

## Preface

This thesis is the outcome of field work conducted in two Indo-Nepal Frontier villages in Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Here the important field data are collected during the years between 2001 to 2003. Beside this, field visit is made many times till the completion of the thesis. In understanding social, economic, cultural, and political situation in rural society, the contribution of historians, economists, anthropologists and sociologists is very important. But the study of above situation in frontier villages in Indo-Nepal frontier areas is not similarly highlighted. In this situation this study has been undertaken. This study shows that the socio-economic, cultural, and political situation of frontier villages in Darjeeling district have some dissimilarities with the traditional rural society. The villagers in the Frontier villages are more adaptive with any situation. The population structure of the villages is framed by a large number of migrant people, bilingual and multilingual groups of people. Beside this, the nuclear type of family structure, monogamous form of marriage, cross-border marriage, cross-border kinship network, cross-border fairs and festivals, illegal trading activity etc are the important features of the villagers living in the frontier area. The people living in the frontier area enjoy political power in democratic way in certain extent. The political behaviour of the villagers is not regulated by the caste rules and the existence of traditional caste council is not observed. It is expected that this study fulfills the gap of knowledge of the students, scholars and planners about social, economic, cultural and political life and changes therein in the life of the people living in Indo-Nepal frontier villages in Darjeeling district of West Bengal.

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For the purpose of this study, I visited the National Library of North Bengal University, and the District Library of Jalpaiguri. I thank the librarians, staffs of those libraries for their help they extended to me in using the materials available in their libraries.

While doing my field work in those studied villages, I received unexpected help from the villagers. In addition to the Panchayet members, Pradhan of the Gram Panchayet Area, I thank the villagers for their help, assistance, affection and cooperation from them during my stay in the villages. In this regards, I am mostly grateful to Sri Sailendra Nath Singh and Sri Sarbajit Ghatani for their help and assistance. Without their help, the field work would not be possible.

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