The tradition of satra particularly in Assam goes back to the time of neo-Vaisnavite movement. It is a religious and systematic institution. In the course of time this kind of institutions have become intimately connected with the Assamese social life and culture.

The venue of this study is such a religious centre which is well known as the Barpeta Satra. The satra is located in the Municipal boundary of the headquarters town of the district of Barpeta.

As the satra institution itself is taken up for study as such it reveals the various social components of the satra. The satra with its compact organisation is functioning as the focal point of religion and culture for the urbanised residents of Barpeta. The articulation between the sacred complex and the community have been brought out through detailed study and presented in the thesis. It becomes evident how the centuries old religious institution maintains its original character even though certain changes have taken
place in its organisational aspects. One important aspect of this study is to show how the affiliation of the social life of the Hindu population of Barpeta to the satra is maintained almost unchanged.

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