MAPS

1. Location of Darrang District in Assam 1
2. Concentration of the Nepali speaking population 5
3. Map of Nepal 21
4. Percentagewise distributions of the Assamese Nepalis according to 1991 and 2001 census 42
5. Location of the study villages in Darrang District 53
6. Hirabari village 74
7. Kiringbori village 74
8. Tekeliakur Grant Village 74

FIGURES

1. Schematic form of local months (in Assamese and Assamese Nepalis) and their corresponding English months 105
2. Agricultural tools and implements 106

TABLES

1. Nepali population in North East Indian states, 2001 33
2. Number of Nepali population in the Brahmaputra valley, 1872 36
3. Growth of Nepali population in Assam 37
5. Distribution of rural and urban Nepali population in Assam, 1991 and 2001 41
6. Population of Darrang District according to religion, 2001 63
7. Distribution of Principal linguistic groups in Darrang District, 1991 and 2001 65
8.1 Distribution of the Assamese Nepalis in the three study villages, 2002-03 75
8.2 Village castes of the three study villages, 2002-03 76
9. Distribution of the Assamese Nepalis in the three study villages by age and sex, 2002-03 78
10.1 Literacy among the Assamese Nepalis of Hirabari village, 2002-03 79
10.2 Literacy among the Assamese Nepalis of Kiringbori village, 2002-03 81
10.3 Literacy among the Assamese Nepalis of Tekeliakur Grant village, 2002-03 82
11. Ownership of houses 84
12. Ownership of toilets 85
13. Use of electricity 86
14. Number of buffaloes in Brahmaputra valley, 1895-1920 89
15. Districtwise break-up of land holding of the Nepalis in Assam, 1939-40
16. List of domesticated animals and birds, 2004-05
17.1 Distribution of population according to land ownership in Hirabari village, 2002-03
17.2 Distribution of population according to land ownership in Kiringbori village, 2002-03
17.3 Distribution of population according to land ownership in Tekeliakur Grant village, 2002-03
18. Details of occupational pattern of the Assamese Nepalis of the study villages, 2002-03
19. Occupations of the respondents (R), their father's father (F) and father's father's (FF) in the study villages
20. Family type of Hirabari, Kiringbori and Tekelikur Grant
21. Average family size
22. Age at marriage among the villagers of the study villages
23. Assamese Nepali women married away to other villages and women brought through marriage to the study villages.

PLATES

Following page
1. Grandmother and grandson
2. A typical Nepali house with cattle and a pile of straw

XIV
3. Pile dwelling (*tungshi ghar*)

4. Assam type concrete house

5. Musical instruments

6. Traditional weapons

7. Some material items

8. Handicrafts

9. Traditional copper pot and wooden container

10. Handicrafts

11. Copper pitcher

12. Grind stone (*janto*)

13. Some material cultural items of kitchen

14. Ornaments

15. A little Assamese Nepali girl in her traditional costume

16. Ingredient of *tilak* (*tikako sardam*)

17. A view of Hirabari village

18. Entrance of Kiringbori village

19. A view of Tekeliakur Grant village

20. Soil preparation of *sali* paddy cultivation

21. Transplanting paddy seedlings

22. Harvesting paddy

23. Potato cultivation

24. Maize cultivation

25. Weekly market

26. Mustard seed cultivation
27. Wheat cultivation
28. Ahu crop
29. Shiv temple of Kiringbori village
30. Na-Gosai temple of Tekeliakur Grant
31. Grandchildren eagerly helping their grandmother
32. Putting tilak on the day of Vijaya dashami
33. Festival of cow (Gai tihar)
34. A scene of Bhatridwitiya
35. Panchauli puja for the well-being of the family
36. During Panchauli puja
37. Healing ritual performed by the medicineman
38. Christening (Nwaran)
39. Rice feeding ceremony (Annaprasan)
40. During rice feeding ceremony
41. Sacred thread ceremony
42. Swayambar (traditional Nepali marriage)
43. Feet washing of the bride and groom
44. Bhoili
45. Deushi
46. Jhyaure
47. May you be victor in the battle
48. Khukuri dance
49. Balan
50. Participation of the Assamese Nepalis of the study villages in the 68th session of Asam Sahitya Sabha held at Sipajhar in 2005

51. In the auspicious moment of inaugurating the rest camp (jirani chora) in the 68th session of Asam Sahitya Sabha

52. A traditional Nepali rest house constructed in the 68th session of Asam Sahitya Sabha

53. Sangini dance performed in the 68th session of Asam Sahitya Sabha

54. Cultural procession in the 68th session of Asam Sahitya Sabha

55. Cultural procession during Rabha divash in the study area

56. Celebration of Rabha divash in the study area

57. Marriage ceremony in Assamese Vaishnavite way

58. Inter-caste marriage between an Assamese Hindu boy and an Assamese Nepali girl

59. An Assamese Nepali weaver

60. An Assamese Nepali damsel won first prize in the Bihu dance competition

61. Bihu dance performed by the Assamese in the 35th Annual conference of the Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Asam held at Maligaon, Guwahati in 2009

XVII