

PREFACE

The research ventures the History of specific and inherent under-currents of **The Nashya Sheikh Community of North Bengal in the Twentieth century: A Study of the Socio-Economic and political Transformations**. An attempt has been made to outline the processes of multifaceted factors and forces that the *Nashya Sheikhs* Community of North Bengal had to experience in their Social, Economic and Political life. A sincere exercise has been attempted to reconstruct the event of on the basis of Historical documents as well as Political, Socio-Economic, Ethnographic and to explain their need to reconstruct at the present time scale. This incisive study of a region and its people both marginally placed and lulled in the lap of Himalayas largely silenced through a lack of visibility in academic research, is an outcome of the efforts by the researcher for the last Six years. To be perceived, the objective of the present study claims to be a part of academic exercise of Social History hitherto Un-attempted by the scholars of the field.

The present study is comprised of Six Chapters excluding Introduction and Conclusion. Each Chapter are intrinsically linked with each other and also are inconsonance with the broad design of the study. First chapter is the Growth and Development of Muslims Society in Bengal to the study which initiates how the Muslims came to India as well as West Bengal, how conversion takes place among the non-Muslim locals, various Sub-Communities under the Muslim Community in West Bengal in particular and in India in general and also the Socio-Economic, Political, and Educational conditions of the Muslims in Historical perspectives of Bengal. Second Chapter deals with the *Nashya Sheikhs* Community of North Bengal in Historical Perspectives to the study how the *Nashya Sheikh* community originated and grew in North Bengal and also describe how the Community development of North Bengal in Historical Perspectives. Third chapter deals with the Islam as practiced by *Nashya*

Sheikhs of North Bengal. How the *Nashya Sheikh* Muslims of North Bengal followed certain customs and practices of Islamic culture. Fourth chapter deals with the social life of the *Nashya Sheikhs* of North Bengal: past and present. Which described the Social Structure of the *Nashya Sheikh* Community of North Bengal in their past and present condition? Fifth chapter deals with the Economic Life and Political participation of the *Nashya Shekhs*. This chapter divided into two sections, first section elaborates the continuity and changes the economic life of the *Nashya Sheikh* Community of North Bengal. Second section intricate the political participation and identity formation of the *Nashya Sheikh* community. Six chapter deals with *Nashya Sheikh* and other Communities: A Comparative study and lastly conclusion deals with the major findings of the study, suggestions and recommendations of the Researcher.

The study under reference has been a maiden attempt to identify the factors and forces, and events and issues involved in the *Nashya Sheikh* Community of North Bengal in the Twentieth century: A Study of the Socio-Economic and political Transformations. While doing so, the researcher had to gather information and documents from different sources. Such relevant documents in the form of Reports, Leaflets, Official Notes and Circulations, News Papers, Articles, Published Books, Gazetteers and Letters etc. had been gathers from, Jalpaiguri D.M. office, Dhupguri Block Development Office, Cooch Behar D.M. Office, Central Library of North Bengal University, Seminar Library of Department of History, University of North Bengal as well as interviews of inhabitants of Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda Districts, taken by the researcher.