

SUMMARY.

This Thesis is the outcome of intensive field work among the Thils of Patanah hills (Ranchmahal District), during the years 1952 - 54. The methods employed were essentially those used by Social Anthropologists in making intensive studies of small communities.

I may be permitted to claim that this thesis constitutes an original contribution to social anthropology, in as much as, it is a field-study of a people about whom not much is known and what is known is not often reliable. I may also claim, that it is an attempt to study and interpret the social life of an Indian Tribe, with the aid of the concepts of modern social anthropology. This is evident especially in the Chapters on kinship and on religion and witchcraft.

In the analysis of my data, I have benefitted considerably from concepts developed by the British School of Social Anthropology - particularly as I indebted to late professors Hainsworth and Radcliffe - Brown, their students and colleagues.

I am indebted to the U.C. University of Baroda for grants enabling me to undertake the fieldwork and to the Professor of Sociology, for kind permission to work on my thesis, during my Research Assistantship in his Department. A detailed acknowledgment of indebtedness has been deliberately omitted, as irrelevant at this stage, but will be made later.

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Y.V.S.Nath.