

imitate them without knowing or understanding any meaning or thought pregnant in the names.

It may be argued whether the names are connotative or not but who can refuse their cultural significance or their bearing on the cultural life of society. The bulk of a particular type of names may signify the preponderance of certain customs or predominance of some cults and traits in a society. We are primarily concerned with this factor in our study on the personal names in the Gupta inscriptions.

In the study of the geographical names we are not only concerned with their identification but also with their origin, cultural significance as well as the linguistic changes. The geographical names may represent the important personages, social beliefs in a society and its cultural habitat. The present work aims at the following objectives.

- (i) To ascertain the historical facts proved by other evidence;
- (ii) To correctly check up certain disputed readings in the inscriptions;
- (iii) To correctly interpret some disputed passages in the inscriptions;
- (iv) To accord a scientific tinge to already known material on the tribes as well as the place-names in the light of the new material published through a number of monographs on the subject.

The works on personal names are very few. In India a work of the type of *Your Baby's name* by Maxwell Nurnberg and Morris Rosenblum, has yet to be carried out, where the original history of English names has been worked out, statistics are given of its use by estimated number of people and ranked accordingly and the connotations given along with the citations from literature. The names for the boys and girls have also been classified separately.

The present study, originally a doctoral thesis accepted by the Banaras Hindu University in 1968, seeks to discuss separately different name-patterns with regard to personal names, names of tribes, places, rivers and mountains, though in a modest way. I owe special gratitude to Dr. V.S. Pathak of the Gorakhpur University and Dr.L. Gopal of the Banaras Hindu University, who helped me through this work. I feel highly obliged to