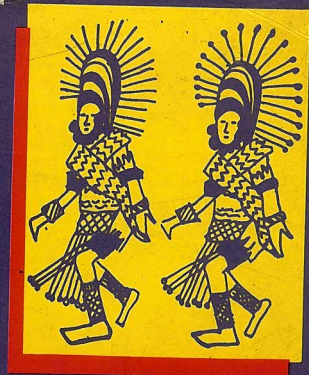


Tribals and their Culture



ASSAM, MEGHALAYA AND MIZORAM
VOLUME 1

G.K. GHOSH

The book is the result of rich research by the author during his posting in North-eastern India. It keeps a comprehensive idea about the impact of East Bengal and Assamese culture on the tribes and other people of Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya. It has also given a traditional culture of different people of those three States giving brief idea about the folk songs, folk dances, folk music, musical instruments, the traditional religion, impact of organised religion from outside, their mode of prayer and in certain cases the village Government and village industries besides economic sustenance. No doubt, the book will be a useful asset for the research scholars, Government officials and others and will be useful for those who are implementing the programme such as rural development and social works.

G.K. Ghosh, a graduate in Chemical Engineering had varied experience in different capacity and served as Director, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, North-Eastern States for a period of about four years. He has so far presented thirteen papers in Indian Science Congress in the section of Anthropology and Archeology. Over thirty papers were published on various subjects in various journals, newspapers and periodicals. His book "Technology in Naga Tradition (Ayurvedic)" was appreciated by the Chief Minister of Nagaland and reviewed in Business Standard. He has contributed a chapter in "Changing perspective of Anthropology in India" edited by Dr. S.C. Tewari and in "Current Anthropological and Archeological Perspective" Vol. IV edited by Dr. K.L. Bhowmik.

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Tribals and Their Culture in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram

Vol. I

G.K. GHOSH



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INTRODUCTION

In this work, which will be published in three Volumes as indicated below, the author deals with the culture, customs, beliefs and social values of important tribals concentrated in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, known as seven sisters. These govern their family, marriage, rituals, festivals, moral code and community living and they vary from one tribe to another.

Religion, which varies from tribe to tribe, is intimately interwoven with the tribal way of life. They live not only in their human tribal society but in a greater society consisting of spirits and unseen supernatural beings, both benevolent and malevolent. Their religion forms a very important aspect of the culture and performs an important social role. Their deity may be Hindu gods and goddesses, spirits of Nature, river, hill and forest, ghosts, etc. In most tribes every village or a group of village has a deity. Many tribals were converted into Christianity. But even the best of Christian missionaries sometimes got converted to a tribal culture, for example, Verrier Elwin began life as a missionary among the tribals but later gave up Christianity, married a tribal woman, and devoted himself to the study of tribal society.

- Volume-I *Tribals and Their Culture in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram.*
- Volume-II *Tribals and Their Culture in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.*
- Volume-III *Tribals and Their Culture in Manipur and Nagaland.*

The author was stationed at Dimapur, Nagaland, as Director, Khadi and Village Industries Commission for over four years and toured extensively in tribal villages of the seven states. This helped him to come in close contact with several tribal chiefs and with their help he was able to collect information.

Dasshera,
Bombay.

G.K. Ghosh

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