

## *Preface*

*Anthropological and Sociological researches on Adibasi Girl Child in India, particularly in West Bengal are very scanty. There are a few studies on Girl Child of urban area and also of rural area, but very little is known about the dynamics of their social position in adibasi society.*

*India has the largest adibasi population in the world approximately 67.6 million as per 1991 census. Adibasis constitute 8.08 percent of Indian population and half of it is adibasi women as in any other social group. They are in different stages of socioeconomic development. The socioeconomic and educational backwardness of the adibasis are well known. They are still at the midst of ignorance, innocence, illiteracy, dire poverty and immense backwardness. The adibasi society has learnt to live with minimum substance and after thousands of years of exploitation are complacent to live as their parents had lived. They virtually have no economic ambition. With the spread of education this trend must go. Any society should think and learn to develop its economy if it has to survive during the development process. The girl child are generally the worse sufferer of economic disorder and is always at the shrinking end of population, poverty and environment spiral. We have to create environment in which she may be guided to adopt the right course so that she may get herself out of the shackles of ignorance, illiteracy, innocence and poverty to join the main stream of development and enjoy the fruits of well built democratic society.*

*The present study is an attempt to analyse the sociocultural aspects of girl child in adibasi society. The social situation of adibasi girl child has been examined on the basis of their status and role. The gardens that are investigated are Matigara Tea Estate of Terai Darjeeling and Soongachi Tea Estate of Doars, Jalpaiguri. In this dissertation these two gardens shall also be referred to as Terai and Doars garden respectively.*

*I feel a deep sense of gratitude to my respected supervisor Prof. Sekh Rahim Mondal earlier Reader in the Dept. of Sociology and Social*

*Anthropology and now Professor and the Director in the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal for his generous guidance and valuable suggestions through out the course of this study. Without his sincere supervision the work might not be completed. I am also grateful to Dr. S. Roy, Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, North Bengal University, Prof. R. K. Bhadra and Dr. Mita Bhadra and other teachers, Dr. (Mrs) N. Chowdhury, Dr. R. S. Mukherjee, Dr. Mrs. S. Biswas and P. Deb Barman of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology of North Bengal University, Dr. Mrs. Rokaiya Begum, ICSSR Fellow, Dr. S. E. Kabir, Co-ordinator of PG Diploma of Tea Management, North Bengal University for their valuable suggestion and support along with Mr. S. Maitra, Manager of Matigara Tea Estate, Mr. R. S. Agarwal and Mr. U. Chandra, Manager and Dy. Manager of Soongachi Tea Estate.*

*I am indebted to my Parents and my Husband for their unfailing support and entering help from the commencement to the completion of this research work with a special thank to my four years old son, Soham, for his co-operation.*

*I'm also grateful to the adibasi labourers of Matigara and Soongachi Tea Estates who received me with great warmth, for their whole hearted co-operation during the time of field work.*

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