PREFACE

The present study is the result of Ph.D. research work undertaken as a research fellow of Department of Modern Indian Language, Gauhati University. The theme here covers the ethnic problems and cultural unity, past and present day situations, a study on the folk traditions among different groups of Assam, through which, how a new dimension can lead to the society or brought a solution to the pathway of identity crises. This study is mainly concern with the ethnic assertion. This will carry a survey on the traditional and cultural values, source of ethnic problems among different groups of this region and the way of integration, influence of culture and ethnicity etc. Assam comprised of large varieties of human population, presents bewildering racial and cultural variety, unity in ethnic diversity, assertion of identity leads ethnic autonomy problems.

The concept of ethnicity and culture, roots and formation of ethnicity have analysed and tried to give focus from different point of view. Ethnic identity of Assam is related with the cultural identity of the people of this region, which is of greater significance in the content of nation building.
Folklor have a greater role in the life of ethnic groups. The present status and past history and culture of the regions have tried to understand here.

Both Aryan and non Aryan aspects have a significant influence in Assamese society. Assam is a land where various ethnic groups living together with an understanding, sharing atmosphere. But it is seen that such concepts going to be vanish gradually.

British imperialism influenced the ethnic life of Assam, leads cultural hegemony, question of identity, which indicates ascendency or domination of the culture, one power or state with a league, confederation. It develops in a society in response to exploitation of an alien group or the one social class by another. But in the other hand British imperialism establish the pillar of Assamese language and literature. Even the grip of colonial power loosened, ethnic kinship, regional and religious ties among ethnic groups. They started to understand ethnic realities, the claims of ethnic and racial groups for their identity, for land, jobs, recognition, autonomy and so on.

Now it needs a policy on culture with peoples participation different levels of policy to integrate ethnic groups and promote cultural unity.
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