Chapter-3

Objectives of the present work.

The objective of the work had been to serve the following ends:

- To develop a precise understanding of Bose, especially to capture his perception of the Indian society at large.
- To understand Bose’s distinctive methodology.
- To explore Bose’s legacy through his major works that tried bridging the link between the classical and the local elements of the quintessential Indian civilization.
- To present an account of Bose’s work on caste.
- To elucidate Bose’s rendition of the tribal problem.
- To build upon the contours of national integration as heralded by Bose.

Methodology undertaken:

The method which has been primarily used here is the historical analysis. The purpose was to interpret the life and works of Bose and to study the background behind the thought process of Nirmal Kumar Bose. This was done through two ways. Firstly, the socio-political circumstances which ushered Bose were analysed and secondly, the contemporaries of Bose were taken into consideration to study the intellectual setting and the backdrop of Bose. The works of Bose were appraised in the historical context in which other thinkers at the same time were writing. This was done to capture the uniqueness of his thought against the others and for this the historical deliberation of the period in which Bose was writing was considered important. Therefore, the politico-social circumstances have also been historically mapped to bring out the essence of Bose’s work. Both sources of data, primary and secondary, have been read and analysed to contextualize Bose and to interpret his thought processes. Primary sources such as books and journals, written by Bose have been read and analysed. In
similar vein, secondary sources like other books, articles and commentaries written by Bose’s fellows and critics as well as contemporaries have also been copiously used to analyse the thought process of Bose and the reflection it had on the greater world, both academic and political. Thus, broadly historical method has been applied to analyse and interpret the intellectual contribution of a great anthropologist cum sociologist that India has produced in the name of Professor Nirmal Kumar Bose.