

### **Report on Workshop On Manuscriptology (14<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> June,2019)**

A workshop on Manuscriptology (Reading Manuscript) was organized by National Mission for Manuscripts, Manuscript Conservation Centre at the Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University, Assam. As there is very less knowledge about old Assamese scripts among people, the importance of the workshop is manifold. Old knowledge base is stored in the form of manuscripts among others, and thus the knowledge about the old scripts and language becomes very necessary for safeguarding this vast knowledge base and also for the field of textual criticism. Thus, the workshop was organized with the aim of imparting basic knowledge on old Assamese scripts and techniques of deciphering the manuscripts. Participants were mainly the people who are directly or indirectly associated with the field of Assamese language and manuscripts.

The workshop started with the welcome address by Dr. Debarshi Prasad Nath, Head, Dept. of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University which was then followed by elaborating the purpose of the workshop by Dr. Subhra Devi, Co-ordinator, NMM, MCC, Tezpur University. The other guests included Dr. Mukesh Saikia, Librarian, Tezpur University, Dr. Amia Pator Head, Dept. of Assamese, Nagaon Girls College and Rajiv Kairi, Cultural Development Officer, Jyoti Bharati, Tezpur. The inaugural session was concluded by the vote of thanks addressed by Dr. Juri Gogoi Konwar, Assistant Professor at Dept. of Cultural Studies and ADSW, Tezpur University. The resource person for the workshop was Mr. Bhaskar Bordoloi, Tezpur and a total of 15 participants from Tezpur University, Nagaon Girls College, Nagaon and THB College, Jamuguri took part in the workshop.

The workshop began with general discussion on script and historical background of evolution of Assamese language. It was then followed by identification and comparison of old and new number systems where the participants were given the materials for reference from which they have to practice the exercise. Based on this exercise, the participants were told to do pagination for some manuscripts from the center which was then verified by the resource person. Similarly, for being able to read the manuscript, the participants were given the scanned copies of some photos of loose folios from where they need to write down whatever they have understood. Later on, the alphabets used in old Assamese scripts were discussed by the resource person and the practical exercise was repeated. The workshop ended with the certificate distribution ceremony.



Prof. D. P. Nath, Head, Department of Cultural Studies, TU welcoming the guests and participants



Parts of the participants



Parts of the participants



During practical exercise in the workshop





During practical exercise in the workshop (original sanchipat manuscripts were arranged according to page)



Mr. Mukesh Saikia, Librarian, TU speaking on the inaugural session



Dr. Juri Gogoi Konwatr, Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural Studies, TU offering vote of thanks.