PREFACE

Panchayati Raj is a traditional concept with a modern philosophy and the movement of Community Development is a landmark achievement that it has enhanced the spirit of grassroots democracy as well as democratic decentralization. The Community Development Programme in India was started in October 1952 on a nation-wide-scale. The purpose of this scheme is all round development of the rural areas and to bring about qualitative change in the standard of living. The close of 80's and beginning of 90's experienced the revitalization of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India. The late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi started the initiative for strengthening the PRIs with his popular slogan "power to the people", and it was materialized by the P. V. Narasimha Rao government which provided constitutional status to the panchayat bodies by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992. It is worth mentioning that the PRIs in Assam were not properly functioning prior to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. Following the new dispensation the 'Assam Panchayat Raj Act was passed in 1994. The Act has introduced three tier local self-government institutions in the state with a special provision of reservation of seats for marginal groups including women. Following the new dispensation, panchayat elections were held in, March 2001 and have successfully completed five years terms. Therefore we find it interesting to
conduct an intensive study pertaining to these newly emerging village local bodies from a sociological perspective. The present Research work is the role of Community Development Programmes in Rural Reconstruction of Barhampur Block in Nowgong district during 2002-2007. It is essentially an empirical research based on intensive field work and the data collected mainly from Block Development office, Barhampur, DRDA office Nagaon SIRD Nagaon and from other sources. Research is a corporate affair. This doctoral thesis has been completed under the benevolent guidance and supervision of Dr. Jogendra Kurmar Das, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, D.K. College, Mirza, Kamrup, Assam.

The research work is divided into six chapters. The First chapter is the introductory chapter, where we have dealt with the statement of the problem, review of literature, theoretical frame work and methodology, conceptual clarification, objectives of the research work and hypothesis and other related matters.

The second chapter is concerned with the Community Development Programmes through Ages. Here we have dealt with a review of Community Development Programme at the international and National level, along with the brief profile of Nowgong district and the profile of Barhampur Block.

The third chapter is concerned with the role of Community Development Programme in rural reconstruction of Barhampur Block. This chapter contains of secondary data deals with the analysis of quantitative change of the Community Development Programme in Barhampur Block which covers IAY operation Plan, allocation of fund and achievement under SGRY, PMGY and other schemes under Barhampur Block.

The fourth chapter is dealt with the role of NGOs and Self-Help Groups.
This chapter mostly contains the various activities through various agencies, departments like DRDA, SIRD, Panchayats and Block Development offices.

The fifth chapter deals with the Role of Community Development Programmes in village Community. The survey method has been chosen for the present study in different levels-Panchayat, household and beneficiaries of Community Development Programme. The survey was concerned mainly with the following nature as it is indicated in the different tables—beneficiaries Family income, Caste group, religious background, housing pattern, family background, schemes taken under SGRY, IAY, PMGY, allocation of fund, implementation of the scheme, opinion of the beneficiaries, role of state Govts, utilization of fund, local MLA's role, people's co-operation, and women's participation in the development process and grassroots democracy. The last chapter is summary and conclusion of the research work.