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Contemporary Indian Society
Issues and Challenges with Special Reference
to North-East India

Volume-I

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Preface

Change is the law of nature. Change does occur due to several reasons. It may be evolutionary in nature or forced by circumstances. It brings with it many positive and negative impacts. Sometimes it makes one to lead to a path of glory and fame and sometimes to the path of destruction. India too as a nation has passed through both upper mentioned stages in its past. India was known as "Golden Sparrow" because of its wealth and prosperity. It attracted the attention of so many invaders who destroyed its cultural, social, moral and educational fabric. These invasions have impacted India both in positive and negative terms. The huge loss it suffered in its cultural and moral degradation while it gained in world connectivity, language and knowledge expansion.

Contemporary India is a developing country. This transitional stage has its own culture – the culture of confusion. Indecisiveness is its most important symptom. A group of learned people if want to bring change of improvement then others are here to oppose and try to restore the old tradition. They not only support old virtues and beliefs but also go to such an extent that system as a whole is made hostage and leave no space for logic and arguments. Diversity of ideas leads to creativity that paves the path of progress and improvement. It is very heartening to see that "diversity" a unique characteristic of Indian society, which is

(vi)

considered as one of the main reason for global recognition, now-a-days seems becoming one of the major cause of various socio-cultural, economic, political and other issues hindering the country's development.

Contemporary India, it seems, is at crossroad. Confusion, indecisiveness and uncertainty are creating chaos. Though continuous collaborative and individual efforts have been made since long to combat various socio-cultural, political and other crisis through reforms and development in the society still casteism, communalism, regionalism, human right violation, violence against women and child, sexual abuse of women and child, drug addiction, alcoholism, corruption, insurgencies, cyber crime and many other kinds of issues are the harsh reality of Indian society in 21st century. Further, being second most populous country in the world, unemployment, poverty, hunger, malnutrition, inflation, inadequate transportation, housing, water, electricity, road, sanitation, health facilities, lack of quality education and environmental issues are posing grave challenges to Indian society.

Northeast India has a unique position in India. Its location and attitude of centre government towards it manifolds its issues and problems. The structure of society in northeast is of tribal and multicultural nature. Connectivity is poor due to its geographical structure that itself is an issue and poses various challenges against reforms. Society slowly has started adopting a modern views but pace is slow. Indigenous tribal values and beliefs are eroding and society is crumbling. Diversity a unique selling point of the northeast is at stake. Extremely diversified structure of society is slowly moving towards common culture which is the biggest challenge of contemporary northeast Indian society. Various tribes are losing their identity in the name of modernization. This change has brought

(vii)

disorder in educational, health and happiness index of the northeastern society of India. Various issues have cropped up due to change in society's pattern of living and earning while some others issues have their roots in non changing attitude of the society.

Present edited book is the outcome of the national seminar organized by department of education and sponsored by ICSSR-NERC and Rajiv Gandhi University. A total of 35 papers are selected to be published in the form of books. Eight subthemes were identified to be discussed under the main theme- Contemporary Indian Society: Issues and Challenges with special reference to north east India. Volume -I contains eighteen papers encompassing social issues in north east, governance system, women contribution their problems and issues, domestic dilemma, problems of tribal adults, educational standard in north east and attitude of tribal youths towards higher education, health issues and problems of being a writer in tribal states and their contribution for preserving indigenous knowledge intact.

**Anga Padu
Narender Singh**