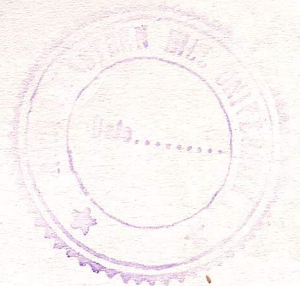


WANCHO THROUGH HISTORY

Miss. Pranjana Das
Department of Anthropology
NEHU, Shillong, 1988.



CONTENTS

Maps

Acknowledgement

Chapter - I

1. Introduction and Literature Survey 1 - 18

Chapter - II

2. Historical Geography 19 - 35

Chapter - III

3. Material Culture 36 - 63

Chapter - IV

4. Nature of State 64 - 80

Chapter - VI

5. Social Organization 81 - 123

Chapter - VI

6. Conclusion : The Changing Scene 124 - 137

Appendix 138 - 140

Glossary 141 - 142

Bibliography 143 - 144

PHONE :
GRAMS : NEHU



North-Eastern Hill University

Mayurbhanj Complex, Nongthymmai, Shillong-793014

Head, Department of ANTHROPOLOGY

31 May 1988

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Miss Pranjana Das has prepared the M.Phil dissertation entitled "The Wancho through history" under my supervision. Her work is based upon primary and secondary sources. No part of this dissertation has been printed by her.

P.K. Mishra
(P.K. Mishra)
Head

Head,
Department of Anthropology
North-Eastern Hill University,
Shillong—793014.

North - Eastern Hill University

Mayurbhaj Complex
Nongthymmai, Shillong-793014 (Meghalaya)

Department of ANTHROPOLOGY

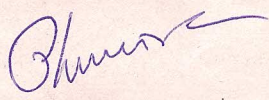
31 May 1988

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Miss Pranjan Das has satisfactorily completed all the course requirements in the Master of Philosophy programme in Anthropology.

1. System of Theory and Data Processing
2. Bio-Cultural Evolution
3. Historical Methodology
4. Philosophy of Social Science.

She is permitted to submit her M.Phil Dissertation to the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.


(P.K. Misra)
Head,
Head,

Department of Anthropology,
North-Eastern Hill University,
Shillong—793014.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Professor P.K. Mishra, Head, Department of Anthropology, NEHU, Shillong for his kind supervision of the study and painstaking in editing the manuscript.

I am also grateful to Professor B.N. Saraswati, Department of Anthropology, NEHU and my former teacher Dr. R.L. Hungloo, Department of History, NEHU for the keen interest and encouragement they had shown.

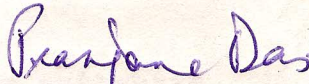
I will fail in my duty if I do not place in record my thanks to my superiors in the Directorate of Research, Itanagar, for providing me with necessary facilities in carrying out this work successfully.

I also remain grateful to the informants especially Bowang/Wanghem and others whose materials I have used in preparing this dissertation.

Last but not the least I thank Mr. Gupta of Ziro and my friend Mr. John Mao, Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, NEHU, for typing the manuscript.

Department of Anthropology,
NEHU, Shillong.

Dated.....1988.


(Pranjana Das)

CHAPTER - I

Introduction and Literature Survey:

One of the questions which has remained in the minds of planners is how to develop the tribal populations retaining their identity and culture. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India laid down the policy of Panchsheel for tribal development which said that tribals were to be developed according to their genius. Dhebar underlined this by stating " the problem of problems is not to disturb this harmony of tribal life and simultaneously work for its advancement". These are beautiful statements but to translate them in reality is indeed a difficult task. In order to find out what is harmonic and genius of a group, one has to have authentic information about them. There are many such groups about

whom very little systematic information is available. One of the important tasks that needs to be done is to compile the information from all the sources and indicate what are the gaps in information.

I chose to study the Wancho tribe of Arunachal Pradesh to compile and to provide some information about them. Very little work has been done on them either by anthropologists or historians. The references about them are casual and are in the nature of track accounts of the British. Verrier Elwin has collected references about them in his book, India's North-East Frontier in the Nineteenth Century; J.N. Choudhury too makes a brief reference about them in his book, Arunachal through the Ages; L.R.N. Srivastav's tour diary - Among the Wanchos and the Tirap District Gazetteers edited by S. Dutta Choudhury contain some

details about the people and the area inhabited by them.

All these studies have not focussed on all the aspects of Wancho life. These studies do not give us much idea as to the process of change and tend to impose a static picture of Wancho life till the recent times. None of these works have tried to carefully examine the material constraints of this tribe. They have also failed to demonstrate the conditions in which the Wancho actually lived. The internal dynamics of their tribal social organisation has also remained undefined.

However in order to understand the nature of the life and condition of Wancho in the larger context of the Indian tribal society one has to carefully examine the (a) historical geography of the area they have inhabited for times past (b) their material condition, the process involved in their subsistence, the nature of

appropriation and the technology used in the production of their subsistence (c) the nature of their political organization and its role in administration of the tribe, (d) their social organization and the changes occurring in it, from time to time and (e) the various rituals and beliefs of the tribe.

In order to understand the Wancho tribe in its right perspective all the aforesaid concepts should be studied as the parts of a total design. In this regard, the eminent anthropologist Maurice Godelier¹ very rightly states - " To functionalist, with the exception of Evans-Pritchard and certain other brilliant field workers, a social system is a total whole, section of which are necessarily inter-linked, but according to them even a

1. see Man in India, March 1984, p.74.

