A STUDY OF THE CHANGING SOCIAL SYSTEM OF THE KARBIS OF GUWAHATI

CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTION 1–48

1.1: Society and Social System: A Prologue 01

1.2: Characteristics of Society 03
   1.2.1: Social Groups
   1.2.2: Social Institutions

1.3: Social Structure 06
1.4: Social Function 09
1.5: Social Change 10
1.6: Urbanisation and Social Change 13
1.7: Development of Urban Anthropology 15
1.8: The Research Problem 18
1.9: Review of Literature 22
   1.9.1A Hundred Years of Charles Lyall’s “The Mikirs”
1.10: Objectives of Study 35
1.11: Definitions 36
1.12: Methodology 37
   1.12.1: Two Layered Fieldwork in the present Study
   1.12.2: Identifying the Villages for the Study

1.13: Data Collection 44
   1.13.1: Observation Techniques
   1.13.2: In Person Interview Survey
   1.13.3: Case Study Technique

1.14: Techniques Applied in the Present Study 47
1.15: Scheme of Chapters 47

CHAPTER – II SOCIAL CHANGE AND TRADITIONAL INDIAN SOCIETY 49–92

2.1: Social Change: An Introduction 49
2.2: Theories of Social Change 50
   2.2.1: Sociological theories of Social Change
   2.2.2: Cultural Theories of Change
2.3: Application of Theories of Change in India

2.4: Indian Tradition
   2.4.1: Hindu Tradition
   2.4.2: Islamic Tradition
   2.4.3: Tribal Tradition

2.5: Tradition as Analysed by D.P. Mukherjee

2.6: Srinivas' Understanding of Tradition

2.7: Social Change in India
   2.7.1: Change in the religious front
   2.7.2: Change in the Economic Front
   2.7.3: Change in Indian Polity
   2.7.4: Change in the cultural front

2.8: Continuity and Change

2.9: The Assamese Tradition and Change

CHAPTER -III PLAIN KARBIS OF ASSAM: AN ACCOUNT

3.1: Introduction: The Karbis

3.2: The Karbis of Plains:
   3.2.1: Tribal Characters
   3.2.2: The Origin
   3.2.3: Village Pattern:
   3.2.4: Dwelling Pattern
   3.2.5: Livelihood
   3.2.6: Food Habits
   3.2.7: Material Culture:
   3.2.8: Clan Organisation:
   3.2.9: Social Life and Institution
      a) Family structure:
      b) Karbi marriage
      c) Age at Marriage
      d) Types of marriage
   3.2.10: Political life:
      a) Khel system & the Mel
      b) The Modern Political Unit:
      c) The Grain Bank:
   3.2.11: Religious beliefs
   3.2.12: Languages and Literature:
   3.2.13: Festivals of the Plain karbis
   3.2.14: Rituals of Purification
CHAPTER IV  
CHANGES IN MACRO STRUCTURES  
URBANISATION & POLITICISATION  
OF GUWAHATI  
154 – 184

4.1 Approaches to the study of Change  
154

4.2 Approaches to the Present Study:  
156

4.3 Politicization of Guwahati:  
Changes in Macro structure  
158

4.4 Political Power: Guwahati  
Municipal Corporation Act, 1969  
162

4.5 A Full-fledged Political Institution for all  
164

4.6 Urbanisation of Guwahati:  
Change in Macro Structure  
168

4.6.1 Urban Population Growth  
4.6.2 Social Overheads: Educational  
and Health facilities  
4.6.3 Urban Infrastructures:  
(a) Roads  
(b) Water supply system:  
(c) Transport & Communication Facilities:  
(d) Streetlights:  
(e) Open spaces, Parks and Children’s Parks:  
(f) Markets:  
(g) Employment Pattern:  
4.7 Response to Urbanisation  
183

CHAPTER V  
KARBI MICRO STRUCTURES AND CHANGE  
185 - 249

5.1 The Scheme of Structural Approach:  
185

5.2 Change in Traditional Occupation  
186

5.2.1 Impact of Legislation  
5.2.2 Farm Sector Family Strength  
A Comparative Analysis  
5.2.3 How Land came to market
5.3: Family Structure
   5.3.1 Definitions
   5.3.2 Types of Families
   5.3.3 Pull Towards Jointness

5.4: Changes in the Central social functions of the family
   5.4.1 Economic aid and the role of larger kin group:
   5.4.2: The Change in the rate of procreation:
   5.4.3: The Other Functional Changes:

5.5: Effect of Structural Change in Family:
   5.5.1: Change in Role activities:
   5.5.2: Changes in the Marriage front:
   5.5.3: Changing economic role of women:

5.6 Clan Organisation
   Mechanism of correcting practice of clan endogamy:

5.7: Political organisation
   Mel's decision on triple Offence in absence of Burha Bangthai

5.8: Structural Prerequisites For Cultural Change:
   5.8.1 Karbi-Religious performances:
      Impact of Hinduism
   5.8.2: Loss of Traditional Religious Norms:
   5.8.3: Change in Other Areas
   5.8.4: Adoption of non-Karbis:
   5.8.5: Ex-Communication: Change in Attitude

CHAPTER – VI

DISCUSSION

6.1: Social Life

6.2: Change in Macro Structure

6.3: Change in Social Structure of the Plans Karbis
   6.3.1: Change in Traditional Occupational Pattern
   6.3.2: Change in Family Structure
   6.3.3: Marriage and associated changes.
6.4: Components of Culture & Change

6.4.1 Material Culture

6.4.2 Social Institutions
   (a) Religion
   (b) Political Institution
   (c) Economic Organisation
   Emergence of Class System
   (d) Education
   Identity Crisis
   (e) Arts
   (f) Language

6.5: Changing Role of Women

6.5.1 Women’s role in supplementing family income

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary 306 – 344
Conclusion 344 – 349

BIBLIOGRAPHY 350 – 362

MAPS Between Pages

i) Map of Guwahati showing the villages under Study 40 & 41
ii) Map of Assam showing areas inhabited by plains Karbis 96 & 97
iv) Map Guwahati showing Corporation Wards: 166 & 167

ANNEXURE I & II i– iv