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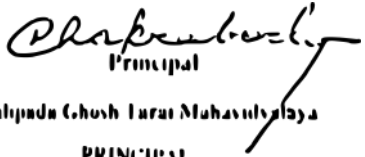
Kalpada Ghosh Tarai Mahavidyalaya

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Bardhaman

Ethnic Culture & Literature

(Part-II)

Edited by
Naqui Ahmad John
Abul Foyes Md Malik


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Ethnic Culture and Literature (Part-II)

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Chapter 10	Ethnicity, Development and Conflict : A General Understanding - <i>Mr. Chinmoy Sarkar</i>	78
Chapter 11	Ethnic Politics in Assam : Conflict and Accommodation - <i>Miss Daisy Gohain</i>	87
Chapter 12	Reflection on Language and Decolonised mindset: Reading Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Franz Fanon and Ferdinand De Saussure - <i>Elizabeth Mize</i> - <i>Dr. David Pertin</i>	94
Chapter 13	A Study on the Diaspora in Indian English Literature - <i>Emon Sonowal</i>	102
Chapter 14	Ethnic Blood Bonds and White American Ideologies: A Study of Momaday's House Made of Dawn - <i>Gitali Neog</i>	108
Chapter 15	Cultural Alienation and Loss of Identity: An Analysis through some Select Poems of Northeast India - <i>Gongutree Gogoi</i>	114
Chapter 16	Depiction of native-colonizers conflict in Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing: A Chronicle of Ethnic Endeavors against colonialism - <i>Himadri Borah</i>	123
Chapter 17	A Study: Ethnic Culture and Literature in Assam with Special Reference to Bodo Kachari Identity Assertion - <i>Hirakjyoti Khakhlari</i>	131


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10

Ethnicity, Development and Conflict: A General Understanding

Mr. Chinmoy Sarkar

Introduction

An ethnic group is a 'people' that is defined by a common culture or national identity which sets it off from other groups. Sometimes, ethnicity is linked to a socially defined racial grouping, as it is among black Americans; but often it is based on cultural traditions that are not associated with physical traits such as distinction between the Irish-American ethnic group and the Italian-American ethnic group (Conklin, E. John: 1984). Ethnic groups are socially defined by language, religion, ancestry, life style, cultural traditions nationality and some time by physical features. The belongingness under any ethnic group is a kind of 'we feelings' which transfer from one generation to another through the process of socialization. And therefore we can say that ethnicity is an ascribed status rather than an achieved status. The similar national basis, religion, language and ritual-tradition of an ethnic group create borders in between other social groups and community, giving members of the ethnic group a sentiment of belongingness and identity and some time helping their own political and economic interest as well. Very simply an ethnicity is a group of people who basically share an identity, which is marked by a characteristic such as language, culture, leadership, or inhabited territory. One must understand that an ethnicity is, in essence, a social