CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHAPTER - I
Introduction of the problem 1
Objectives 5
Methodology 6
Significance 7
Organization of the Study 7
Review of relevant literature 8

CHAPTER - II
Introduction of the study region 26
Geographical settings of Barpeta District 29
Climate, Flora and Fauna 31
Population structure of Barpeta District 33
District and Sub-division wise distribution of scheduled caste population of Assam 37
Distribution of Scheduled castes population in the Barpeta District 40
District-wise distribution of individual castes in the state 43
Distribution of General, SC and ST population in different Municipality wards of Barpeta Town 44
Brief historical Background about the origin of Hira Community 44

CHAPTER - III
Theoretical background of the Study 53
Theories regarding stratification 57

CHAPTER - IV
Demographic outlines of the rural and urban Hira population 69
Materials and Method 70
CHAPTER – V

Occupational structure 104
Procedure of earthenware making 122
Preparation of clay pot-making process 123
Burning of the vessels 124
Types of pottery and their marketing facilities 124
Artistic works of the Hiras of Bamuna and Sundaridia 125
Selling of Earthenware 126
Income and consumption pattern 128

CHAPTER – VI

Process of Occupational Mobility 149
Age-group-wise distribution of educational status of the rural male Hira people 151
Age group-wise educational status of the rural Hira people 154
Age group-wise educational status of the urban males and urban females 157
Post-matric educational level in the rural and urban localities 163
Distribution of households according to associated occupations 165
Intergenerational occupational mobility in rural and urban localities 168

CHAPTER – VII

Impact of Modernization 187

CHAPTER – VIII

A comparative study of the Hiras with other communities 199

CHAPTER – IX

Summary and conclusion 215

BIBLIOGRAPHY 222