CHAPTER: 5

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF MOSQUES AND DARGAHS IN BARAK VALLEY:

About the definition of architecture, generally we know that it is the art of designing buildings. In this chapter, prime emphasis has been given on the comparison between the earlier and later architectural styles of *Mosques* and *Dargahs* in Barak Valley during the period under study. When the Muslims were consolidating their power in Sylhet, a narrow area of modern Barak Valley i.e. Karimganj district would constitute the eastern region of the Bengal subah under the Turko- Afghan rulers. However the architectural remains of the Mohammedan as discovered are those of the religious buildings and not a single secular one has so far been traced. Hence, the term Islamic architecture to the remains of buildings constructed by the Muslims in Barak Valley is more appropriate than the terms Indo-Islamic or Bengal Provincial Muslim Styles.²⁰⁰

The Islamic Architecture is of two types-(1) religious and (2) secular. The former consists of the *Mosque* and *Dargah*. The later include such architecture as intended for public and civic purposes, such as pavilions, town-gates, houses, walls, gardens, palace-forts etc.²⁰¹

²⁰⁰ Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, *The Art and Architecture of Assam*, Guwahati, Delhi, Spectrum Publications, 1994, P-166.

²⁰¹ Percy Brown, Indian *Architecture (Islamic Period)*, Dr. DadabhaiNaoroji Road, Bombay, D. B. Taraporevala Sons & Co. Pvt. Ltd., 1942, P-3.

Mosques in Old Architectural Style:

The religious architecture of the Muslims contains two types of buildings, i.e., Mosque and Dargah. In accordance with religious need the important parts of a Mosque in our country consist of a Western Wall containing a recessed alcove called *mihrub* in its centre denoting the direction of Qibla, the House of Allah at Mecca; a pulpit or mimbar on the left side of the alcove structurally in the form of stairs, and a tank and taps in the open courtyard for making ablutions. Although, the Mosque architecture in our country grew up and developed in a traditional form, now and then the end of the 12th century A.D. Thus the traditional *Mosque* formed i.e., consisted of a rectangular in plan having an open *sahn* or courtyard in the centre surrounded on all the four sides by pillared *lewan* or cloisters forms the screen of the *Mosque* where the central square apartment is known as nave while the side apartments as aisles. So, all these apartments are covered by domed roof where the central dome is larger and upper flanked by less larger and lower height domes. The domes are mainly divided into three types those are; single dome, double domes and multiple domes. In the first place of the 17th century minarets (two or four) also appeared in the structural form of the mosque architecture. Before this, a raised stage was used as minar from where the faithfulls were called for prayers. ²⁰² A minar locally called as minaraplace of free standing cylindrical type. The minarets of a *Mosque* have usually had three objectives; to serve as towers to call for the faithful prayer, to serve a buttress to hold the thrust of the arches built in front of the Mosque, to act as symbols of Islam.²⁰³

In Assam, early extent of *Mosques* is only in the form of remains and in the Barak Valley, numerous sites with ruins of *Mosques* in the Karimganj district of Barak Valley alone have begun to show the attention of the scholars. The area under the Karimganj Police Station, Patharkandi Police Station, Nilambazar Police Station and

²⁰² Ibid, P-3., Quoted in Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, op. cit., P-166, *Chapter-IV*, *Sufi*

Monuments/Architecture, PP-205-10, retrieved from, Shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>07_chapter.

²⁰³Chapter-IV, Sufi Monuments/Architecture, PP-206-07.retrieved from,

Shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>07_chapter

Badarpur Police Station alone contain the remains of as many as five *Mosques*. Viewed from the chronological stylistic stand points all the five mosques at Asimganj and Kaliganj, Ballia, Majdhi and Batoiya may be divided into two groups. The Asimganj and Kaliganj*Mosques* are the remains of the Pre-Mughal days while the others belong to the Mughal period. Professor S.K. Saraswati categories the Muslim buildings of Bengal provincial style the following groups. (1) Multi-domed oblong type. (2) Single-domed type with corridors running on three sides. (3) Oblong type with a vaulted central nave and multi-domed side wings and (4) Single-domed square type.²⁰⁴

Mosques in New Architectural Style:

Earlier structures of the *Mosques* were Mughal architecture and owing to it less capacity to accommodate huge *Musalli*, the earlier structures were replaced by modern multi-storied huge building. The style resembles the modern pattern. Now, the *Mosques* are looks more scientific and accommodate huge *Mussalli* (those who performs *Namaz* in *Mosjid*).²⁰⁵

Architectural Style of Dargah:

In India and Barak Valley the other Islamic religious architecture isthe *Dargah* or Tomb consists of a vaulted hall and towering dome and enclosed within a spacious garden. The *Dargah* usually consists of a single compartment or *dargah*-chamber, known as*astanahorhuzrah*, in the centre of which is the zarih or cenotaph, the entire structure being roofed over a dome. In the ground under earth this building, like a crypt, is the mortuary chamber and the *magbarah* with the grave in the middle. Sometimes a *Mosque* is also included in the larger *Dargah* and the entire complex enclosed within a wall is called *Dargah* after the

²⁰⁴Ibid, Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, PP-166-68.

²⁰⁵ Observations from field visit.

holy*Dargah* of the Prophet Muhammad at Medina. But, in comparison with the *Mosque* architecture, the *Dargah* architecture is less important from religious point of view.²⁰⁶

"In earlier days, the Mosque building consisted of a large dome in the form of roof, rather the roof was a support. The roof consisted of a large dome supported on a thick brick walls. Because the load of the dome or structural stability, the dome requires lateral support that lateral support was given by thick brick walls. In most of the cases the thickness of the brick wall was about three feet i.e. 0.9 meters and in those days the construction materials was bricks cemented by lime water. The lime water consists of chun-churky which is powdered brick mixed with appropriate quantity of lime, sand and required quantity of water that mixture of lime, sand and water was known as chun-churky. In those days the concept of R.C. C and reinforcement was not there and that *chun-churky* it properly laid, it was almost water proof and in eastern India mostly earlier Bengal, Assam and this region where heavy rainfall is there. So, to make the roof, water proof *chun-churky* was used. *Chun-churky* after lying beaten regularly by wooden hammers to make it thin, to make fit whereas in case of Mughal architecture mostly in northern India the building roof consists of mainly of stone slaps and slaps was supported on iron flats provided inside the roofs. In stone slaps there was groove on both side and in that groove iron flat were provided as reinforcement and cemented by chun-churky. In case of some construction where big dome was used, steel chain was used at the bottom of the dome that means horizontal load or thrust of the dome to take the horizontal load, but in this part of India where extreme rainfall is there, stone slaps are not also available here, so the main construction material was brick and chunchurky. About hundred years after, these all types of construction got some demerits. Because, brick is not water proof, brick when dry in hot weather, and in dry weather brick soaks water and in those days the concept of movements of water through bricks that concept was not there and gradually bricks soak water from the ground and these

²⁰⁶ Percy Brown, op. cit., pp-3-4., Quoted in Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, op. cit., P-168, *Chapter-IV, Sufi Monuments/Architecture*, PP-204-05, retrieved from Shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>07_chapter.

soaking of water are continued till about 3-4 feet above ground level and these continued soaking of water gradually diminished the strength of the chun- churky and blue coating was formed after 50 years from the construction and gradually the inner coating was spoiled by this water soaking and subsequent deformation of the chunchurky and that's why with new concept of R.C.C construction old and aesthetic nature of Mosque construction was changed by new R.C.C method. The difficulty with R.C.C is that it is very difficult to cast domes with R.C.C and that's why now in most of the Mosque construction the roof consists of flat R.C.C slab. And to give rather to retain the architecture of *Mosque* small domes are provided with the minarets in early old minars or minarets are provided in four corners and at the top of this minarets small domes are provided which shows that this is a Mosque to differentiate it from surrounding buildings. So, this is the major difference in construction of the Mosque. domes are provided but this do not become successful because of Sometimes difficulty in laying concrete on sloppy surface, concrete should be placed on flat surface from the surface of dome the casting of concrete cannot become waterproof, small hair cracks remain during laying and subsequent wring and these gives trouble or seepage of water through these domes. That's why these are not provided on the roof of the *Mosque* now-a- days. So, this is the major difference between early and latter Mosques construction.

In earlier days, the domes provided the supported or rather give the roof of a building and the load of the dome were supported the horizontal wall which was about three feet thick. In northern India, instead of brick, most of the buildings are made of stones, here also the wall is thick about three feet and roof consists mostly flat roof by stone flats jointed by iron flats and where domes are provided the horizontal thrust of the dome was supported by the steel chain embedded inside the dome.

Most of the *Dargahs* are made with a dome and now that is also replaced by flat R.C.C construction with *minar* and over top of *minar* small domes, major domes makes a perennial problem of seepage. A few years back, I visited one *Mosque* at Shanttipur in Cachar district of Barak Valley which consists of two or three dome made of R.C.C

and the complaint was that during rain there was no difficulty but after rain stop, after 3-4 hours water seep through the domes and fall on the ground. So, after the heavy rain there was a small rain inside the *Mosque*. So, later we went out checked and found out the difficulty. I told them you made the dome in that way while laying concrete, concrete moves downward but the dome is round, so concrete will try to move downward and the mason continuously uses its tool to keep it intact while doing so small crack develop inside which cannot be seen with naked eyes and all throughout of the structure of the dome there was such small cracks and during rain through these cracks water seeps inside. After the major rain stops these water stored inside the inside the dome gets rusted. And I asked them to make a new plastering but the top of the plastering to use some materials in the form of ceramics. So that the top become more or less finished and sloppy, and water cannot enter inside immediately whatever rain falls on the dome should be immediately drained. I don't know whether it is successful or not. I asked them to diminish the structure. Similar structure I visited near Banskandi Madrassa, an R.C.C building but now chunk of concrete falling down

successful or not. I asked them to diminish the structure. Similar structure I visited near Banskandi Madrassa, an R.C.C building but now chunk of concrete falling down some time now and then fall on the people who gather there for prayer and though they used *chun-churky* above the roof to make it water proof still the problem exists. I found lots of blisters on the wall and roof. Some beams slacking downward and I checked the roof and found it extremely shaky. Though they used chun-churky over the roof about three inches thick, yet it is not properly water proof. In the building I found that there was a huge gap between the R.C.C slab and *chun-churky* coating. And that water which seeped through the lime concrete gradually peered through the R.C.C slab and spoils all the reinforcement. And I checked on the down side of the roof that most of the reinforcement which was about 8 mm diameter rod becomes very thin and completely rusted and that *Mosque* was ultimately abandoned and it has to be rebuilt at the end. So, this is the difficulty in providing *chun-churky* layer over R.C.C slab. This is one of the methods to make the slab water proof, chun- churky layer is provided but if not provided properly it becomes another problem. It is more dangerous to destroy the structure rather than to keep the R.C.C slab open. So, these are the major difficulty in construction methods. Now- a- days, experts' masons are not available on *chun-churky*. So, lay provides such layers become more dangerous."²⁰⁷

In medieval times, the Mosques of Barak Valley were architecturally different from what we find today. The *Mosque* at present, are mostly constructed with attractive design and decorations following modern architectural principles. But previously, most of the *Mosques* of Barak Valley were constructed with domes (one or three) on the roof following medieval Mughal architecture. As a result, the Mosques were architecturally not as up-to-date as we find those today. As opinioned by Dr. Abu Ahmed ShamsulHoqueBarbhuiya, a distinguished architect of Barak Valley and formerly principal of N.I.T., Silchar- the Mosques of Barak Valley in past times were architecturally defective as well as problematic in various aspects, being a creative Engineer of modern architecture specially in the fields of Mosques, Dr. Barbhuiya contributed a lot in solving those defacts and problems of Mosques and Dargahs in Barak Valley. Previously almost all the *Mosques* were constructed as a single storied building having domes on the roof. Those were built with *chun-churky* as the modern concept of R.C.C. construction was quite unimaginable during the time. The Mosques were not equipped with proper lighting and ventilation system as we find today in multistoried R.C.C Mosques buildings.²⁰⁸

In course of time, due to various reasons the *Mosques* of Barak Valley are being reconstructed replacing the medieval Mughal architecture with multistoried R.C.C. buildings following modern architectural style.

 ²⁰⁷ Information collected from Dr. Abu Ahmed ShamsulHoqueBarbhuiya, on 28.04.2018, age-75, Ex
Principal & Professor in Civil Engineering, N.I.T. Silchar, Cachar, Assam.
²⁰⁸ Ibid.

Table: 5.01

Mosques of Cachar District²⁰⁹

Seria	Name of the Mosque	Year of	Location	Distric	Architectur
l No		Foundatio		t	al Style
		n			
1	PaikanBoroMosjid	1700 A.D.	Gumrah	Cacha	Modern
				r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
2	BorkholaPaccaMosjid	1705 A.D.	Borkhola	Cacha	Modern
				r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
					د
3	Buribail Old JameMosjid	1707 A.D.	Buribail	Cacha	Tin roofed
				r	
4	KanakpurPuratanPaccaMos	Last	Kanakpur	Cacha	Mughal
	jid	quarter of		r	architecture
		18 th			
		century			
5	CachariMosjid	1876 A.D.	Silchar	Cacha	Modern
			Town	r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
6	SilcharBoroMosjid	1884 A.D.	Silchar	Cacha	Modern

²⁰⁹ Information collected from field visit.

				r	Multistorie
					d Flat Roof
					Architectur
					e
7	FatakbazarJameMosjid	1890 A.D.	Fatakbazar	Cacha	Modern
				r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
8	Banskandi Madrassa	1897 A.D.	Banskandi	Cacha	Modern
	Mosjid			r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
9	MadhurbondBoroMosjid	1903 A.D.	Madhurbon	Cacha	Modern
			d	r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
10	GhoniwalaMarkazMosjid	1925 A.D.	Ghoniwala	Cacha	Modern
				r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
11	Udharbond Bazar Mosjid	1930 A.D.	Udharbond	Cacha	Modern
			Bazar	r	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
12	Bhaga Bazar JameMosjid	1948 A.D.	Bhaga	Cacha	Modern

	Bazar	r	multi-
			storied flat
			roof
			architecture

From the above Table (Table: 5.01) we find *Mosques* of Cachar district of Barak Valley that shows only one is tin roofed *Mosque* shown in serial no.3 and only one *Mosque* retaining the previous Mughal architecture i.e. serial no.4 and all the lot with modern flat roofed R.C.C structure(three or four).

Table: 5.02

Dargahs of Cachar District²¹⁰

Serial No	Name of	Year of	Location	District	Architectur
	the Dargah	Foundation			al Style
1	Shah	First Half of	Nathanpur	Cachar	Only four
	Nathan	the 14 TH			minarets on

²¹⁰ Information collected from field visit.

		Century			four corners
2	Shah	First Half of	Dargakuna	Cachar	One big
	Chand Ali	the 14^{TH}			dome on the
	&Pata Shah	Century			Dargah
3	Langar	First Half of	Fullertal	Cachar	One big
	Shah	the 14^{TH}			dome on the
		Century			Dargah
4	Bakhar	1943 A.D.	Madhurbond	Cachar	One big
	Shah				dome on the
					Dargah
	Charki	1952 A.D.	Saidpur	Cachar	One big
5	Shah				dome on the
					Dargah
6	Makha	1973 A.D.	Ghoniwala	Cachar	One big
	Shah				dome on the
					Dargah

From the above Table(Table: 5.02), it is clear that in case of architectural aspects of *Dargahs* in Cachar district of Barak Valley only one *Dargah* shown in serial no.1 which is known as the*Dargah* of Shah Nathan is an exceptional one . It was constructed without any dome equipped with four minarets on four corners of the construction. This type of architecture is very rare in Barak Valley. The *Dargahs* shown from serial no.1 to 3 are identified by the local people as the *Dargahs* of the distinguished followers of great Sufi saint *Hazrat* Shah Jalal *Mujarrad*. This fact is also verified and corroborated by the documents research papers written by various scholars. The remaining *Dargahs* except serial no.1 are built in traditional model as rectangular buildings with one big dome roofs.

Table: 5.03

Mosques of Karimganj District²¹¹

Serial	Name of the Mosque	Year of	Location	District	Architect
No.		Foundation			Style
1	BundashilJameMosjid	First Half	Bundashil	Karimganj	Tin roof
		of the 14^{TH}			
		Century			
2	GorekafanJameMosjid	First Half	Gorekafan	Karimganj	Moder
		of the 14^{TH}			multi-sto
		Century			flat roo
					architect
3	KhadimanJameMosjid	First Half	Khadimam	Karimganj	Moder
		of the 14^{TH}			multi-sto
		Century			flat roo
					architect
4	KhadimparaJameMosjid	First Half	Khadimpara	Karimganj	Moder
		of the 14^{TH}			multi-sto
		Century			flat roo
					architect
5	HatkhalaJameMosjid	1463 A.D.	Hatkhala	Karimganj	Moder
					multi-sto
					flat roo
					Architect
6	Mosjid at Kaliganj	1502 A.D.	Kaliganj	Karimganj	Ruins
					Remain
					indicate
		1			l

²¹¹ Information collected from field visit.

						that it w
						Benga
						Provinc
						Style
	7	MosjidTillaJameMosjid	1531 A.D.	Ballia	Karimganj	Ruins &
						remain
						indicate
						that it w
						Benga
						provinci
						Style
	8	LatuJameMosjid	1556-1605	Latu	Karimganj	Mugha
			A.D.			architect
	9	FakirtilaGoiviMosjid	07/08/1630	Sarifnagar	Karimganj	Moder
			A.D.			multi-stor
						flat roc
						architect
	10	KachukhauriMukambariJameMosjid	About	Kachukhauri	Karimganj	Mugha
			1518 A.D.			architect
	11	KanishailJameMosjid	1700 A.D.	Kanishail	Karimganj	Moder
						multi-stor
						flat roc
						architect
	12	SingariaJameMosjid	1705 A.D.	Singaria	Karimganj	Mugha
						architect
	13	SatghoriJameMosjid	1718 A.D.	Satghori	Karimganj	Mugha
						architect
	14	RatabariJameMosjid	1795 A.D.	Ratabari	Karimganj	Moder
						multi-stor
						flat roc
J	1	1	1	1	1	1

					architect
					arcifitecti
15	HulashnagarPaccaMosjid	1810 A.D.	Hulashnagar	Karimganj	Moder
					multi-stor
					flat roo
					architect
16	GanshamarchakDarus Salam Jame	1864 A.D.	Ganshamarchak	Karimganj	Moder
	Mosjid				multi-stor
					flat roo
					architect
17	BiskutJameMosjid	1965 A.D.	Biskut	Karimganj	Mugha
					architect

From the above Table (Table: 5.03), the *Mosques* shown in serial no. 1 to 4 are historically proved to be built by the distinguished followers of great Sufi saint *Hazrat* Shah Jalal *Mujarrad*. These *Mosques* were constructed in Karimganj district of Barak Valley during the first half of 14th century. Only *Mosque* shown in serial no. 1 is tin roofed building. In this Table serial no.5, 6, 7 were built respectively in the year 1463, 1502, 1531 A.D.as recorded in the stone inscriptions found in those *Mosques*. Remarkably the architectural aspects of those *Mosques* followed Bengal Provincial Style of the Indo-Islamic architecture. However, serial no. 8, 12, 13, and 17 in the Table are the *Mosques* carry the traditional Mughal architecture. And the remaining *Mosques* are constructed in multistoried R.C.C. pattern.

Table: 5.04

Dargahs of Karimganj District²¹²

Serial No.	Name of	Year of	Location	District	Architectural
	the Dargah	Foundation			Style
1	Shah Badar	First Half of	BadarpurGhat	Karimganj	No Instance

²¹² Information collected from field visit.

	Uddin	the 14 th			
		century			
2	Shah	First Half of	Gorekafan	Karimganj	No Instance
	Sikandar	the 14 th			
		century			
3	Shah Adam	First Half of	Khadimpara	Karimganj	One dome
	Khaki	the 14 th			on the grave
		century			& four
					minarets on
					four corners
4	Shah Zia	First Half of	Bundashil	Karimganj	No Instance
	Uddin	the 14 th			
		century			
5	Shah Abdul	First Half of	Badarpur	Karimganj	No Instance
	Malik	the 14 th	Bazar		
		century			

The *Dargahs* listed in the Table (Table: 5.04), were built in the first half of 14th century on the graves of those distinguished followers of great Sufi saint *Hazrat* Shah Jalal *Mujarrad*, who initiated the mission of propagating Islam in this region. They were directed by *Hazrat* Shah Jalal *Mujarrad* to propagate Islam in this region. Fortunately, only one *Dargah* i.e. identified as the *Dargah* of Shah Adam Khaki exists till today and the left were mostly ravaged in course of time. The *Dargah* of Adam Khaki is found with one dome on the roof and four minarets on four corners. *Dargahs* of Shah BadarUddin, Shah Sikandar, Shah Zia Uddin are demolished by the flow of the river Barak while the *Dargah* of Shah Abdul Malik is at present replaced with a personal building constructed by a local person.

Table: 5.05

Mosques of Hailakandi District²¹³

Seria	Name of the Mosque	Year of	Location	District	Architectur
1 No.		Foundatio			al Style
		n			
1	MuhammadpurJameMo	Last	Muhammadp	Hailakan	Modern

²¹³ Information collected from field visit.

	sjid	decade of	ur	di	multi-
		18^{th}			storied flat
		century			roof
					architecture
2	BarnagodJameMosjid	From first	Barnagod	Hailakan	Exceptiona
		habitation		di	l one
		s of the			
		locality			
3	MatijuriJameMosjid	1815	Matijuri	Hailakan	Mughal
		A.D.		di	architecture
4	Boalipar Bazar Mosjid	1895	Boalipar	Hailakan	Mughal
		A.D.		di	architecture
5	Sahabad Madrassa Jame	1899	Sahabad	Hailakan	Modern
	Mosque	A.D.		di	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
6	HailakandiCachariMosji	1907	Hailakandi	Hailakan	Modern
	d	A.D.	Town	di	multi-
					storied flat
					roof
					architecture
7	Lalabazar Town Mosjid	1908	Lalabazar	Hailakan	Modern
		A.D.		di	multistorie
					d flat roof
					architecture
8	HailakandiPuran Bazar	1914	Marawaripatt	Hailakan	Mughal
	Mosjid	A.D.	У	di	architecture
9	Hailakandi College	1960	Near S.S.	Hailakan	Mughal
	Mosjid	A.D.	College	di	architecture

10	Gharmurah Bazar	1979	Gharmurah	Hailakan	Tin roofed
	Mosjid	A.D.	Bazar	di	

The *Mosques* in the Table (Table: 5.05), as shown against serial no. 3, 4, 8, and 9 are still existing with their previously constructed Mughal architectural structures while *Mosque* shown in serial no.2 is an exceptional structure providing space for only five or six people to performs*namaz* at a time. And only serial no.10 is tin roofed structure. The remaining *Mosques* in the table are built in modern multistoried R.C.C. structure.

Table: 5.06

Serial	Name of the	Year of	Location	District	Architectural
No.	Dargah	Foundation			Style
1	Mir-Ul-Areefin	First Half of	Panchgram	Hailakandi	One big
		the 14 th			dome on his
		century			rest house
2	Shah Noor	First Half of	Charakuri	Hailakandi	One big
		the			dome on the
		14 th century			grave
3	Ambaar Ali	1964 A.D.	Visingsa	Hailkandi	One big
					dome on the
					grave
4	Abdul Aziz	1984 A.D.	Tantoo	Hailakandi	One big
	Chourdhury				dome on the
					grave

Dargahs of Hailakandi District²¹⁴

²¹⁴ Information collected from field visit.

Almost all the *Dargahs* in Hailakandi district followed a single architectural pattern i.e. one large dome on the roof and four minarets on four corners.

Is it clear from the study of the selected Mosques and Dargahs that the ancient structures are going to be replaced by modern architectural trends following new style and structure. Due to the increase of Muslim population, the old Mosque buildings are presently in earnest need to be reconstructed to provide accommodation to increasing Musallis. As the Mosques previously constructed in ancient architectural styles are unable to meet various needs and necessities coping with modern trends. Musallis faces various problems in those ancient Mosques buildings. Firstly, those ancient structures are mostly ravaged in course of time and hence cannot protect rain water during rainy session. The repairing of roof structure with domes is almost impossible due to the lack of expert masons. Secondly, the Mosques buildings are constructed with raw materials like chun -churky, hence the structure is obviously weaker than today's R.C.C formula. Thirdly, those ancient Mosques buildings are built in age old style and hence inside the building there is no provision for sufficient light, natural ventilation. Lastly, as the space area of Mosque is limited, hence a multistoried structure is inevitable for providing sufficient room for congregational prayers. For all those reasons, now-a-days those ancient Mosques building are gradually being reconstructed following new architectural technology and style in the form of multistoried flat roofed R.C.C structure equipped with sufficient electrification.²¹⁵

In case of architectural style of *Dargahs* of Barak Valley it is found that with two and three exceptions, almost all the *Dargahs* are built in the same architectural style resembling to each other. These are built with one large dome on the middle of the roof supported by four minarets on four corners.²¹⁶

²¹⁵ Information collected from field visit.

²¹⁶ Ibid.