

CHAPTER 1

Prologue

The sociology of monsoon, as a concept, is increasingly being incubated and introspected as a text of research, and consequently the broader spectra of climate research in recent past, have indulged more space for community perception on culture and climate variability as well. Monsoon in India is not just a meteorological phenomenon; it's the perfect blending of emotion and aspiration, economy and sociology to millions across the culture. A monsoon sets late by 10 days has got an equivalence of a loss of around 17 millions of man days in Indian Agriculture, and beyond it, people start migrating from rural to urban areas leaving rural sociology with intense despotism and impoverishment. The delayed monsoon does damage not only to the production of crop, but also a reciprocal negation to the performance of industrial sector, trade and commerce as well. The organic linkage between monsoon and culture is something like the duet recital of *sharod-sitar*. From the era of Vedas, passing through the epoch of *meghdutam*, down to the modern age and time, monsoon and sociology is just a musical

didactic, the income and livelihood, the festivals and deities, the belief and praxis. All are being elegantly nurtured by the dialogues of monsoon.

The present research is a benign attempt to correlate monsoon with livelihood, income, migration, festivals, productivity and, with this elements of mettle, a set of axioms shall be defended with the following objectives.

OBJECTIVE

The present research has got the following objectives for proper justification of the topic and for bringing out the expected outcome-

- The analysis of pattern of monsoon rainfall over a period of 100 years. (only in West Bengal region).
- Identification of factors and their interaction with monsoon rainfall in terms of sociological components and functions.
- Generation of participatory data as to estimate the nature and impact of monsoon rainfall on the socio-cultural, agro-economic and techno managerial aspects.
- To generate micro level policies based on the empirical data in order to delineate the possible interventions to deal with the sociology of monsoon.