



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI  
SHORT ABSTRACT OF THESIS



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Programme of Study : Ph.D.

Thesis Title: Prohibition on *Tipe*, Culture Change, and the Apatanis in Arunachal Pradesh

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Thesis Submitted to the Department/ Center : Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Date of completion of Thesis Viva-Voce Exam : 17 May 2022

Keywords for description of Thesis Work : Tattooing; *Tipe*; Culture Change; Modernity; Modernization; Decolonization; Apatanis, Aruanchal Pradesh

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This thesis explores various social events and associated complex relations surrounding the event of prohibition on *tipe* among the Apatanis in Arunachal Pradesh. The main contribution of the thesis lies in the changing contours of the idea of development and modernization constitutive of modernity. The categorical imperative is to interrogate the idea of modernity itself. In other words, the idea of modernity remains unsettled and contemporary researches continue to be engaged in this. This study is a contribution in the same direction as new methods of looking at the indigenous people, and studying their struggles and negotiations with modernity. Ethnography is critically embedded in the present study. The study on the Apatanis in their homeland of Ziro valley attempts to grasp the underlying causes of culture change and its transition. The dynamic interrelations between the economic, cultural, political and psychological factors have important implications for the changing patterns of the Apatani life. Developing the postcolonial and postmodern concepts of development, the thesis aims to move towards a new understanding of "modernity" and break the chains of "Western" civilizational discourse of studying community and/or knowledge. The field is where the theories are drawn from. The results have been drawn through an amalgamation of experiences shared by the respondents as well as the past research and theories surrounding the ideas of culture change, indigenous studies and the idea of modernity.