

Acknowledgment

In writing the thesis I am very happy to express my gratitude to my teachers, professor Manas Dasgupta of the Department of Economics and Dr. Rangadhar Sahu of the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal. Without their effortless inspiration and constant guidance from the initial stage of the work till the completion, this thesis could not have been completed by me in due course.

I am greatly indebted to my revered teacher Prof. B.P.Misra who helped me complete my field work. I am also particularly indebted to my respected teacher Prof. Rabindra Nath Bhattacharya who always inspired me to continue this work. I am also indebted to Prof. Jagadish Chandra Debnath, Department of Economics for his kind and sympathetic co-operation. I would like to offer my thanks to all the members of the faculty of the Centre for Himalayan Studies for their kind co-operation. I extend further my deep gratitude to all staff of the Centre for Himalayan Studies.

I am grateful to my fellow scholars and friends who helped me at various phases of this work. I specially mention about the help given to me by Mr. Madhab Ch. Saha and Swarup Ghosh.

I also convey my cordial thanks to those persons who assisted me in my work and I should mention the name of Larap Bhutia, Sonam Gyatso Bhutia, Indra Prasad Chauhan, Mohan Singh Subba, Pemba Sherpa, Nim Tshering Lueksom, Phurba Sherpa. I am also indebted to Shri Sonam Wonchuck Bhutia (Panchayat), Darap West Sikkim, Swati Mondal, Teacher, Rothok, Sanjit Sharma, Sintham, East Sikkim, Mr. Basudev Adhikari, Central Tumin, East Sikkim, Lobzang Namgyal Bhutia, Mangam and Sonam Wangdi, North Sikkim - who made all the necessary arrangements for my accommodation and field work.

I am also very grateful to a number of Government Departments, officers and official staffs in Sikkim. The Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Sikkim

from where I received the greatest help and co-operation. I am grateful to Mr. S. Mitra, B.E.S and A.K. Singh. I also express my deep gratitude to the officials and staff of the planning and Development Department, Health Department, Education Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok.

I am also thankful to the Panchayat Pradhans of the respective villages surveyed for their kind co-operation. Lastly I would also like to thank the respondents of the villages for their cordial co-operation and affectionate to me. Without their cordial assistance my task would have been difficult.

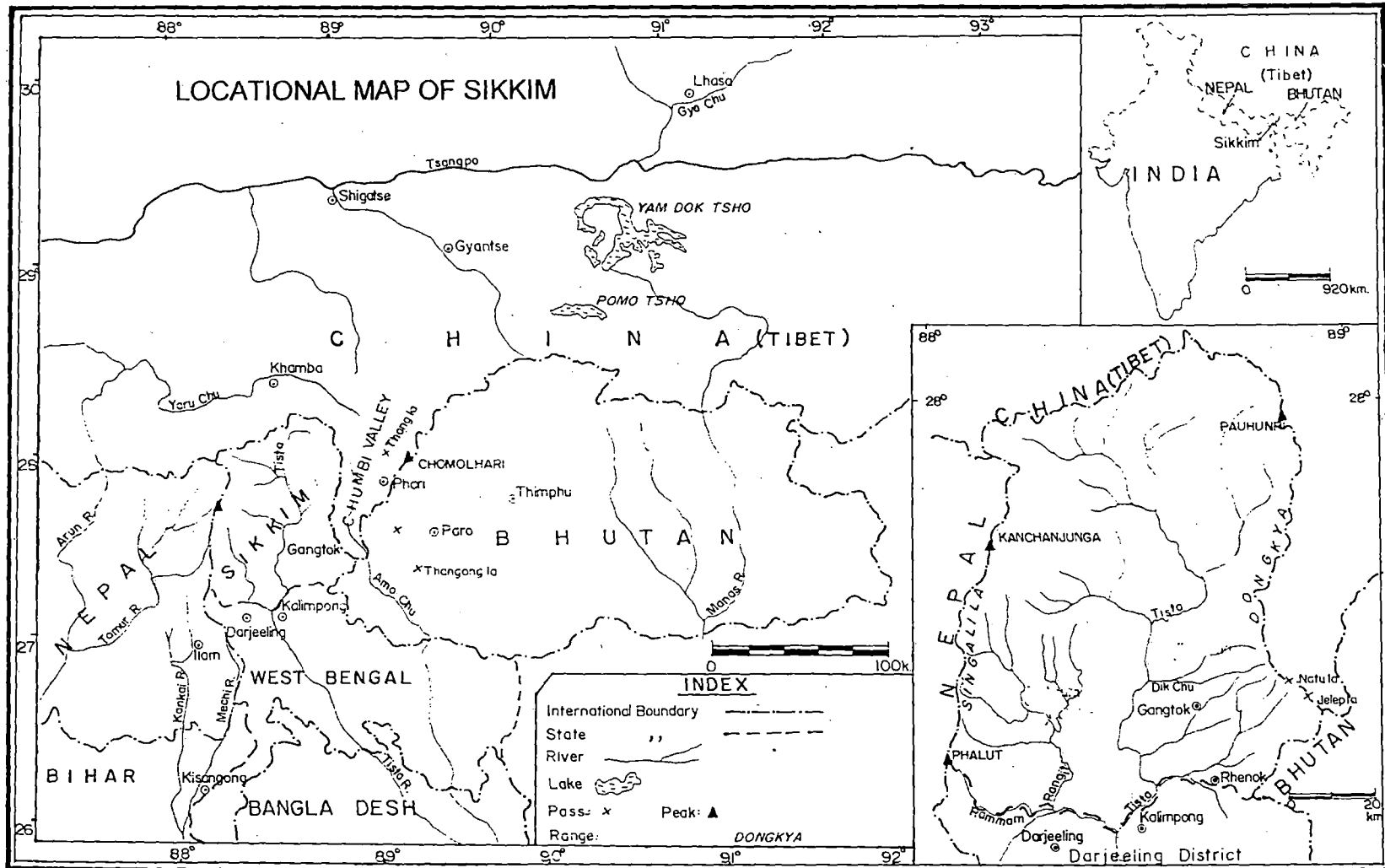
I would like to thank to the University of North Bengal for granting me the research fellowship which enabled me to complete my work.

Furthermore, I would like to express my deep and cordial gratitude to my parents and late grand mother for constant inspiration, encouragement and sacrifice for my studies. I am also indebted to my brother and sisters for their constant inspiration and sacrifice.

Subrata Debnath

*Place: Centre for
Himalayan Studies,
North Bengal University.*

Date: 28.07.1998



Map: 1