

The mighty river Brahmaputra has provided the people of Assam and all the regions it flows through with not only food and water but also has provided the people with a source of employment. Fresh water fishing is the primary source of income for hundreds if not thousands of people living by this mighty river. For centuries, hundreds of families have been dependent on the river for their food, clean water and fishing as an employment opportunity. River based fisheries are of particular importance in the tropical regions as they provide food and nutrition to millions of people and support their livelihood. In recent times, the ever-increasing demands of water for irrigation, agriculture, domestic and industrial use and hydropower generation have impacted the river flow and habitats and consequently the fisheries and river-fish dependent communities. It is really sad to see that these communities of people who have been fishing in and around the waters of the mighty Brahmaputra are slowly being displaced due to increased demand of water supply and the international politics with China as the river originates there.

The Assamese and Bengali population are very fond of fish and thus every morning the markets of Guwahati are flooded with hundreds of kilograms of fish. While we people love to consume fish almost every single day, we hardly think about the communities of fisherman who literally wake up in the middle of the night to go out into the river to meet our demand of fish every single day. Having spoken to a few of them, I've come to know about the hardships they face and would personally like to thank them for their contribution to our society. My photographs display these fisherman hard at work and also the various methods and traditional techniques of catching fish using bamboo and nets.