The thesis is the first ever attempt at a comprehensive analysis of socio-economic conditions of the tribal community of Barak Valley and a study of the extent of transition that has crept in society in the post-independence era.

The extent of transition in the socio-economic life of the tribals in Barak Valley has been the product of two forces viz, the exogenous forces of developmental programmes of the Government and the endogenous limitations set by the community's social value system. A critical study of the forces of change and the extent of transition in the society is important not only to the academicians but also to the policy framers and planners for future guidance. The thesis is the result of such a venture upon this area of knowledge.

The present work has conveniently been divided into nine sections dealing respectively with distinctive features in tribal life, physio-geographical and economic conditions of Barak Valley, historical background of tribal identity in Barak Valley, methodology of study, socio-religious life of Barak Valley tribals, their economic conditions, role of Government and Voluntary Organisations in their socio-cultural and economic development, and a comparative study of the inter-tribal society, followed by a summarisation of the whole study together with findings and suggestions emerging out of the entire analysis.
The study is primarily based on a multi-stage sample survey. Extensive use has also been made of diverse source-materials—both Official and non-Official, Publications and reports. The Official data have not been accepted uncritically. The Central hypothesis tested in the thesis is that the development policy—mix framed to improve the socio-economic life of the Barak Valley's Tribal Community has failed to bring about the intended transition due to its structural deficiency and poor implementation.

I have been greatly benefitted by the writings of many economists, sociologists, anthropologists and social scientists in different areas of study. An extensive bibliography is appended at the end of the thesis. I express my grateful thanks to all these academicians.

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