

## Chapter V

### Findings

The previous chapter dealt with analysis and interpretation of collected data for the study. This current chapter showcases the overall findings of the study extracted from in-depth analysis of the collected data. The key findings are as follows-

- ✚ Due to vastness of the size of the universe (1300 musicians) stratified random sampling technique was adopted for primary data to cater all stakeholders of the study area and to conduct the survey properly. Sample size considered is 15%(198) of the universe.
- ✚ Regarding secondary data on modern music in the study area no documentation is found available except a few registers maintained in the audio recording studios. From the available registers only total size of the universe is calculated. However, there may find slight variations in actual size of the universe as being a musician is a self-declared profession and no any kind of official registration is required for that.
- ✚ Musicians are very elusive, mobile and netizens in nature. Their working hours also does not match with regular working hours of other professions. To overcome this situation, online survey using Google form was conducted to cater musicians in general (146 respondents). Personal Interview was conducted to cater selected experts (52 respondents) in music and musicians working in studios of different genres in the study area.
- ✚ Stakeholders of the study area were selected based on components of modern music i.e. sur/tone/rhythm(composition), lyrics, instruments, singers, recording techniques and publishing/market. Some of the musicians poses more than one category of stakeholders like a musician is also a lyricist and a publisher, a singer also may be a publisher or composer etc. And all of them are music listeners too.

- ✚ The online survey shows more female respondents (54%) than male counterpart (46%). Age group included in the survey ranged between below 18 years to above 60 years.
- ✚ The different age group in this study reports variety of interests in music among growing age of people. Below 18 years' people prefer to listen that type of music which has easy enjoyable rhythms, between 18-29 age group prefers music genre like pop, hard rock, folk etc. whereas people of 30-49 age group have an ear for a different taste of music with attaining maturity and experience in their lives. On the other hand, people above 60 age group prefer the genre of music that connects them with their early memories and spirituality.
- ✚ The study views that marital status (53.4% are unmarried and only 41.1% are married respondents) bears significance in the study as surviving as a musician costs lots of struggle and patience for this bohemian profession in the study area.
- ✚ It is found from the study that formal education has never been an eligibility criterion for music, but presently with the age of digitization sound knowledge of technology, understanding of basic grammar of music has been started to consider to a certain extent to get a better understanding of the technical aspects and genre of modern music. So, technical as well as education in music is considered important now-a-days. To cope up with the current demand for heavy electronic performances rather than acoustic one also made the musicians to become experts in updated technology. Educational status of the respondents ranges from 10<sup>th</sup> pass (1.4%) to graduate and above (95.9%).
- ✚ Regarding peopling, the study shows that among the total respondents 34.9% are rural, 57.5% are urban, 3.4% sub urban inhabitants in the study area. 4.1 % restrained from mentioning their peopling status.
- ✚ The study views that religious music is an important ingredient in music in general and modern music in particular in the study area. The religious composition in the study area as per the study is 81.6% respondents follow Hinduism, 8.2 Islam followers,

1.4% Christian and 2.0%, 0.7% are Sikh and Niamtre followers respectively, 2.0% respondents declared Humanity as their religion while 4.1% did not mention their religion.

- ✚ The study views that a large number of the respondents belong to student's community (35.6%) in the study area. Then 6.2% are government service holders, 39.7% are engaged in private jobs, 10.3% are self-employed, 2.7% are retired and remaining 5.5% are engaged in other kinds of occupation. This statistic reflects that all musicians are not full time engaged in the field of music.
- ✚ The study reports that the historical background of modern music in Assam evident music genres in assimilation of different languages such as Bengali, Assamese, Western, Hindi etc. So, respondents' choice of language to listen music is found to be more than one language.
- ✚ It is found from the study that choice of genre of music by listeners determines the trend and market of popular music. Depending on the age group and prevailing trend of music, the choice of music genre to listen varies where 4.1% likes to listen classical music, 21.9% like modern music while 9.6% prefer to listen folk music, 47.3% like to listen all types of genres while only 11.6% like fusion music. 5.5% do not prefer any particular genre of music.
- ✚ In the study it is observed that while considering fusion in modern music, experimentation in folk music is of greater significance in the study. And while talking about modern genre, it encompasses a broader dimension of performing various music genre with modern instruments and technology in a different platform which include, folk (42.5%), classical based (14.4%), pop, rock, religious, independent genre (37.7%)etc. according to the musician respondents in the study area.
- ✚ Another interesting fact came out from the study that the wireless access to the lives of all people influenced the modern music field to that extent that publishing and selling music and music related software, instruments etc. is done mainly through various online channels (e.g. YouTube, spotify etc.) and network sharing techniques.

The study reports that 56.2% respondents download music from different online links only whereas 26.7% respondents buy music from online link as well as copy from friends. 5.5% copy music from their friends or collect it through file sharing networks (e.g. xender, bluetooth etc.) in the study area. Such digital facilities led to piracy in music field to a large extent. As a result of which the physical market of music is totally vanished in the last 15 years and producers as well as other musicians could get very less financial benefit. For financial assistance the musicians have to heavily rely on recordings and stage shows. Only 8.7% respondents are full time engaged in the field of music, others are either part timely engaged or work for hobby as per the findings of the study. Many of them wants to move to Mumbai or Delhi for better opportunities within the country as well as internationally.

- ✚ One very positive aspect of the study came out that in field of music differently abled person are also engaged for earning their livelihood based on their talent (4.2%).
- ✚ It is found from the study that most of the musicians are multi-talented and serves more than one musical occupation. A composer also works as lyricist, a singer also composes and writes the lyrics, likewise the singer works as a musician too.
- ✚ Earnings from musical occupation is significant aspect that shows the stability and durability of the field. The finds that only 13% musicians or performers in the study area earns 100% from musical occupation (that includes meagre royalty from their music cd/ downloads and major parts from stage performances and recordings). Another 13% gets their 20% to 59% earnings from the field of modern music, for the rest of earning they rely on other part time jobs followed by another 13% earn less than 20% of their total earnings from the field of music. Rest 60.9% are doing it as a part of their hobby and most of them are students.
- ✚ To identify the popular genre of music, it is viewed by the study that generally, listener's choice of genre of music is directly related to their favourite singer or musician. The study reflects that most popular mae singer is Zubeen Garg (64%) followed by Papon (15%), Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (7%), Jayanta Hazarika (5%), Pulak

Banerji and Khagen Mahanta each 1% and 7% likes other singers and among females Torali Sharma (24.0%) followed by Zubleee Baruah (15.2%) in the study area. From the given statistics it becomes clear that present scenario of modern music in the study area is purely occupied by fusion or experimentation in modern with folk, religious with modern, pop, independent as well as fusion in classical music.

- ✚ From the study it is found that almost all popular genre of music is composed, performed or published in the study area like indie, pop, folk, rock, fusion in modern, dance number, gospel and other religious music. Folk genre is maximum composed (25%) followed by 7.5% of fusion in music. Interestingly works in folk composition also includes fusion or blending of folk with other styles of music.
- ✚ The study reveals that due to popularity of fusion music, the new generation is familiar with indigenous and traditional genre of music as the musicians are making perfect blend of both genre as fusion. Respondents (85%) are of the opinion that fusion in music has brought cultural, demographic, emotional integration with passion. Some (60%) said that if current pattern of fusion music in the study area (due to less knowledge and understanding of proper music by some new generation musicians) continues then very soon it will become a cliché (overused and lacks originality), rather in the future there should be more blending of music of Assam with traditional and folk unexplored genres of Egyptian, Armenian, Turkish, Chutney music, Baithak, Hawaiian, Sub-Saharan, Sufi etc. instead of unnecessarily using numerous electronic instruments. As per the experts of the study area, fusion is inevitable.
- ✚ The study mentions that modern music of the study area diffused to other parts of the nation like Kolkata, Mumbai etc. since the time of Jyoti Prasad Agarwala then Dr. Bhuben Hazarika followed by Zubeen Garg and Papon till date. Diffusion in the study area at present, outside the region, people know the culture by the music-especially Bihu. Platforms like Coke studio (a jamming program in MTV) really helped the

musicians of the study area to reach out to the global audience. Digital market of music is going to play a vital role in diffusion of music in near future in the study area.

- ✚ Earlier diffusion was time or season specific opined by a few (30%), but now it is not at all time specific, rather the process of diffusion continues throughout the year via new compositions by the musicians (70%) which is another finding of the study.
- ✚ It is found from the study that 93% of the musician come from many places from all over Assam and the rest come from almost all other northeastern states as well as outside north east India. And the influence of music of their place of origin reflects in their compositions.
- ✚ Out of all studios in the study area, there is only one Government studio i.e. Jyotichitraban established in 1961. All other studios are established by individuals only which is one of the findings of the study. According to the study, now a day's initial computer works of music are done in personal computers of the musicians. Musicians and singers come to studios only for voice recording part leading to reduced recording hours (2 to 8 hours per day) in studios. As a result of which studios of the study area are suffering a lot to sustain.
- ✚ The study reports that only 63% of the studios have trade license, many are personal studio set up which does not require any registration as per respondents said.
- ✚ It is found from the study that recording price in audio recording studios is not fixed, it is decided by the studio owners based on their popularity and quality of work. The price range from INR 300/- to INR700/- per hour which does not into the necessary expenses of a studio.
- ✚ Another important finding of the study is that 14% studios in the study area run separate associated programmes like diploma course in sound engineering, various courses on singing/ instruments and video editing etc. to meet the expenses of the studios.
- ✚ It is observed in the study that 86% of the respondents supports a certain level of literacy (both academic and musical) and basic knowledge of music related grammar

is essential for music appreciation in true sense of the term and it elevates the music from being just a mode of entertainment to an art form.

- ✚ The study finds that to project a better future of the modern music in the study area, the people involved in the field should be well equipped with knowledge of language, grammar related to music, updated knowledge of technology and cooperation with the film sector is must. Another point to be added here is that music is very much related with film industry. So to better future in modern music depends on better development of the film industry of the study area.
- ✚ The study finds that honesty to the music is the most important thing (100% respondents). Music being like a dynamic river that takes its own course and subsequently branches out into different regions. Also there are no right and wrong in music, but there are certain artistic social and ethical guidelines which ought to be followed. Music is anyways predominantly a personal form of expression which can influence the society to a great extent.