APPENDIX - 5

CLASS STRUCTURE OF PRE-COLONIAL SOCIETY IN ASSAM

**Ruling Classes**

- Higher Aristocracy:
  - Ahom Kings, Royal Members, Ministers

**Middle Aristocracy**:

- Sivaite Brahmin Priest, Vaishnavite: Brahmin Kayastha, Kalita priests, Ganaks, Landed Vassals etc.

**Lower Aristocracy**:

- Officials of Lower Rank in Ahom State, Chamua Paiks and Merchants etc.

**Toiling Classes**

- Paiks-Peasants Cum Militia: Men of Ahom State, Artisans, Small Merchants And Fishermen etc.

**Slaves And Serfs**

- Bandi, Golam, Beti, Bohatia, Dash, Bondha, Lagua, Lickshaw etc.

source: Hussain, 1993 *op. cit*