Hindu law is the most ancient among the known systems of laws. The Vedas are regarded as the first and foremost source of law. However, Vedas contain only occasional notices about legal affairs. The second stage of the legal literature is represented by numerous works which have come down under the name of Smṛtis.

Being a student of law also, I found that the foundation of modern Hindu law is nothing but the laws found mainly in the Smṛtis. So, I was eager to analyse both the ancient and modern laws and decided to take it up as the topic of my research. My respected guide Dr. Shrutidhara Chakravarty, Reader, Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University also inspired me for taking this topic and showed me the way how I should proceed in my work.

The five core chapters of the study deal with the laws on marriage, succession, adoption, maintenance and minority and guardianship. The study reveals the fact that the modern lawmakers kept certain principles of ancient law intact. They have incorporated some other principles with certain changes and modifications. In this study an attempt has been made to have a close review of the ancient and modern Hindu law with a view to knowing the
extent to which modern law is leaning upon the ancient law. Moreover, the shortcomings of the modern law have been pointed out for necessary modifications.

( Binima Buzarbaruah )