The school dropout phenomenon is a nationwide problem. It happens to be a common feature for both scheduled tribes and other students. Although there has been a steady decline in the rate of drop-out in respect of both ST and general categories during the current decade as a result of central and state govt's initiatives, still the problem of drop-out exists amongst the scheduled tribe community in the country. A large number of ST children discontinue their studies prematurely before completing the level for which they were enrolled. This Thesis covers the study of this problem of drop-out at the primary level among scheduled tribe children in Kamrup district of Assam. The magnitude of the problem and various causes were included in the study. The thesis also provides a number of suggestions to reduce the drop-out problem from the scheduled tribe community from the district as well as from state for educational development and socio-economic upgradation of the community.

This thesis is an outcome of the personal experience of the investigator who lived amongst the scheduled tribe (Boro and Sarania i.e. the converted group) from very early stage of her life. There she saw that the children of that communities left the primary school after one or two years of admission in the school and their parents were not concerned about the menace. Therefore the investigator had an interest about the problem right...
from that time and selected the topic to investigate the causes of the incident of drop-out among these communities which will be helpful for the policy makers to reduce the drop-out and take necessary action to bring them to the mainstream of the society.

The purpose of the study is to find out the rate of drop-out at first and to investigate the causes of drop-out among the scheduled tribes in undivided Kamrup district of Assam.

With these objectives in view the thesis is divided into seven chapters. Chapter I contains a brief introduction to the importance of universalisation of primary education, problem of dropout among scheduled tribes in the country, constitutional provisions, policies, schemes under different five year plans, National policy on Education regarding scheduled tribes in India, need and justification of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, hypothesis, description of the scheduled tribes selected for the study, major key terms used in the study, variables, tools used and organization of the whole research work.

Chapter-II reviews the important literature related to the study on the problem of dropout at the primary and elementary level. A large number of studies have been conducted so far on the problem of drop-out, wastage and stagnation by different scholars in India and abroad. Some of the important studies done in the elementary level have been abstracted.

Chapter-III deals with different types of research methodology and the method used in the present study. Descriptive survey method and its
different types, and the statistical techniques used in analysis is discussed.

Chapter IV includes the tools for data collection, and description and construction of the tools such as School Information Blank, Interview schedules for drop-out, parents of drop-out and teacher.

Chapter V deals with the sampling procedure and administration of the instruments that is School Information Blank, Interview schedules for drop-out, parents of drop-out and teacher and a brief description of the area under investigation.

Chapter VI deals with the analysis of the data.

Chapter VII includes a summary of the entire study. It also contains the findings and conclusions of the study and some remedial measures to solve the dropout problem at the primary level from the general as well as scheduled tribe community. It also includes suggestions for further research in this field.