

INTRODUCTION

Socio-cultural change is a continuous process in every society of the world. The study of socio-cultural change is also a systematic study of variation in social and cultural 'systems'. The Ahom is one of the major communities of Assam. They established their territory in Upper Brahmaputra valley in 13th century and ruled more than six hundred years. The Ahom had own culture and customs but in course of time they assimilated their culture with the indigenous people of Assam. The present study entitled “Socio-cultural change in the Ahom society: A study in Mogroi village of Jorhat district in Assam” was an attempt to find out the process of change among the Ahoms society from 13th century to after independence. The present study is divided into seven chapters.

Chapter-1, deals with the framework of the study including concept of socio-cultural change, approach of study social and cultural change, review of related literature, objective of the present study, methodology and scope of the study.

Chapter-2, the chapter based on area of the Study. In this chapter mainly discuss the India, North-East-India, Assam and Jorhat district in general and Mogroi village in particular.

Chapter-3, mainly discussed the socio-cultural change in the Ahom society in the Pre-British period. In this chapter mainly discussed about the origin of Ahoms and establishment of Ahom state in Assam. Here also discussed the process of assimilation and inclusion which brought change in the socio-cultural change in the Ahom of Assam. When Ahom entered Assam and stated their political dominance by subjugated local people of Assam which brought change in their way of life and structure of Ahom social organization. They adopt local religion, language and developed a new fabric culture which is called later Assamese culture. Process of assimilation was played an important role to change the socio-cultural life of the Ahom. This process comes through subjugations, war, and inter-marriage among the

different tribal groups such as Chutiyas, Borahis, Manipuries and other non-Ahom girl. As a result, many changes had been taken place in their socio-cultural life.

Chapter-4, discussed the socio-cultural Change in the Ahom society in particular and Assamese society in general. The British started the process of modernization in Assam through the establishment of new administrative system, introduced legal law, established court, hospitals, tea gardens, industries, educational institution in the province. The district and sub-divisional system of revenue and judicial administration was set up. To maintain law and order the British established police stations and outposts. Also set up local board and Town committees to carry the local administration both rural and urban areas. Thus the whole social system was change by the British and also changes the population structure of Assam. They developed transport and communication system, introduced land revenue system which brought change in the Ahom social life. The Ahom also contact with the other cultural group of people like Bengoli, Marrwari, Nepali etc. and contact with modern education which change the behavior patter, gives rationalistic idea and all of these directly or indirectly impact on their social as well as cultural life.

Chapter-5, discussed about the socio-cultural change in Assamese society as well as Ahom society from macro sociological points of view. The Ahom society is closely related to broader Assamese society, so change in Assamese society indicates the change of Ahom society. Therefore, Macro level change included change population structure, economy, religion, education system, urbanization, industrialization and micro level study included family structure, elite structure, religious beliefs and practices etc.

Chapter-6, this chapter is based on field study of Mogroi Village in Jorhat Distric in Assam. The chapter is divided into two sections –1. Physical Setup of the village and 2. Social structure of the village. Social structure includes- (i) Socio-economic profile, (ii) religion and culture and (iii) mass media communication. The

study reveal that change had taken place in case of family structure, marriage system, religious beliefs and practices, agricultural system, dress pattern, educational level and their social life due to influence of modern forces. In the present study cover only Ahom people of the village and other people are delimited for the present study.

Chapter-7, deals with the summery and conclusion of the present study. It includes summary of the Chapters and conclusion of the present study.