

# **THADOU OF MANIPUR: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

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By

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**Department of Sociology**  
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### CERTIFICATE

This thesis entitled **Thadou of Manipur: A Sociological Study** submitted for **Doctor of Philosophy** has not been previously submitted for any other degree of this or any other University and is my original work

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I recommend the thesis be placed before the examiners for evaluation for award of Doctor of Philosophy degree of this University

Dr. Nirakar Mallick  
Associate professor  
Supervisor

## Preface

### **THADOU OF MANIPUR: A SOCIOLOGICAL**

Thadou is a scheduled tribe recognised by government of India, dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 1956. According to William Shaw, the Thadou are a sub group of the Kuki tribe of Manipur. They are the most numerous branch of the Kuki tribe. They live in different parts of North-East India and its neighboring countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh. They are dispersed in all the hill districts of Manipur, numbering 2, 71274 of the total Manipur population of 2,721,756 according to 2011 census. Origin and migration of Thadou to Manipur are shrouded with folk and myth. According to Col. J. Shakespear the new Kuki clans migrated to Manipur in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. British colonial writers describe them primitive, savage and backward. Thadou gradually established its identity, culture, religion and other allied aspects and came in contact with others- administrator, tribe and non-tribe people. However, a visible change is observed when British missionary introduced Christianity and education which brought change in custom, tradition and way of life of Thadou. But Christianity has not however alienated the Thadou-Kukis altogether from their traditional and cultural value. Hence the present study intends to investigate about the present scenario of Thadou of Manipur in terms of their socio-economic, education and cultural life. In this work use of the terminology 'Kuki' in many places mainly emphasise Thadou-Kukis.

Present work is designed as an exploratory and descriptive with special reference to six Thadou villages in Sadar Hills sub-division under Senapati District – two villages from Saitu Gamphazol Block namely Motbung and T.Molbung, two villages from Sadar Hills East Block namely Saikul and Bolkot and the other two villages from Sadar Hills West

Block namely Chalva and Govajang. These six villages are randomly selected as a sample to represent Thadous living in Manipur. Selection of sample villages have been made in order to provide a clear picture of Thadou Kukis living in sub-urban and remote areas in respect of their socio-economic, cultural and educational dimension and consequent change thereof. The study is organised into seven chapters. The first chapter provides conceptual and theoretical background of tribes. Second chapter deals with background of study, problematique of study, research question, objective, hypothesis, universe o study, sample and method of data collection and review of literature. Third chapter provides a secondary data based on origin, migration and settlement process, and on the traditional social structure of Thadou. Fourth chapter economic profile of Thadou analyses the occupational structure, income structure and living standard of the people. Fifth chapter focus on education profile and attempts to find out similarity and difference between early education and present education profile of Thadou in a comparative perspective. Sixth chapter discusses on the socio- cultural life of the Thadou focusing on the family, marriage, kinship, dresses, ornaments, musical instrument, songs, dances, festival and religion and also on the life circle ceremonies related to birth, marriage and death. Last chapter of work provide a brief resume of the finding developed in preceding chapters.

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