APPENDICES
Appendix I

CASE STUDIES

About 250 life-sketches of Rabha males and females were collected under case-study methodology. It is not possible to illustrate all of them here. Therefore, in order to avoid the unnecessary details and to have a general idea about the life led in Rabha surroundings, only 5 cases - 3 males and 2 females have been reproduced here. They have been carefully chosen from different strata of society to make them representative of the cross-section of the society. Names of the persons and their village are not mentioned.

I

I am a middle aged farmer about 48 years of age, born in this village. I belong to Rongdania Sub-group and my clan is juru.

I am literate and read upto class X. I was a posthumous child. My father was killed by a tiger in the deep wood while he was collecting fire wood.

I do not exactly remember the year when I was asked to assist in agricultural work in the field. Probably I was about 10 years old when I had to accompany my mother to assist her in agricultural work.
I was married by Nok-Dankai at the age of 25 years to a 18 years old beautiful girl.

I have three elder brothers and one sister. All are married and have separate households. My mother expired 8 years back.

I hold 30 bighas of land and I spend a lot of time in agriculture.

I have eight children —— four sons and four daughters. The eldest one is a daughter and reads in class IX. The youngest one is also a daughter and is two years old. The first son is 10 years old and is studying in class IV.

I am seeking a match for my eldest daughter.

I never drink jonga. I am not a smoker too.

I am a farmer about 85 years of age. I was born in this village and seen so many changes in my life. I belong to Maitoria sub-group and my barai is phenang.

I cannot read and write at all; but I realise that education is a necessity in modern age. Though my sons and daughters are also not educated my grand children are receiving education at different levels.

I was married by Bhari Sinkai at the age of 22 years to a 15 years old girl of Pati sub-group.
My first wife died just after 5 years of our marriage and I married again a widow with three children—two sons and a daughter. I have two sons from her. They are all married and live with me. Ours is a big family and have 23 members.

I possess 40 bighas of land. My sons work hard but the yield of crop is not so satisfactory as the area has no irrigation facilities.

I was a member of the village panchayat for two terms.

I drink jonga regularly. I also smoke hukka.

3

I am a housewife about 32 years of age. We were three sisters and one brother. Unfortunately my only brother and one sister expired even before they were 13-14 years of age.

I was married at the age of 16 years by Nok Dankal to a 21 years old young man of Rongdania sub-group.

Since early childhood I had been assisting my mother in the domestic work, my father in agricultural work in the fields and now I have to look after domestic as well as agricultural work in the fields.

My husband is cruel to me and beats me even on
trifling matters. I have three children—one son and two daughters.

I cannot read and write but my son goes to school and reads in class VI.

I participated in dancing and singing till I was married.

I never smoke but drink jonga occasionally.

I belong to Pati sub-group and my barai is Pam.

4

I am a woman of about 70 years. I belong to Dahuria sub-group and my barai is Hato.

We were three sisters and three brothers. My elder sister died at the age if 21 when she delivered her first issue—a son. We five are alive now.

I was married by Nok Dankai to a 24 years of young man of my own sub-group and have 5 children—two sons and three daughters. They are all married.

My elder son has a separate household. I am with my younger son. He is very affectionate. My husband died three years back.

I cannot read and write and am pulling on my life in hardships.
I never smoke but drink jonga off and on. I assist my daughter-in-law in domestic work.

I am a young man of 26 years of age. I belong to Baitlia sub-group and my barai is Tara. I am the only child of my parents.

I am educated and read up to Pre-University second year. I am serving as an L.P. school teacher.

I was married at the age of 26 years by Bhari Sinkai to a 17 years old beautiful girl of Pati sub-group.

I have only one child—a son who is 4 years old.

I have 10 bighas of land and keep a servant to till the same. My father is alive. He helps me in different ways.

I participate in folk dances and folk songs off and on.

I am not particular about wearing the traditional dresses. Since my college days I have been using trousers and shirts.

I hate some of our orthodox customs.

I am enjoying a happy married life as my wife is very affectionate.

I drink jonga regularly and smoke cigarettes.