PREFACE

Considerations of caste continue to have important bearings on the socio-economic, socio-political life of the people of India and Assam as well. The history of the Scheduled Castes is the history of sorrows and sufferings, atrocities and exploitation – a history of service to the high castes. Though they are the tools for the peace and happiness and economic well being of the upper castes, they remain entrapped in social evils like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, etc. There seems no way out for the SC community from this deplorable socio-economic condition. Change and development seem a far cry for such communities as if they were born to suffer.

A nation, a race cannot be considered strong and developed if one section of it always remains weak and underdeveloped. The Scheduled Caste community, though a part of the great Indian nation, is the most deprived and backward in all spheres of Indian society. They have been suffering a great deal through the ages. Even after independence, there has been no change in their socio-economic condition. In spite of the constitutional provisions of independent India safeguarding the interests of the SC population and providing opportunities for the upliftment of their socio-economic condition, the problems remain as problems. However, the root to all the problems encountered by the SC community can be traced to the problem of illiteracy and lack of education. Education has such a tremendous power to bring about drastic changes in a society. Unfortunately, the SC community has failed reap the benefit of education in spite of the opportunities given to them. The major aim of the present study is to investigate into the nature and intensity of the socio-economic problems of the Scheduled Caste people and the role of
education on the development of socio-economic condition of these people of Assam with special reference to Kamrup district (Rural).

The study has been divided into six chapters. Chapter I includes the introduction of the study. In the introduction, more importance is given to the need of education to develop the standard of living of the people. This chapter also includes the problem and the need of the study, the title, the objectives and the hypotheses of the study. Meaning of the terms, abbreviations and the delimitations of the study are also included in this chapter.

Chapter II is the review of related studies. In this chapter, the studies conducted by various researchers in the field and their findings as well as existing theories and concepts have been considered. Collected related studies have been divided into two parts, viz., National and Regional. It contains 23 National and 12 Regional reviews of various research works from 1970 to 2011.

Third chapter contains the methods and procedures used in the study. Here, research method, research design, methods used in the study, tools used for data collection, sampling design, universe of the study or population of the study, etc., are dealt with. Finally, treatment of the data and the statistical methods used for analysing the data such as ANOVA, t-test, \( \chi^2 \) (chi square) test are included in this chapter.

In the fourth chapter, analysis and interpretation of the data collected for the study have been presented. To count social and economic status of Scheduled Caste families with literate and illiterate family heads, the selected indicators shown in tabular form in the chapter and analysis and interpretation have been done according to the indicators. Again, in this chapter F-test (ANOVA), t-test and \( \chi^2 \) (chi square test) were
used to test the hypotheses separately. Bar diagrams and pie diagrams were drawn to give a clear visual idea.

In the next chapter, i.e., Chapter V, a summary of the findings has been furnished. Here, as many as eleven major findings have been enlisted on the basis of the analysis and interpretation of the data in accordance with the objectives of the study enlisted in Chapter II.

In the Final chapter, the research report has touched upon the suggestions and the conclusion derived from the whole study. The chapter also incorporates the recommendations and the scope for further study in the field.
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