CHAPTER TWO

I. AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of the study is to investigate the problems of Plains Tribal Women Education in Kokrajhar district of Assam. The Plains Tribes of Kokrajhar district specially means the Boro and the Rabha communities. Like other Hill Tribes the Plains Tribes namely the Boros and the Rabhas women are not so much backward in all fields. The Scheduled Tribes, the weakest section of our population constitute 7.8% percent of the total population of India. So the Government, has been made some special provisions in the constitution, to promote with special care, the economic and educational interest of this weaker section. But it is a matter of great regret that after providing special facilities to promote this section economically and educationally, the women have been lagging behind and remain as most backward as well as deprived. Comparatively the percentage of education of Tribal Women is very low than that of other communities women. There is also a great disparity between men and women in tribal education. In this regard, an attempt is made to study this problem by keeping these aims in view.

Firstly, it is the aim of this project to study and investigate thoroughly the problems of Plains Tribal Women Education and to find out the causes behind it.
Secondly, to find out the root causes of their backwardness and to identify them for which they are to remain as backward comparatively to other sections.

Thirdly, through this study an attempt is made to find out the factors which are mainly responsible for their illiteracy as well as low level of literacy among the tribal women.

Fourthly, it aims at to find out whether equal importance in respect of girls education is provided or not and to find out the logic behind such discriminatory treatment.

Fifthly, this study aims at to throw light in the Tribal’s Culture, tradition, social structures etc. which may be cause for hinderance in their education and to encourage them for their education as well as find out some suggestive ways for the development of their education.

Sixthly, attempt is made keeping the aims in view that after a thorough investigation of all the related problems will be find out and proper suggestion will be provided to the Government to take necessary steps for the development of their women education.

Seventhly, it aims at to make the Tribal Women conscious about their education and make them advance in education, social and economical fields.

Eighthly, although such matters have been treated in one or two
books and some articles mostly written in Assamese, Boro or other languages, yet no comprehensive and systematic study on Scientific lines have been attempted so far. It is hoped that the proposed study, when completed, will bring to light many aspects of the problems of the Boros and Rabhas in the broader perspective of the education and will help in a better understanding of the education, its development of this district.

II. THE NEEDS OF THE STUDY

The political climate of a country sets the tone of economic and cultural life of the people and the system of education of that country. India is a democratic country. So, education is necessity for the perpetuation of democracy.

When equality is one of the main principles of democracy, when education is a great equalizer and elevator, Education is very much needed for all classes of people. According to 1991 census report the present literacy percentage of the tribal women of Kokrajhar district is 30.92% only. The country cannot proceed ahead leaving there 70% of illiterate people. They can not be kept in darkness and ignorance. As a balance wheel of social machinery the spread of education will break the present disequilibrium in prevalent in society now.

On the other hand, the vast majority of the people of India consists of those persons who are backward in all fields. The caste sys-
tem of the country has done a great loss in the upliftment of people of India. Like the other caste, the scheduled tribes viz. the Bodo and the Rabha of theis specialized district (Kokrajhar) are most backward. They are deprived section in educational, social and economical grounds. There are various problems of womens' education which are still remained as unknown and untraced.

Hence, it is felt an urgent need of the study of the problems of plains tribal womens' education in Kokrajhar district. In this regard, the tribal women are very backward in all fields comparatively than that of men. From the educational point of view they are far behind to those who belong to the upper classes.

Nevertheless, the education of tribal women is definitely more important like the other stages of education. Because, all types of education and stages of education are interconnected. Therefore, it is felt an urgent need to make an attempt to traceout and to bring to light the various problems of tribal women in their education.

It is no doubt that the tribes have their own traditional customs for their own functioning society. The women will do what their tribal male dominators will say and they are bound to obey. In the tribal population itself women are comparatively more deprived. The bulk of the tribal societies are patriarchal and as such womens' position is subordinate to that of man. On the other hand tribal women are hard working and that they are in no way inferior their counterparts. As a matter of fact they have to do every thing alone and they are like the
back-bone by the economy of their houses. So, education is one of the factors why they are still so much backward. Due to the lack of proper education they are to remain as subordinate to men or know nothing about their equal rights or education. Hence it is attempted to study on that line so that the tribal women can be educated and make them know about their rights and responsibilities.

The women of any country have an important contribution in the progress of that country. It is the women who are capable of building such children who may lead the country to the path of progress and prosperity. Educated women can make the family and the society cultured. If it is considered as an important point in view, then our tribal women are to be educated. They are to be equipped with proper education to play their important role in outside and inside the family. Their responsibilities and contributions are not limited into the household activities. They have their various role to play in different fields of life. At present, the literacy percentage of tribal women is only 30.92. It is seen that the majority of the tribal women are illiterate and unaware regarding their educations.

So, it is expected that after this study, the probable causes of women education can be find out and proper remedial measures also can be taken to improve their education. Further, it is hoped that this study will help the guardians to be alert and conscious about their girls education as well as save the next generation from the victim of illiteracy.
III. DESIGN OF THE STUDY

(i) METHODOLOGY: The study has been mainly based on the field work. The methods which have been applied in the study may be stated as questionnaire method, participant, observation, interview and direct observation, all of which fall or used in the field study. In this studies the various datas are collected by applying the interview method. In order to carry out field work, several tribal, specially Boro and Rabha villages viz. Srirampur, Raimana, Kachugaon, Gossaigaon, Dotma, Haltugaon, Fakiragram, Basugaon, Sidli, Gumta, Kokrajhar have been visited. To study the various problems of the Plains Tribal Women Education in Kokrajhar district, a thorough and clearcut discussions were made with the head man of the family as well as parents of the women. Interview also was taken directly from the women members of the family.

In this connection, it will better to mention that to collect real facts from their cultural, social and traditional background, 100 Nos. families were studied in different Gaon Panchayats as well as Block Offices located within the jurisdiction of the Kokrajhar district. The questionnaires are prepared separately from different levels viz. Social, Cultural, Economical and traditional, to find out their main difficulties relating to education.

IV. SOURCES OF DATA:

The several Tribal village which have been visited in field work
under the district of Kokrajhar is the mainly "Sources of study the problems of Plains Tribal Womens' Education". Moreover, while necessary help has been taken from some available books, monographs, articles etc. having a bearing of the theme. In this regard, the following sources of data are used to be support and helpful in this study.

(a) Various publications of the Central, State and local Governments.

(b) Various publications of foreign governments or of International bodies and their subsidiary organisations.

(c) Books, Magazines and Newspapers of current educational topics.

(d) Reports and publications of various associations connected with Industry, Banks, Business etc. relating with Tribal Women Education.

(e) Reports prepared by research scholars, Universities, Historical Documents and other sources of published information.

(f) The Library work has been done at different libraries, viz. District Library, Kokrajhar, University Library etc. with the view to collect the Secondary datas. Besides the published works relating to Tribal Women Education, some unpublished papers and letters have also been studied intensively. On the other hand, in collecting
the data I have had a very easy approach to the villagers of the Boro and Rabha concentrated areas for the field study. Because, as a teacher of training college, I already passed near about sixteen years contracting and mixing with them as if I am also one of their Bodo women. They could understand the other languages like Assamese, Bengali, Hindi etc. for which there were no any difficulties in taking interview or discussing with them.

SAMPLE : In the sampling out 100 Nos., 70 Nos. of families have been selected on the basis of random sampling. Interview schedules were on the basis of 20% of the total number of Boros and Rabhas house belonging to this families.

V. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY & DEFINITION OF THE TERM :

This work is mainly based on the problems of Plains Tribal Womens' education in Kokrajhar district. Several Towns and Sub-Divisions are included in the district of Kokrajhar. Therefore, data collected, investigation and field work etc. all are mainly limited under the jurisdiction of Kokrajhar district. In this studies "Tribal Women" means and included all the female section except the girl child beyond the age thirteen years.