The Mishing is one of the aboriginal tribes of Assam. It is the second largest plains scheduled tribe in the State and mainly settled in the districts of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sonitpur, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. Ethnically, the Mishings belong to the Tibeto-Burman language speaking group of the great Mongoloid stock. Originally they are the inhabitants of the neighbouring hills State of Arunachal Pradesh, and lived along with the Adi tribe. So far as their folk literature is concerned, they had migrated down to the plains of Assam in early times and have been living mostly in the banks of the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries for which they are identified as the riverine people. Gradually they have assimilated with other settled people in the plains of Assam. Accordingly, their culture also incorporates elements of the plains people. The Mishings are known to have a very rich cultural heritage. Their culture includes customs, folklore, dress-code, food habits, etiquette, social and family ceremonies, songs, dances, music, language and literature, practices of different arts and crafts with religious consciousness are inseparable parts of the Mishing tribal folks. The entire research work is divided into seven chapters:-

**Chapter-1 : Introduction:** The first chapter briefly introduces the Mishing ethnic group of Assam. This chapter discusses about the meaning of culture, culture and society, socio-philosophical outlook of the Mishing culture, review of literature, methodology, objectives, significance and organization of chapters related to our research work.

**Chapter-2 : Historical Background of the Mishings of Assam:** The second chapter discusses about the historical background of the Mishings. Their origin, migration from hills to the plains of Assam and relationship established with the Chutiya and the Ahom kingdoms are also expressed in the chapter.
Chapter-3 : Religion: the religious beliefs and practices of the Mishings: This chapter tries to analyse the meaning of religion and the inherent religious beliefs and practices of the Mishing people. Here, an attempt is made on influences of other religions over the Mishings and their changing religious trends.

Chapter-4 : Agro- based festivals of the Mishing Society: The fourth chapter deals with various agro-based traditional and non-traditional festivals viz. Ali aye ligang, Po:rag, Bohag Bihu, Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu. The folk song, folk dance, rhythm of musical instruments and associated aspects of these festivals are broadly studied.

Chapter-5 : Socio-political life, language and literature of the Mishings: The fifth chapter explains about the Mishing family structure, their marriage system, clan, kinship, social groups, organisations, rituals of birth and death, food habit and their language as well as literature. Their political consciousness, co-operative life structure and related organisations are also discussed here.

Chapter-6 : An overview of Material Culture of the Mishings: The sixth chapter is an overview of the materials used by the Mishing people to smoothly carry on their daily life activities. Here, we have examined their dress-code, weaving tradition, dress designs and motifs, housing patterns, cane and bamboo works, musical instruments, ornaments and so on. The chapter emphasizes on the significant role played by the material culture in the economic, religious, social, cultural and aesthetic life of the Mishing Community.

Chapter-7 : Conclusion: The last chapter is conclusion. It deals with a brief summary of the previous chapters along with a few concluding remarks of our study.

Place: Guwahati

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