PREFACE

Arunachal Pradesh, the land of the down kissed mountaineous terrains is the homeland of twenty six major tribes and more than one hundred sub tribes. Each of the major tribes have distinctive cultural pattern of their own. This hilly territory may be considered as an open air ethnographic museum. Being a paradise field to the Anthropologists, various agencies of India and abroad have carried out different research projects on these colourful tribes since very long past. The Directorate of Research, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, one of the pioneer research organization which was built up under the able leadership of late Dr. Verrier Elwin, undertook different projects on cultural and philological aspects of the people, and history and archaeology of the area since 1956 and produced a good number of publications. Intensive research on physical anthropology of the tribe is, however, very limited. A few British and Indian scholars have studied some of the major tribal groups,
With a view to record the physical characteristics, a research project entitled "The Bio-genetic Survey of the Arunachal People" was sponsored by the Directorate of Research and conducted by the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University, Assam under the Honorary Directorship of Prof. M.C. Goswami. The project, however, covered almost all the major tribes of the territory. I have the privilege to work in the project for about five years prior to my joining the present department of the Directorate of Research in 1978. While working in the project, I selected the Monpas, a very gentle and courteous Buddhist tribe, scattered over the different geographical areas in the erstwhile Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, for my Ph.D. work.

I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) P.B. Das, Reader in Anthropology, Gauhati University, under whose kind supervision, able guidance and intrusive care, it has been possible on my part to complete the study and to present this dissertation. My sincere gratitude for all
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