PREFACE

Education is an important tool for human development. It is a process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, beliefs, values and habits. Since, it is considered as a factor of social development, slum people are still educationally backward. In this research work, an attempt has been made to study the educational scenario of the slum youth. Low educational level and high dropout rate is commonly seen among slum community. Due to educational backwardness slum youth are vulnerable to different problems which affect social environment. Considered it as a sociological issue, sociologists and anthropologists put forwarded their interest towards slum study regarding youth behaviour. To understand the educational scenario of the slum youth in Guwahati City, the present study has been undertaken to find out the educational level and dropout behaviour, reasons involved with non-enrolment and dropout, economic engagement of the out of school youth and factors affecting education of the slum youth of Guwahati City.

Outline of the work under different chapters of the thesis are given below:

Chapter-I which is the Introduction, an attempt has been made to introduce the background of the topic in its proper perspective. It presents a discussion on the problem under study, objectives of the study, selection of area for the study, sample, fieldwork, methodology and review of related literature.

Chapter-II provides a brief view of the slum such as history of slum, definition, causes of formation of slum, characteristics and the risk factors involved with slum people. A brief account of slums in India is also given in this chapter.

Chapter-III gives a detailed profile of Guwahati City, slums of Guwahati, the study areas and the socio-economic profile of the people.

Chapter-IV contains an elaborate discussion on the educational profile of the respondents on the basis of the data collected during field work.

Chapter-V Presents an overall summary, and conclusion.

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