

## CONTENTS

	Page
Preface .....	i
Contents .....	iii
List of Tables .....	xii
List of Maps .....	xvii
<b>CHAPTER-1: Introduction</b> .....	<b>1-34</b>
1.1: Background	1
1.2: Statement of the Problem and Justification of the study	2
1.3: Review of Literatures	4
1.4: Aims and Objectives of the Proposed Study	15
1.5: Research Questions and Hypotheses	16
1.6: Significance of the study	17
1.7: Theoretical Perspectives Adopted	18
1.7.1: Structural-Functional Approach	18
1.7.2: Marxian Approach	19
1.8: Concepts used for the present study	19
1.8.1: Border, Soft Border and Hard Border	20
1.8.2: Caste	20
1.8.3: Cross-Border Trading activities	20
1.8.4: Cultural Boundary	20
1.8.5: Ethnic Group and Ethnicity	21
1.8.6: Frontier and Frontier Villages	22
1.8.7: Family-Nuclear, Joint and Broken	23
1.8.8: Illiterate People and Literate People	23
1.8.9: Marriage-Monogamy and Polygamy	23
1.8.10: Migration and Immigration	23

1.8.11: Plural Society	24
1.8.12: Primary Education and Secondary Education	24
1.8.13: Religious Syncretism	24
1.8.14: Sex Ratio	25
1.8.15: Social Dynamics	25
1.8.16: Social Structure, Social Institution and Social Organization	25
1.8.17: Tribe	26
1.8.18: Village	26
<b>1.9: Research Methodology</b>	<b>27</b>
1.9.1: Research Design	27
1.9.2: The Locale of the Study	28
1.9.3: Data Sources	28
1.9.3.1: Collection of Primary Data	28
1.9.3.2: Collection of Secondary Data	29
1.9.4: Field Work	29
1.9.5: Field Experience and Problems	29
1.9.6: Selection of Informants	30
1.9.7: Tools and Techniques of Data Collection	31
1.9.8: Data Processing and Analysis	32
1.9.9: Presentation of Data and Chapterization	32
<b>1: Limitations</b>	<b>34</b>

## **CHAPTER-2: Profile of The Border Villages**

### **Under Study**

**..... 35-96**

2: A Note on Tarai-A Frontier Region in the District of Darjeeling in West Bengal	35
2.1: Village- <i>Chhoto Dilsaram Jote</i>	41
2.1.1: Physical and Infrastructural Characteristics of the village	41
2.1.1.1: Location	41
2.1.1.2: Village Resources	42
2.1.1.3: Settlement Pattern	42
2.1.1.4: Economic Pursuits	43
2.1.1.5: Transport and Communication	44

2.1.1.6: Village Market-Daily and Weekly	45
2.1.1.7: Educational Facilities	46
2.1.1.8: Post Office	46
2.1.1.9: Medical Facilities	46
2.1.1.10: Sources of Drinking Water, Sanitation and Drainage System	48
2.1.1.11: House Type	49
2.1.1.12: Dress Pattern	49
2.1.1.13: Food Habits	50
2.1.2: Basic Demographic Attributes of the village	50
2.1.2.1: Population-Age and Sex Distribution	51
2.1.2.2: Sex Ratio	54
2.1.2.3: Family Structure	55
2.1.2.4: Marital Status	56
2.1.2.5: Occupation-Primary and Secondary	58
2.1.2.6: Literacy and Education	59
2.1.2.7: Migration and Immigration	62
2.1.2.8: Language Spoken	64
2.2: Village- <i>Dulal Jote</i>	66
2.2.1: Physical and Infrastructural Characteristics of the village	66
2.2.1.1: Location	66
2.2.1.2: Village Resources	67
2.2.1.3: Settlement Pattern	67
2.2.1.4: Economic Pursuits	68
2.2.1.5: Transport and Communication	68
2.2.1.6: Village Market-Daily and Weekly	69
2.2.1.7: Educational Facilities	70
2.2.1.8: Post Office	70
2.2.1.9: Medical Facilities	70
2.2.1.10: Sources of Drinking Water, Sanitation and Drainage System	71
2.2.1.11: House Type	72
2.2.1.12: Dress Pattern	72

2.2.1.13: Food Habits	73
2.2.2: Basic Demographic Attributes of the village	74
2.2.2.1: Population-Age and Sex Distribution	74
2.2.2.2: Sex Ratio	77
2.2.2.3: Family Structure	79
2.2.2.4: Marital Status	80
2.2.2.5: Occupation-Primary and Secondary	81
2.2.2.6: Literacy and Education	84
2.2.2.7: Migration and Immigration	86
2.2.2.8: Language Spoken	89
2.3 : Comparison of Two Villages	91
2: Findings	93

### **CHAPTER-3: Economic Profile of The Border**

<b>Villages Under Study</b>	<b>.... 97-127</b>
3.1: Village- <i>Chhoto Dilsaram Jote</i>	97
3.1.1: Major Economic Activities	97
3.1.1.1: Agriculture and Agricultural Practices	97
3.1.1.2: Agricultural Implements	99
3.1.1.3: Use of Manure and Chemical Fertilizers	99
3.1.1.4: Use of Improved Seeds and Pesticides	100
3.1.1.5: Irrigation and Crop-Pattern	101
3.1.1.6: Sale of Agricultural Products and Economic Transaction	102
3.1.2: Agrarian Structure and Agrarian Relation	103
3.1.3: Business	105
3.1.4: Government Service	106
3.1.5: Rickshaw Pulling	106
3.1.2: Other Economic Activities	106
3.1.2.1: Livestock	107
3.1.2.2: Cross-Border Trading Activities	107
3.1.3: Village Women and Their Economic Activities	108

3.1.4: Inter-Generational Occupational Mobility	109
3.2: Village- <i>Dulal Jote</i>	110
3.2.1: Major Economic Activities	110
3.2.1.1: Agriculture and Agricultural Practices	111
3.2.1.2: Agricultural Implements	112
3.2.1.3: Use of Manure and Chemical Fertilizers	113
3.2.1.4: Use of Improved Seeds and Pesticides	113
3.2.1.5: Irrigation and Crop-Pattern	114
3.2.1.6: Sale of Agricultural Products and Economic Transaction	115
3.2.2: Agrarian Structure and Relation	115
3.2.3: Business	117
3.2.4: Government Service	118
3.2.5: Rickshaw Pulling	118
3.2.2: Other Economic Activities	119
3.2.2.1: Livestock	119
3.2.2.2: Cross-Border Trading Activities	120
3.2.3: Village Women and Their Economic Activities	120
3.2.4: Occupation and Inter-Generational Occupational Mobility	121
3.3 : Comparison of Two Villages	124
3: Findings	126

## **CHAPTER-4: Social Structure And Social Organization of The Border Villages**

**....128-186**

4.1: Village- <i>Chhoto Dilsaram Jote</i>	128
4.1.1: Social Structure	128
4.1.2: Family	129
4.1.2.1: Family Size	129
4.1.2.2: Family Types	130
4.1.2.3: Family Composition	131
4.1.2.4: Family Types and Occupation	133
4.1.2.5: Family Types and Income	134
4.1.2.6: Family Types and Landholding	135

4.1.2.7: Family Types and Education	137
4.1.3: Marriage	138
4.1.3.1: Age at Marriage of Married Men	138
4.1.3.2: Age at Marriage of Married Women	140
4.1.3.3: Married Men- Present Age and Age at Marriage	142
4.1.3.4: Married Women- Present Age and Age at Marriage	144
4.1.3.5: Types of Marriage	145
4.1.3.6: Cross-Border Marriage	146
4.1.3.7: Marriage Distance	147
4.1.3.8: Selection of Mates	149
4.1.4: Kinship Relation	151
4.1.5: Village Organization	153
4.1.5.1: Informal Village Organization	153
4.1.5.2: Formal Village Organization	154
4.2: Village- <i>Dulal Jote</i>	155
4.2.1: Social Structure	155
4.2.2: Family	155
4.2.2.1: Family Size	155
4.2.2.2: Family Types	157
4.2.2.3: Family Composition	158
4.2.2.4: Family Types and Occupations	162
4.2.2.5: Family Types and Income	163
4.2.2.6: Family Types and Landholding	165
4.2.2.7: Family Types and Education	167
4.2.3: Marriage	168
4.2.3.1: Age at Marriage of Married Males	168
4.2.3.2: Age at Marriage of Married Women	169
4.2.3.3: Married Men- Present Age and Age at Marriage	171
4.2.3.4: Married Women- Present Age and Age at Marriage	173
4.2.3.5: Types of Marriage	175
4.2.3.6: Cross-Border Marriage	176
4.2.3.6: Marriage Distance	177

4.2.3.7: Selection of Mates	179
4.2.4: Kinship Relation	181
4.2.5: Village Organization	182
4.1.5.1: Informal Village Organization	182
4.1.5.2: Formal Village Organization	183
4.3 : Comparison of Two Villages	183
4: Findings	185

## **CHAPTER-5 : Religious Practices, Fairs And**

### **Festivals in The Villages Under Study**

#### **-Social Interaction Among The Villagers**

#### **and The People of either Sides of**

#### **The Border**

**.....187-207**

5.1: The Rajbanshis and Their Religious Practices	187
5.1.1: <i>Ashri-Ghasari</i>	188
5.1.2: <i>Bisua, Bisuba</i>	188
5.1.3: Biswakarma	189
5.1.4: <i>Buraburi</i>	189
5.1.5: <i>Charak Puja</i>	190
5.1.6: <i>Dhankata Puja</i>	190
5.1.7: <i>Dharam Thakur Puja</i>	191
5.1.8: Durga Puja	191
5.1.9 Ganga Puja	192
5.1.10: <i>Hanuman Puja</i>	192
5.1.11: <i>Hudum Deo Puja; Hudma</i>	193
5.1.12: Kali Puja	193
5.1.13: <i>Lokhi Dak, Gochor Pana</i>	194
5.1.14: Laxmi Puja	195
5.1.15: Manosa Puja	195
5.1.16: <i>Mechini Khela, Bhedei Kheli</i>	195
5.1.17: <i>Naya Khawa</i>	196
5.1.18: <i>Pitha Bechi Puja</i>	196
5.1.19: <i>Roa Gara Puja, Gotsu Puna</i>	197

5.1.20: Shiva Ratri	197
<b>5.2: The Nepalese and Their Religious Practices</b>	<b>198</b>
5.2.1: <i>Dasain</i> or Durga Puja	199
5.2.2: Dipavali/ <i>Tihara</i>	200
5.2.3: <i>Ghode Jatra</i> or <i>Pisacha Chaturdashi</i>	201
5.2.4: Krishnashtami or Krishna Jayanti	201
5.2.5: Makar Sankranti	201
5.2.6: Nag Panchami	202
5.2.7: Ram Navami	202
5.2.8: <i>Rishi Panchami</i>	202
5.2.9: Shiva Ratri, the Sacred Night of Lord Shiva	202
5.2.10: <i>Sithinakha</i> or <i>Sithji Jatra</i>	203
5.2.11: <i>Teej</i> or <i>Haritalika</i>	203
5.3: Fairs and Festivals	204
5.3.1: <i>Mela</i> on the Occasion of Durga Puja	204
5.3.2: <i>Paitrish Hat Kalibari Mela</i>	205
5.3.2: <i>Mela</i> on the Occasion of Pitha Bechi Puja	206
5.4 : Comparison of Two Communities	206
5: Findings	207

## **CHAPTER-6: Border Villages –Their Identities**

### **And Problems**

**.....208-239**

6.1: Settlement Pattern	208
6.2: Social Structure and Social Stratification	208
6.3: Dress and Ornaments and Food Habit	210
6.4: Economic Activities	211
6.5: Family, Marriage and Kinship	212
6.6: Migration and Language	213
6.7: Religious Practices, Fairs and Festivals and Cultural Syncretism	213
6.8: Political Affairs	213
<b>6.2: Major Problems Identified</b>	<b>214</b>
6.2.1: Historical Problems	215



6.2.2: Infrastructural Problems	215
6.2.3: Economical Problems	216
6.2.4: Socio-Cultural Problems	217
6.2.5: Politico-Administrative Problems	219
6.3: Selected Case Studies	221
6.4 : Comparison of Two Villages	237
6. : Findings	238
<b>CHAPTER-7: The Changing Scenario of The</b>	
<b>Border Villages Under Study</b>	<b>..... 240-262</b>
7.1: Changes through History	240
7.2: Infrastructural Change	241
7.3: Economic Change	243
7.4: Social Change	246
7.5: Cultural Change	250
7.6: Political Change	254
7.7: Factors of change	257
7.8: Nature of Change	259
7: Findings	260
<b>CHAPTER-8: Major Findings, Concluding Remarks</b>	
<b>And Recommendations</b>	<b>.....263-278</b>
8.1: Major Findings	263
8.2: Concluding Remarks	274
8.3: Recommendations	276
8.3.1: Administrative Measures-Actions to be taken by the State and Administration	276
8.3.2: Actions to be taken by the Villagers	277
References	279
Appendices	286
Appendix-I Glossary of Some Local Terms	
Appendix-ii Photographs	