang	7 (77.78)	2 (22.22)	9
20.	Sonitpur	10 (76.92)	3 (23.08)	13
21.	Morigaon	35 (100.00)	-	35
22.	Nagaon	79 (78.22)	22 (21.78)	101
23.	Kamrup (M)	419 (85.86)	69 (14.14)	488
24.	Kamrup (R)	40 (83.33)	8 (16.67)	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1231</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>83.57</b>	<b>16.43</b>	<b>100.00</b>

As seen in Table – 1 maximum concentration of shelterless people has been found in Kamrup (Metro) which alone is covering 33.13 per cent of the total shelterless people. Since Guwahati is the gateway of North East and is the only city of Assam, it is becoming an ultimate destination for many poor. Being the large trading area it paves the way for some employment even to the poorest of the poor. Kokrajhar is the second largest in terms of size of shelterless people. There have been 161 shelterless people in Kokrajhar. It may be mentioned here that, Kokrajhar since long been facing acute problem of insurgency as well as ethnic conflict rendering many families broken and displaced. The third and the fourth positions in respect of size of shelterless people are occupied by Tinsukia and Nagaon districts respectively. Tinsukia is also a well known business place in Assam where people can get an easy scope to earn money. The busy Railway Junction which gives scope to get employment as coolies and labourers and the platform which act as a safe shelter, attracts many poverty ridden and disadvantaged people to stay and work there, thus adding to the number of shelterless people.

N.C. Hills shows the least number (3) of shelterless persons which is only 0.2 per cent of total shelterless people enumerated by the present survey. Since the district is thinly populated and does not have much attraction for migration from villages within the district or adjoining districts the number of shelterless is reportedly very few. As shelterless people are mostly dependent on begging and unskilled labour work they are always in look out for a densely populated and business area. Again, it is hard to lead a life in hilly region. According to 2001 Census, the population in Haflong under town committee areas is only 36,302. Thus, only 0.008 per cent of the population at Haflong are shelterless which is quite negligible. Further, with the probable increase of population in the town in the past 10 years (from 2001 to 2010) would further bring down the percentage of shelterless people.

In Darrang, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Goalpara, Sonitpur and Dhemaji also the survey reported fewer number of shelterless people.

Now, in respect of sex-wise distribution of the shelterless population, the study reported of 1231 (84%) male and 242 (16%) female (Figure 1). Thus, a wide range of difference between male and female shelterless people is conspicuous. The difference is more prominent in Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur and Nalbari districts where male shelterless is forming more than 90 per cent of the total in each of these districts. The difference was relatively less in Sivasagar and Karbi Anglong. On the contrary to general phenomenon of higher male population than female, in Karimganj and Barpeta the female shelterless was more than the male shelterless. It is also noteworthy that the survey has not encountered any female shelterless in the district Headquarters of Dhemaji and Morigaon.

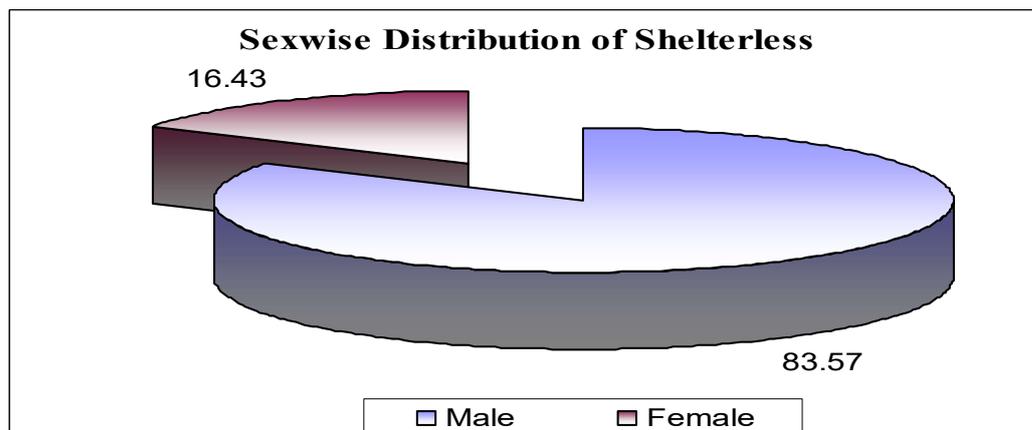


Figure – 1: Sex-wise Distribution of Shelterless People

**Age :**

One significant reason for the shelterless people to come to the cities or towns is to search for job or for some livelihood options. Therefore, the youths and middle aged people in their forties and fifties dominate the age profile. It is clear from figure -2 that the Maximum number of shelterless are in the age group of 30 to 45 years. As many as 643 (43.66%) of the population are in this age

group. Table- 2 shows that highest percentage of people of this age-group are in Karimganj district (91%) followed by Nagaon (71%). Similar situation is noticed in Lakhimpur, Barpeta and Morigaon where above 50 per cent of shelterless people are under this age-group. These people mostly come out of their homes to fulfill their responsibilities towards their families. They are ready to face the high risk or challenges of their life and can earn as daily wager and manage their primary needs. They are able to handle all kinds of conflict situations using their active mind and to take necessary step from their side for survival on the street. It is needless to state that many people belonging to this age group probably had come to the urban areas many years ago meaning there by that at the time of their entry into these places they were in their twenties and thirties.

In the next age-group that is 45 – 60 years also, the number of shelterless is not too less. It covers 22.4 per cent (330) of the total shelterless. In Dhemaji district 71.43 per cent of shelterless people are within this age group. In Sonitpur and Jorhat district also people in this age group is covering 61.5 and 50 per cent of the total shelterless people respectively.

The survey came across nearly 8 per cent elderly people who were above 60 years of age. They were found in 12 districts. They were mostly seen in Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sivasagar and Kamrup (Rural). In Dibrugarh, almost 34 per cent of the total shelterless people are aged. Nevertheless, the presence of a smaller number of elderly persons is a relief for any one concerned with the welfare of the aged people. Further, complete absence of such people in fifty per cent of the districts is another positive finding, which, perhaps talks about existence of a support system within the family in our society for the senior citizens and not letting them to be the victim of harsh street life.

Shelterless people in 19 to 30 years age group ranged between 5 and 54 per cent. While Bongaigaon had the highest number in this age group. Nagaon reported the least.

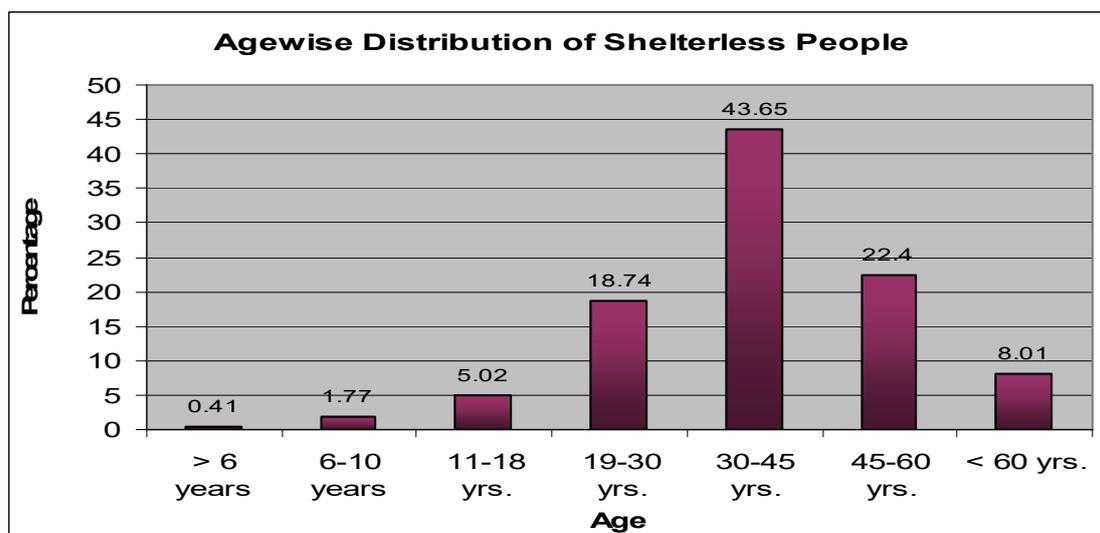


Figure – 2: Agewise Distribution of Shelterless People

### Child population :

As regard to children in the street, the survey reported a total of 106 children below 18 years of age. Of these, 6 are below the age of 6 years, 26 are between 6-10 years of age and 74 are between 11 and 18 years. It is quite significant to note that there were only six children below the age of six years and except Guwahati city, in none other districts surveyors came across such small children in the street. This perhaps indirectly talks about caring and protective behaviour of the parents or guardians in particular and society in general towards the young children. Children between 6 -10 years of age was 26. They were found in four districts – Tinsukia, Karbi Anglong, Nalbari and Kamrup (Metro). Again, maximum number of them was from Kamrup (Metro). The study reported of total 74 children in the streets who were between 11 and 18 years of age. Maximum number (69) of them again were spotted in Guwahati alone. The city undoubtedly provides sufficient space for earning livelihood to this group of children.

Children are found in the streets either because of negligence by parents or because they are orphan. Having come to the street they look for some

opportunities for employment to earn money to supplement personal and household income. It is clear that children are forced to spend their lives in the open area only under extreme conditions.

**Table – 2: District and Age-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

Sl. No.	District	Below 6 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-18 yrs	19-30 yrs	30-45 yrs	45-60 yrs	Above 60 yrs	Total
1.	Dhemaji	-	-	-	1 (7.14)	3 (21.43)	10 (71.43)	-	14
2.	Lakhimpur	-	-	-	6 (15.00)	22 (55.00)	8 (20.00)	4 (10.00)	40
3.	Dibrugarh	-	-	1 (1.89)	4 (7.55)	13 (24.53)	17 (32.08)	18 (33.96)	53
4.	Tinsukia	-	4 (3.42)	8 (6.84)	26 (22.22)	43 (36.75)	23 (19.66)	13 (11.11)	117
5.	Sivasagar	-	-	-	3 (5.77)	25 (48.08)	12 (23.08)	12 (23.08)	52
6..	Jorhat	-	-	2 (7.14)	-	5 (17.86)	14 (50.00)	7 (25.00)	28
7.	Golaghat	-	-	-	-	4 (33.33)	4 (33.33)	4 (33.33)	12
8.	Karbi Anglong	-	5 (38.46)	-	2 (15.38)	5 (38.46)	1 (07.69)	-	13
9.	N.C.Hills	-	-	1 (33.33)	-	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	-	3
10.	Silchar	-	-	-	6 (15.38)	16 (41.03)	14 (35.90)	3 (07.69)	39
11.	Hailakandi	-	-	-	3 (18.75)	8 (50.00)	5 (31.25)	-	16
12.	Karimganj	-	-	-	-	21 (91.30)	2 (08.70)	-	23
13.	Kokrajhar	-	-	-	62 (33.88)	90 (49.18)	22 (12.02)	9 (04.92)	183
14.	Bongaigaon	-	-	5 (5.95)	45 (53.57)	31 (36.90)	3 (03.57)	-	84
15.	Dhuburi	-	-	1 (2.17)	6 (13.04)	23 (50.00)	16 (34.78)	-	46
16.	Goalpara	-	-	-	2 (20.00)	6 (60.00)	2 (20.00)	-	10
17.	Barpeta	-	-	1 (4.17)	6 (25.00)	14 (58.33)	3 (12.50)	-	24
18.	Nalbari	-	1 (4.55)	-	5 (22.73)	9 (40.91)	6 (27.27)	1 (04.55)	22
19.	Darrang	-	-	-	3 (33.33)	2 (22.22)	4 (44.44)	-	9
20.	Sonitpur	-	-	-	1 (7.69)	3 (23.08)	8 (61.54)	1 (07.69)	13
21.	Morigaon	-	-	-	6 (17.14)	19 (54.29)	10 (28.57)	-	35
22.	Nagaon	-	-	2 (1.98)	5 (4.95)	72 (71.29)	22 (21.78)	-	101
23.	Kamrup (M)	6 (1.23)	10 (2.05)	53 (10.86)	71 (14.55)	195 (39.96)	117 (23.98)	36 (07.38)	488
24.	Kamrup (R)	-	6 (12.50)	-	13 (27.08)	13 (27.08)	6 (12.50)	10 (20.83)	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>18.74</b>	<b>43.65</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>8.01</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### **Marital status :**

Table – 3 (Annexure) reveals that majority of the shelterless are married. Married people constitutes 53.44 per cent of the total adult shelterless people found under the study. The highest percentage of married shelterless people was reported in Morigaon forming 94.29 per cent of the total shelterless people of the district. Dhemaji holds the second position with nearly 93 per cent of its total shelterless persons being married. Married shelterless is highly visible in other districts such as Kokrajhar, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh also where more than 60 per cent of the shelterless were found to be married. In Karimganj district number of married shelterless is the lowest (4.35%). It was learnt during the survey that many of the male shelterless persons had left their home in search of livelihood and income. These people do not or cannot spend their earnings on house rent. Instead, they spend the night on roadside or in the Railway Platforms and send the money to their families whom they have left behind in their native places.

Unmarried shelterless is forming 23.72 per cent of the total shelterless people in the state that is highly visible in Karimganj, Hailakandi, Silchar, Dhuburi, Barpeta, N.C. Hills and Goalpara. Here, Karimganj and Hailakandi were occupying the highest position with 87 and 75 per cent. Surprisingly, no unmarried shelterless person was found in Kokrajhar district. Morigaon, Dhemaji, Kamrup (Metro), Sonitpur and Dibrugarh reported less number of unmarried shelterless people.

Both widows and widowers are forming almost same percentage i.e. 4.1 and 4.61 per cent respectively. Widows were more commonly found in Karbi Anglong, Jorhat, Darrang, Kokrajhar and Silchar. In these districts more than 10 per cent of the respondents were widows. In 11 districts, namely, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Golaghat, N.C. Hills, Hailakandi, Goalpara, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Morigaon and Nagaon, no widow was found. Similarly, widowers were came acrossed in nine districts – Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong,

Silchar, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup (Rural). In Karbi Anglong figures are stunningly highest both for widows and widowers. Like- wise, Jorhat is in second position for both widows and widowers. It was learnt that some aged widows/widowers were thrown out by their family members considering them as burden to the family. At times they also leave their home on their wish being harassed and deprived of care by their own sons and daughter-in-laws.

The surveyors were also informed by some people on the street that though they were married, they preferred to stay separately from their spouses for being tortured physically as well as mentally. Such people leave their home mostly because of family conflict, stress, dissolution. Separation was reported in nine districts forming 3.29 per cent of total adult shelterless people. Highest percentage of separated shelterless was encountered in Barpeta. Total number of divorcee is forming 3 per cent of the total shelterless and is visible only in eight districts. Maximum cases of divorcee were reported in Nagaon district and it constitutes 21.21 per cent of total adult shelterless people of the district.

In Golaghat, Darrang and Sonitpur a good number of respondents did not disclose their marital status. A total of 7.76 per cent of adult shelterless people were not ready to reply to this question.

**Place of stay :**

Maximum number of shelterless people were found to take shelter in market areas. As many as 494 persons (33.54%) were found in and around market places. Highest concentration of shelterless in market areas was reported in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Tinsukia and Morigaon. Total shelterless in these districts varied from 68 to 75 per cent. In few other districts namely Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Goalpara, Bongaigaon also reporting of shelterless people in market areas was between 50 and 58 per cent. In Kamrup (Metro), 126 shelterless people were

found in market area, of which, majority were found in Paltan Bazaar and Pan Bazaar area. Besides these two markets, people are also scattered in other market areas such as Fancy Bazaar, Athgaon, Maskhowa, Lakhtokia, Narengi, Chandmari and Ulubari.

The next highest concentration of shelterless people was at the Railway Station. In all, 475 respondents were living in the Railway Stations. Majority were found at Kokrajhar Railway Station. Here, 84.15 per cent of total shelterless people of the district live in Railway Station. The next highest concentration of shelterless persons was residing in Rangia Railway Station of Kamrup (Rural). In Nalbari too, 50 per cent of total shelterless were living in Railway Station. Surprisingly, both Guwahati and Bongaigaon Railway stations had similar pattern of habitation. The data also indicates some amount of diversity in this matter. To be precise, in five districts i.e., Golaghat, N.C. Hills, Goalpara, Darrang and Morigaon, no shelterless was found to live in Railway Station. It may be mentioned that, besides Railway Station, people also like to live near the Bus-stand for the reason that such people find an easy way to meet their daily needs. These people choose Railway Station and Bus-Stands to get rid of adversity of weather. These places provide them facilities for bathing and defecation also.

The third option for stay of shelterless people is places of worship. In these places the devotees offer food and clothes to the beggars that pull the shelterless to stay there. Soft corner of devotees to such people makes life easy for them. Sivasagar district claims to have highest concentration of such people in place of worship i.e. near *Siva Doul*. Because of food and provision of bathing and defecation facilities, shelterless people prefer to stay in these areas. In Kamrup (Metro) 25.41 per cent of shelterless people are residing in places of worship. Here, the highly occupied worship places are Sukreswarghat followed by Ulubari *Mazhar* and *Sani Mandir* areas of Fancy Bazaar.

Besides above places, shelterless people were also found to live under tree, hospital verandah and other areas like under fly over/over-bridges, school premises, office premises, etc which are included under 'other areas' in Table – 4 and also at Annexure II.

The areas selected by shelterless people for their stay mostly depend on the usability of that area. Generally, the selection is based on the opportunities for earning and provision of food.

**Table – 4: Location-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Railway Station	475	32.25
Bus Stand	146	9.91
Place of Worship	203	13.65
Market Area	494	33.54
Under Tree	4	0.27
Street /Roadside	17	1.15
Hospital	6	0.41
Others	130	8.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### **Occupation**

Low income or no income is one of the main reasons of being in the state of homelessness or shelterlessness. Table – 5 (Annexure) and figure 3 below illustrate the over all picture of occupation of the people who were contacted and interviewed by the surveyors to gather the desired data. The data reveal that nearly 30 per cent of the shelterless people are beggars. Highest number of beggars were found in Goalpara. Here, almost all the shelterless (90%) are beggars. District-wise data are given at Table - 5 (may be seen at Annexure).

Beggars were also commonly seen in Karimganj, Sivasagar, Darrang and Dhuburi districts. The beggars move to the market place or wait in the bus stand and railway station for begging. They also sit in front of the temples or other places of worship. In Sivasagar most of the beggars were seen near the famous *Siva dol*.

**Table – 5: Occupation-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Thelawalla/ Rickshawalla	256	17.38
Roadside Vendor	60	4.07
Porter/ Labourer	380	25.80
Beggar	437	29.67
Rag-picker	126	8.55
Others	71	4.82
Nothing	42	2.85
NA/No Answer	101	6.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

In Guwahati city also most of the shelterless sit for begging in front of the places of worship i.e. temple, mosque on particular days. Sometimes daily wagers also engage themselves as beggars particularly on days when they do not get any work. In Dhemaji, N.C. Hills, Kokrajhar and Morigaon no beggar was found. Shelterless with physical disability generally sit for begging in front of worship places or nearby bus stand or railway station.

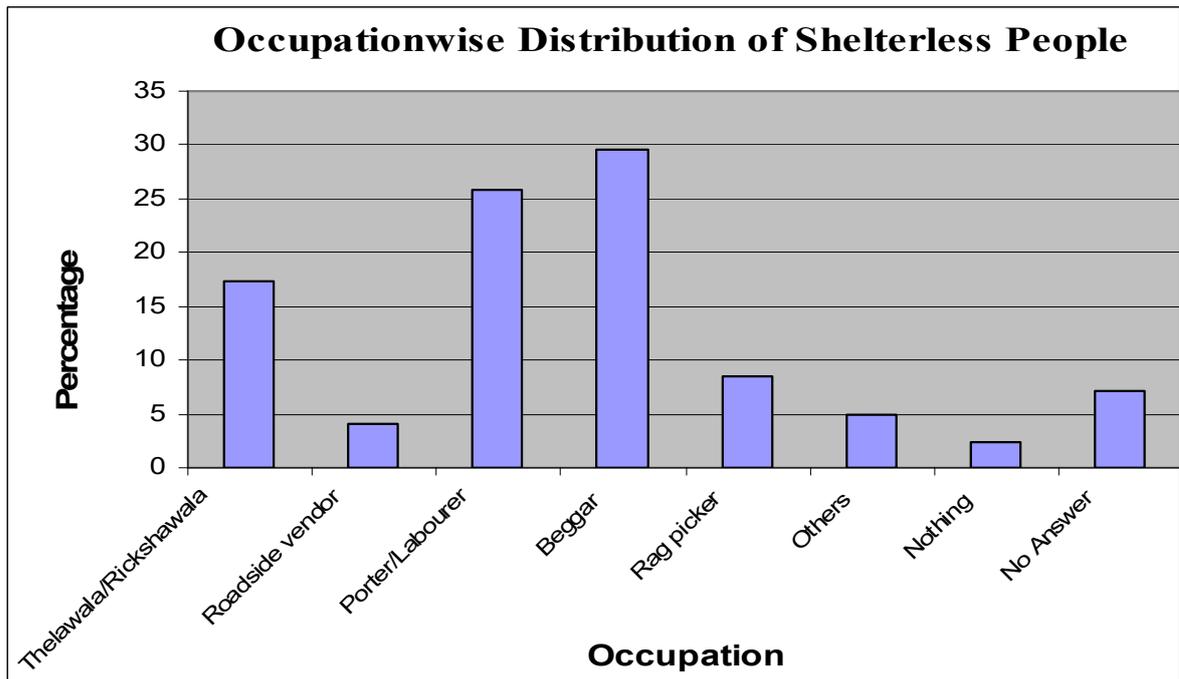


Figure – 3: Occupation-wise Distribution of Shelterless People

The second livelihood option is daily wage labourer. They do the work as labourer, porter etc. It is occupying 25.80 per cent of the total shelterless people. In Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur district over 50 per cent of the shelterless people are porters and labourers. Daily wage labourer is least in Sivasagar district (1.92 %). In Golaghat, Darrang, Sonitpur, and Morigaon districts no shelterless was found to be working as daily wage labourer as a means of livelihood.

The third common means of livelihood of the shelterless is *thelawallas* and *rickshawwallas*. In all, 17 per cent shelterless were reported to be *thelawallas* and *rickshawwallas*. In Morigaon district all shelterless people are engaged either as *thelawallas* or *rickshawwallas*. Most of them are from Bihar having come to Assam in search of livelihood. In Dhemaji district also 78.57 per cent respondents follow this occupation. In some of the districts like Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, N.C. Hills, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Goalpara, Barpeta, Darrang and Sonitpur no shelterless reported to be engaged as *thelawalla* or *rickshawwalla*.

Nearly 9 per cent of the total shelterless people are rag pickers. They were found in 13 of the 24 surveyed districts. It has been observed that in case of shelterless children most are engaged as rag pickers.

It is startling to know that a few women shelterless are engaged as sex workers. It was mostly reported in Barpeta and Kamrup (Metro). In Guwahati city, few of the shelterless work also as dead body carrier. They get money from Guwahati Municipality Corporation for this service.

It is learnt from the respondents under the present study that they do not have regular or fixed type of work. They pick up different jobs according to the availability of work and would also go without work at times. Some of the shelterless are unemployed because of their physical disability or mental retardation or mental illness.

### **Level of Income**

It is obvious from the findings (Table – 6) that, most of the shelterless people live in extreme poverty. Majority of them earn less than Rs 500 in a month. It has already been described that most of these people are engaged as beggars. Of the total shelterless people, 411 (27.9 %) earn less than Rs 500 per month. Most of them belong to Sivasagar, Karbi Anglong, Silchar and Kamrup (Rural). Little over 9 per cent people had no income at all. In Sivasagar 76.92 per cent of the people earn less than Rs 500 per month. In Nagaon, Kamrup (Metro), Dhuburi, Jorhat and Golaghat also many of the shelterless people's monthly income is less than Rs 500.

**Table: 6- District and Monthly Income - wise Distribution  
of the Shelterless People**

Sl. No	Districts	Nil Income	Below Rs 500	Rs. 500-1000	Rs 1000-2000	Rs. 2000-5000	No Answer
1	Dhemaji	-	1 (7.14)	-	13 (92.86)	-	-
2	Lakhimpur	-	5 (12.5)	12 (30.00)	20 (50.00)	3 (07.50)	-
3	Dibrugarh	2 (3.77)	9 (16.98)	9 (16.98)	14 (26.42)	11 (20.75)	8 (15.09)
4	Tinsukia	1 (0.85)	20 (17.09)	38 (32.48)	18 (15.38)	22 (18.8)	18 (15.38)
5	Sivasagar	-	40 (76.92)	10 (19.23)	2 (3.85)	-	-
6	Jorhat	4 (14.29)	7 (25.00)	17 (60.71)	-	-	-
7	Golaghat	1 (8.33)	3 (25.00)	1 (8.33)	-	-	7 (58.33)
8	Karbi Anglong	2 (15.38)	9 (69.23)	2 (15.38)	-	-	-
9	N.C.Hills	-	1 (33.33)	2 (66.67)	-	-	-
10	Silchar	2 (5.13)	22 (56.41)	10 (25.64)	5 (12.82)	-	-
11	Hailakandi	12 (75.00)	4 (25.00)	-	-	-	-
12	Karimganj	10 (43.48)	4 (17.39)	7 (30.43)	2 (8.70)	-	-
13	Kokrajhar	-	-	16 (8.74)	57 (31.15)	109 (59.56)	1 (0.55)
14	Bongaigaon	1 (1.19)	4 (4.76)	21 (25.00)	44 (52.38)	14 (16.67)	-
15	Dhuburi	29 (63.04)	17 (36.96)	-	-	-	-
16	Goalpara	9 (90.00)	1 (10.00)	-	-	-	-
17	Barpeta	8 (33.33)	2 (8.33)	2 (8.33)	3 (12.50)	-	9 (37.50)
18	Nalbari	-	3 (13.64)	13 (59.09)	5 (22.73)	1 (04.55)	-
19	Darrang	8 (88.89)	-	1 (11.11)	-	-	-
20	Sonitpur	6 (46.15)	3 (23.08)	-	-	-	4 (30.76)
21	Morigaon	-	-	16 (45.71)	19 (54.29)	-	-
22	Nagaon	46 (45.54)	48 (47.52)	7 (6.93)	-	-	-
23	Kamrup(M)	-	183 (37.50)	104 (21.31)	76 (15.57)	59 (12.09)	66 (13.52)
24	Kamrup (R)	-	25 (52.08)	2 (4.17)	10 (20.83)	11 (22.92)	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>113</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>9.57</b>	<b>27.90</b>	<b>19.69</b>	<b>19.55</b>	<b>15.61</b>	<b>7.67</b>

In the second category of income which is between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 a month, it is seen from the Table - 6 that, only 20 per cent of the shelterless people fall into this group. They were mostly from N.C. Hills, Jorhat and Nalbari.

The third category of income which is between Rs. 1000 and Rs. 2000 a month covers only 19 per cent of the respondents. Most of the shelterless people in Dhemaji (92.86%) were found in this group. In three districts i.e. Lakhimpur, Bongaigaon, and Morigaon this figure was between 50 and 54 percent. Districts in this category the responses ranged from 4 to 54 per cent only. In 10 districts namely, Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, N.C.Hills, Hailakandi, Dhuburi, Goalpara, Nagaon, Sonitpur and Darrang no shelterless reported of this income.

The data on income level of the respondents indicate a better position in Kokrajhar district. It is evident from the data presented in Table – 6 that level of income is relatively better in this district. In this district a good number of shelterless (59.5%) had a monthly income between Rs 2000/- and 5000/-. It is noteworthy that in as many as 16 districts no respondent fell in this category of income. In the remaining seven districts the responses ranged between 5 and 23 per cent.

It may be mentioned that from a small number of respondents (7.68%) information on income could not be gathered. A few of them were either mentally ill or mentally challenged. So, they were not asked this question. Others did not want to say anything on their income. The Figure - 4 below describes the overall picture of the income level of the shelterless respondents.

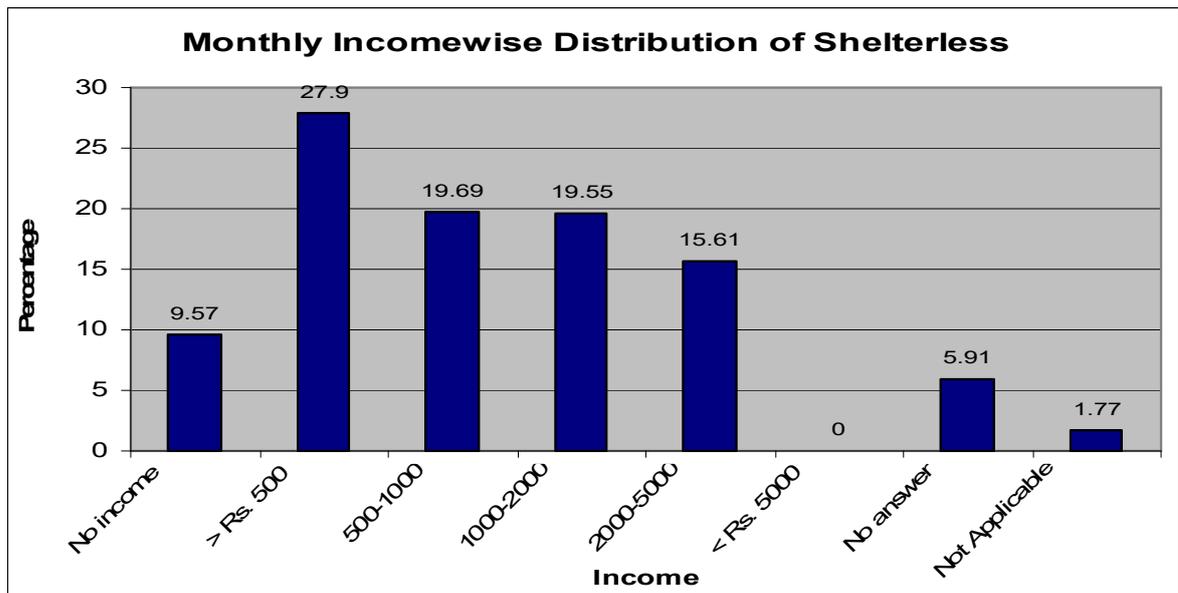


Figure – 4: Monthly Income – wise Distribution of Shelterless

### Reasons of living on the street

There are diverse reasons for people to live on the street. The principal reason behind living on the street is that they do not have a home to live. Landlessness or homelessness is very closely linked with shelterlessness. It is seen from Table - 7 that almost 45 per cent of the shelterless people under the study are on the street just because they do not have their own land or shelter to dwell. The district-wise information on the subject (given at Annexure) shows that in Kokrajhar, Silchar and Tinsukia a large number of people are in the street for not having a home. Homelessness appears to be an acute problem in these districts. Except Dhemaji, Golaghat, Karimganj, Barpeta, Darrang and Sonitpur where this problem was not reported much, in other districts also homelessness is a big problem and a relatively large number of people live on the streets for this reason.

The second reason of living on the street is that most of the people can not afford a rented house in a town or a city. If the income is very low and irregular it becomes difficult for them to afford a rented house. A beggar or daily

wager earning very little cannot think of renting a house in a city or town area. It has already been shown in Table - 6 that nearly 10 per cent people under the study have no earnings at all and another 28 per cent earn less than Rs. 500 a month. Under this condition, these people also can not think about renting a house for their stay. In Dhemaji 78.57 per cent of the respondents are shelterless as they can not afford a rented house.

Despite having a home some people prefer to stay on the road/pavement because they do not like to work hard to maintain their family or unable to take burden of family maintenance. They choose begging as their livelihood option. On the street their daily requirement of food, clothes, etc. are easily met. Many of the shelterless people in eleven districts attributed to this behind their living in the street. Of the total shelterless, 8 per cent consider the street a suitable place to stay; they find their lives very much easy on the street though it is full of tension and insecurity.

It was also shared by some of the shelterless that they became so habituated to the street life that, now, they did not like to return to indoor living. Their loss of contact with family and normal socializing activities is also another reason for their being on the street and avoiding social network.

More than five per cent of the respondents stated to have been driven out of home for family conflict, monetary reason, mental illness, diseases like TB, addiction to drugs, etc. Drug abuse severely affects normal social functioning, intellect and responsible behaviour. For prolonged drug abuse people become defensive, violent and submissive. This also preclude them from taking part in the social events of normal life which in turn, results in their social seclusion. In Nalbari district, 36.36 per cent of the shelterless people mentioned of being driven out of home by their family members. Apart from Karbi Anglong, N.C. Hills, Karimganj, Dhuburi, Sonitpur and Morigaon in all other districts this reason generate shelterless people.

Thus, it is clear that people have different reasons for being on the street. Though, not possessing a home is the main cause, however other reasons such as poor economic condition, family disputes, conflict, health condition, addiction to drugs are also not less important.

**Table –7: Distribution of Respondents according to Reasons for Living on the Street**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No home to live	657	44.60
Cannot afford rented house	272	18.47
Driven out from home	77	5.23
Prefer Staying on the Street	85	5.77
No other suitable place	118	8.01
Requirement of food & clothing are easily met	86	5.84
For Income	22	1.49
Any other (specify)	103	6.99
Not Applicable	53	3.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### **Sources of Food & Regularity of Meal**

Respondents were asked how they managed their food and also whether they were able to have three meals i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner regularly. Adequate amount of food in each meal was also another query. It was found that because of poor economic condition many shelterless people could not afford to have three regular meals every day. They rarely get an adequate amount of meal to satisfy their hunger. They hardly manage to have healthy and nutritious food.

Because of shortage of money they mostly prefer light and cheap food. Majority of the respondents in the present study, forming closely 43 per cent buy cooked food. In N.C. Hills all the three shelterless persons buy their food. As well as in Kokrajhar leaving two, all the remaining 181 (98.91%) shelterless people buy their food. Besides these two districts, shelterless people dependent on buying their food was commonly found in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Kamrup (Rural), Karbi Anglong, Barpeta and Kamrup (Metro).

Donation come next to buying in respect of source of food. On the contrary to Kokrajhar, Dhemaji, N.C. Hills, Barpeta, Nalbari, Darrang, Morigaon and Kamrup (Rural), where no respondent mentioned of donation, in Goalpara, maximum number of shelterless (60%) survive on donation. Besides Goalpara, it was also reported in Karimganj, Hailakandi, Kamrup (Metro), Dhuburi, Jorhat and Karbi Anglong. Shelterless people sit in front of the temples or other places of worship and receive food, money, etc. as donations from the devotees. But it is not possible to receive food by way of donation on all the days of the week or all the months of the year, as the donors or devotees normally provide food on some particular days only.

Fourteen per cent of the shelterless people reported of begging for food. A large number of them were from Darrang, Sonitpur, Sivasagar, Kamrup (Rural) and Hailakandi. This was to some extent was found in Dhemaji, N.C. Hills and Kokrajhar also. Sometimes *mandir* committees provide food to the beggars. But the beggars cannot always depend on begging for food as there is no certainty of receiving food or money from the public. As a result, many of the beggars either remain hungry or go for some other arrangement for food.

Since the shelterless people do not have any secured place to keep their belongings, they usually do not opt for cooking. Only nine per cent of the people stated of preparing their own meal. They were mostly from Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Bongaigaon and Morigaon. In other districts such as Jorhat, Golaghat, N.C.Hills,

Hailakandi, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Goalpara, Sonitpur and Kamrup (Rural), the study did not come across any person who stated of cooking his/her food. In Kamrup (Metro), only two persons were found to have prepared their own meal.

The survey also indicates about collection of left over food from hospitals, hotels/ restaurants, temple, etc by a small percentage of respondents (7%). For security of food, the people prefer to stay near these places so that, their requirement of food can be met out easily. Few of the shelterless collect food dumped in the dustbins by the hotel/ restaurant people.

It is difficult to understand and comment upon how the mentally retarded or mentally ill persons managed their food as many of them were unable to communicate in this regard.

Though, most of the shelterless people sit for begging and they are dependent on donation by public, they usually do not get food for all the three meals i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner and thus, either need to spend money on food or remain half fed. From the information gathered from the respondents, it was found that maximum number of them had only lunch and dinner. In most cases they skip their breakfast. In Karimganj district highest number of respondents can not manage their three meals on most of the days. Only two persons in the district reported of having dinner. In Hailakandi too most of the shelterless do not have three meals. Sometimes they can not even arrange a single meal.

It is obvious that inadequate food intake has serious implications on physical and mental health of a person. For not having minimum standard of nutrition the health of many of the respondents of the present study was very poor. They looked weak, pale and malnourished. It is understandable that inadequate nutrition is making this group very prone to diseases.

**Table 8: Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Source of Food**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bought	633	42.97
By Donation	289	19.62
By Begging	201	13.65
Cooking Themselves	131	8.89
Collects from Different Places	108	7.33
Any Other	75	5.09
N.A.	36	2.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### **Management of Clothing**

It is obvious from the Table - 9 below that nearly 47 per cent of the people under the survey buy their clothes. The detail district-wise information given at the Annexure shows that in four of the surveyed districts namely, Dhemaji, N.C. Hills, Kokrajhar and Morigaon all the respondents buy their clothes. Second highest scoring is in Bongaigaon district with 83.33 per cent followed by Lakhimpur where, 70 per cent people buy their clothes. In Hailakandi, Karimganj, Goalpara, Darrang and Sonitpur districts none of the shelterless buys his/her clothes.

Little over 33 per cent respondents acquire their clothes from donation. Donation was reported largely in Goalpara, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Dhuburi and Nagaon. Over 60 per cent respondents in these districts receive clothes from

donors. Leaving Dhemaji, N.C. Hills, Kokrajhar and Morigaon, in all other districts shelterless people get their clothes in donation.

Begging is third means of acquiring clothes. Little over eleven per cent respondents reported of begging for clothes. In Darrang district 66.67 per cent of the respondents mentioned of collecting clothes by way of begging.

**Table – 9: Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Management of Clothing**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bought	698	47.39
By Donation	490	33.27
By Begging	169	11.47
Not Responded	98	6.65
Any Other	18	1.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>10.00</b>

### **Sanitation/personal cleanliness**

In absence of urban basic services and civic amenities like water, toilets, etc, shelterless or homeless people live in a state of complete helplessness. According to the data in Table – 10, a considerable number (38.76 %) of the surveyed people go for open defecation. They choose railway line, bushes, under trees and river banks for this purpose. It is needless to state that open defecation is a major public health problem in the cities and towns. Open defecation was most commonly reported in Jorhat, Kokrajhar, Goalpara, Kamrup (Rural), Dhuburi and Darrang, which represents over 55 per cent of the total shelterless people in each district. In Morigaon no one reported to have used open area for

defecation. It was reported by the women respondents that they preferred to go to relieve themselves only in the night. For fear of public criticism and also because of natural shyness and inhibition they avoid responding to nature's call during day light. Most of these women also reported of abuse when they went for open defecation or bath. It is saddening to note that women are most marginalized even in the matter of responding to nature's call. It was disclosed by the people that, when they could manage money for paid toilet they went there, otherwise, chose open space. For using a paid toilet one needs to make a minimum payment of Rs 1 to Rs 2 for every use. Maximum users of paid toilet were from Guwahati city. Here, 39 per cent surveyed homeless affirmed of using paid toilets. In all, 15.75 per cent shelterless spread in eight districts of the state stated of using paid toilets.

**Table – 10: Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Place of Defecation**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Open Area	571	38.76
Public Toilet	304	20.64
Paid Toilet	232	15.75
Roadside	141	9.57
Drain	105	7.13
No Respond	120	8.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>10.00</b>

Use of Public toilets was reported by nearly 21 per cent of the shelterless. They were from the districts of Morigaon, Sivasagar , Nalbari, Bongaigaon and Dhemaji. In Karbi Anglong, Goalpara, Darrang and Kamrup (Metro) none of the shelterless mentioned of using public toilet. Some of them use Government community toilets or bathrooms of the temple or Gurdwara and taps on the railway platforms for bath (district-wise data given at Annexure).

## Health Problem

Unhygienic and hazardous living condition and unawareness about the matters relating to health make the lives of the homeless very vulnerable and at risk. People living in the streets are continuously exposed to vector borne/communicable diseases. Poor health is often a cause and effect of homelessness. As displayed in Table – 11, skin infection has been found to be the most common health problem among the shelterless. Little more than 15 per cent of the respondents are suffering from one or the other skin diseases. It may be seen from the detailed district-wise data given at the Annexure on health problems that, a sizeable number (39%) of the shelterless from Kamrup (Metro) suffer from skin problems. In Goalpara also 20 per cent of the shelterless people are found to be infected by skin diseases. In all, twelve districts reported of having the problem of skin infection. It is perhaps because of dust and pollution which is a common phenomenon for the shelterless in the urban areas and also because of lack of personal hygiene and sanitation. Itching, eczema, boils, scabies were commonly reported skin problems.

**Table – 11: Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Health problem**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Respiratory	18	1.22
Gastrics or Related Problem	56	3.80
Skin Infection/Disease	224	15.21
T.B.	14	0.95
High Pressure	4	0.27
Frequent Fever	33	2.24
Pain	42	2.85
Weakness	43	2.92
Any Other	167	11.34
No Problem	780	52.95
No Respond	92	6.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Owing to their unhealthy way of living on the street, which includes irregular and inadequate eating, poor personal and environmental hygiene, lack of sanitation, living under stress and anxiety, mental agony, inadequate clothing, inadequate and improper sleep, etc , people suffer from different health problems. For not having sufficient food they suffer from gastritis, gastric ulcer, abdominal pain ,etc. In Barpeta and Kamrup (Rural) 37.5 and 19 per cent people reported of such problems respectively. In Dhemaji and Nagaon also a good number of shelterless people stated to have suffered from this problem. The study also unearths that people are seasonally affected by diseases such as diarrhoea, hepatitis, etc. The fact that many people can not relieve themselves regularly for lack of permanent toilet facilities is bound to cause health problems such as stomach disorders and other associated diseases. Because of their adverse and transitory living arrangements, constant exposure to dust ,smoke, etc shelterless people suffer from higher prevalence of illnesses such as, fever, body ache, high blood pressure, cold and cough and other respiratory diseases. Besides these, tooth ache or other dental problems are also common with them.

Abuse and struggle of life on the street pervert the homeless greatly by changing their mind and making them more aggressive, hostile, resentful and suspicious, and thereby resulting mental illnesses. However, it is worth mentioning that affects of disease varies with the place of stay, length of stay and individual characteristics of shelterless such as age and gender.

Despite having different health problems as narrated above, it has been a pleasant surprise to find that more than half of the shelterless people are in good health and are not suffering from any disease. It might be for the reason that their life on the street has made them tough enough to be bothered by diseases or because of their difficulty to comprehend about their health problems or their lack of understanding about the concept of good health. Sometimes these people become so much adjustable to their situation that nothing becomes complicated

to them. They neither pay any attention to their health problem nor do they feel the pain of diseases. They take the ill health as a part and parcel of their life.

### **Measures in the event of Illnesses**

The respondents were asked about the measures they adapted when they fell sick . The responses differed from place to place and from one group to another. It is learnt from the data that shelterless people's behaviour and attitude towards health care system varies remarkably. Table – 12 below shows that 45.28 per cent of the shelterless people go to the hospitals for their treatment. In Karbi Anglong, all shelterless people go to hospital when they are inflicted with diseases. Similarly, in Dhemaji also 93 per cent respondents reported of visiting hospital during their illnesses. In districts like Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Jorhat, N.C. Hills, Dhuburi and Nagaon more than 50 per cent of the shelterless people under the study go to hospital for their treatment. On the contrary, in Golaghat and Karimganj districts none of the shelterless reported to have visited hospitals during their illness.

**Table – 12: Distribution of shelterless people according to their measures in the event of illness**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Go to Hospital	667	45.28
Go to Pharmacy	325	22.06
Consult Quake	24	1.63
Does Nothing	242	16.43
Any Other	83	5.64
Not Applicable(not fallen ill)	27	1.83
No Answer	105	7.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Some of the respondents stated that they preferred to go to pharmacy for tablets, etc to get relief from the disease because it took only a few moments; otherwise, they have to spend long hours in the hospitals standing in queue and

being required to visit 4/5 times for treatment and check ups which put enormous burden on the poor shelterless by way of loss of wages, loss of free meal from donors besides problem in transportation, etc. In Kokrajhar and Morigaon, 64 and 51 per cent of the shelterless go to pharmacy for their treatment respectively. These people have little confidence in the Government hospitals. At the same time private hospitals are also not affordable to them. Though, many private hospitals are being run by Registered Society or Trust and claim to have provided free health care for the poor, unfortunately, the reality is that awareness regarding such provisions is almost negligible and the benefits rarely reach the poor. Thus, in most cases treatment of shelterless in these hospitals is a distant reality. Another reason of the shelterless people for not going to Government hospitals is that they are conscious about their position and apprehend that they will be neglected in the hospitals by the so called elite section of the society.

There were 16.43 per cent shelterless people who did nothing when they fell sick. It is startling to find that in Karimganj 100 per cent of the shelterless people did nothing to cure their illnesses and in Hailakandi this figure was 75 per cent. In Silchar, Nalbari, Kamrup (Rural), and Darrang, more than 40 per cent do not take any treatment during their illnesses.

Though some civil society organizations organize health camps for the poor in some town areas, however, such camps are far from adequate. While such health camps definitely bring some relief, the fact that these are usually one-time activities and not sustainable programmes, the impact is rather limited.

It was informed by the respondents that their lack of information about the availability of the provision of services by the Government and accessibility to them are the main hurdles. Non-availability of identity proof or photo ID also acts as a barrier in their access to medical services that are provided to the poorest of the poor. Further, lack of health consciousness also aggravates the problem. In

addition to all these, they suffer from inferiority complex to move to the doctors and hospitals thinking of themselves as of lower standard.

It is understandable from the foregoing description that health care facilities available to this deprived section of the society by and large portrays a very abysmal picture. Many shelterless people who were ill when the survey work was being carried out were not receiving any medical care. The surveyors came to know about the enormous barriers which existed for the homeless poor to access quality health care facilities. Lack of knowledge about where to go for treatment, lack of awareness about free health care facilities, lack of access to transportation, nervousness to do the formalities in the hospitals, hesitation to consult the doctor, social discrimination and attitudinal obstructions on the part of the health care providers, cost of health care, etc impede in the matter of receiving health services. Even in the government hospitals the poor are to pay a minimal registration fee and also bear the expenses for medicines and other miscellaneous items such as bandages, syringes, etc. For many people under the present study, visiting the hospital is an ordeal, frequently encountering misbehaviour and harassment. However, the study experienced different responses from different people in different places.

### **Taking Alcohol and other Intoxicating Substance**

The study reveals that a large majority of the people (63%) under the present survey take one or the other intoxicating substance. Only 37 per cent are non takers. Shelterless people under the present study are very much addicted to intoxicants. A large number of them consume alcohol. However, district-wise variation is obvious (Table – 13). Besides alcohol, *ganja*, tobacco, *bidi*, cigarettes, *gutka*, beetle nuts are other common intoxicants used by the respondents. It is apparent from Table – 13 that, 36.52 per cent of the shelterless people consume alcoholic drinks. The highest incidence was experienced in Karimganj. In this district 95.65 per cent shelterless people take alcohol. Barring

N.C. Hills, Goalpara, Barpeta, Darrang and Sonitpur, reporting also came from all other districts. Kamrup, Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh stand next to Karimganj. Sivasagar, Hailakandi, Dhuburi and Nalbari are four districts where reporting was less than 10 per cent.

**Table – 13: District - wise Distribution of shelterless People according to their taking Alcohol/intoxicating substances**

Sl No	Name of the Districts	Alcohol	Other Intoxicants
1	Dhemaji	8 (57.14)	-
2	Lakhimpur	25 (62.50)	-
3	Dibrugarh	33 (62.26)	20 (37.74)
4	Tinsukia	43 (36.75)	34 (29.06)
5	Sivasagar	3 (5.77)	30 (57.69)
6	Jorhat	9 (32.14)	6 (21.43)
7	Golaghat	3 (25.00)	1 (8.33)
8	Karbi Anglong	3 (23.08)	3 (23.08)
9	N. C. Hills	-	1 (33.33)
10	Silchar	11 (28.21)	11 (28.21)
11	Hailakandi	1 (6.25)	4 (25.00)
12	Karimganj	22 (95.65)	-
13	Kokrajhar	42 (22.95)	21 (11.48)
14	Bongaigaon	35 (41.67)	22 (26.19)
15	Dhuburi	2 (2.38)	38 (45.24)
16	Goalpara	-	7 (70.00)
17	Barpeta	-	6 (25.00)
18	Nalbari	2 (9.09)	11 (50.00)
19	Darrang	-	6 (66.67)
20	Sonitpur	-	4 (30.77)
21	Morigaon	7 (20.00)	10 (28.57)
22	Nagaon	27 (26.73)	21 (20.79)
23	Kamrup (M)	226 (46.31)	133 (27.25)
24	Kamrup (R)	36 (75.00)	8 (16.67)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>397</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>36.52</b>	<b>26.95</b>

Shelterless having other intoxicants is almost 27 per cent. It was more commonly reported in Goalpara, Darrang, Sivasagar, Nalbari and Darrang. People in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Karimganj do not take other intoxicants. It was learnt that children living on the street inhaled dendrite to get relief from their mental as well as physical stress. They start taking these for relief from their day to day

grief and tension and for mental relaxation. By taking intoxicants people try to make themselves capable of bearing all kinds of hardships of their life forgetting the distress. Being unable to confront their serious problems on the street they try to remove all these plights from their mind by taking alcohol. To get relief from tiredness of daily work and to get out of frustration are another reasons for drinking. A large number of shelterless use drugs mainly in the company of others. They use drugs to temporarily escape from the troubles and sufferings of life, and to get out of their feelings of isolation or to overcome loneliness. Conversation with the people on the street revealed that there has been deaths of some people due to over dose of such substances.

It may be mentioned here that though, many shelterless develop their habit of taking intoxicants after starting their life on the street, yet, there are many who became addicted to intoxicants much before their living on the streets. Addiction to intoxicants like alcohol, drugs was a reason of their leaving home or being shelterless. Addicted people are sometimes displaced from their home by their family members. In absence of appropriate counseling addicted people become more withdrawal, aggressive and violent and they are displaced forcibly.

Drug addicts on the street more likely to have complex health problems. They may pass through a number of complex symptoms, agitation, running nose, muscle cramps, itching, abdominal pain, headache, vomiting, diarrhoea and even epileptic fits. They often face more barriers to obtain health care, including addictive disorder treatment services and recovery supports.

### **Living with Disability/ Impairment**

There has been a steady increase of physically challenged persons in the streets of cities and town areas of every state of the country. In Assam though no authentic data on the subject is available, however, experiences indicate a sharp increase. Many physically challenged people leave their home being neglected

by their family members. They think of themselves as burden of the family and leave their home. Sometimes they are also thrown out forcibly from their home by their family members. Some of the physically challenged take the advantage of their physical incapability and willingly take shelter in roadside market places or near temples just to earn money.

In the present survey most of the shelterless were found to be suffering from hearing problem (Table - 14). Of the total 1473 persons found in the streets, 16 per cent (236) were suffering from hearing disability. Highest number was in Nagaon. Kamrup (Metro) secure the second highest number of shelterless persons with hearing disability. In all, the survey found 97 persons in the district who were suffering from hearing disability. Hearing impairment cases were reported in relatively large number in Sivasagar, Hailakandi and Karimganj. In these districts more than 30 per cent of the shelterless people are suffering from hearing disability. Noise pollution is one of the leading causes of hearing impairment for shelterless people. As the ear is the most fragile organ of our body it can get easily hurt or damaged. Because of very nature of shelterless people's stay in the street, railway station, bus stand and market places , they are very much exposed to noise pollution. Poor nutrition is also another reason of hearing impairment. Not taking proper care of their ears and heavy doses of drugs also weaken ears and people become deaf.

The Second severe disability problem of the shelterless people under the study is locomotor disability. This was most commonly encountered in Dhuburi, Nagaon and Tinsukia. In Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Karbi Anglong and Morigaon no shelterless was seen with this problem.

Persons with vision impairment constitutes 10.68 per cent. Surprisingly, in N.C. Hills all the three shelterless were blind. In Jorhat also it is as high as 60.71 per cent. Shelterless with vision problem was not come acrossed in Golaghat, Darrang and Morigaon. Significantly, in Morigaon none of the shelterless was

found with physical disability. Similarly, in Kokrajhar almost 99 per cent shelterless people have no physical disability problem. But in Dhuburi all the shelterless people are suffering from different disability /impairment.

**Table – 14: Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Living with Disability/Impairment**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Vision	157	10.68
Hearing	236	16.02
Walking Locomotor	196	13.31
No Problem	886	60.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## **OBSERVATIONS**

### **Feeling of Safety**

Living on the street or spending a considerable amount of time there can involve a number of risk factors. During the survey it was observed that shelterless people are not under a secured condition. Though some people responded positively in terms of their safety there is wide range of difference between the responses of male and female. Shelterless women have a feeling of insecurity and often try to build up a good relationship with the police on duty so that nobody can dare to disturb them. Though, shelterless feel secured and protected from police, however, they also stated of being harassed by them from time to time. Such incidences were more frequently reported in Kamrup. Here,

shelterless feel more insecure because of police personal as they physically and mentally harass them and evict from their place, of stay i.e. streets. Because of this, they try to manage the police personnel to get prior information of eviction. It was felt that though police personnel are duty bound forces them out, yet, they help the shelter less as far as possible. Police personnel were stated to be helping some beggars whenever they fail to earn their bread.

Assaultation with or without weapon, being forced to commit unlawful activities, forced to work without payment, forced to take drug, alcohol, lack of warm clothing, loss of their belongings, non availability of a conducive place to sleep are some of the causes to make them feel unsafe. They also feel unsafe during rain with light and thunder. During rainy season different kinds of poisonous insects disturb them and get into their bedding and bite them.

### **Duration of Stay**

Migration from one place to another is one of the main features of shelterless. It was narrated by most of the respondents during the survey that they kept shifting from one place to another in search of good opportunity for livelihood. Basically, length of stay of shelterless people in one place depends on the provision of basic needs; if the basic needs are easily met out they do not change their place. Length of stay in one particular place is also determined by provision of occupation and security of their life. If a daily wage labourer gets opportunity for a good earning he would prefer to stay in the same place for years together. In Kamrup (Metro), Morigaon and Tinsukia districts many of the shelterless people are migrants from Bihar in search of livelihood and are staying in the same place for more than 15 to 20 years. They do not change their place of living in fear of losing their livelihood.

Some of the shelterless like to stay in the same place for years as they feel secured there. Many also prefer to stay in the same place for their friends

who are also living in the same place for long and develop a bond with the people and the place. There are also a small number who are born shelterless and stay on the street from their birth.

### **Relationship with Family**

Relationship with the family members is another concern for the shelterless. It was found during the survey that strained relationship with family members is one of the main causes of their leaving home. Few of them are driven out of home forever and they do not maintain any relationship with their families, whereas some come out of home to earn their livelihood and send money to home every month to run their families. Thus, they are shouldering their responsibilities towards their family members. These people are shelterless only for their earning a livelihood; they cannot afford a rented house and hence, live either on the street or in such other places as has been mentioned earlier. Because they maintain a good relationship with their families they visit their homes. Many of them visit homes once or twice in a year and send money to the family regularly. Visiting home depends on the requirement of his family or when a necessity arises. As their income is very meager they cannot visit home frequently. Shelterless people coming from Bihar in search of job visit home once in a year and send their money to home through some body.

It is also necessary to mention here that there are some homeless persons who do not have their home or families and have none to look after them. People who are driven out from home have severed their all ties with their family members and do not maintain any contact with their families. They keep themselves away from family touch.

## **Possession of Bedding**

It is a fact that majority of the shelterless people cannot afford to buy adequate bedding materials which generally include a mattress, a bed sheet, a pillow and a mosquito net. Being sympathetic to their poor condition many people donate bedding materials to them. In winter, they get blanket and mosquito net from the donors. In Dhemaji all the shelterless people were found to use primary materials of a bedding like mosquito net, blanket and bed sheet. Maximum numbers of shelterless use blanket and bed sheet rather than mosquito net. But in Karbi Anglong district none of the shelterless people was found to use mosquito net. Their bedding included a blanket and a bed sheet. In Nalbari district also none of the shelterless used mosquito net. Thus, it is found that mosquito net is not a common item of bedding for most of the people. People find it difficult to fix a mosquito net on the street or in such other places. Getting used to mosquito bite also could be another reason. Whatever the reason may be, sleeping without mosquito net could be a dangerous habit particularly for districts such as Karbi Anglong, Nalbari with high prevalence of malaria.

## **Place of Sleep**

It was observed during the survey that shelterless people choose office premises, verandah of hospitals or schools, railway footbridge, pavement, roadside areas for sleeping.

Majority of shelterless people use their place or working as place for sleep and only a few moves to other places to sleep. They change their place for sleeping for security reasons. In such cases, if they spend the day in the market area or on the roads, at night they like to move to places like premises of office, hospital verandah, railway platform, etc. They pass the night where they feel secured. Sometimes they change their sleeping place for their allies also. They prefer to be with their companions. Most of the beggars sitting in front of the

worship places for begging do not change their place for sleeping. They choose a permanent place inside the compound of temples or stay on the pavement of nearby temples as they develop a sense of attachment and security in these places. Daily wagers or porters working in some particular shops choose the verandah of their working shops or on the footpaths. The cart pullers were found to sleep on their carts.

### **Hygiene and Cleanliness of Shelterless People**

Since the shelterless people do not have easy access to bathing facilities or access to toilets and water facilities their personal hygiene is extremely poor. Many of them do not have regular bath even in the sultry summer. It is a fact that without accessibility of water it is not possible to maintain cleanliness. It was found in the survey that female shelterless maintain more personal cleanliness than their male counterparts.

Shelterless people have very few possessions. They have only one or two sets of clothes. Since these people sleep in the open places and roadside areas they are always surrounded by dust and therefore get dirty easily. In the rainy season they have a difficult time in washing and drying clothes, thereby, forcing them to be on the same clothes for days or weeks together. There is also no facility of water for washing their clothes. They cannot go to a distant place for washing their clothes. They can not go little far to wash their clothes as they cannot leave their belongings unattended for long time in fear of theft by other shelterless people. They cannot wear adequate dresses as per need of the season. In winter they do not have enough warm clothes to save themselves from the biting cold.

With their meager earning which is mostly spent on buying food stuff, the matter of buying soap, detergent, toothpaste often become secondary in their priority list.

## **Most vulnerable Component**

### **Shelterless Children**

Table – 2 exhibits a total of 106 shelterless children under 18 years of age, of which, 0.41 per cent are under 6 years of age, nearly 2 per cent between 6-10 years and 5 per cent are within the age group of 11-18 years of age. The children living on the street are either abandoned by their parents or they are pushed out to the street to earn to supplement the family income thus, to enable the parents to meet the needs of the family. It is rather very much pathetic that poorest of the poor give birth to a large number of children and being unable to take care of them force them to earn in their tender years which is inhuman and violation of rights of children. Some of the poor parents prefer to have more number of children and engage them to work from the time they are 5-6 years of age. Being under pressure children leave their house and start their street life as child labourers. In addition to this, due to dysfunctional /broken families or physical, mental or sexual abuse and ill treatment by their parents/stepparents/family members also children run away from home. Sometimes disabled children are abandoned by their families on the street thus forcing them to live the lives of shelterless.

It has already been discussed that many shelterless street children pick up bad habits like smoking, drinking, taking *ganza*, sniffing dendrite, etc. It is a pity that children staying on the street use glue to get mental relief from their hurdles of life. They lose their childhood on the street. They lack security and protection. In their struggle for survival, they have to face humiliation, abuse, brutality, neglect and exploitation in the hands of police, local *goondas* and general populace.

It was learnt that most of the shelterless children are engaged as rag pickers. They move barefooted and without gloves to collect recyclable items like

plastic, tin, iron, polythene, waste paper, etc from the garbage bins, road sides, drains and also from train. They also clean compartments of train, sale water, biscuits or other goods in the train, work as helper in the roadside shops or in hotel. They all work in very unhygienic and hazardous conditions. For living and working in unhygienic environment most of them are often inflicted with infections and hygiene related health problems. They suffer from skin disease, fever, diarrhea, typhoid, malaria, TB, hepatitis, etc. Rag pickers are assaulted by the police and general public.

### **Shelterless Women and Elderly Shelterless**

According to Table - 1 there are 242 numbers of shelterless women covering 16.43 per cent of total shelterless people. Most of the shelterless women are divorcee, separated or mentally ill. They lead a lonely life. Some of the shelterless women are also staying with their family on the pavement. Many women had sad stories to tell behind their lives in the pavements. Extreme poverty, violence, discrimination and deprivation have brought many of them to footpath. They live on the pavement, railway station, verandah of the shops and offices in front of the temples, under fly over, etc. They earn as rag picker, daily wage labourer, household worker, mason helper, cleaner of grocery shops and beggar, etc. Few also earn their livelihood as sex workers. They are forced to indulge in sex activities. The daily wage female labourers are exploited by their contractors both sexually and financially. They do not receive their wage regularly.

Security and protection of shelterless women is a major issue for all concerned. It was stated to the surveyors by some women that in absence of security and protection on the street, they choose some fellow men as their life partners to pass their life safely. Shelterless women also stated of different health problems. It was mentioned by a large section of the studied shelterless women that they suffered from different illnesses. For lack of proper care and mounting

tension and also because of physical and mental harassment they suffer from various diseases. Gynecological diseases including STD/STI are also very common with them.

It has already been seen in Table - 4 that, the present study found 141 people (8%) above the age of 60 years. Most of these people left their home being troubled and distressed. They perceived negligence from their family members for their incapability to work. It is needless to state that elderly people are more marginalized on the streets. Their life is highly at risk on the pavement. They are more vulnerable to diseases, deprivation and neglect. It becomes difficult for the elderly people to manage their lives on their own. For physical weakness and weak eye-sight and hearing impairment they become victim of road accident. It is, therefore of utmost importance that homeless elderly people are given proper medical care, adequate food and emotional and financial support.

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Constructions of commercial buildings, apartments, shopping complexes, over bridges, flyovers in city or town areas are increasing job opportunities for all sections of people. Urban growth is attracting people towards urban areas. As a fall out of this, migration towards the urban areas is consistently taking place. The growth of factories and small industries in the outskirts of city and town areas and extension of highways are causing eviction of the inhabitants of those areas. These evicted people are pushed towards the city or towns. Loss of agricultural land and homestead property, natural calamities like flood, soil erosion also force many villagers to come to the adjacent towns . Thus, both pushing and pulling forces are responsible for population density in urban areas. As the city plan does not accommodate all migrant population in a planned manner the crisis arises. With the increase of urban population, housing, water, electricity, health care, education, etc are becoming costlier. There is acute problems of security, food, water, sanitation, health care, livelihood, education, etc. Poorest of the poor are unable to pay for housing, health and hygiene, child care, education, adequate clothing, etc. Many urban poor are forced to live under the sky without any roof. Lack of housing facilities for the urban poor is the main reason of shelterlessness which is a serious political and social problem of the time.

It can be concluded that the shelterless who have come out from their homes to urban areas are ready to go back to their native places if they get a better scope of earning and living. They are not ready to take a house on rent for their own comfort; rather, they would prefer to send that money to their family to meet their basic needs. They are very much conscious about their children and their education, so that, their children need not bear so much of pain like them for want of money. A good number of these shelterless people are from Bihar and

Uttar Pradesh. They are very much aggrieved for being deprived of their basic rights and for not receiving any help from the Government. They said that although they were under BPL (Below Poverty Line), the Government is not providing any facilities to them.

Shelterless people who do not have families or do not maintain any connection with their families have a different view about their lives. They are not much discontented. They wish to pass their life in a very easy way.

Most of the people covered by the present survey are very poor. More than 9 percent of the population do not even earn a penny and are completely dependent on mercy of others. Little less than 50 per cent earn less than Rs. 1000 in a month which is hardly adequate to survive in an urban area. A sizeable section of the shelterless are beggars. Most of the shelterless do not have access to sanitary facilities, facilities for health care. Women are frequently abused. Many people are addicted to drinking, smoking, chewing tobacco, taking *ganja*. Children were also found to be sniffing dendrite and other such materials. Thus, it will not be wrong to state that the condition of the surveyed shelterless people is miserable and completely unsecured. Non-implementation of schemes for the urban poor, unawareness of people about their basic rights and way to demand for fulfillment of their rights could be held responsible for the misery of the poor shelterless. People have no idea about the schemes and how to avail the facilities provided to them.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **General**

1. In every urban area separate low - cost barracks for shelterless/homeless men and women with limited income should be established where such people can receive the minimum facilities and stay peacefully by paying a nominal amount of money.

Alternately, Night shelter home should be arranged for those who have limited/no income and cannot afford a rented room.

2. Physically and mentally fit Shelterless people who do nothing and depend on alms for their livelihood should be engaged in some productive work after some initial training for changing their minds and orientation.
3. Micro-finance scheme can be tried out for the people in the streets/pavements.
4. Special programme for assistance to shelterless should be launched. The government should prepare a time bound action plan for the benefit of shelterless persons with an aim to reduce the number of such people.
5. All shelterless people should be issued with an identity card. This will facilitate them in receiving benefits of health care, public sanitation facilities, PDS, etc.
6. More number of public toilets, bathroom should be built up in different places of towns/ cities of all districts with proper facilities of water and cleanliness
7. There should be proper enumeration of shelterless people in every district. The data should be updated by regular survey for positive strategy formulation.
8. Adult literacy programme need to include the shelterless with proper value addition to their lives.
9. Implementation of welfare policies in its right spirit should be ensured.

**Old and Infirm :**

10. Permanent free of cost shelter with proper facilities for stay, food, health care, recreation to old, diseased and infirm shelterless man and women should be the priority.

**Differently abled :**

11. Physically and mentally challenged shelterless persons were found in a very pathetic condition. Such persons who have none to care them should be kept in specialized institutions. Wherever possible, they should be suitably rehabilitated. Local NGOs may be involved for this work. Such people should be given suitable vocational training so that they need not be a liability for ever. Help in this regard may be sought from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of Govt. of India.
12. Shelterless with serious mental illnesses should be put in mental asylum and should be provided with proper treatment and care.

**Children:**

13. Orphan/ abundant shelterless children should be placed in Children's Homes/Institutions and proper care including health, nutrition, education, recreation should be ensured. Along with school education, skill development training should be imparted to the children who are above 14 years, so that, they can find out a way of earning.
14. Children who are living on the street with their parents should get the opportunity to attend school. Linkages with SSA should be established for sending these children to their Residential Bridge Course Centres (RBCCs). Children's immunization, nutrition, health care needs should also be taken care of. Those who are above 14 years of age should also

- be provided some vocational training depending on their interest and aptitude.
15. There is a need to provide value education to all children who are in the street. Staying on the street puts a lot of negative pressure on them .To guard them against these pressure adequate mental strength is very much required. Besides Institutions / organizations who are known for such kind of activities, NGO's help may also be sought for this.
  16. Arrangement should be made so that shelterless working children get the opportunity to attend schools under NCLP (wherever functioning) or *Jyoti Kendras* of SSA.
  17. Possibility of placing orphan/ abundant/ neglected shelterless children under foster care (under J.J. Act ) should be expedited.
  18. In addition to school education, street Children above 14 years of age should also be given some vocational training on carpentry, cane/bamboo craft, tailoring, embroidery, pottery, candle making, food processing, toy making, gardening, etc.

**Girls/Women:**

19. All abandoned girls and single women (below 50 years of age) living on the streets should invariably be provided facilities of shelter home. Living on the streets is very much unsafe for them. There is every chance of physical and sexual harassment to this group.
20. Education of girls and women about their rights, health and hygiene, sex, reproductive health, STD/STI is very important. Training on self defense could also be helpful.

## **Role of NGOs**

21. NGO should be encouraged to work for the shelterless. They may be involved for training, rehabilitation of shelterless people. They can train the shelterless people in different self employment schemes and also impart education to their children.
22. Special health care drive for shelterless can be arranged with the help of NGOs.
23. NGOs can arrange special awareness campaign to inform shelterless about hygiene, sanitation, basic values of life, etc. They should also inform about the government's schemes to enable them to avail the facilities.

## CHAPTER IV

### CASE STUDIES

#### **Case Study : 1**

**Name: Arati Swargiyari (Name Changed)**

**Age: 45 years**

**Sex: Female**

**Location: xxxxxx**

Mrs. Arati aged nearly 45 years was living with her husband and only son Rajkumar in a rented cottage near D.C. Office of 'X' district. Though the family was not economically sound and endured very much stress, yet, they were living happily. Her husband was a vendor who used to sell rate killer medicine in the town. He had to work hard for maintenance of his family. Mrs Arati was very happy with her husband and her son, although they could not think to purchase land and property.

One day, Mrs Arati had lost everything and even her hope for future got shattered when her husband committed suicide. It is still a mystery to her why he had committed suicide and left them alone forever. There was none to look after and support Mrs Arati and her son. The family came out from that place to the street after the incident. Presently, both the mother and son keep roaming in the town leading a life of shelterless. Now, Mrs Arati is suffering from mental disturbance. She keeps herself and her child away from other people and do not like to talk about her family. She does not allow any body to come nearer to her son or talk to him. She even does not let him wear clothes. She always keeps him naked. Fear is always reflected on her eyes. Her son is almost 7 years old now.

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**Case Study : 2****Name: Babul Mahatu (Name Changed)****Age: 20 years****Sex: Male****Location: xxxxx Railway Station**

A boy of twenty years namely Babul Mahatu was found at xxxx Railway Station during the survey on shelterless people. He was originally from Dhemaji where he lost his parents in 2006. He had to shoulder the responsibility of his one and only sister of 13 years. First, he started working as daily wager after his father's death and somehow manage two meals. One day, there was a disaster. Heavy flood in Dhemaji created havoc and brought misfortune instantly. His house was washed away. He also lost the residential plot and agricultural land due to erosion. Babul was in a helpless condition, there was no support to build up his small cottage again. Ultimately, he decided to come to Guwahati in search of a livelihood. Before coming to Guwahati he met a family at Dhemaji who were from Guwahati and took the responsibility of his sister by way of giving her an engagement. Accordingly, they brought his sister to Guwahati and employed her in their house as a domestic helper. In between she was taken to Delhi by her keeper. Babul did not have the exact address of the employer of his sister. However, he could meet her twice in Guwahati Railway Station. At that time his sister asked him to look for a safe shelter where both of them can live peacefully. She complained to her brother that she has to work very hard and life is very difficult in the employer's place. Babul felt very sad about his sister. In the mean time , he somehow arranged a second hand mobile hand set with a hope to talk to his sister whenever he wished. But both of them cried more than talk remembering their parents and home. One day, he deleted the number of his sister from his mobile by mistake. From that day he had never been able to have any contact with her. Being very much stressed and worried about his sister he is passing sleepless nights on the street.

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**Case Study : 3****Name: Mr. Sujit Dutta (Name Chenged)****Age: 43 years****Sex: Male****Location: Sukreswarghat, Kamrup (Metro)**

Mr. Sujit Dutta, a shelterless who is under care of Missionaries of Charities at Bharalumukh being met with an accident was leading a shelterless life at Sukreswarghat. Sujit, 43 years old was originally from Shilapathar in Dhemaji District. He was happily married for few years and had a child of three years old. Slowly, some differences crept in between him and his wife. Dispute took place between husband and wife and small disputes turned to be of serious nature. Sujit was suspicious of extra marital affair of his wife with somebody and this made him to leave his wife and come back to his parent's house at xxxxxx in Udalguri District. Staying at home without a job was a burden to his family, so, he left for Guwahati in search of a job. Fortunately, he could manage a job. He was employed by an advocate where he worked only for a month and then shifted to another job in a hotel near Guwahati Railway Station. Sujit could not get rid of his past misery and being disturbed and emotionally shattered, he left his job again and moved to Kamakhya Temple and started to live on begging. During this period he met a person named xxxxxx with whom he came to Sukreswarghat and started to work in a tea stall in return of Rs 1000/- per month. He worked there for 7 months.

One day he met with an accident when he was drunk, he was hit badly by a bicycle. His employer admitted him in Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). As his injury was enduring it was difficult for the employer to provide him treatment and attendant. Due to serious infection he has to undergo an operation of his leg. But his operation was unsuccessful. He was advised to ampute his leg and there was need of a declaration from his family member stating their no objection to it. His family members agreed for this, operation was carried out. However, there was none to provide him post operational care. Sujit was alone and helpless again. By this time, the Missionaries of Charities who

used to visit Guwahati Medical College and Hospital and extend help to those who were deserted by the family members took the responsibility of Sujit. He was shifted to the rehabilitation centre at Bharalumukh run by the said institute.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



















**Annexure- I.**

**List of NGOs**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of NGOs</b>	<b>Covered Districts</b>
1	HELP, Lakhimpur	Dhemaji & Lakhimpur
2	NESPYEM, Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh & Tinsukia
3	EEKHYON, Sivasagar	Sivasagar, Jorhat & Golaghat
4	Klirdap Welfare Society, Karbi Anglong	Karbi Anglong & N.C. Hills
5	WODWICHEE, Silchar	Silchar, Hailakandi & Karimganj
6	NIDAN Foundation, Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar & Bongaigaon
7	Vivekananda Club, Dhuburi	Dhuburi, Goalpara
8	Rhino Club, Barpeta	Barpeta & Nalbari
9	Sipajhar Diamond Club Community Centre, Sipajhar	Mangaldai & Sonitpur
10	Sadou Assom Gramya Puthibharal Santha, Nagaon	Nogaon & Morigaon
11	Society for Social Transformation & Environment Protection (sSTEP), Guwahati	Kamrup (Urban)
12	Social Research and Development Centre (SRDC)	Kamrup (Rural)

**Annexure- II****Table – 3: District & Marital Status-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

Sl. No	Name of the District	Married	Unmarried	Widow	Widower	Separated	Divorcee	No Answer	Total
1	Dhemaji	13 (92.86)	1 (7.14)	-	-	-	-	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	20 (50.00)	15 (37.50)	2 (5.00)	-	3 (7.50)	-	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	31 (59.61)	8 (15.38)	-	3 (5.76)	3 (5.76)	1 (1.92)	6 (11.53)	52
4	Tinsukia	68 (64.76)	30 (28.57)	-	1 (0.95)	-	-	6 (5.71)	105
5	Sivasagar	31 (59.62)	19 (36.54)	1 (1.92)	-	1 (1.92)	-	-	52
6	Jorhat	7 (26.91)	8 (30.77)	3 (11.54)	5 (19.23)	1 (3.85)	-	2 (7.69)	26
7	Golaghat	2 (16.67)	3 (25.00)	-	-	-	-	7 (58.33)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	1 (12.50)	2 (25.00)	2 (25.00)	3 (37.50)	-	-	-	8
9	N.C.Hills	1 (50.00)	1 (50.00)	-	-	-	-	-	2
10	Silchar	5 (12.82)	26 (66.67)	4 (10.26)	3 (7.69)	-	1 (2.56)	-	39
11	Hailakandi	4 (25.00)	12 (75.00)	-	-	-	-	-	16
12	Karimganj	1 (4.35)	20 (86.96)	1 (4.35)	-	-	1 (4.35)	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	149 (81.42)	-	19 (10.38)	14 (7.65)	1 (0.55)	-	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	44 (55.70)	26 (32.91)	7 (8.86)	-	-	2 (2.53)	-	79
15	Dhuburi	16 (35.56)	27 (60.00)	2 (4.44)	-	-	-	-	45
16	Goalpara	5 (50.00)	5 (50.00)	-	-	-	-	-	10
17	Barpeta	5 (21.74)	12 (52.17)	1 (4.35)	2 (8.70)	2 (8.70)	1 (4.35)	1 (4.35)	24
18	Nalbari	12 (57.14)	8 (38.10)	-	-	1 (4.76)	-	-	21
19	Darrang	1 (11.11)	3 (33.33)	1 (11.11)	-	-	-	4 (44.44)	9
20	Sonitpur	3 (23.08)	2 (15.38)	-	-	-	-	8 (61.54)	13
21	Morigaon	33 (94.29)	2 (5.71)	-	-	-	-	-	35
22	Nagaon	53 (53.54)	17 (17.17)	-	-	-	21 (21.21)	8	99
23	Kamrup (M)	208 (49.64)	59 (14.04)	12 (2.86)	30 (7.16)	31 (7.40)	13 (3.10)	66 (15.75)	419
24	Kamrup (R)	17 (40.48)	18 (42.86)	1 (2.38)	2 (4.76)	2 (4.76)	2 (4.76)	-	42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>1366</b>
	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>53.44</b>	<b>23.72</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>7.76</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 4: District & Location-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

Sl. No.	Name of the district	Railway Station	Bus Stand	Place of Worship	Market Area	Under Tree	Street/ Road side	Hospital	Others	Total
1.	Dhemaji	2 (14.29)	1 (07.69)	-	10 (69.23)	-	-	-	1 (7.69)	14
2.	Lakhimpur	5 (12.5)	1 (02.50)	2 (5.00)	30 (75.00)	-	-	-	2 (5.00)	40
3.	Dibrugarh	19 (35.85)	-	3 (5.66)	31 (58.49)	-	-	-	-	53
4.	Tinsukia	21 (17.95)	4 (03.42)	1 (0.85)	88 (75.21)	-	-	-	3 (2.56)	117
5.	Sivasagar	1 (1.92)	2 (03.85)	46 (88.46)	3 (5.77)	-	-	-	-	52
6.	Jorhat	5 (17.86)	4 (14.29)	2 (7.14)	15 (53.57)	2 (7.14)	-	-	-	28
7.	Golaghat	-	2 (16.67)	-	3 (25.00)	-	7 (58.33)	-	-	12
8.	Karbi Anglong	6 (46.15)	2 (15.38)	-	5 (38.46)	-	-	-	-	13
9.	N.C.Hills	-	-	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	-	1 (33.33)	-	-	3
10.	Silchar	7 (17.95)	4 (10.26)	1 (2.56)	16 (41.03)	-	1 (2.56)	4 (10.26)	6 (15.38)	39
11.	Hailakandi	1 (6.25)	1 (06.25)	2 (12.5)	3 (18.75)	-	-	-	9 (56.25)	16
12.	Karimganj	5 (21.74)	1 (04.35)	1 (4.35)	11 (47.83)	-	3 (13.04)	1 (4.35)	1 (4.35)	23
13.	Kokrajhar	154 (84.15)	3 (01.64)	1 (0.55)	16 (8.74)	-	-	-	9 (4.92)	183
14.	Bongaigaon	26 (30.95)	19 (22.62)	-	38 (45.24)	-	-	-	1 (1.19)	84
15.	Dhuburi	5 (10.87)	10 (21.74)	9 (19.57)	16 (34.78)	1 (2.17)	-	-	5 (10.87)	46
16.	Goalpara	-	4 (40.00)	-	5 (50.00)	1 (10.00)	-	-	-	10
17.	Barpeta	6 (25.00)	3 (12.50)	-	9 (37.5)	-	-	-	6 (25.00)	24
18.	Nalbari	11 (50.00)	2 (09.09)	-	3 (13.64)	-	-	-	6 (27.27)	22
19.	Darrang	-	-	3 (33.33)	-	-	-	1	5 (33.33)	9
20.	Sonitpur	1 (7.69)	-	2 (15.38)	1 (7.69)	-	5 (38.46)	-	4 (30.77)	13
21.	Morigaon	-	8 (22.86)	-	24 (68.57)	-	-	-	3 (8.57)	35
22.	Nagaon	15 (14.85)	30 (29.7)	3 (2.97)	31 (30.69)	-	-	-	22 (21.78)	101
23.	Kamrup (M)	151 (30.94)	40 (08.20)	124 (25.41)	126 (25.82)	-	-	-	47 (9.63)	488
24.	Kamrup (R)	34 (70.83)	5 (10.42)	-	9 (18.75)	-	-	-	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>32.25</b>	<b>9.91</b>	<b>13.65</b>	<b>33.54</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 5 : District & Occupation-wise Distribution of Shelterless People**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Thelawalla/ Ricksha- walla	Road- side Vendor	Porter/ Labourer	Beggar	Rag- picker	Others	Nothing	NA/No Ans	Total
1.	Dhemaji	11 (78.57)	-	3 (21.43)	-	-	-	-	-	14
2.	Lakhimpur	9 (22.50)	1 (2.50)	23 (57.50)	7 (17.50)	-	-	-	-	40
3.	Dibrugarh	11 (20.75)	2 (3.77)	15 (28.30)	9 (16.98)	-	-	8 (15.09)	8 (15.09)	53
4.	Tinsukia	15 (12.82)	15 (12.82)	38 (32.48)	10 (8.55)	20 (17.09)	-	1 (0.85)	18 (15.38)	117
5.	Sivasagar	2 (03.85)	-	1 (1.92)	39 (75.00)	-	10 (19.23)	-	-	52
6.	Jorhat	-	-	4 (14.29)	10 (35.71)	9 (32.14)	1 (3.57)	4 (14.29)	-	28
7.	Golaghat	1 (08.33)	-	-	1 (8.33)	3 (25.00)	-	-	7 (58.33)	12
8.	Karbi Anglong	-	2 (15.38)	1 (7.69)	5 (38.46)	5 (38.46)	-	-	-	13
9.	N.C.Hills	-	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	-	1 (33.33)	-	-	-	3
10.	Silchar	2 (05.13)	1 (2.56)	10 (25.64)	21 (53.85)	1 (2.56)	4 (10.26)	-	-	39
11.	Hailakandi	-	-	3 (18.75)	8 (50.00)	3 (18.75)	2 (12.50)	-	-	16
12.	Karimganj	-	-	1 (4.35)	20 (86.96)	2 (8.70)	-	-	-	23
13.	Kokrajhar	49 (26.78)	3 (1.64)	109 (59.56)	-	-	21 (11.48)	-	1 (0.55)	183
14.	Bongaigaon	27 (32.14)	15 (17.86)	33 (39.29)	3 (3.57)	3 (3.57)	1 (1.19)	2 (2.38)	-	84
15.	Dhuburi	3 (06.52)	1 (2.17)	7 (15.2)	29 (63.04)	1 (2.17)	5 (10.87)	-	-	46
16.	Goalpara	-	-	1 (10.00)	9 (90.00)	-	-	-	-	10
17.	Barpeta	-	1 (4.17)	6 (25.00)	11 (45.83)	-	6 (25.00)	-	-	24
18.	Nalbari	1 (04.55)	-	4 (18.18)	12 (54.55)	2 (9.09)	2 (9.09)	-	1 (4.55)	22
19.	Darrang	-	-	-	6 (66.67)	1 (11.11)	-	2 (22.22)	-	9
20.	Sonitpur	-	-	-	6 (46.15)	-	-	7 (53.85)	-	13
21.	Morigaon	35 (100.00)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
22.	Nagaon	25 (24.75)	9 (8.91)	24 (23.76)	25 (24.75)	-	-	18 (17.82)	-	101
23.	Kamrup (M)	58 (11.89)	8 (1.64)	81 (16.60)	181 (37.09)	75 (15.37)	19 (3.89)	-	66 (13.52)	488
24.	Kamrup (R)	7 (14.58)	1 (2.08)	15 (31.25)	25 (52.08)	-	-	-	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>17.38</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>25.80</b>	<b>29.67</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>6.86</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 7: District - wise Distribution of Shelterless People According to Reasons for Living on the Street**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No home to live	Cannot afford rented house	Driven out from home	Like to stay here	No other suitable place	Needs are easily met	For Income	Any other (specify)	Not Applicable	Total
1	Dhemaji	1 (7.14)	11 (78.57)	1 (7.14)	-	1 (7.14)	-	-	-	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	23 (57.50)	3 (7.5)	4 (10.00)	-	10 (25.00)	-	-	-	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	35 (66.04)	4 (7.55)	3 (5.66)	3 (5.66)	-	-	-	-	8 (15.09)	53
4	Tinsukia	86 (73.50)	5 (4.27)	1 (0.85)	4 (3.42)	3 (2.56)	-	-	-	18 (15.38)	117
5	Sivasagar	14 (26.92)	4 (7.69)	9 (17.31)	10 (19.23)	2 (3.85)	10 (19.23)	-	3 (5.77)	-	52
6	Jorhat	9 (32.14)	8 (28.57)	6 (21.43)	1 (3.57)	-	1 (3.57)	-	3 (10.71)	0	28
7	Golaghat	1 (8.33)	2 (16.67)	1 (8.33)	-	-	-	-	-	8 (66.67)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	7 (53.85)	1 (7.69)	-	2 (15.38)	2 (15.38)	1 (7.69)	-	-	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	2 (66.67)	1 (33.33)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
10	Silchar	29 (74.36)	3 (7.69)	3 (7.69)	-	-	4 (10.26)	-	-	-	39
11	Hailakandi	8 (50.00)	1 (6.25)	3 (18.75)	3 (18.75)	1 (6.25)	-	-	-	-	16
12	Karimganj	1 (4.35)	2 (8.70)	-	11 (47.83)	8 (34.78)	1 (4.35)	-	-	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	141 (77.05)	18 (9.84)	12 (6.56)	11 (6.01)	1 (0.55)	-	-	-	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	39 (46.43)	13 (15.48)	11 (13.1)	8 (9.52)	4 (4.76)	6 (7.14)	-	3 (3.57)	-	84
15	Dhuburi	22 (47.83)	4 (8.70)	-	6 (13.04)	-	-	-	14 (30.43)	-	46
16	Goalpara	3 (30.0)	-	3 (30.0)	-	1 (30.0)	-	-	3 (10.0)	-	10
17	Barpeta	3 (12.5)	1 (4.17)	5 (20.83)	4 (16.67)	6 (25.0)	1 (4.17)	-	-	4 (16.67)	24
18	Nalbari	3 (13.64)	-	8 (36.36)	4 (18.18)	3 (13.64)	4 (18.18)	-	-	-	22
19	Darrang	1 (11.11)	-	1 (11.11)	2 (22.22)	1 (11.11)	-	-	-	4 (44.44)	9
20	Sonitpur	2 (15.38)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 (84.62)	13
21	Morigaon	14 (40.0)	13 (37.14)	-	-	8 (22.86)	-	-	-	-	35
22	Nagaon	70 (69.31)	6 (5.94)	2 (1.98)	2 (1.98)	1 (0.99)	9 (8.91)	-	11 (10.89)	-	101
23	Kamrup (M)	117 (23.98)	169 (34.63)	1 (0.2)	12 (2.46)	63 (12.91)	46 (9.43)	14 (2.87)	66 (13.52)	-	0
24	Kamrup (R)	26 (54.17)	3 (6.25)	3 (6.25)	2 (4.17)	3 (6.25)	3 (6.25)	8 (16.7)	-	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>44.60</b>	<b>18.47</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>8.01</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>6.99</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table- 8: District – wise Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Source of Food**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Bought	By Donation	By Begging	Cooking Themselves	Collects from Different Places	Any Other	N.A.	Total
1	Dhemaji	3 (21.43)	-	-	10 (71.43)	1 (7.14)	-		14
2	Lakhimpur	10 (25.00)	2 (5.0)	5 (12.50)	23 (57.50)	-	-	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	32 (60.38)	4 (7.55)	8 (15.09)	1 (1.89)	-	-	8 (15.09)	53
4	Tinsukia	67 (57.26)	16 (13.68)	6 (5.13)	5 (4.27)	5 (4.27)	-	18 (15.38)	
5	Sivasagar	-	13 (25.0)	29 (55.77)	1 (1.92)	6 (11.54)	-	3 (5.77)	52
6	Jorhat	10 (35.71)	9 (32.14)	9 (32.14)	-	-	-	-	28
7	Golaghat	1 (8.33)	1 (8.33)	4 (33.33)	-	-	-	6 (50.0)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	6 (46.15)	4 (30.77)	2 (15.38)	1 (7.69)	-	-	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	3 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
10	Silchar	12 (30.77)	3 (7.69)	15 (38.46)	1 (2.56)	1 (2.56)	7 (17.95)	-	39
11	Hailakandi	-	6 (37.5)	7 (43.75)	-	3 (18.75)	-	-	16
12	Karimganj	6 (26.09)	12 (52.17)	5 (21.74)	-	-	-	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	181 (98.91)	-	-	-	2 (1.09)	-	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	26 (30.95)	5 (5.95)	1 (1.19)	50 (59.52)	2 (2.38)	-	-	84
15	Dhuburi	6 (13.04)	16 (34.78)	5 (10.87)	1 (2.17)	17 (36.96)	1 (2.17)	-	46
16	Goalpara	1 (10.0)	6 (60.0)	1 (10.0)	-	2 (20.0)	-	-	10
17	Barpeta	11 (45.83)	-	9 (37.50)	1 (4.17)	3 (12.50)	-	-	24
18	Nalbari	5 (22.73)	-	7 (31.82)	2 (9.09)	8 (36.36)	-	-	22
19	Darrang	-	-	7 (77.78)	1 (11.11)	1 (11.11)	-	-	9
20	Sonitpur	1 (7.69)	2 (15.38)	10 (76.92)	-	-	-	-	13
21	Morigaon	-	-	8 (22.86)	27 (77.14)	-	-	-	35
22	Nagaon	12 (11.88)	14 (13.86)	20 (19.80)	5 (4.95)	49 (48.51)	1 (0.99)	-	101
23	Kamrup (M)	217 (44.47)	176 (36.07)	18 (3.69)	2 (0.41)	9 (1.84)	66 (13.52)	-	488
24	Kamrup (R)	23 (47.92)	-	25 (52.08)	-	-	-	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>42.97</b>	<b>19.62</b>	<b>13.65</b>	<b>8.89</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>5.09</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table 9: District – wise Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Management of Clothe**

Sl. No	Name of the District	Bought	By Donation	By Begging	Any Other	No Respond	Total
1	Dhemaji	14 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	28 (70.0)	5 (12.5)	7 (17.5)	-	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	31 (58.49)	11 (20.75)	3 (5.66)	-	8 (15.09)	53
4	Tinsukia	73 (62.39)	23 (19.66)	3 (2.56)	-	18 (15.38)	
5	Sivasagar	3 (5.77)	15 (28.85)	34 (65.38)	-	-	52
6	Jorhat	10 (35.71)	7 (25.0)	11 (39.29)	-	-	28
7	Golaghat	1 (8.33)	2 (16.67)	3 (25.00)	-	6 (50.00)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	6 (46.15)	6 (46.15)	1 (7.69)	-	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	3 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	3
10	Silchar	9 (23.08)	15 (38.46)	15 (38.46)	-	-	39
11	Hailakandi	-	13 (81.25)	3 (18.75)	-	-	16
12	Karimganj	-	20 (86.96)	3 (13.04)	-	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	183 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	70 (83.33)	13 (15.48)	1 (1.19)	-	-	84
15	Dhuburi	6 (13.04)	32 (69.57)	5 (10.87)	3 (6.52)	-	46
16	Goalpara	-	9 (90.00)	1 (10.00)	-	-	10
17	Barpeta	13 (54.17)	2 (8.33)	9 (37.5)	-	-	24
18	Nalbari	6 (27.27)	6 (27.27)	8 (36.36)	2 (9.09)	-	22
19	Darrang	-	3 (33.33)	6 (66.67)	-	-	9
20	Sonitpur	-	3 (23.08)	5 (38.46)	5 (38.46)	-	13
21	Morigaon	35 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	35
22	Nagaon	23 (22.77)	64 (63.37)	6 (5.94)	8 (7.92)	-	101
23	Kamrup (M)	164 (33.61)	239 (48.97)	19 (3.89)	-	66 (13.52)	488
24	Kamrup (R)	20 (41.67)	2 (4.17)	26 (54.17)	-	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>47.39</b>	<b>33.27</b>	<b>11.47</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>6.65</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 10: District – wise Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Place of Defecation**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Open Area	Public Toilet	Paid Toilet	Roadside	Drain	No Respond	Total
1	Dhemaji	2 (14.29)	8 (57.14)	3 (21.43)	-	1 (7.14)	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	1 (2.5)	15 (37.5)	12 (30.0)	12 (30.0)	-	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	20 (37.74)	16 (30.19)	-	2 (3.77)	7 (13.21)	8 (15.09)	53
4	Tinsukia	53 (45.3)	41 (35.04)	4 (3.42)	1 (0.85)	-	18 (15.38)	117
5	Sivasagar	12 (23.08)	37 (71.15)	-	-	-	3 (5.77)	52
6	Jorhat	21 (75.0)	6 (21.43)	-	-	1 (3.57)	-	28
7	Golaghat	3 (25.0)	3 (25.0)	-	-	-	6 (50.0)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	4 (30.77)	-	-	8 (61.54)	1 (7.69)	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	-	1 (33.33)	-	-	3
10	Silchar	17 (43.59)	7 (17.95)	-	10 (25.64)	5 (12.82)	-	49
11	Hailakandi	7 (43.75)	2 (12.5)	-	3 (18.75)	4 (25.0)	-	16
12	Karimganj	4 (17.39)	10 (43.48)	-	7 (30.43)	2 (8.7)	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	137 (74.86)	1 (0.55)	-	35 (19.13)	-	10 (5.46)	183
14	Bongaigaon	24 (28.57)	50 (59.52)	-	7 (8.33)	-	3 (3.57)	84
15	Dhuburi	26 (56.52)	3 (6.52)	7 (15.22)	8 (17.39)	2 (4.35)	-	46
16	Goalpara	7 (70.00)	-	2 (20.0)	1 (10.00)	-	-	10
17	Barpeta	11 (45.83)	7 (29.17)	3 (12.5)	2 (8.33)	1 (4.17)	-	24
18	Nalbari	2 (9.09)	15 (68.18)	-	5 (22.73)	-	-	22
19	Darrang	5 (55.56)	-	-	1 (11.11)	3 (33.33)	-	9
20	Sonitpur	1 (7.69)	3 (23.08)	-	1 (7.69)	2 (15.38)	6 (46.15)	13
21	Morigaon	-	30 (85.71)	-	-	5 (14.29)	-	35
22	Nagaon	15 (14.85)	36 (35.64)	11 (10.89)	11 (10.89)	28 (27.72)	-	101
23	Kamrup (M)	168 (34.43)	-	190 (38.93)	21 (4.3)	43 (8.81)	66 (13.52)	488
24	Kamrup (R)	30 (62.5)	13 (27.08)	-	5 (10.42)	-	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>38.76</b>	<b>20.64</b>	<b>15.75</b>	<b>9.57</b>	<b>7.13</b>	<b>8.15</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table -11: District – wise Distribution of Shelterless People According to Their Health Problem**

Sl. No	Name of the District	Respiratory	Gastric or related problem	Skin infection/Disease	T.B.	High Pressure	Frequent fever	Pain	Weakness	Any Other	No problem	No Answer	Total
1	Dhemaji	2 (14.29)	2 (14.29)	-	-	-	-	1 (7.14)	-	-	9 (64.29)	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	1 (2.5)	3 (7.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36 (90.0)	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	-	1 (1.89)	-	-	2 (3.77)	1 (1.89)	-	-	8 (15.09)	33 (62.26)	8 (15.09)	53
4	Tinsukia	-	1 (0.85)	1 (0.85)	2 (1.71)	-	-	-	-	4 (3.42)	91 (77.78)	18 (15.4)	117
5	Sivasagar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28 (53.85)	-	24 (46.15)	-	52
6	Jorhat	2 (5.26)	-	-	-	-	-	12 (31.58)	4 (10.53)	3 (7.89)	7 (18.42)	-	28
7	Golaghat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 (25.0)	-	9 (75.0)	-	12
8	Karbi Anglong	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 (30.77)	-	1 (7.69)	8 (61.54)	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (33.33)	-	-	2 (66.67)	-	3
10	Silchar	-	-	2 (5.13)	-	1 (2.56)	1 (2.56)	-	-	7 (17.95)	28 (71.79)	-	49
11	Hailakandi	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (6.25)	6 (37.5)	3 (18.75)	6 (37.5)	-	16
12	Karimganj	-	-	1 (4.35)	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 (95.65)	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	3 (1.64)	-	6 (3.28)	-	-	-	20 (10.93)	-	3 (1.64)	151 (82.51)	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	-	-	1 (1.19)	-	-	-	-	-	9 (10.71)	74 (88.10)	-	84
15	Dhuburi	-	1 (2.17)	3 (6.52)	-	-	10 (21.74)	-	-	32 (69.57)	-	-	46
16	Goalpara	0	1 (10.0)	2 (20.0)	-	-	-	-	-	7 (70.0)	-	-	10
17	Barpeta	1 (4.17)	9 (37.5)	3 (12.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 (45.83)	-	24
18	Nalbari	-	1 (4.55)	-	-	-	2 (9.09)	1 (4.55)	-	3 (13.64)	15 (68.18)	-	22
19	Darrang	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (11.11)	-	-	8 (88.89)	-	9
20	Sonitpur	-	-	1 (7.69)	-	-	-	1 (7.69)	-	1 (7.69)	10 (76.92)	-	13
21	Morigaon	3 (8.57)	2 (5.71)	-	-	-	5 (14.29)	-	2 (5.71)	-	23 (65.71)	-	35
22	Nagaon	6 (5.94)	13 (12.87)	13 (12.87)	-	1 (0.99)	-	-	-	24 (23.76)	44 (43.56)	-	101
23	Kamrup(M)	-	13 (2.66)	190 (38.93)	12 (2.46)	-	-	-	-	62 (12.7)	145 (29.71)	66 (13.52)	488
24	Kamrup (R)	-	9 (18.75)	1 (2.08)	-	-	14 (29.17)	-	-	-	24 (50.0)	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>15.21</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>11.34</b>	<b>52.95</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures within parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 12: District – wise Distribution of shelterless people according to their measures in the event of illness**

Sl. No	Name of the district	Go to hospital	Go to pharmacy	Consult Quake	Does Nothing	Any other	NA (not fallen ill)	No Answer	Total
1	Dhemaji	13 (92.86)	1 (7.14)	-	-	-	-	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	17 (42.50)	12 (30.00)	-	7 (17.50)	-	4 (10.00)	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	25 (47.17)	17 (32.08)	2 (3.77)	2 (3.77)	-	7 (13.21)	-	53
4	Tinsukia	67 (57.26)	20 (17.09)	4 (3.42)	7 (5.98)	-	1 (0.85)	18 (15.38)	117
5	Sivasagar	28 (53.85)	4 (7.69)	2 (3.85)	15 (28.85)	-	-	3 (5.77)	52
6	Jorhat	16 (57.14)	7 (25.00)	-	5 (17.86)	-	-	-	28
7	Golaghat	-	1 (8.33)	1 (8.33)	2 (16.67)	-	-	8 (66.67)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	13 (100.00)	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	2 (66.67)	1 (33.33)	-	-	-	-	-	3
10	Silchar	13 (33.33)	6 (15.38)	-	20 (51.28)	-	-	-	39
11	Hailakandi	3 (18.75)	1 (6.25)	-	12 (75.00)	-	-	-	16
12	Karimganj	-	-	-	23 (100.00)	-	-	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	66 (36.07)	117 (63.93)	-	-	-	-	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	50 (59.52)	29 (34.52)	1 (1.19)	4 (4.76)	-	-	-	84
15	Dhuburi	30 (65.22)	2 (4.35)	-	14 (30.43)	-	-	-	46
16	Goalpara	5 (50.00)	1 (10.00)	-	4 (40.00)	-	-	-	9
17	Barpeta	9 (37.50)	5 (20.83)	1 (4.17)	9 (37.50)	-	-	-	24
18	Nalbari	3 (13.64)	8 (36.36)	-	11 (50.00)	-	-	-	22
19	Darrang	2 (22.22)	-	-	4 (44.44)	-	3 (33.33)	-	9
20	Sonitpur	1 (7.69)	1 (7.69)	0	1 (7.69)	-	-	10 (76.92)	13
21	Morigaon	17 (48.57)	18 (51.43)	-	-	-	-	-	35
22	Nagaon	57 (56.44)	5 (4.95)	-	34 (33.66)	-	5 (4.95)	-	101
23	Kamrup (M)	223 (45.70)	59 (12.09)	11 (2.25)	46 (9.43)	83 (17.01)	-	66 (13.52)	488
24	Kamrup (R)	7 (14.58)	10 (20.83)	2 (4.17)	22 (45.83)	-	7 (14.58)	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>45.28</b>	<b>22.06</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>16.43</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>7.13</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 14: District – wise Distribution of Shelterless People According to their Living with Disability/Impairment**

Sl. No	Name of the district	Vision	Hearing	Walking/loco motors	No Problem	Total
1.	Dhemaji	4 (28.57)	1 (7.14)	-	9 (64.29)	14
2.	Lakhimpur	3 (7.50)	4 (10.00)	-	33 (82.5)	40
3.	Dibrugarh	4 (7.55)	3 (5.66)	6 (11.32)	40 (75.47)	53
4.	Tinsukia	19 (16.24)	20 (17.09)	32 (27.35)	46 (39.32)	117
5.	Sivasagar	18 (34.62)	17 (32.69)	10 (19.23)	7 (13.46)	52
6.	Jorhat	17 (60.71)	3 (10.71)	4 (14.29)	4 (14.29)	28
7.	Golaghat	-	1 (8.33)	2 (16.67)	9(75.0)	12
8.	Karbi Anglong	1 (7.69)	4 (30.77)	-	8 (61.54)	13
9.	N.C.Hills	3 (100.00)	-	-	-	3
10.	Silchar	6 (15.38)	7 (17.95)	7 (17.95)	19 (48.72)	39
11.	Hailakandi	2 (12.5)	5 (31.25)	3 (18.75)	6 (37.5)	16
12.	Karimganj	1 (4.35)	2 (8.7)	1 (4.35)	19 (82.61)	23
13.	Kokrajhar	1 (0.55)	-	1 (0.55)	181 (98.90)	183
14.	Bongaigaon	8 (9.52)	5 (5.95)	1 (2.38)	69 (82.14)	84
15.	Dhuburi	15 (32.61)	14 (26.09)	17 (41.3)	-	46
16.	Goalpara	1 (10.00)	2 (20.00)	2 (20.00)	5 (50.00)	10
17.	Barpeta	1 (4.17)	4 (16.67)	1 (4.17)	8 (75.00)	24
18.	Nalbari	2 (9.09)	3 (13.64)	3 (13.64)	14 (63.64)	22
19.	Darrang	-	-	1 (11.11)	8 (88.89)	9
20.	Sonitpur	1 (7.69)	-	1 (7.69)	11 (84.62)	13
21.	Morigaon	-	-	-	35 (100.0)	35
22.	Nagaon	5 (4.95)	37 (36.63)	34 (33.66)	25 (24.75)	101
23.	Kamrup (M)	42 (8.61)	97 (19.88)	58 (11.89)	291 (59.63)	488
24.	Kamrup (R)	6 (12.5)	7 (14.58)	9 (18.75)	26 (54.17)	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>10.86</b>	<b>15.89</b>	<b>13.31</b>	<b>59.95</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Table – 15: District – wise Distribution of Shelterless people  
According to their Feeling of Safety**

Sl. No	Name of the district	Yes		No		No Respond	Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
1	Dhemaji	12 (85.71)	-	2 (14.29)	-	-	14
2	Lakhimpur	30 (75.00)	1 (2.5)	6 (15.00)	3 (7.5)	-	40
3	Dibrugarh	42 (79.25)	1 (1.89)	8 (15.09)	2 (3.77)	-	53
4	Tinsukia	53 (45.3)	1 (0.85)	41 (35.04)	4 (3.42)	18 (15.38)	117
5	Sivasagar	27 (51.92)	20 (38.46)	-	2 (3.85)	3 (5.77)	52
6	Jorhat	19 (67.86)	3 (10.71)	-	1 (3.57)	5 (17.86)	28
7	Golaghat	3 (25.00)	-	1 (8.33)	-	8 (66.67)	12
8	Karbi Anglong	9 (69.23)	2 (15.38)	-	2 (15.38)	-	13
9	N.C.Hills	2 (66.67)	1 (33.33)	-	-	-	3
10	Silchar	17 (43.59)	6 (15.38)	14 (35.9)	2 (5.13)	-	39
11	Hailakandi	3 (18.75)	1 (6.25)	10 (62.5)	2 (12.5)	-	16
12	Karimganj	14 (60.87)	9(39.13)	-	-	-	23
13	Kokrajhar	131 (71.58)	13 (7.1)	30 (6.39)	9 (4.92)	-	183
14	Bongaigaon	64 (76.19)	7 (8.33)	10 (11.9)	3 (3.57)	-	84
15	Dhuburi	15 (32.61)	7 (15.22)	18 (39.13)	6 (13.04)	-	46
16	Goalpara	5 (50.00)	1 (10.00)	3 (30.00)	1 (10.00)	-	10
17	Barpeta	5 (20.83)	10 (41.67)	5 (20.83)	4 (16.67)	-	24
18	Nalbari	20 (90.91)	2 (9.09)	-	-	-	22
19	Darrang	1 (11.11)	1 (11.11)	1 (11.11)	-	6 (66.67)	9
20	Sonitpur	2 (15.38)	1 (7.69)	-	-	10 (76.92)	13
21	Morigaon	15 (42.86)	-	20 (57.14)	-	-	35
22	Nagaon	34 (33.66)	5 (4.95)	45 (44.55)	17 (16.83)	-	101
23	Kamrup (M)	283 (57.99)	18 (3.69)	136 (27.87)	51 (10.45)	-	488
24	Kamrup (R)	35 (72.92)	4 (8.33)	5 (10.42)	4 (8.33)	-	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1473</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>57.09</b>	<b>7.74</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>3.39</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

**Annexure – III**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC COOPERATION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
Regional Centre, Jawaharnagar, Khanapara,  
Guwahati-781022

**SURVEY OF SHELTERLESS PEOPLE IN URBAN AREAS OF ASSAM**

- 1) Name :
- 2) Living alone / with family members :
- 3) Sex : Male/Female
- 4) Age : Adult/Child
- 5) Marital Status : Married/Unmarried/Widow/Widower/Separated/ Divorcee
- 6) Permanent home address : Vill..... P.O .....
- Dist: .....
- 7) Present location : .....Landmark: Rly. Station/ Market  
Area/Place of Worship/Bus Stand/ Any other
- 8) Occupation :
- 9) Monthly income : Rs.
- 10) Details about family :

Sl. No.	Name of the family members	Relationship	Age	Sex	Occupation	Education	Present place of stay

- 11) Relationship with the family members: Cordial /Not Cordial
- 12) Why do you live here? :
- a) No house to live
  - b) Cannot afford a rented house
  - c) Driven out from home
  - d) Like to stay here
  - e) No other suitable place
  - f) Food and Clothing requirements are easily met
  - f) Any other (Specify) .....
- 13) Do you sometimes go home? : Yes/No/Not Applicable (No home to go)
- 13.1) if yes, how often : Quarterly/Half yearly/Yearly
- 14) How long you have been in the present location:
- a) Less than 1 month
  - b) 1-2 months
  - c) 3-6 months
  - d) 6 months – 1 year
  - e) More than 1 year
- 15) How do you manage your food?
- a) Buy
  - b) Donation
  - c) Beg
  - d) Cooks food
  - e) Collects
  - f) Any other (Specify)
- 16) Do you have the following meals everyday?
- a) Breakfast : Yes/No
  - b) Lunch : Yes/No
  - d) Dinner : Yes/No
- 17) Where from you get your clothes?
- a) Buy
  - b) Donation
  - c) Beg
  - d) Any other (Specify) : .....
- 18) Do you take bath everyday? : Yes/No
- 19) Where do you go for defecation? :
- a) Open area
  - b) Public Toilets/Paid toilet
  - c) Roadside
  - d) Drain

20) Where do you sleep? :

(At the present location/some other location (specify.....) Is that covered / semi covered ?

21) Do you have your bedding?  
a) Mosquito Net : Yes/ No  
b) Quilt/Blanket : Yes/No  
c) Bed Sheet : Yes/No

22) Do you have any health problem? : Yes/No  
If yes, what are those? : .....

23) Do you take alcohol/any other intoxicating substance? : Yes/No (observation  
.....)

24) Do you suffer from any disability/impairment?  
a) Vision : Yes/No  
b) Hearing : Yes/No  
c) Walking/Loco motor : Yes/No

(For any kind of mental illness/mental retardation, the Enumerator will write down his/her observations .....)

25) What do you do when you get ill ? : Go to Govt. Hospital/Pharmacy/Consult Quakes/  
Does Nothing

26) Do you feel safe at this place : Yes/No  
If no, why?  
.....

27) Do you miss your family? : Yes/No

**Observation of the Enumerator:**

General health : Healthy/Sick/Frail  
Personal cleanliness : Clean/Not clean  
Clothes : Adequately dressed/ Not adequately dressed  
Condition of clothes : Clean/Not so clean/Dirty/ Proper / Torn

Date: .....

Signature of the Enumerator .....  
Name of the Enumerator.....  
Address .....  
Contact No. ....

Verified by signatory of the MOU:

Signature :