## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER-1 INTRODUCTION
1.1. Introduction 1
1.2. Statement of the problem 17
1.3. Review of literature 20
1.4. Aims and objective of the study 26
1.5. Scope of the study 26
1.6. Area of the study 27
1.7. Methodology 28
1.8. Chapterization 28

### CHAPTER-2 THE AO PUTU MENDEL
2.1. Introduction 30
2.2. Putu Menden in three forms 32
2.3. The Aksü 46
2.4. The Clan system 48
2.5. Land Holding system 50
2.6. Gaongbura and Dobashi system 53

### CHAPTER-3 THE VILLAGE COUNCIL
3.1. Introduction 55
3.2. Membership to village council 57
3.3. Functions of the village council 60
3.4. Powers and function: Military and Economy 62
3.5. Administration of Justice and customary law and practices 68

### CHAPTER-4 SOCIAL LIFE OF THE AOS
4.1. Introduction 88
4.2. Marriage system among the Aos 89
4.3. Kinship system 95
4.4. Dormitory system 96
4.5. Festival of Aos 98
4.6. Status of women in Ao society 101

### CHAPTER-5 RELIGION OF THE AOS
5.1. Introduction 112
5.2. Ancient religion of the Aos 115
5.3. Introduction of Christianity and Modern Education and changes brought about thereof 126

Acknowledgement. iv

BIBLIOGRAPHY