PREFACE

Literacy rate in India as per 1991 Census is 51 percent. As such in a Country which is suffering from illiteracy and backwardness in the field of education, programme of adult education is of vital importance. Illiteracy is not only the problem India alone, it is the problem of all the under developed and the developed Countries of the world. Adult education has acquired international significance, as such UNESCO, the agency responsible for looking after the educational, scientific and cultural programmes of the United Nations has assumed the responsibility of developing education as well.

The Government of India had launched various programmes of adult education under different five year plans, but with limited success because of various reasons mainly due to lack of motivation among the adult illiterates and the lack of proper mobilisation of local resources by the agencies responsible for implementation of the programme.

National Adult Education Programme was launched in Assam in 1970-80. At the time of launching this programme, there were 32.45 lakh (Approximate) illiterates of the age group of 15-35 years in the State of Assam. The Government fixed the target of making these people literate till 1990. But as per 1991 Census, the State was able to
its literacy rate upto 53.42 percent only, which is 2.0 percent more than the national literacy rate. This shows that there are still more than 46 percent illiterates in Assam.

This is not very encouraging sign from the point of view of growing population of illiterates in the State. The situation demands more attention on adult education. The literacy is even lower among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population. This study is an attempt to study the impact of adult education programme on the scheduled castes population of the undivided Kamrup district of Assam.

This present study has been divided into VI Chapters. Chapter-I contains introduction and statement of the problem. Chapter II comprises of the objectives of research and methods and tools undertaken and used for research work. Chapter-III contains the profile of Kamrup district. In Chapter-IV historical review of adult education in Assam has been presented. In Chapter-V the analysis of the datas collected from adult learners as well as instructors are displayed. The Chapter-VI explains in detail the conclusion, observation along with suggestions to enhance the progress of adult education.

Based on the findings of the research work recommendations and suggestions have been offered, which
help to eradicate the defects from the field of adult education and shall help in the spread and development of adult education in the State of Assam.

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