

PREFACE

The Title of the Topic for research is ‘**A STUDY ON THE FESTIVALS OF THE BODOS IN SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE (With Special Reference to Kokrajhar District)**’. The importance of the topic lies in the fact that the Festivals of the Bodos reveal the entire socio-cultural life of the Bodos.

The study demands highly academic as well as socio-cultural values of the Bodos. This research analyzed the festivals of the Bodos, its past and present form and its validation in the Bodo society. The festivals of the Bodos are the festivals and the ceremonies related with the life cycle of the Bodos, seasonal and agricultural festivals and the religious festival. The festivals of the Bodos are community festivals.

The data used for this Thesis are taken from primary from survey, observation, participation, interview and recording. Secondary data are taken from the various written materials available in the form of Books, Journals, Magazines, etc.

Designing of the Thesis includes the Front Matter, Body and the End Matter. In Front Matter: Title page, Certificate, Declaration, Acknowledgement, Preface, A note on the Transcription of the Bodo Texts, Table of Contents, List of Maps, List of Tables and List of pictures are included. In the Body of the Thesis altogether seven Chapters are included i.e.

Chapter: 1 of the Thesis includes introductory description of the festivals, demography, aim and objectives of the study, methodology of the study, hypothesis, significance of the study, area of study, review of literature, identification of the Bodo people—the term *Bodo*, *Boro*, *Mech*, *Kacharis*, their physical features, migration and settlement of the Bodo people and planning of the study.

Chapter: 2 deals with society and culture of the Bodos and its continuity. The race, family, community, etc. are the components of society. The emergence of the Bodo society, their social structure, role of the women in society, religion, food habits, social offences, etc. are dealt. Some changes in rites and rituals, traditions,

costume, custom, etc. in the life cycle from birth to death in Bodo society are found. The rites and ceremonies in connection with the life cycle of the Bodos like - door opening ceremony, blessing, marriage, death rites, etc are dealt with the chapter. The many-sided and beautiful Bodo culture is discussed.

Chapter: 3. This chapter deals with the festivals of the Bodos; it's past and present. The festivals, its meaning and definition, festivals of the Bodos, its different kinds, Seasonal and Agricultural festivals like – the *Bwisagu*, the *Domasi*, the *Khathrigasa*, the *Amthisua*, etc. and the Religious festivals like - the *Kherai*, the *Salami*, the *Dinga puja*, the *Garza puja*, etc. are described in diachronic manner. The meaning, objectives, way of celebration, time of celebration, etc. and its past and present position are analyzed. The homely and outside deities of the religious festivals of the Bodos are described.

Chapter:4 In this chapter the songs, incantations music, dances, examples of body part's positions in Bodo dances, the Bodo songs, incantations, music and dances of the Bodos in their different festivals are analyzed. The different types of the *Bwisagu*, the *Domasi*, the *Khathrigasa*, the *Mohoho*, the *Ag lainai*, etc. songs and incantations, songs and dances in the religious festivals like – the *Salami*, the *Garza*, the *Kherai*, the *Gwthar Bathou San* are identified and described with due examples. The songs, incantations and dances of festivals of the Bodos are unique in its kind and played important role in the Bodo society.

Chapter:5 is analyzed the traditional musical instruments of the Bodos and its use in the celebration of Bodo festivals. The musical instruments of the Bodos like - *Kham* (madal or drum), *Siphung* (Flute), *Serza* (popularly known as Bodo violin), *Gongona* (Jewsharp), *Zotha* (Cymbal), *Thorkha* (Bamboo clapper), *Japhkhring* (Tambourine), etc. are traditional and unique. It also deals with the myths relating to origin of musical instruments of the Bodos like-*Siphung* (Flute), *Serza*. The making and sounds of the musical instruments like- *Kham*, *Siphung* (Flute), *Jotha* (Cymbal), *Serza*, *Gongana or Gongwna*, *Thorkha*, *Jabkhring*, etc are analyzed.

Chapter:6 The festivals of the Bodos have been changing since its beginning form till date. It is said that modernity does not mean forgetting of traditions. The

tradition is the foundation of modernity in real changes. The modernity is meaningful if any changes take place through acceptable modification of traditions in modern outlook. The statuses of the various Bodo festivals are also changing with various aspects in modern times. The positions of the various festivals of the Bodos are analyzed in this chapter.

Then lastly in Chapter: 7 the Thesis concludes with concluding remarks. Here an attempt has been made for summarization of all the chapters of the Thesis. It includes the findings and few suggestions for the readers and academicians.

The End Matter of the Thesis includes Bibliography, Glossary, Maps and Pictures of various Bodo festivals.

The outcomes of this research throw a new light and detail information about the various community festivals of the Bodos on this specified topic. This study contributed on the area of festivals of the Bodos, their traditions, various rites and rituals, costume, custom --- the society and the culture of the Bodos in deepest way. It gives ample scope to understand the socio-cultural mosaic of the Bodos.