PREFACE

Students are the base pillars of a civilized society and they are the future citizens of a country on whom the future of the country depend. They are the important assets of any nation. Realizing the truth the Constitution of India has conferred voting rights to our students in their 18 years of age. Now the student community of our country has to play an important role to make the political system of India strong through their active participation in all the matters of our polity.

The present study is an attempt to examine the level of political participation of the student community of Sonitpur District. Not much study has been done on this aspect specially in the situation of Assam. There are seven Chapters in the thesis.

The first chapter entitled 'Introduction' discusses thoroughly the meaning and definitions of the term Political Participation, Factors affecting Political Participation, Statement of the problem, Aims and Objectives of the present study, Hypotheses of the study, Methodology, Schemes of chapters, Review of Literature, and the Profile of the area of the study.

In the second chapter entitled 'Political awareness and the Student Community', the theoretical aspects of our study have been discussed at length. In the chapter concepts of social Movement and Student Movement have been focused in its beginning. The student movement in International sphere and the origin of student awakening and the beginning of student’s activities in India have been explained in the last part of this chapter.

'Role of Students in the Freedom Movement of India' is the third chapter of our thesis and the active role played by the students of different parts of our country in the freedom movement of India from its beginning to till its end has thoroughly been explained in this chapter. This has been done in order to understand the background of student’s political awareness.
The brave role played by the students of Assam in the freedom struggle of India to make their country free from the foreign yoke has been depicted in our Chapter Four entitled ‘Role of the Students of Assam in the Freedom Movement of India’.

Chapter five of our thesis “Role of Students of Assam since Independence” has broadly expressed the active participation of the student community of Assam in various social movements since India achieved her independence till today.

‘Political Participation of New Generation of Students’ is the Chapter Six of our thesis. This is a core chapter of the thesis where results of our empirical survey relating to the political participation of students community of Sonitpur District has been explained.

The last chapter of our thesis is entitled ‘In search of Remedies and Alternatives’ where suggestions have been expressed to motivate, impress and to attract the students to participate actively in the processes of our political system.

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