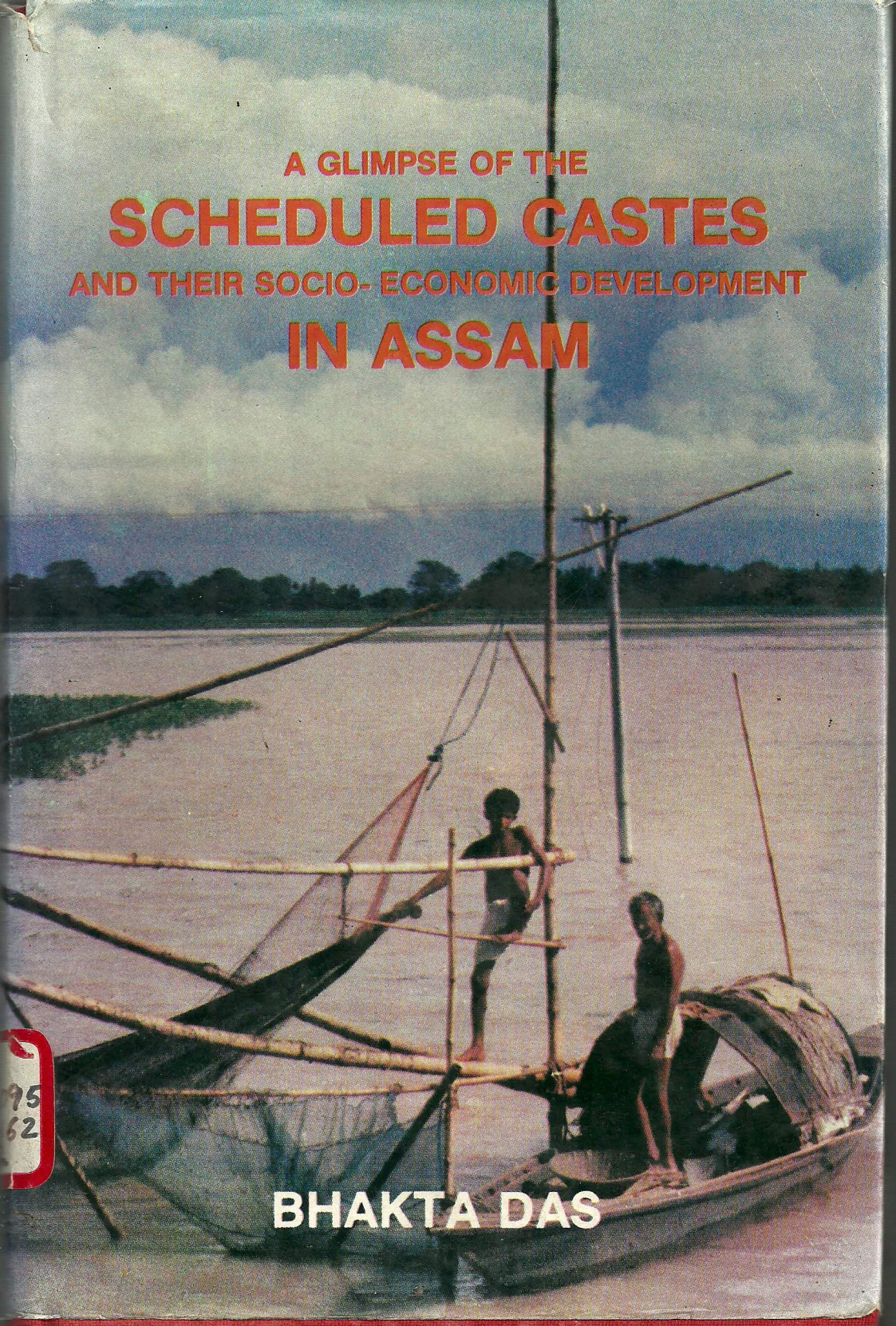


A GLIMPSE OF THE
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IN ASSAM

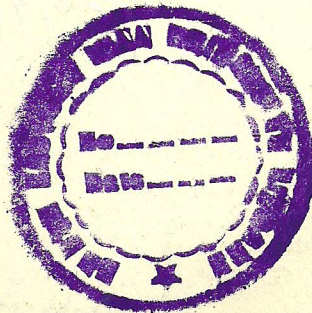


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BHAKTA DAS

A GLIMPSE OF THE
SCHEDULED CASTES
and their Socio-economic Development:
IN ASSAM

BHAKTA DAS



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*The Memory of
My Father and Mother*

Foreword

The Scheduled Castes which comprises about fifteen percent of the total population of the country, are the worst sufferer from social injustices, resulting from social and Economic disparities arising out of Caste barriers. The Scheduled Caste people are also victims of frequent incident of atrocities and harassment due to prevalence of Caste prejudices. It has become almost the order of the day, that daily newspapers are incomplete without the report of atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes. It is high time that the citizens of India should realise the agonies and miseries suffered by the Scheduled Caste people and should put in crusading efforts to abolish inhuman prejudices against these under-privileged class of people of the society. The national and emotional integration will be achieved only when these under privileged communities can enjoy the fruits of freedom equally with all classes of the people of the country.

The special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Caste was designed during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) to channelise flow of benefits and outlays from the general sectors of the state for the development of Scheduled Castes. The quantification of fund is made out of the general plan outlay of the state. The amount quantified should normally be commensurate with the population percentage of the Scheduled Castes. But at present the quantification for SCP is much below the population percentage and it cannot meet the cost of development needs of the Scheduled Castes.

Shri Bhakta Das in the book. "A glimpse of Scheduled Castes and their Socio-Economic development in Assam" has made a sincere effort to highlight various related problems faced by the Scheduled Caste people in the State and the attitude of the privileged people towards these under-privileged people. I hope this book will help the readers to change their attitude and do social services for the uplift of these downtrodden people.

Dispur
Guwahati

U. C. Sarania, I.A.S.
Commissioner And Secretary,
to the Govt. of Assam
W.P.T. & B.C. Deptt.

Preface

In Assam also Caste continues to play an important role on the Socio-Economic life of the people. Brahmins and upper Castes occupy the high positions in Society and feel that they are superior to other Classes and the lower Castes still suffer Social disabilities specially in rural areas. After independence the Govt. in the Five Year Plans opened a Backward Sector and taken up developmental Schemes to help the Scheduled Castes to move upward both Socially and Economically.

The publication of this Book "The Glimpse of the Scheduled Castes of Assam and their Socio-Economic Development" I hope will throw some light on the Background and the origin of the Scheduled Castes of Assam. The Volume also contains informations about measures taken by the Govt. in the five year plans for allround development of the Scheduled Castes and the out come of the efforts made for such development. The information given in the Book with updated Datas will be of help to planners/researchers; and policy makers, I hope the Book will be welcomed by the readers.

I am grateful to Shri U. C. Sarania, I.A.S. Commissioner, W.P.T. & B.C. Deptt. Govt. of Assam, who has kindly gone through the Manuscript and gave me valuable advice and encouragement for completion of this work. I also record my deep gratitude to DR. BHABEN SAIKIA for going through the manuscript and offering his valuable advice for its publication. I also offer my thanks to Shri Matilal Das who has kindly helped me in typing the Manuscript. I am also thankful to my publishers for publishing the Book.

BHAKTA DAS

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In the book, the Author has highlighted various problems being faced by the Scheduled Caste people in Assam and the attitude of the High Castes towards them. The Photographs taken in this Book were taken by him personally during his visit to the interior Scheduled Castes Villages and Harijan Colonies of Assam. The Author has also given in this Book the Basic Background information of the Caste System and the origin of the Scheduled Castes in Assam. An account of the Scheduled Castes population in Assam including sub-Caste wise population of Scheduled Castes and sub-Division wise population of Scheduled Caste people in Assam is also given in this Book along with the names of Villages in Assam, where scheduled castes population is more than 20 percent as per 1971 census. The Author has also discussed about the various development schemes taken up by the Government so far, under the Five Year Plans and the Twenty Point Economic Programme, for Socio-Economic upward mobility of the Scheduled Castes in Assam and the out come of such measures along with the short comings. The Book contains valuable Dates which will be of much help to the Planners, Researchers and Policy Makers.


Rs. 200/-

BHAKTA DAS is a Senior Civil Service Officer of Assam. He joined in the Assam Civil Service (Class-I) in 1963. Served as Extra Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate Dibrugarh, Judicial Magistrate of Dhubri (a district Bordering Bangladesh and West Bengal in Assam), Senior Magistrate (Executive) in Nowgaon district S.D.O.(Sadar) of Dibrugrah and S.D.O.(Civil) of Morigaon Sub-Division where in MAYONG Development Block the Scheduled Caste population constitutes (20.07%). He also Served as Deputy Secretary to the Govt of Assam in the co-operation Deptt at Dispur, Project Director S.F.D.A. in KARBI ANGLONG Hills district of Assam, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate of SIBSAGAR/JORHAT Districts, Chief Executive Director of Assam Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank. Presently he is the Director, Welfare of Plains Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes, Assam. He has visited the interior Scheduled Caste Villages and Harijan colonies in Assam, and has got deep insight into the problems of Scheduled Castes in Assam.

