CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION:

We have now come to the end of our study. The attempt was to make an analysis of the changes noticed in the socio-economic conditions of the Boros of Assam with special reference to those of Udalguri in the district of Darrang.

Our study gives a picture of the Boros in the fields of socio-economic and political developments for the period concerned by our study.

The British Government had generally adopted a laissez-faire policy with the result that no worthwhile policy was followed aiming at tribal development. After independence, the Central and the State Governments laid due emphasis on the development of the tribals beginning with the Fifth Five Year Plan.

Emphasis on the development of the tribals through the Five Year Plan, the creation of Integrated Tribal Development Projects (I.T.D.P.) in the areas having fifty percent of the tribal population of Assam for successful formulation and implementation, of the tribal schemes and the creation of Tribal Development Authority in September, 1983 for accelerated development of the tribal people are some of the notable examples of the steps taken by the State Government of Assam towards the development of the tribals of Assam.
The study also noted the efforts of the Assamese High-Caste Hindus aimed at bringing the tribals within the framework of the traditional society. It also highlights the callousness of the Caste-Hindus in the latter part of 19th Century in stated cases and discusses the efforts of other religions groups to be the Baptist Missionaries to spread their influence over the Boros of Assam.

Our study noted the changes brought about in Bodo traditional society. Unlike the traditional Boros, the Brahmar began performing the marriage ceremony according to the customs of the other Hindus. Sending of the groom to the bride's house for marriage, the performance of the priestly duties by the Boros themselves in the marriage ceremony, cutting down of expenditure in the marriage ceremonies are some of the recent changes among the Boros.

The study contains various developmental activities covering the Bodo tribal society and a number of suggestions with a view to accelerating the pace of socio-economic change.

While discussing the land tenure system we had occasion to analyse the circumstances leading to the creation of tribal belts and blocks for the protection of the tribals from the onslaught of the non-tribals and Bangladeshies by amending the Land Revenue Regulation Act of 1866 in 1949. This bold step taken by Gopinath Bordoloi, the first Prime Minister of Assam paved the way for the improvement of the lot of the Boro-people as well.
Our discussion also shows how in the recent period the ruling ASOM GANA PARISHAD Government made certain helpful rules in regard to the restrictions in the purchase and sale of tribal land and these are certainly in the interest of the tribal people.

Our study contains an appropriate study of the state of educational progress of the Bodo people within the limits of our study area. There has been noticeable progress in the field of education. It is, however, a fact that illiteracy is still rampant as is the state as a whole.

A thorough discussion about the child-rearing of the Boro-Women in the study area, their response to the family planning schemes, change of their outlook, introduction of the Anganawadi centres for the development of the children clearly indicate changes in the field of social change.

Our study showed how children still continue to be neglected. The Baptist Missionaries have contributed a lot for the Boros in this regard. A care exists for the state to come in a big way to introduce schemes aimed at all round improvement in the conditions of life and growth of the children.

We studied the genesis and growth of the Tribal League and the rise and development of other organisations in the era of independence. The Plains Tribal Council of Assam, the only political party of the Boros of Assam was formed in
1967 with the declared aim of realising the political aspirations of the Boros of Assam. But the electoral performance has been rather poor. It could not wrest more than four seats at a time in a house of 126. Again the growth of political parties among the tribal people of Assam and the students organisations viz., The Bodo Students Union (ABSU) led by Brahma Group, The All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) led by Ramchary Group, The All Tribal Students Union of Assam, The United Reservation Movement Council of Assam indicate that there is no unity among the tribal students of Assam and people generally. These developments are too recent to call for an objective study.

The Bodos in ferment is the recent period, while the urge for recognition of their distinctive identity has been widely acknowledged, it remains to be seen how far their political aspirations could be accommodated even while extending policy of decentralisation within the framework of the state in India's federal polity. The recent trends hopefully indicate the strong possibility of a negotiated settlement of contentious issues. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished.)