PREFACE

The present study titled "Sustainable Fishing Practices and Fishing Communities in Barak Valley : A Sociological Study" is an attempt to understand the relationship between society and environment. How the environment dictates the life style of the fishing communities as well as pattern of them fishing practices.

The study comprises 7 chapters in all chapter one conceptualizes the study by formulating the problem of research in the light of the existing literature in the area of the study. The chapter also includes the survey of literature, objectives, methodology strategies, significance and limitation of the study. Chapter two deals with the field of the study comprising two fisheries; viz., the Shonebeel Fishery and the Barak river Fishery and 12 ponds in the Barak Valley.

Chapter three delineates the cultural ecology of the three traditional fishing communities, viz., the Patni, the Kaivartya and the Mahimal in the two fisheries of the Valley. The chapter brings out their various cultural aspects like housing pattern, movable assets, household items, division of work, dress pattern, health and sanitation, marriage rituals and ceremonies. This chapter four deals with the property resources and the fishery practices in the Shonebeel as well as the Barak river fishery. It also highlights the fish typing, fishing pattern tools and techniques, the fishing management, fish marketing etc. Chapter five discusses various changes occurring in the environment like rain fall, temperature, deforestation, siltation etc. and highlights how the fishermen are adopting various new strategies like rickshaw pulling, mason work, goldsmithry, etc. to sustain in the changing environment. Chapter six reveal examines the sustainability of various aspects of development with reference to the two natural fisheries and 12 pond fisheries and suggests that in the contemporary times when the CPR is in the state of overexploitation and depletion the management has to be improved by incorporating technical and professional elements along with opening of new occupational avenues. Finally, chapter seven discusses the findings of the study and concludes it with the remark that the management of the CPR has to be improved and strengthened by induction of techno-professional elements alongwith the ongoing people's participation.

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