



CHANDRAPRABHA SAIKIANI
(1901-1972)

PRIDE OF ASSAM

PIONEER OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

"BREAK THE SHACKLES"

WITH THE

OPEN MIND

VARTA The News

2010 - 2022

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
Tezpur University



2010-2022



VARTA The News

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Tezpur University

(A Central University)

Message from the Vice - Chancellor



Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, anchored in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in our university, has been functioning since nearly a decade. The Centre has been consistently working for the cause of women empowerment and their rights by means of teaching, research, advocacy and extension activities over the years. At present, the Centre offers CBCS Courses for various departments as well as PG Diploma Programme in Women Studies, and is now trying to expand the scope of its academic programmes. The Centre conducts various workshops, seminars and training programmes in the areas of contemporary importance, e.g. gender sensitization, gender inequality, capacity building of women managers, women issues in northeast, security for women at workplace, gender teaching, domestic violence and legislation, etc. It also regularly organizes lecture series on various issues related to women, in which quality talks are delivered by prominent personalities in the domain. The Centre has been able to publish a good number of books, book chapters, monographs and newsletters with its limited number of faculty and staff members. The students, faculty members, researchers and different stakeholders are immensely benefitted by the initiatives taken by the Centre.

I hope that the Centre evolves into an entity of considerable reckoning and continue to work in the light of its mandated goals as desired not only by the Government, but also by the society at large.

V. K. Jain
Vice-Chancellor
Tezpur University



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Message from the Registrar



It is my pleasure to note that the Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies has been striving to work with the women issues through academic and extension initiatives as evidenced by its activities such as – seminars, workshops, training programmes and talks, apart from its academic courses in the form of CBCS and PG Diploma programme. The Centre has also been conducting various awareness programmes for the University fraternity as well as the society outside the university walls. Women issues being one of the prime agendas of the Government of India, the area has got significant momentum in terms of evolution over the period of time. Taking advantage of the same, I hope, the Centre for Women Studies in the higher education institutions in India would put more efforts in establishing themselves as a Centre for Academic Excellence and Research. May our Centre for Women Studies take the lead in this regard.

I hope the Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies will be able to achieve its targeted goals well in time, and benefit the academic fraternity as well as the society in practice.

Biren Das
Registrar
Tezpur University



Tezpur University

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Message from the Head, WSC



This is the first consolidated report of the concerns and activities of the Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies for the term 2010-2022. This also entails in the journey of women studies in Tezpur University. The establishment of this new subject 'Women Studies' indeed has been a new identity within the existing disciplines. Women Studies is a self-conscious determination to show that both the form and the content of the existing knowledge is related to the unequal distribution of social power between men and women.

The centre tries to create a balance between the University Grants Commission's mandate of teaching, research and extension on one hand and the distinctiveness of women studies as an area within the academy on the other. The ultimate task is to bring a change in prevailing social attitudes, enhance collaboration between disciplines, produce new knowledge, and contribute to the north-east Indian experience through activism and research.

North-east India being a region of diversities, positions women differently in terms of race, class, ethnicity and sexuality. This politics of difference is a major proposition in the current times as it calls into question ideas of immediate and transparent personal experience and face to face community interaction.

At present, the center has a fundamental obligation of disseminating women studies scholarship and also to be an active participant in politically-oriented dialogue. It is our pleasure to record our sincere gratitude to the University for its unstinted support at every stage of its evolution and development.

We hope with new leadership and vision of the honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain the centre will reach its zenith, in the forthcoming years.

Madhurima Goswami
Head
WSC, Tezpur University



Bust Inauguration on 16th March, 2013 by former Vice Chancellor M.K. Chaudhuri



Tribute by Controller of Examinations, Dr. Lakhi Boral on 16th of March, 2018

Chandraprabha Saikiani

Chandraprabha Saikiani was born on (16th March, 1901) to Ratiram Majumdar and Gangapriya in the remote village of Doisingimari in Bajali, Kamrup district of, Assam. During her lifetime she left the mark in the history of Assam with her effort to obliterate women from the darkness. Saikiani with her endless endeavour in promoting women's education, women's right and justice empowered the women folk of Assam.

She had taken her primary education in a boys school overcoming the obstacle of not having a girls' school in her village. Saikiani opened a girl's school in her village and also encouraged the girls to study in the school. In her early life she could understand the importance of education for better future of the girls. The first major concern of Saikiani was the right to the education for which she continued her studies after primary education in Nagaon Mission School, 1915. After that she devoted herself to teaching for many years, first in Nagaon and later in Tezpur. Chandraprabha was not only trained as a primary school teacher but also got first-hand experience in social work. Saikiani established 'Tezpur Mahila Samiti' in 1919 and 'Assam Mahila Samiti' in 1926. Chandraprabha with her foresightedness and activeness was able to bring Mahila Samiti up to the mark of National organizations. Her skillful planning helped women of all colour, caste and class to work in same wave for empowerment. She opened branches of Mahila Samiti in different districts of Assam. Saikiani was the first women of Assam who publicly raised her voice breaking the silence and encouraged many others to do so. Assam Pradeshik Mahila Samiti (1926) was the platform framed by Saikiani to raise the voice for women's right to education, widow remarriage, abolish child marriage, purdah, untouchability.

Chandraprabha was not accepted by her husband and her family because she was from a lower caste, but gave birth to her son Atul and raised him against various adversaries of life and society.

Saikiani wrote various articles, short stories and poems. Chandraprabha Saikiani through her writings tried to sensitize women of Assam on different social issues. Her feminist ideology is strongly reflected in her writings.



Some of her important writings are Akul Pathik (1923), Devi(1921), Daibhagya Duhita(1937), Pitri Bhitha (1937). Some of the stories and novels of Saikiani remained unpublished. Saikiani had fair awareness of global feminism and had introduced such ideas to the women of Assam and in a way that inspired the women folk to struggle for their rights.

Chandraprabha was influenced by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and was an active participant of the National Movement like the Civil Disobedience movement, Satyagraha, etc.

Chandraprabha Saikiani was the first Assamese woman to be nominated as a candidate in the Legislative Elections of 1957. Though she lost the elections, it did not dampen her revolutionary spirit towards women's participation in politics.

Chandraprabha Saikiani died on 16th March, 1972. On 24th March 1972, the Government of India awarded her the coveted Padmashree, in recognition of the contributions she made towards welfare of the society.

The Centre

Inception

The University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi approved the proposal no.F.40-13/ (2005) (GA-1) (Vol.II)/5069 dated 21.09.2009 for the establishment of Women's Studies Centre (WSC) in Tezpur University.

Continuation

The University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi approved the proposal no. F. No7-1/2012(W.S) dated 6th of the March 2012 for continuation of WSC of Tezpur university. The UGC has also revised the pattern of positions and financial assistance for WSC, TU.

Vision

The CSCWS will function as a centre to coordinate and promote studies on women belonging to the diverse socio-cultural milieu of a multicultural North East India and the assimilation of women from marginalized tribal / non-tribal and ethnic groups through outreach activities such as field study, advocacy, workshops to enhance awareness and to train manpower to conduct research



in women studies. The centre shall connect, coordinate and construct a community of women who would significantly contribute towards meeting objectives of gender sensitization and empowerment in this region.

Mission : To aim for gender justice in the society.

Location : The centre is currently located in the Academic Building I.

Success stories

- ✓ The students passing out of PG Diploma in Women Studies are admitted into Ph.D., M.A. Programme in the top universities of Assam.
- ✓ The knowledge gained by the students through the CBCS Women's Studies course and PG Diploma in Womens Studies helped them to acquire the critical thinking on women related issues that helped them for their further academic research.
- ✓ The Computer training programmes, workshops and extension activities conducted by the centre among the grass root women of the community helped them to sensitize on different gender related issues.

Strategies

Partnership: The Centre is under phase I (It has not partnered with any Phase II or phase III Centres).

Clustering With other Departments of the University

The Centre regularly interacts and works with other departments and schools, especially with the departments that come under the umbrella of Humanities and Social Sciences and also Business Administration.

The faculties of different departments like Cultural Studies, Sociology, Education, English and Foreign Languages, Mass Communication and Dept. of Law help in taking classes as well as in organizing different activities in the Centre.

With Centres of other Universities

Experts from Women Studies Centres of India usually visit the centre for attending seminars/workshops/ talks from its inception. Some important centres that have direct contact with CSCWS are Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, Department of Women Studies, Alagappa University, School for Women Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Anveshi Research Centre for Women Studies, Hyderabad, Women Studies Centre, Tripura University, Women studies Centre, Gauhati University, Women Studies Centre, Dibrugarh University, Women Study Centre, Kolkata University, Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Women Studies Centre, Pune, Centre for Women Studies, Hyderabad University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Gachibowli, Hyderabad etc.

With Colleges/School outside the University

The Centre often interacts with local colleges like Darrang College, Tezpur Law College and Tezpur College so that they can participate in the activities organized by the Centre.

The centre also interacts with different schools like Gurukul School, St. Joseph's Convent, Girls High School around Tezpur and had organised the gender sensitization programmes among the students as well as teachers of those schools.

With Centres within the University

The Centre also interacts and collaborates with different Cells like Equal Opportunity Cell and other departments in the university for organizing different activities.

The Committees

Advisory Committee


1.	Prof. V. K. Jain, Vice Chancellor	Chairperson
2.	Prof. Shiela Bora, Retd. Prof. of History, Dibrugarh University	Memembr
3.	Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, Tezpur University	Memembr
4.	Prof. Farhina Danta, Dean, School of Humanities & Social Science, Tezpur University	Memembr
5.	Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, CSCWS	Member – Scretary

Standing Committee

1.	Prof. Farhina Danta, Dean, School of Humanities & Social Science, Tezpur University	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, CSCWS, Tezpur University	Convener
3.	Dr. Shravani Biswas, Associate Prof. Dept of EFL, Tezpur University	Memembr
4.	Dr. Papori Barua, Prof. Dept of MBA, Tezpur University	Memembr
5.	Dr. Hemjyoti Medhi, Associate Professor, Dept. of EFL, Tezpur University	Member

Editorial Board

1.	Prof. Debarshi Prasad Nath, Dept of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University	Member
2.	Prof. Chandan Kumar Sarma, Dept of Sociology, Tezpur University	Convener
3.	Dr. Nirmali Goswami, Asst. Prof. Dept of Sociology, Tezpur University	Memembr



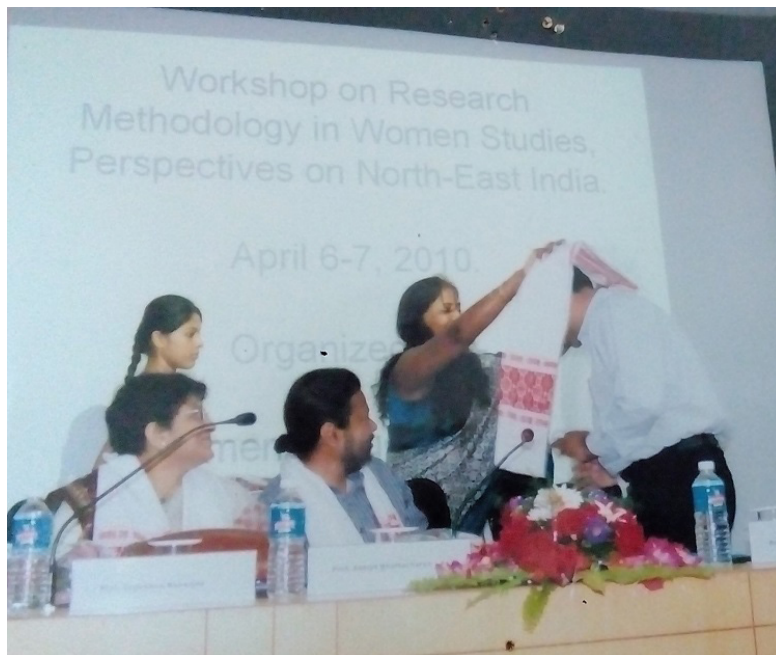
2010-2014

Activities

Trainings/Workshops/Seminars

A two days workshop on Research Methodology in Women Studies, 2010

A two days workshop on "Research Methodology in Women Studies: Perspectives on North-East India" was organized by the Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University from 6th to 7th April, 2010. In the inaugural session, Prof. Madhumita Barborá welcomed the resource persons, participants and other invited guests to the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Amarjyoti Choudhury, the Pro.Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University. In his inaugural speech Prof. Choudhury commented on the significance of Research in Women's Studies and Tezpur University's commitment to affirmative action and equal opportunities. Prof. Sudeshna Bannerjee, Women's Studies Centre, Jadavpur University, appreciated the facilities, the infrastructure and hospitality of Tezpur University and also expressed the hope that the WSC in Tezpur University will be a thriving one.



Mr. Abhijit Bhattacharya, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, stressed the importance of documentation and archiving and said that its importance should be realized in the initial stage of a centre.

Prof. Aparna Mahanta, former Director, Women's Studies Centre, Dibrugarh University, complimented Tezpur University for crossing the first hurdle and setting up the WSC. However, she urged the university not to see the WSC as a separate unit but as an integral part of it. The WSC needs to play a crucial role in redefining the University system with a gendered perspective.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Sudeshna Bannerjee. She gave a historical perspective on the feminist movement; the phases it covered from the liberal to radical feminism; methodologies ranging from "add and stir" method to methodologies of "difference"; from "stand point epistemologies" to "post-modern position". She emphasized that the "category woman" needs to be contested and North East India with its ethnic and cultural differences may emerge as a challenging field to do further research. Prof. Aparna Mahanta delivered a talk on the history of WSC under UGC. She said that intellectual investment in the WSC came directly from Women's movement in India. Monisha Behel from North East Network (NGO) also shared her field experience while working in Nagaland for three years. Ms. Monomoti Kurmi shared her experience as an NGO worker working for a literary campaign among the tea tribes of Sonitpur district. On 7th April, 2010, Mr. Abhijit Bhattacharjee offered a presentation on Digital Humanities. Speaking about Walter Benjamin's archive he said that it is important to collect, classify and record data in a systematic manner from an initial stage of any centre especially a Women Studies Centre because when it comes to women the official and historical records are often silent. Archives should be interdisciplinary and dynamic enough to accommodate different interpretations of different readers and researchers from any age. In the discussion that followed, Prof. Sudeshna Bannerjee spoke about the visibility and accessibility of the archive. She also emphasized the importance of the backup documents and field notes, or the raw data and the multiple voices in which the archive will speak.

Shrabonti Bandopadhyaya presented a paper on the project “Photos of Women/Women in Photos: The Photographic Worlds of Urban Bengali Middle Class Women: A Digital Archive Effort”. The project is archiving photographs and photographic materials with a focus on representations of Bengali urban middle-class women in photographs, inside family albums and in various other types of photographic representations that circulate within families, social groups and kinship circles. In the panel discussion Dr. Papori Baruah spoke on women and NGOs; Dr. Shashi Baruah shared her experience on working with women in eradication of malaria; Prof. Madhumita Barbora spoke on women and language and Dr. Madhurima Goswami spoke on role of women in rituals of ethnic communities.

A two days workshop on “Many Faces of Gender Inequality”, 2011

A two days workshop on “Many Faces of Gender Inequality” was held by the Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Cell, Tezpur University on 18th-19th November, 2011. Fifty students from the Departments of Sociology and Cultural Studies participated in the two days long workshop. The workshop was inaugurated with the felicitation of the guests. Prof. Sucheta Sen delivered the keynote address on Land Rights and the Women of North East India. Talks were delivered by Prof. Sucheta Sen, Prof. Indranee Dutta, Dr. Debarshi Prasad Nath, Dr. Suryasikha Pathak, Dr. Saswati Choudhury and Mr. Moulinath Senapati on various aspects of Gender Inequality.

A competition was held on the basis of presentations made by the students and research scholars. The First Prize was bagged by Farzee Kashyap and Group skit “Blood on my skirt” from the Department of Sociology, Uttara Kalita and Group’s presentation “Women in everyday life” and Bornali and Group’s presentation “Why my body is your business?” from the department of Cultural Studies won the second and third prize respectively. The winners were awarded cash prizes and all the participants were awarded certificates.



A workshop on “Women Studies as an Academic Discipline”, 2012

A workshop on “Women Studies as an Academic Discipline” was held on 6th -7th of March 2012. Participants from various colleges and universities attended the workshop.



The resource persons were Prof Samita Sen, Director Women Studies Centre, Jadavpur University and Prof. Illina Sen, President IAWS, Delhi. The topic delivered in different sessions was on the issues like History of Indian women’s struggle, Feminist’s methodology, and Issues in women studies. She also discussed her paper - ‘Space within struggle and her interpretations on the various women movements that had taken place in India.



“Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education”, 2012



CSCWS organised a 5 day workshop on “Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education” from 3rd September to 7th September 2012 at Tezpur University. The workshop was held within a UGC directed project Sensitivity/ Awareness/Motivation (SAM) – A mirror, an introspectory kind of workshop calling the women participants for self-introspection to change and focus on forming a network of empowered women with managerial and capacity building skills. There were 35 participants in the workshop. Prof. Padma Ramachandran, IAS and Prof. Streamlet Dkhar, NEHU Shillong, were present as resource person to give insight about the workshop. Formal inauguration was done by the Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University with his thought provoking speech.

“A political struggle that does not have women at the heart of it, above it, below it, and within it is no struggle at all.”
 – Arundhati Roy, Author

Two days seminar on “Aging in North East India”, 2013



Two days seminar on Aging in North East India was held on October 1st and 2nd, 2013, in collaboration with Equal Opportunity Cell, Tezpur University. On the first day Prof. Shie-la Bora, former Professor of Dibrugarh University delivered a lecture on ‘Gender and Ageing’. She focused on the different concepts of “old” that go beyond the chronological age. She said, old age as a social construct is often associated with change of social roles and activities. She also delivered on different gender compositions of aging as how physical, mental and social status of men and women in old age is rooted in the gender context throughout their lives. Dr. Chandana Sharma, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology spoke on “Aging in Assam: An Overview” Dr. Hemjyoti Medhi, delivered lecture on the concept of Gerontology and the importance of Gerontological research

with reference to gender in current situation of India as well as Assam. Dr. Kamal Narayan Kalita, Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry, LGB Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur spoke on “How Healthy is Normal Aging” and different categories of aging such as chronological age, biological age, mental age, psychological age, functional age, social age and legal age. He focused on mental and physical effects of Aging and on various medical measures of successful and healthy aging. Dr. Shobhana H, Assistant Professor of Department of Psychiatric Social work, LGBRIMH, Tezpur spoke on “Psychosocial Aspects of Older Persons” and socio cultural impact on Aging as myth and stereotypes related to aging in the Society. Students of Tezpur University from different departments also presented papers based on aging in North East India.

“We shall overcome and success will be ours in the future. The future belongs to us.”

- Savitribai Phule, social reformer and India’s first female teacher

Gender Sensitization in St. Joseph Convent Higher Secondary School in Tezpur, 2014

One day Workshop was organized on Gender sensitization in St. Joseph's Convent Higher Secondary School, Tezpur on the eve of death and birth anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani (15th March 2014). Forty students of St. Joseph's Convent Higher Secondary School actively participated in the workshop. CBCT students of Women's Studies presented skits on different issues related to women, especially on gender crime and domestic violence.



A short life history of Chandraprabha Saikiani was also delivered in the workshop. Write-ups were also distributed amongst the students for generating awareness.



In the Indian context, safety of women employees needs to be implemented along with giving them a voice to voice their concerns.

-Kanika Tekriwal

National seminar on “Aging in India with special Reference to North East India”, 2014

National seminar on Aging in India with special Reference to North East India was organized in collaboration with Equal Opportunity Cell, Tezpur University on 22nd and 23rd March 2014. Prof. Irudaya S. Rajan, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala delivered keynote address in the seminar. Prof. Rajan on “An Aging India?” provided a detailed analysis of the demographic structure of India, by making a comprehensive study of the age structure of India of the mid-20th century and 21st century. Professor Moneer Alam, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, on “Aging Issues in Contemporary India and Assam: What Do Their Data Reveal?” discussed on the



several theoretical approaches to the study of population. He emphasized on the scenario of Assam and argued that a large section of the elderly in Assam is below poverty line, so governmental schemes should be properly implemented. Dr. Polly Vauquiline, Assistant Professor, Department of Women Studies, Gauhati University on “Aging and Gender” discussed about aging and the concept of gender. She focused on the importance of the study of aging as an issue of concern for the policy makers, central administration, state government, voluntary organizations, and civil society. Jugabrata Dutta, Social activist talked about the concept of old age homes in Assam. She shared some narratives of women living in old age home from her own experiences as a member of Assam’s oldest old age home, Amar Ghar, Guwahat. Dr. Rajiv Doley, Director, Centre for Inclusive development, Tezpur University on “The Aged in the Mising Society: Liability or Opportunity?” presented a paper highlighting the aged in the Mising society. Sanjib Sahoo, Assistant Professor of Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University on ‘Dammed by Reverence Old Age and Unpaid Labour in India’ mentioned as to how society constructs particular roles and expect from the aged people basically the elderly women. He also mentioned how the aged are portrayed in literature stereotypically. Dr. Bikash Deka, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University on ‘Economic and Health Status of the Elderly in Assam’ presented how the developing world is facing the process of demographic changes.

Dr. Bala Lakhendra, Assistant Professor of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University presented on how and to what extent media provides space to the elderly. Dr. Markynti Swer, NEHU, Shillong on ‘Study of Population Aging in Tribal and Non-Tribal Dominance of North East Region in India: A geographical Perspective’ presented the patterns of aging in areas of tribal dominance and non – tribal dominance. A good number of papers were presented by the students and research scholars from Tezpur University and various other universities based on the theme “Aging in India”.

“As women, we must stand up for ourselves. We must stand up for each other. We must stand up for justice for all.”
– Michelle Obama, Former First Lady, USA

Workshop on “Security for Women at Workplace”, 2014



An awareness-cum-interaction programme was organized by the Centre on “Security for Women at Workplace” on 26th May, 2014. The awareness program was organized in the wake of Dr. Sarita Toshniwal who was murdered in the Assam Medical College Hospital. The interaction raised many questions of security for the girl students and the working women.



“Capacity Building Programme on Women Leadership and Participation”, 2014



Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies in collaboration with National Service Scheme, Tezpur University organised two days training programme on 'Capacity Building Programme on Women Leadership and Participation' sponsored by Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development, Tamil Nadu on 27/11/2014 and 28/11/2014. Forty women from different Gaon Panchayats of Tezpur participated in the programme. The participants were from Amolapam Gaon Panchayat, Napaam Gaon Panchayat and Panchmile Gaon Panchayat. Women leaders like President of Tezpur Zila Parishad, Jeuti Mahila Samiti and some other members of Tezpur Zila Parishad were included among the forty participants. Prof Chandana Goswami, Dept. of Business Administration, Tezpur University inaugurated the programme with her speech on the image of women in the society and women's suffering. She described the qualities required by the women to maintain the status of equality in the society. Dr. Suchibrata Goswami, IPR Cell, Tezpur University spoke on "Social Construction of Gender" and the gender roles that are assigned by the society to the women. She mentioned that women are discriminated both in public as well as private sphere. She tried to sensitize the participants with some activities as they were given some meaningful photographs and asked to prepare a drama on the theme. Hema Das, Director, The East NGO had transacted strategies and activities with the participants to understand 'Promoting Women's Lead-

ership and Participation'. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, CSCWS, Tezpur University on the "Dynamics of Decision making" spoke about the women who lack self-confidence, knowledge and skill due to the socialisation process where women are thought to be docile and submissive. She gave some topics to the participants and asked them to reflect upon them. Dr. Jaya Chakravarty, Dept of Mass Communication and Journalism focussed on "Role of Women Leaders in Promoting Good Governance" and gender inequalities in the society. She disseminated some topics among the groups. As a task participants were asked to chalk out actions and choices that they would prefer in the society. The participants narrated accounts of 'Who am I' to reveal their identities. Role play was enacted on the topics as adult education, child labour, infanticide, girl's education, child marriage. Dr. Madhurima Goswami spoke on development planning and budgeting stressed on understanding of principles of responsible investment and as to how it can help them in developing small scale industries and also self-help groups at a micro level. Prof. Sunil Kr Dutta, Head Dept. of Mass Communication and journalism spoke on the valedictory session on women's contribution in contemporary society and also appreciated the participant's sincerity and involvement towards the mission. Finally, Prof. Dutta spoke on the importance of such programmes and distributed the certificates.

Advocacy

On 15th of September 2011 Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology had organized an advocacy programme, titled "What does Gender mean?". Prof. Maitrayee Chaudhuri, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU, New Delhi, in her deliberation on 'what does gender mean?' highlighted the everyday interpretation of the term Gender. She focused on gender as central analytical category rather than focusing on women as a subject. Very lucidly she contextualized the common sense interpretation of gender and the different roles associated with everyday use of the gender studies from women's movement and the juxtaposition of both women studies and gender studies. The flight from little representation to saturation was embedded in her talk. This program was attended by the students, research scholars, faculty members of Tezpur University as well as members of civil societies of Tezpur. Video presentations were shown to participants.

Prof. Maitrayee Chaudhuri mentioned globalization and its omnipresence in everyday life vis-à-vis and its impact on gender. The significance of media and the objectification of beauty through advertisements both in print and visual media were also harped upon. In that way participants can be aware of different issues related to women studies. Participants could understand the importance of women's studies in university set up.

A one day advocacy programme was organised in Naapam area of Tezpur on "Women's Right" in collaboration with Adhaar (NGO) on 8th march 2013. The programme focused on the issues related to women and legal rights. This program helped the local women from minority community of Napaam, Sonitpur to understand their legal rights with respect to the Sharia laws along with Indian civil law.

The resource person was Senior Advocate Shri Jamini Baishya who spoke on Domestic Violence Act and the Divorce Act for the benefit of the local minority women.

It gave the participants an opportunity to express their grievances and receive advices from experts so that they know how to go about during any legal inquiry and legal assistance needed in future.

A one-day advocacy programme was organised in the University on the theme "Violence Against Women" in collaboration with THE EAST, NGO on 13th March, 2013.

The program was targeted at Tezpur University post graduate students and women community leaders of Sonitpur District. In the program, the community leaders narrated their experiences of violence and discrimination and also how they managed to come out of it.

Various audio/visual documentaries were shown to the participants on "Violence against Women".

This program helped the students to understand the real situation and to tackle such problems in the society.

The CSCWS, commemorated the birth and death anniversary of Padmashri Chandrabhabha Saikiani on 16th of March, 2012 at Chandrabhabha Saikiani Bhawan.

This programme was attended by the students, research scholars, faculty members of Tezpur University as well as members of the civil organizations of Tezpur.

A monograph on Saikiani was taken out on the occasion. A talk by Prof Anuradha Dutta on "Life and Times of Chandrabhabha Saikiani" was also organised on the occasion.



The research scholars presented a musical rendition of the poems by Chandraprabha Saikiani. Noted social worker Meenakshi Bhuyan spoke on Saikiani and her movement in Tezpur in 1919 and the emergence of many Mahila Samities in Assam on the occasion.

This one day program helped the participants to learn about the contribution of Chandraprabha Saikiani towards women's empowerment and Indian National Movement.



Hon'ble Justice of Gauhati High Court Iqbal Ahmed Ansari delivered a talk on "Women and Law Reforms" on 16th March 2013. Post graduate students, research scholars and faculty members of Tezpur University, students and faculties from Tezpur College, Darrang College, Members of Tezpur Mahila Samiti were present during the programme. Following the talk of Justice Ansari, feminist and noted writer of Assam, Smt. Nirupama Borgohain also shared her life experiences, and released the monograph on Saikiani. The talk helped the participants to be aware of the laws related to various issues of women and its changing dynamics.

Students of CBCT, Women Studies, Tezpur University gave poster presentations on life histories of Women's Studies on Veena Mazumdar and Sharmila Rege on 18th September 2013.

The poster presentation was attended by students and faculty members of Tezpur University.

The students presented the contributions of both the scholars in the field of Women Studies and their works in the poster presentations.



This poster presentation helped other students and faculty member to become aware of the contributions of these two eminent persons in the field of Women Studies. Dr. Rabin Deka, Associate Prof. Dept of Sociology threw light on the life and contributions of both the women in Indian academics.

Prof. Sucheta Sen Chaudhury, from Jharkhand University delivered a lecture on "Land Labour and Women" on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2014. The participants of the one day program were the students, research scholars, faculty members of Tezpur University and members of Pragati Women's Association.



The members of Pragati Women's Association also sang songs on the occasion. Prof. Charulata Mahanta, Dean Research and Development, Tezpur University, spoke on women and education scenario in India.

CBCT students of Women Studies presented drama, skits on different issues and themes like "Women and Sexual Violence", "Women and Domestic Violence" and "Women Rights", "Women and Education" etc.

The program helped in sensitization and raised awareness on above mentioned issues related to women.

Prof. Chandana Goswami, Dept. of Business Administration, Tezpur University delivered a talk on image of women in our society and their sufferings on 27th November 2014. Dr. Suchibrata Goswami, IPR Cell, Tezpur University spoke on "Social Construction of Gender". She emphasized the gender role that are assigned by the society to women and its impact on the status of women in the society. She mentioned that women are discriminated both in public as well as private sphere. She had tried to sensitize the participants with some activities as they were given some meaningful photographs and asked to prepare a drama on the theme. Hema Das, The East, NGO had transacted a series of activities with the participants to understand "Promoting Women's Leadership and Participation" on 27th November 2014. She made her transactions in a experimental way to make aware that how women in society are subjugated and ultimately fails in their aspirations. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, CSCWS, Tezpur University on "Dynamics of Decision making" talked about the women who lack self-confidence, knowledge and skill due to the socialisation process where women are thought to be docile and submissive. Dr. Jaya Chakravarty, Dept of Mass Communication and Journalism on "Role of Women Leaders in Promoting Good Governance" delivered her speech on gender inequalities in the society on 28th November 2014. She disseminated some topics like adult education, child labour, infanticide, girl's education, child marriage among the groups to chalk out actions and choices that they would prefer in the society and to prepare model of solutions with critical analysis. She then spoke on the importance of women rights and the various organisations working on it.

Dr. Madhurima Goswami spoke on development planning and budgeting. She stressed on understanding principles of responsible investment themselves in developing small scale industries and also self-help groups at a micro level. She also made them realise how gender budgeting can be effective by raising their voices in the Gaon Panchayat regarding their needs and demands in areas of health, education and sanitation.



The women participants were present from Amolapam Gaon Panchayat, Napaam Gaon Panchayat and Panchmile Gaon Panchayat. Women leaders like President of Tezpur Zila Parishad, Jeuti Mahila Samiti and some other members of Tezpur Zila Parishad were also present in the programme.

Participants shared their ignorance and the need for such training programmes to build their latent capacities. Prof. Sunil Kr Dutta, Head Dept of Mass Communication and Journalism spoke on the valedictory session on women's contribution in contemporary society and also appreciated the participant's sincerity and involvement towards the mission.

The talks helped the participants to be sensitised on different issues of women and various problems faced by them in the society. They learnt how to achieve leadership qualities and acquire confidence in their lives.


CSWS organized an awareness and sensitization program on 12th August, 2014 in the M.V. School, Napaam among the womenfolk of Amolapam. The working of women's organisation, specific women's issues like property rights, domestic violence and domestic labour was discussed.

The participants were the Women of Amolapam, Naapam area. Grass root women of Amolapam were informed about the objective and regulations of Mahila Samiti (Women Organisation of Assam) and other issues like property rights and domestic violence was also discussed.



"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

-G.D. Anderson

The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the ZPUA University logo. The logo is circular, with the text 'ZPUA UNIVERSITY' around the top half and a Sanskrit motto 'विज्ञानं यज्ञं तनुते' (Vignanam Yajnam Tanute) around the bottom half. In the center of the logo is a stylized atomic symbol with three electrons orbiting a central nucleus.

2015-2019

Activities

Trainings/Workshops/Seminars

Training programme on “Gender teaching: Pedagogical practices”, 2015



A one day training programme for high school teachers was organized on the topic- “Gender teaching: Pedagogical practices”, 16th March 2015. The Vice - Chancellor (Prof. M.K. Chaudhuri) inaugurated the training programme and spoke on gender inequality in education. A group of 47 teachers from Tezpur and Nagaon participated in the programme. A host of resource persons like Prof. M.M. Sarma, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Dr. Anjali Sharma and Dr. Yasmin Sultana, Department of Education, Dr. Mousumi Mahanta CSCWS, Dr.Swapnali Kakati, Department of English, Darrang College, Tezpur transacted during the sessions. The resource persons gave insights on gender biasness and gender disparity in teaching learning methods in the schools and the colleges. Further, they were asked to be sensitive while imparting the course contents to the students. Dr. Apurba Das from the department of Environmental Sciences added insights into the discussion. The participants suggested that more programs should be organized for the students and teachers in the future. Prof.Pradipjyoti Mahanta, Dean Humanities and Social Sciences also delivered a brief note on the awareness programmes of the centre.



“Domestic Violence and Legislation: A workshop to Raise Awareness”, 2015



“Domestic Violence and Legislation: A workshop to Raise Awareness” was organised by CSCWS on 22nd and 23rd September, 2015. Total no. of the participants was 50. They were member of Amolapam Mahila Samitee, Napaam Mahila Samitee, Tezpur University Students, Research Scholars and Faculties. The inaugural speech was by Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences. A brief inspiring lecture by Prof. Mahanta had enlightened all the participants. After the lecture of Prof. Mahanta, there was a short presentation by the students of Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies to figure out the aim of the workshop.

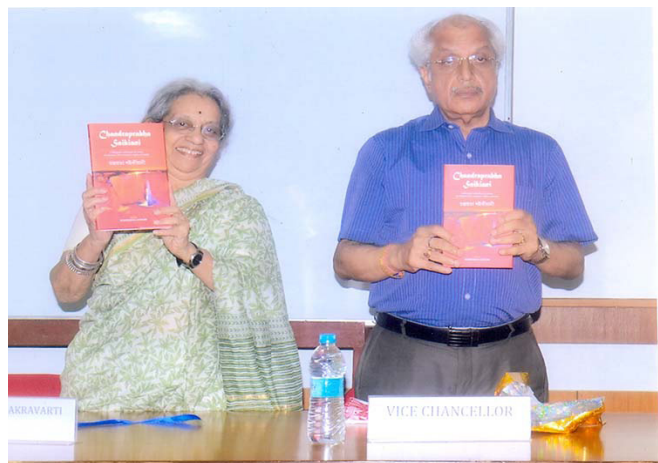
Prof. Mahfuza Rahman spoke on “Domestic violence and its nature and magnitudes”, explained about nature of the Indian women and its relation to domestic violence on their understanding in the last five decade. She described different forms of domestic violence including abusive behaviour. The session was very interactive and the resource person gave tasks to all the participants to perform a short skit and role play regarding women issues. The second session was followed by the senior advocate Jamini Baishya, District Session Court, Tezpur, illustrated on the topic domestic violence and legal framework. He talked about different legal acts for

women. He highlighted some special provisions of legislation for women and children. Dr. Arunjyoti Boruah, Head Psychiatric Nursing, LGBRIMH, laid emphasis on domestic violence and its impact on family, she also mentioned about the root cause of domestic violence which initially starts in the family. Three factors were given importance viz- Family, Violence and Mental Health. Junu Borah, a social activist delivered her session by pointing out the patriarchal dominance and the root cause of violence. She talked about her activities and experiences of working on domestic violence.

*I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.
... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.*

—Malala Yousafzai

Prof. Uma Chakravarti delivered a series of lecture, 2015



Prof. Uma Chakravarti delivered a series of lecture on the Question of women in India, Understanding feminism and its complexities, Caste and Patriarchy on 26th and 27th October, 2015. Chakravarti in her lecture focused on true meaning of feminism that mainly depends on equality not in hierarchy.

"We need women at all levels, including the top, to change the dynamic, reshape the conversation, to make sure women's voices are heard and heeded, not overlooked and ignored."

-Sheryl Sandberg

Status of Women Studies in North East India, 2015



Inaugural Session

A two day workshop was organised on “Status of Women Studies in North East India” on 26th -27th Nov, 2015 in collaboration with Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development. The participants were the members of Women Commission of Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam, Heads of Women Studies, Manipur University. Centres of Dibrugarh University, Gauhati University, Tripura University, RGU, Arunachal Pradesh and NGO activist of North East India. Prof. Indranee Mazumdar, CWDS delivered the key note address on status of women studies in India. Steering Committee was formed for further discussion and formation of Regional Association of Women’s Studies in North East India.

The welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University. In the introductory note she said that there is a total disquiet in the field of women studies in North East region. She emphasised that it is very important to make collaborations and network.

Prof. Bhupen Sarma, Director of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development

Prof. Bhupen Sarma, Director of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development very briefly introduced the main concept of the workshop. He mentioned the economic and political issues of North East Women. According to him the problems related to N.E. women were different. He also talked about the successful establishment of Womens Studies Centre in most Universities and Colleges of Assam during these days.

In the Inaugural session, Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Vice Chancellor welcomed the experts and the participants. He threw light on the status of women of North East India very briefly. According to him, the scenario of women in North East India is very unique. The concerns of the elite and educated women are mostly discussed leaving aside the voiceless and the ageing ones. He urged that a holistic approach is very necessary to understand the women’s question of North East India.

Prof. Indrani Mazumder, CWDS, Delhi

Prof. Indrani Mazumder, CWDS, Delhi started her lecture talking about the emergence of women studies in India. She said that the resurgence of Women Studies came with the women’s movement in 1980s. At that point of time there was a strong passion and urge to institutionalize Women Studies across India with an aim to empower women. There was a huge debate about the areas and its subject matter at that point of time.

Prof. Manorama Sharma, NEHU

Prof. Sharma, emphasized about the training programmes in women studies centre's where gender sensitisation programme, poverty allevation programme, gender justice issues were taken up. Other issues were violence against pregnant women and awareness programmes for disabled women.

Four very important elements which introduced women studies as a discipline are as follows:

- The resurgence of women's movement in 1980's and the distinctive female leadership.
- Towards equality report
- Being of feminist group (revolt against patriarchy)
- Impact of all these elements on the state, out of which women studies was born.

Major issues:

- Identification of decline of sex ratio which acts as the indicator.
- Long term decline of women issue.
- Laws of inequality.

The first phase of women studies was towards building research centres in universities to introduce the perspective of women studies. Demand for courses to bring students to these centres was a significant question along with the question for employment in these centres. The main aim and the moto of Indian women's movement widely differ from the west. Different ideological theories emerged for the greater social transformation. The movement in India included dowry, anti sati movement (Roop Kanwar Sati incident), mobilization of Muslim women to articulate their demand, equal rights, equal justice etc.

The aspect of women's work during 1980's was considered to be informal and was not taken into consideration. According to her this was another main issue of discussion regarding the feminization of labor. She talked about the rapid and voluntary change, which included the phase of aggression that emerged in the year 2000 in the minds of the new women. A new constituency of young and energetic women began to articulate. According to this phase honor killing, sexuality was largely repressed. Sexual issues had become relatively confined to a particular kind and it had failed to fulfil the expectations of young women. Rapid and volatile nature of change took place and social differences existed everywhere. Lastly statement was made about the women's participation rate which was lowest in Assam 12% and highest in Arunachal Pradesh 37%, Mizoram 32%, Manipur 24%, Nagaland 35%.

Prof. Aparna Mahanta, Dibrugarh University

Prof. Mahanta discussed her own experiences of being in WSC for over three decades. In February 1985 when she first attended a seminar on "ten years of women's movement" in SNDT University, Mumbai. The North East India first came into focus in the year 1986 with IAWS in Chandigarh with the presence of Dr. Madhuri Ben Shah. She mentioned that women's studies was first introduced out of towards equality report in the year 1975. Guwahati University was the first women studies centre in Assam established in the year 1985. She said that women studies cannot be isolated from other disciplines. Patriarchy can never be understood in isolation. She spoke about her experiences in Dibrugarh University where the Women Studies Centre had to suffer a lot due to lack of fund and co-ordination among the members. She also talked about the sense of alienation and reminded herself as the member of IAWS where she was alienated due to some regional differences. Regional specificities and the issues of marginalization was also a major concern. She also focused on skill development programme, mind-set of the people and process of globalization which makes women a sexual object. Women Studies Centre is now a narrow and metro polite centre in the minds of the people. She demanded that it must be developed as a department through the intervention of the government.

Daisy Bora Talukdar, Dibrugarh University

Prof. Daisy started the discussion with the establishment of Women Studies Centre in Dibrugarh University and its various issues and activities. The Centre for Women Studies, Dibrugarh University, is one of the U.G.C. approved Women Studies Centres in the country. It is the second such Centre in the North East region. It was established as a Centre (Project) in 1998 with a UGC grant under the IX Plan and received UGC approval in November 2004. From the beginning the Centre has been engaged in research, training, documentation, dissemination and extension work on issues relating to women and women's empowerment in the academic community and also in the wider society.

In the session 2005-06 the Centre has also started teaching activities by offering a one-year part time Post-graduate Certificate Course on Women's Studies (PGCCWS). This is the first course of Women Studies in the region. The centre has also introduced Ph.D. Programme in Women Studies from the Academic Session of 2009-2010.

The Centre has a well-stocked library with over 1202 books, documents and an archive of newspaper coverage on various women's issues.

Completed and ongoing research of Centre for Women Studies, Dibrugarh University

- Status of Working Women of Dibrugarh University. (Completed)
- Displacement and its impact on Women: A case Study of Dibrugarh District. (Completed)
- Conditions of the Institutional and Private Girls' Hostels: A Comparative Study of Dibrugarh University, Colleges, Assam Medical College and Three Private hostels. (Completed)
- The Educational Status of the Women of the Tea Garden Area: A Case Study of Barbaruah, Panitola and Lahoal Block of Dibrugarh District. (Completed)
- The functioning of Women's Studies Cells under the Centre for Women Studies, Dibrugarh University. (Completed)
- Socio Economic Survey of the Muslim women of the nearby Laluka Village, (Ongoing).
- Socio-economic status of Sonowal Kachari's Women of Dibrugarh, (Ongoing).
- Gender and Migration: Negotiating Rights: Women's Movement Perspective. A Project from Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, (Ongoing).

N. Pramodini, Manipur University

Dr. Pramodini mainly focused on the activities of the Women Studies Centre in Manipur University which came into existence in 2010 and it started functioning in 2011 June. The centre so far doesn't conduct any academic course. However some activities like workshops on the progress of women's development centre, one day talk in collaboration with Human Rights group, workshop on gender discrimination, gender sensitization, trafficking, and study on women vendors had been undertaken. She mainly focused on the orientation programmes of women studies. She gave her own experience of a sexual harassment case which had happened inside the campus in their university and later on the offender was terminated from the university.

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Tezpur University

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor of Chandra Prabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University, discussed about the establishment of Tezpur University's Women Studies Centre and its different objectives and actions. Chandraprabha Saikiani Center for Women Studies (CSCWS), Tezpur University was established in the year 2010. She discussed the objectives of the centre, i.e. to promote studies on women belonging to the diverse socio-cultural milieu of a multicultural North East India and the assimilation of women from marginalised tribal / non tribal and ethnic groups through outreach activities such as field study, advocacy, workshops to enhance awareness and to train manpower to conduct research in women studies.

The centre envisions to connect, coordinate and construct a community of women who would significantly contribute towards meeting the objectives of gender sensitization and empowerment in this region. She also mentioned some research activities done by the centre. Such as: A project funded by ICSSR, New Delhi is running from August 2015. Title: Women and Trafficking: A study of the Border Areas of Sonitpur District of Assam.

Dr. Syeda Sakira Sahin, Gauhati University

Dr. Shakira started her presentation with the establishment of Women Studies Department in Gauhati University, which was started in the year 2010. According to her women studies is an important discipline. They also have Ph.D. and M. Phil programmes. They have been working on the Interrogation.

Dr. Elizabeth Ehansing, Rajiv Gandhi University

Dr. Ehansing, Head, of Women Studies Centre at Rajiv Gandhi University stated that the centre was established in 5th September, 2009. The main activities of this centre are-

- Issues of rural women and experiences sharing at village such as Emchi, Daimukh etc.
- Gender awareness programs
- Women and education, customary law, health, women's participation in administration, environment development etc.

State Women Commissions

Session was presented by State Women Commissions of North East India, which was chaired by Monisha Behal, Director (NEN) NORTH EAST NETWORK. Each region was represented by Chairperson of the Commission and member secretary. Out of the seven states, three state commissions of Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam participated in the discussion.

The first group was represented by Purnima Roy and Aparna De of the State Women Commission of Tripura, and gave a presentation of their Commission's activities.

Activities of the Commission:

1. Arranging daily at least ten (10) nos. pre-litigation counselling to mitigate the marital/ family dispute that is solved through negotiation. As and when necessary, the Commission also arranges counselling sessions in different subdivision of the state.
2. Investigation of incidents of crime against women and taking follow up actions.
3. Organising Seminars/ workshops/ consultations/ Open forum discussions/ self-defence trainings for girls student/ legal awareness programmes/ mass awareness generation programmes for Mass Sensitization regarding women issues.
4. Visiting programs like- Girls Hostels/ Female wards in jail etc.
5. Arranging registration of marriage of those cases of marital dispute dissolved through counselling by the commission.
6. Arranging shelter for distressed/ deserted/ raped/physically assaulted women and girls.

Number of registered cases:

April 2013-March 2014-total no. 848

April 2012- March 2012-total no. 817

April 2011- March 2012-total no. 809

Awareness Generation Programmes:

1. Legal Awareness Camp- Visit to Girls Hostels/ govt/ non-govt. home for women/ connection centres.
2. Seminars/ workshops- Open Forum Discussion- self-defence trainings for girls students.

Some success stories of the commission:

1. Commission's earnest effort helped a widow in getting property right from in-laws.
2. Commission arranged for compensation and maintenance from the respondent after prolonged counselling.
3. The petitioner acquired back her ancestral property from respondent by the effort of commission.
4. Good relationship built through good advice of the commission.
5. Commission arranged education and safe shelter of a 11 years old child (rape victim).

Some publications

"JAGO NARI". Initially the newsletter had been published quarterly. Since 2012 it has been published monthly. The Commission has a collection of nearly 3,243 books at present covering different issues relating to women's development and other issues.

Assam State Commission for Women

Manideepa Borkakoti from Assam State Commission along with member secretary presented about the gender justices, counseling and assistance to help victims. She also highlighted about the victims and legal awareness programmes. The commission also had started witch hunting prohibition project in Kamrup metro, Kamrup rural, Sivasagar, Namrup, Golaghat, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh district etc. and also deals with socio- economic survey in these districts.

Measures to combat Trafficking:

The Assam State Commission for Women has been relentlessly working to create awareness against trafficking with the help of NGOs and take Suo-Moto case. Assam State Commission for Women co-operates with the NGOs in rehabilitation schemes like "Swadhar and Ujjwala" for trafficked victims undertaken by the Govt. through NGOs.

Steps taken for domestic violence:

As the number of Domestic Violence cases are rising at an alarming rate, the women commission took several measures to curb this issue. Organized meetings and workshops to curb the problem and to sensitize about the "Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act 2005 among the people. Close liaison with the Protection Officer (District Social Welfare Officer) and forward the Domestic Violence cases, which are lodged with the Commission for the needful action.

Meghalaya State Commission for Women

Gamchi T. R. Marak, chairperson and Thielin Phanbuh, member secretary of Meghalaya State Commission for women, in their presentation highlighted the Meghalaya State Commission for Women which was constituted in 2004. They have been regularly organizing seminars and workshops at the State and National level. Independent inquiries into violations of women's right and recommendations to the Government Authorities on findings of the Commission's visit to all the vulnerable areas in the State also have been conducted.

Meghalaya State Commission for Women has taken up many issues, activities and interventions to create awareness and sensitization programme to overcome many challenges. The Commission is open to network with all likeminded individuals, civil societies, institution, organizations and government agencies for achieving the hope and aspiration of women who are in need of assistance and services.

Initiatives and Interventions:

- Interactive programmes on issues related to women & children in different districts of Meghalaya.
- Leadership training and capacity building programme for adolescents girls.
- Meeting with various stakeholders to discuss and address the rising trend of crime against women and girls.
- Observing the campaign protesting violence against women.
- Visits to different institution (Government & Non-Government).
- Holding of public hearing twice a month and cases which need urgent hearing.
-

According to women commissions there should be perfect coordination among the stakeholders and the Women Studies Centres regarding the areas of their research work. The outcomes of the research should also be shared with the concerned departments and the websites of the organizations should be regularly updated and important information be disseminated.

Panel Discussion:

Topic was "Women Studies in North East India: Issues and Concerns", Chaired by Dr. Madhurima Goswami and the presenters were Abhijeet Sarma, IIBM, Amiya Sarma, RGVN and Arunima Deka, OKDISCD. The presenters presented their statistical data which was collected during their field work and was sourced from the Assam State Commission for Women. Their presentation was based on human development and they highlighted some key points like feminization of labour, gender discourse, market, family etc which was looked at from a gender lens.

They suggested the participants to use some methodologies for certain critical issues like domestic violence, sexual assault etc. The issues of women should be taken from the grass root level, activists etc and not only statics to data. They discussed about different rural women in Assam as well as of other parts of Assam. They mentioned about the Khasi Hills women's financial crisis through the practice of matrilineal society and how they face problems to run their households.

The institutionalization of marriage was also emphasized because without this women's rights are not protected and women's studies needs to critically engage in changing socio economic and political realities of the region.

As we know that the discussion was open for everyone, Dr. Aparna Mahanta raised questions on the statistical data which was provided by the presenter only in a general sense, because the total scenario was not captured by the decision maker. She mentioned about the language of "Gender" in a theoretical way.

The presentation ended with lots of questions by the participants. Finally, a steering committee was formed with members nominated from the gathering to form an association which will look at the diverse circumstances of women in the North – east and also to build the support for women studies in the region. The committee comprised of –

- i) Prof. Sheila Bora
- ii) Dr. Manisha Behal
- iii) Prof. Manorama Sharma
- iv) Prof. Daisy Bora Talukdar
- v) Manideepa Barkakoti
- vi) Dr. Madhurima Goswami
- vii) Dr. Shakira Syeda Sahin

The committee decided that for the first time the association can be named as Regional Association of Women Studies in North East India. The aims and objectives will be chalked out in the first formal meeting at Guwahati or Dibrugarh sometime in 2016. The meeting ended with appreciation from the participants.

The discussion ended with vote of thanks from the host organisation HOD, CSCWS Dr. Madhurima Goswami, who emphasized that the WSC should streamline their areas of activities. There is a continuous way of learning and unlearning facts in women studies discipline, which the centres should focus upon positively. The academic programmes in the universities, colleges and other organizations should incorporate N.E. women's issues in their curricula. The challenges that a WSC faces should also be addressed from time to time.

Legal Awareness Programme on Women, 2016

A two days "Legal Awareness Programme on Women" was organised by Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University in association with Tezpur Law College, sponsored by National Commission for Women on 1st-2nd November 2016 at Council Hall, Tezpur University.

A number of academicians, students (T.U. and outside), lawyers, faculty members from various field particularly from judicial services participated in the programme. Total number of participants were seventy with eight resource persons. Prof. R.C. Borpatragohain, Gauhati University,



Dr. Bhuvan Chandra Barooah (Principal Tezpur Law College), Audri Bhattacharyya (Secretary District Legal Service Authority), Chandana Borah (Assistant Professor Tezpur Law College), Mridula Sarma (Assistant Professor Tezpur Law College), Smita Barua (Assistant professor Tezpur Law College), Jupitara Devi (Assistant professor Tezpur Law College), Rubi Dutta (Assistant Professor Law College) and Prof. Chandan Kumar Sharma (Dept. of Sociology Tezpur University) were the resource persons in the workshop.



Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness programme, 2016



A one day “Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness programme” was held on 29 November, 2016 in association with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. More than 150 participants from Gurukul Tezpur, and T.U. students participated in the programme. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University opened the session by emphasizing the significance of Gender Sensitization Programme. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University delivered a talk on “Gender Sensitization”. It was an interactive and informative session. She defined some terms related to gender discrimination and inequality with the help of photographs, pictures and videos. She also explained

about some gender biased terminologies like Chairman, Policeman, Milkman etc. A skit was presented by the students of P.G. Diploma in Women Studies, Tezpur University on child sexual abuse. Ivy Daimary, Research Associate, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University delivered a talk on “Child Sexual Abuse”. She described about the meaning, forms, natures and magnitude of the child sexual abuse. She also explained about good touch and bad touch of human body parts. Abhijit Baishya, Professional Assistant, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University delivered a talk on “Cyber-Crime”. He illustratively defined the cause and consequences of cyber-crime including provisions of law regarding cyber-crime.



An orientation programme on Women Studies, 2017



An orientation programme on Women Studies was held in Darrang College, Tezpur on 8 of March, 2017. Dr. Madhurima Goswami enlightened the house with her talk on Women Studies Centres in India which are schemed under UGC. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, CSCWS, Tezpur University lucidly explained the concept of Feminism in everyday lives. She interacted with the students while delivering her lecture on Feminism. She described the concept of Feminism illustrating everyday practices and beliefs on equality of men and women. She motivated boys to engage themselves in maintaining gender equalities.



Nation-wide competition on “Laws relating to Women” 10th October, 2018

Nation-wide competition sponsored by National Commission for Women, New Delhi was conducted by Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University. The Competition aimed at creating awareness about the laws and acts relating to women among the students expecting a gender just society in near future.



“In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders.”

-Sheryl Sandberg

International Women's Week, 2018

A seven day basic computer training programme, 2018



A week long basic computer training programme was initiated by Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University from 26th February to 5th March 2018, for men and women who do not have access to computers and are facing difficulties in day to day life. The aim of the programme was to create awareness amongst the people of Napaam area, regarding basic knowledge of computers. In this training programme, people from different age groups regardless of their sex participated. The participants were taught to operate computer from turning on to turning off. They were also able to receive knowledge about the functioning of internet. They were taught to create Google, Gmail accounts. Further they were given information on how to secure their bank accounts and social media accounts.

Competitions

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 2018 a number of competitions were conducted by the Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies. To increase student's participation and make them aware of gender justice, poster making competition on the theme 'Undoing my Gender' was conducted. The winners were given away cash prizes at the end of the event.



A talk by Retired Prof. Susheela Kaushik on 16th March, 2018

On the account of birth and death anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani, pioneer of women rights crusader in Assam on 16th March, 2018 Women Studies Centre had organised a talk on "Women Studies in Higher Education". Retired Prof. Susheela Kaushik, one of the prominent political scientist of the nation was invited for the talk. Faculties, research scholars, students from all the disciplines participated in the talk. The programme started with a poem recitation written by Saikiani herself named 'Ahalya'. The students did a recitation and recieved appreciation for their creative expression. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head of the CSCWS welcomed the Vice Chancellor (Prof. V.K. Jain) of Tezpur University and also the guest of honour Dr. Susheela Kaushik to the event. After floral tributes to women rights crusader Chandraprabha Saikiani by the honourable guest and the Vice-Chancellor, Sonali Boro, Research Assistant of the Centre felicitated the guest of honour. Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain released the book "The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law (2018)". Chief Guest of the event Prof. Sushela Kaushik relaunched the Centre's website. The programme started with the introductory speech of the Vice - Chancellor addressing the issues of women empowerment that lies in the heart of sustainable war, also speaking on the importance of financial independence, mentioning the govt. Schemes (Aajivika) and (Mudra) for economic empowerment of women. Bornil Jonak Phukan, a student of CBCS course presented a brief account of Prof. Kaushik's life and work. Starting from her struggle in the initial stages of setting up the Women Studies Centre in Delhi, she spoke about various perspectives of the people regarding participation of women in politics.

She emphasised on proper understanding of 'Women Studies' and urged not to use them as the focal point of community violence and ailments. She quotes, 'All centres of Women Studies have turned up into islands of women'. She also spoke on marginalization of Women Studies and becoming of 'women's' studies. She highlighted the loopholes in the five year plans and said "women, we don't want to be special,



we just want to be the part of normal'. The biggest problem regarding women empowerment in the college and university is the authority. She quotes, 'we as teachers must work towards sensitizing the mind of the youth, here right from the classrooms'. She also recalled on how Armaity Desai stood against pressure from the education minister to resign from the chair of UGC. In her lecture, main focus was gender mainstreaming in the social, political and institutional processes. She cited the example of matrilineage in Kerala where men have no role in property of the family. She further mentioned about the shortage of women in Haryana and how it has become one of the most violent states for women in India.

She concluded her speech emphasizing on giving importance to Women Studies rather than just confining it to the study of women as she believes it will limit the subject only to its outer shell.

Dr. D.R. Gautam, Research Officer, Ambedkar Chair deliberated on the theme of women's week (8th - 16th March, 2018). He also commented on how the students failed to understand the concept (Understanding Gender) and hence could not express well on the matter. He stressed on teaching of the issues of gender and it's ramification as a continuous process in the higher education system.

At the end of the event, Dr. Madhurima Goswami (HOD, CSWSC) offered the vote of thanks.

Research Exchange Meet 13th-14th November, 2018 on Women Markets in Assam: An Analysis

A two-day research exchange meet was organized by CSWSC, Tezpur University in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi on the topic "Women markets in Assam: An Analysis". The Head of the centre, Dr. Madhurima Goswami welcomed the esteemed guests and all the participants to the Research Exchange Meet.

Prof. Indu Agnihotri, Director, CWDS gave the keynote address. Prof. Agnihotri was introduced by Amal Latif, student of the Cultural Studies department and was felicitated by the Prof. Sharma with a traditional Eri shawl. Prof. Agnihotri acknowledged the rich culture and history of Tezpur. Prof. Agnihotri gave a rich insight on the evolution of women study centres in India, especially in Delhi in the 1980's. She talked about how women study centres have increased in over the last twenty years. She threw light on how women study centres were started and the confrontation of problems that had been arising since then. She emphasized on research work based on our own research approaches rather than western approaches which is strongly influencing social science researches. Meenakshi Bhuyan presented the history of Tezpur District Mahila Samiti. She said that TDMS started in the year 1919. She gave a beautiful narration of its inception and Chandraprabha Saikiani's role in it. Chandraprabha Saikiani, who was very beautiful and a store house of leadership, an activist and epitome of bravery, established Mahila Samiti in Nagaon. Meenakshi Bhuyan talked about Gandhi's influence on women of Assam. The first agenda of TDMS was to challenge the society for its various practices like child marriage, against opium and to open the barriers for women in public space. They were called popularly as "marriage broker group". She talked about many instances where Chandraprabha Saikiani actively played the role of a great leader. There was a programme in Gohpur where she lead 10-15 women riding horse. Those days women were supposed to be kept within the four wall of a house. Under the influence of Chandraprabha Saikiani women broke the barrier and came out of their house. When Gandhi visited Assam in 1921, hundreds of women came out on the road to have a glimpse of Gandhi ji. Mahila Samiti was visited by Gandhi as he was interested in meeting the weavers of Assam. Meenakshi Bhuyan narrated the life history of Chandraprabha Saikiani and her role as an activist under the banner of Tezpur Mahila Samiti. She further narrated the ups and down of Tezpur Mahila Samiti and the women leaders who actively fought for the rights of women. She talked about women leaders like Chandra Bala Patangia, Chandra Prabha Mahanta, Meena Agarwala who contributed as leaders in the growth of Tezpur District Mahila Samiti.



"Women's freedom is the sign of social freedom."

-Rosa Luxemburg!

Gender Sensitization programme in collaboration with Centre for Inclusive development on 23rd August, 2019

On 23rd August, 2019 Centre for Open and Distance learning organized a Gender Sensitization programme in collaboration with Centre for Inclusive development and Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University. Dr. Madhurima Goswami addressed on the importance of Gender Sensitization programme in the university.



A training programme on “Women Empowerment and Skill Development through Technological Intervention in Cooking Stove”, 28th August, 2019



A training programme was organized on 28th August, 2019 by Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies in collaboration with Department of Energy, Tezpur University. The training was a part of the project entitled, “Women Empowerment and Skill Development through Technological Intervention in cooking Stove”.

A three-week long Induction Programme on 25th July, 2019

School of Engineering organized a three-week long Induction Programme for the newly admitted B-Tech students from 25th July, 2019. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University gave a lecture on "Gender Sensitization" on 8th of August, 2019 at Dean's Gallery, School of Engineering.

Gender Sensitization Programme for the faculty representatives on 16th August, 2019

Internal Complaint Committee (ICC), Tezpur University, organized a Gender Sensitization Programme for the faculty representatives on 16th August, 2019. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University was invited as a resource person to address the faculty members in the department of Environmental Sciences.

A training programme on, "Women Empowerment and skill development through Technological Intervention in cooking Stove" from 16th September - 10th October, 2019



A training programme of the project entitled, "Women Empowerment and skill development through Technological Intervention in cooking Stove" sponsored by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) started from 16th September-10th October, 2019. This was in collaboration with Department of Energy, Tezpur University. 54 participants registered for the training. The main aim of this project was to train the women to make innovative cooking stove.

I do not wish them [women] to have power over men; but over themselves."

– Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman

Advocacy

Prof N.S. Islam, Dept of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University delivered a talk on women in science, problems/prospects in this area on International Women's day on 4th March, 2015 at Tezpur University.

The gathering comprised of members of faculty, students of B.Tech, M.Tech, MBBT, Sociology, Cultural Studies, English, Hindi etc, research scholars, and staff of Tezpur University and members of Pragati Women Association.

Students and Research Scholars of Tezpur University presented various programmes on the topic "Creative Expression" on various issues of women like Witch Hunting, Maternal Health, Women's Liberation, Women and Violence.

The gathering appreciated and presented their views regarding the outcome of the issue. The views were well received, and it showed a tremendous enthusiasm among the gathering.



The various burning issues of women presented through creative expressions were instrumental in bringing out the self-assessed critiques of the issues.

Prof. Uma Chakravarti a feminist historian, Delhi, delivered a series of lectures on "The women question in India: Understanding feminism and its complexities, caste and patriarchy". She has worked and written on issues of caste and gender. Prof. Chakravarti is active in democratic rights and women's movements. She believed in 'Rewriting History', about class, caste and nation through the prism of gender. The talk was attended by the research scholars, students, faculties of Tezpur University.

Two important books published from the centre entitled "Women and Mental Health: Narratives of Solitude" by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta was released by the former vice-chancellor (Prof. M.K. Chaudhuri) and "Chandraprabha Saikiani: a Bilingual Collection of Essays on Assam's First Women Rights Crusader", edited by Dr. Madhurima Goswami was released by Prof. Uma Chakravarti.



Prof. Romesh Chandra Borpatragohain, Dean, Dept. of Law Gauhati University delivered a talk on Women and Constitution. He said that we have miles to go to achieve the height of civilization. According to him natural law dictates to maintain harmony in the society. After the devastating Second World War, United Nation was formed in 1945 to protect human civilisation. Universal Declaration of Human Right 1948 declared that every individual has dignity of life. Fundamental Rights and the preamble of Indian Constitution itself guaranteed right to life irrespective of caste, creed, sex, place of birth, religion, languages. However gender discrimination is an immense issue in our society. Factor behind the whole problem in our society is the will that control wisdom. Hence Individual should be controlled by wisdom rather than will. He focused more in gender rationalization than the gender sensitization to achieve gender justice. He said that duty and rights are reciprocal.



The programme was attended by students, advocates, research scholar, staff working on women issues etc.

Audio Visual of the lecture was circulated among the target group through the university website.

The talk helped participants to understand the different issues of women, laws, and the legal procedures related to them.

Sheila Bora an eminent historian delivered a talk on “Kanaklata Barua: A women pioneer of Assam” on 16th of March 2017. This was a part of her research on a series (women pioneers) published by National Book Trust. Shiela Bora, extensively spoke about Kanaklata Barua’s live history, her childhood, her ideal and her struggle against colonial rule as well as patriarchal structure of the society. She counters the statement that Kanaklata died by chance. She said that Kanaklata did not die by chance rather she was motivated since childhood by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Chandraprabha Saikiani, Jyotiprasad Agarwala to take part in protests and to be active in politics.



She was very active and wanted to participate in various sabhas held during that period to motivate people against colonial rule. She was much mesmerised seeing women riding horse and dancing to welcome activists in the Ryot Sabha. Whereas at that time riding horse and dancing by women were considered as an offence. Movie shoot on “Joymoti” also influenced Kanaklata Barua to be brave and courageous. She wanted to join Mrityu Bahini at the age of 13 but to be member of Mrityu Bahini one must be 18 years of age. But Kanaklata insisted and pleaded Puspallata Das and said that ‘I am not afraid of the bullets. I would be glad to die in order to uphold the honour of the national flag.’ On her earnest request she was granted membership of the Mrityu Bahini and appointed as the leader of the women cadres of the Mrityu Bahini. On the day September 20, 1942 Kanaklata stood at the head of the line of women volunteers with the National Flag in her hand and started marching toward Gohpur Station with slogans of ‘Bande Mataram’ when the Office-incharge warned Kanaklata Barua not to trespass into the thana compound.

She did not pay any heed to his warning and decided to march ahead saying “You do your duty: I will do mine.” After presenting Kanaklata Barua’s life history since her childhood to how she was influenced by the spirit of nationalism and her sacrifice for the country, Prof. Shiela Bora admitted the limitations of her research on Kanaklata Barua due to lack of information and photographs.

The speaker acknowledged her informants who were not able to give much information. The speaker further held that there are no records of finding any clothes woven by Kanaklata Barua. She assumed as told by some informants that she was wearing Mekhela Chadar she wove on the great day where she sacrificed her life. At the end, Prof. Bora requested the gathering to hand over information, documents and other materials related to Kanaklata’s life. She asked to submit any possession related to Kanaklata Barua to the Centre for Women Studies for further research and preservation. The programme was attended by students, faculty members, research scholars, staff working in colleges and universities.

A book fair was organized in collaboration with National Book Trust on 15th - 17th March, 2017 for the students and other public.

Many books on varied issues like, history, development, media, agriculture related to women were sold out.



“A revolutionary woman can’t have no reactionary man.”

–Assata Shakur

Susheela Kaushik, eminent Political scientist delivered a talk on 'Women Studies in Higher Education'

Susheela Kaushik, eminent Political scientist delivered a talk on 'Women Studies in Higher Education' on 16th March, 2018.

Prof. Kaushik has been extensively writing on Panchayati Raj and Women, Institutions of Governance and Women in India. She was a senior member of the National Consultative Committee on Women Studies. She was one of the core group resource person for the North-Eastern region.

Prof. Kaushik was instrumental in strengthening the capacity building programme in higher education for women in India and North-East India. She showed her enthusiasm in visiting the local M.V. School in Napaam, and inspired the students with her experiences of childhood. Later on, she distributed prizes for the competition held on occasion of Women's Week 2018. She appreciated children for visualising women as drivers and teachers.




The programme was attended by students, advocates, research scholars, staff working in NGO's and other civil organizations.

The talk helped participants to understand the relevance of Women Studies in the higher education system.



"There is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind."

-Virginia Woolf

The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the ZPUA University logo. The logo is circular, with the text 'ZPUA UNIVERSITY' at the top and 'विज्ञानं यज्ञं तनुते' (Vignanam Yajnam Tanute) at the bottom. In the center of the logo is a stylized sun or star symbol with rays.

2020-2022

Activities

Trainings/Workshops/Seminars/Webinars

A Memorial Lecture was organized on 16th March 2020 on the occasion of Birth and Death Anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani

At the beginning a floral tribute was offered to observe the death anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani. For this occasion, Patricia Mukhim, one of the most dynamic journalist, writer and an activist was invited to deliver the memorial lecture. Dean, HSS Prof. P.K Das and Pro. Vice Chancellor were present to grace the occasion. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Centre for Women's Studies addressed the gathering. Patricia Mukhim inaugurated



the 2nd edition of the book published in 2020 entitled Chandraprabha Saikiani: A Force in History, ed Madhurima Goswami. Patricia Mukhim started her speech mentioning her association with Women Studies in Guwahati. She acknowledged Chandraprabha Saikiani as a great activist. She talked about taboos in menstruation and the struggles in fighting such practices. She said that to make a change we have to be proactive as change makers and as rebels. School, college teachers are called disruptors by people as they are weird. She challenged the house to give a good fight for change. She emphasized that bringing change needs support from both sexes, men and women. Patricia Mukhim mentioned about different violence against women such as nirbhaya case. She questioned about women abuse and the protection approach to help them within familial context. Mukhim further talked about the prevalence of patriarchy in the society which is again perpetuated by the women themselves. She said about how women are represented in TV serials mostly overt sexism, benevolent sexism. Women are empowered, sold to market industry through especially fair and dark complexes. She gave the crime data of violence against women but said that data is underreported. 30% of women have physical violence since the age of 15. 31% married women experienced physical, emotional violence. These women do not file a case or FIR after the crime because of trauma, physical violation. She expressed that every police station should have help desk. Mukhim gave an instance about Garo hills rape case where a minor girl was raped by her father. The father was released on bail but after his release he raped the second daughter. At last she mentioned about the rate of rape cases in Assam which was highest in North East in 2018 still 218 cases underreported. She winds up her speech telling about her field visits in Meghalaya and also how women and girls live in terrible condition.

After the talk there was an interesting question hour where many interested students and staff interacted with the speaker.

Finally, Patricia Mukhim distributed the prizes to the winners of the International women's Week 2020 Hindi translation competition organized by the Centre.

1ST prize –Nafisa Ahmed

2nd prize-Monmi Borthakor

3rd-Mrigakhi Sharma

Dr.Ivy Daimary gave the vote of thanks and read the brief report of the programme .Refreshments were served thereafter.

A discussion on “Gender Construction” and “Cyber Security and Women” was organized on 16th March, 2020

A discussion on “Gender Construction” and “Cyber Security and Women” was organized on 16th March, 2020 at 10.am by Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University. Students and faculty members from Law College, Tezpur and Rangapara College participated in the programme



Dr.Mousumi Mahanta and Mr.Abhijit Baishya were the resource persons for the programme. Dr.Mousumi Mahanta initiated the discussion on Gender Construction and was followed by Cyber Security measures by Abhijit Baishya.

Webinar on Women and Health Inequalities: An Action Approach during Covid 19 Crisis.

Women and Health Inequalities: An Action Approach during Covid 19 Crisis. The Webinar was organized by Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University, on 24th June 2020.

Speakers:

Dr. Sunita Gogoi Hazarika

Dr. Rajesh Sharma

Dr. Sunil Kaul

Dr.Panchanan Das

Dr. Madhurima Goswami welcomed the speakers and all the participants to the webinar to discuss on women and health inequalities.



Dr.Goswami gave some of her observations before the session started as how the Covid 19 crisis has affected people from all backgrounds and has displaced many people. She said that it's a universal matter and this social crisis has affected women's health as women are not getting the required medical attention. The 2nd part of the discussion was about the action approach as how the public health organization has looked at the health issues of the women during Covid 19 period.

Dr. Sunita Gogoi Hazarika, Gynaecologist, Tezpur acknowledged the crisis affecting the health of the people. She focused on some of her field experiences during lockdown referring the five cases related to women's

health. Dr.Sunita talked about how pregnant women are suffering due to lockdown as they cannot avail supplements and routine checkups. She mentioned a case where a woman could not get her routine checkups and supplements in emergency. Due to pain she delivered a premature baby who died and later the mother suffered cardiac failure. She mentioned about cases where new born babies died due to missed vaccines and health checkups. There are numerous cases where women are reported to have suffered with health issues and suffer more due to delay in treatment as they are dependent on others instead of directly contacting the health workers. Dr. Gogoi talked about the ratio of women suffering during the crisis and concluded by saying that women should directly contact the health workers. Couple of questions was raised by the participants which were answered by the speaker.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Additional Director Health Service. Dr.Sharma stated this Covid-19 as natural disaster that is affecting the entire world from children to elder people. Dr. Sharma opined that women in Assam and the entire world are suffering especially with health issues. He compared the present situation of women's health especially maternal mortality with that of the women during Ebola crisis as same. The speaker also stated that women are suffering psychologically too due to other health issues. Dr. Sharma highlighted the guideline released by the Government and said that the Government had released so that the health issues of children and women will be ensured proper attention. Many of the health workers are women and their security is also ensured by the Government. The speaker said that pregnant women who come from Covid 19 hot spot should be taken good care during the delivery of the baby. Regarding the pregnant women who deliver baby and who have tested covid positive are ensured proper care and are encouraged for breast feeding. Dr. Sharma concluded his speech by saying that women should be the centre of attention during the crisis. There were some important questions raised by the participants which were answered by the speaker.

Dr. Sunil Kaul, Public Health Activist, Action North East Trust. Dr. Kaul started his speech on Medicine, Science and Social Sciences. Dr. Kaul talked about the present disaster and said that the Public Health Services are prepared to tackle this disaster. The speaker elucidated as to why women are highly risk of death during the crisis. He said that women are coarsely affected because women only come at the last moment due to hindrances from the family. The speaker also acknowledged about the lack of training of health service staff, frontline health workers serving without personal protecting equipment. The speaker emphasized on the importance of health services to poor women and that priority should be given to abortion services.

Questions asked by the participants were answered by the speaker.

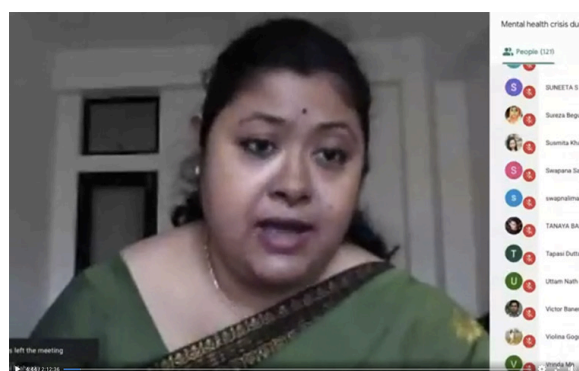
Dr. Panchanan Das, Professor of Gynaecology, Tezpur Medical College. Dr. Das stated that the people with liver and other health problems are affected more by covid 19. The pandemic has affected the entire world irrespective of caste, creed and gender. The speaker said that women are less affected by this covid-19. Dr.Das said that 70% health workers are female. Dr. Das also stated about the Government guidelines for the safety of the people and mentioned about the guidelines for the covid 19 patients.

At last Dr. Madhurima Goswami thanked all the speakers and the participants for making a successful webinar on such an important topic on women and health.

Webinar on Mental Health Crisis during Covid-19 Pandemic: A Gender Dimension on 30th June 2020

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies Tezpur University organized a webinar on Mental Health Crisis during Covid-19 Pandemic: A Gender Dimension on 30th June 2020.

Dr.Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University moderated the sessions. Dr.Mahanta heartily welcomed all the participants, explaining mental health and its importance in the society and also explained the Covid-19 impact on mental health led by socio-economic factors.



She also shared her personal experience of interacting with students. Further she explained impact of pandemic on maternal health.

Dr.Kalpana Srivastava, Scientist 'G', President of Indian Association of Clinical Psychologist Armed Force Medical College, Pune started her session explaining gender and different role and challenges of women as homemaker, spouse, mother, working mother, single mother etc. She defined gender role as responsibility. She illustrated that pandemic added more challenges to women and gender role. She opined that this pandemic had widened the inequalities between men and women in terms of economy, labour and employment. She further explained that work from home is also a great challenge for women. Women are 24/7 within the four walls during the pandemic that has led to domestic violence, intimate partner violence. It also affected privacy of women. Pregnancy during Covid-19 is a new challenge which led more stress to women folk. Mental Health of women is an important concern during pandemic because this pandemic can lead to more stressful life for women. She suggested that advocacy, socialization of child and sharing responsibility can make home safe for women. She also explained the coping mechanism with anxiety, depression of women. She suggested women to make home management simple so that it will be participatory for child and other members of the home. Women are also advised to spare sufficient time for themselves.

Dr.Vindra MN, Associate Professor, Department of psychiatric Social Work & Consultant of AWAKE Clinic at NCWB Bengaluru, talked on 'Gender and Women Mental Health' explaining the facts of National Mental Health Survey 2017. She explained the impact of pandemic on young women due to lack of access to mental health service, pre-natal services and other health services. She also talked about women front-line workers who are caregivers at workplace and home hence are more prone to be infected by virus. They are also subjected to violence at home and workplace through various mode including cyber sites. She also linked mental health and labour. She opined that due to loss of employment and labour they are more prone to anxiety and mental health issues. She focused on digital gender gap also, due to the lack of digital skill women are not able to access various services during pandemic. She further explained how Covid-19 has affected women's education especially young girls. She said that it will increase young girl child dropout in near future as our society prefers boy over girl's education. She suggested women to be prepared for any kind of crisis and advised them to reach out for emergency service provider.

Dr.BondonaTimugpi, Assistant Professor, LokopriyaGopinathBordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam, started her talk about mental health through medical perspective. She mentioned about the biological cause and consequences of mental health, anxiety, stress and depression. She mentioned that status of mental health and anxiety affected the social life, relationship and personality of an individual.

She also said gender also play significant role on mental health. Women and men experience stress differently due to biological differences of male and female. Hormonal status also affects women differently which led to some physical obstacle as well as it affects reproductive health of the women. She said that Covid-19 situation is stressful; coping with this stress is very challenging in current health situation therefore she suggested a healthy life through good sleep, physical exercises, and yoga. She talked about wellness plan to cope with mental health issues.

Dr.Namami Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Social work, Tezpur University shared cases of domestic violence to show how lockdown due to pandemic had affected women's lives differently. She focused on domestic violence itself as a pandemic creating more vulnerabilities for women. She mentioned National Commission for women's report on domestic violence during pandemic which indicates the increase of domestic violence in two folds. She also cleared that domestic violence cases reporting are also declining due to lack of privacy and access to reporting platform. She referred cases of domestic violence which occurred during lockdown. She also mentioned 'Gas Lighting' concept in case of domestic Violence. She said that this lockdown due to pandemic affected women and made over burdened as there is no access agencies who could provide justice. She also focused on the trans-gender community who are facing mental trauma during their stay with family during lockdown. She referred Nazaria, an organization who dealt with the issues of trans-gender community. Further she referred to the issues of sex workers, violence of sex workers by brothel owners and middlemen. She mentioned the role of Swati, an organization based in Maharastra who worked to train Asha Workers online to deal with Domestic Violence.

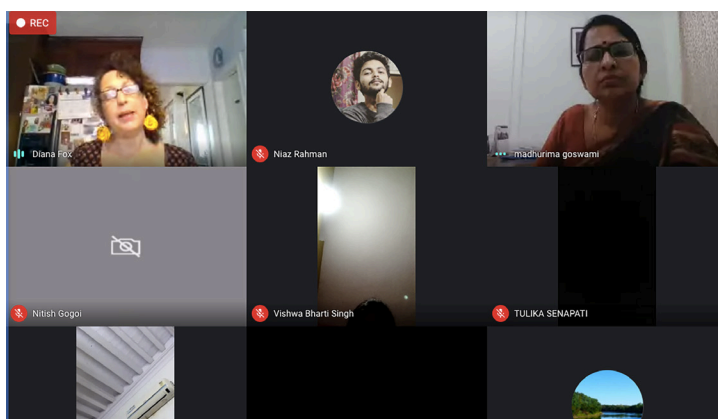
She mentioned the significance of village level institution to intervene domestic violence and monitor the women's issues. She also talked about engaging men in intervention of women issues and gender issues.

Many participants interacted with the resource persons on various issues of deprivation of women in access to mental health services, coping mechanism for stress especially the women who are at the disadvantageous situation in the society, family expectations and gender roles. Many personal issues had been discussed in the session.

The sessions were interactive and pro-active in dealing with the issues of women's mental health. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta on behalf of Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University winded up the webinar by acknowledging gratitude to resource persons and the participants.

International Web Talk on Feminist Anthropological Research and Writing Methodology

Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized an International Web Talk as a part of Centre's Lecture Initiatives on Feminist Anthropological Research and Writing Methodology on 15th July 2020 at 7:30pm(IST) Prof. Diana J. Fox, and Anthropologist from Bridgewater State University, USA, was invited to deliver the talk. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University, welcomed Prof. Diana J. Fox along with participants by explaining the reason behind organizing lecture initiative through web amidst Covid-19 pandemic.



Prof. Diana J. Fox delivered her talk from kitchen table and said that many strategies of women movement took place from kitchen itself. Prof. Fox started her talk by introducing feminist thoughts.

She at first focused the radical constructivism, reality and relationship between systematic inequalities.

To explain the concepts Diana Fox shared her own life experiences. She said that how the positionality of one individual impacts the understanding of feminist thoughts. She also referred to Chandrababha Saikiani's fight against constructive inequalities. Diana J. Fox said that her parents are historians who fought for women's rights by collaborating with an American historian to find out reasons behind black women's sufferings. She acknowledged that from her father she learned about black women's movement as her father was an international human rights lawyer. Further Prof. Fox said how positionality of an individual impact the researcher while selecting topic, methodology, and visions for research. She mentioned that Anthropology is a product of colonialization where colonial hegemony is reinforced; it is from western dominated perspective. She opined that Women Studies is multidisciplinary. Central goal is decolonization in Anthropology. At the last she focused on partnership. She explained that partnership means presumption of equality of work for common goal, respect for each other, while explaining partnership she referred her experience of doing documentaries at Jamaica. She began her training in Jamaica by having Fulbright Scholarship. She mentioned about women forester who work on a project to transform the community. While doing documentary on environment with the community of Jamaica, she felt the need of trust between the two parties.

While doing her second documentary at Jamaica itself on LGBT community, she learned that gender roles are very divisive. From her experience of working in the community she said that feminist researcher must win the trust of the community where researchers are working. Winding up her talk she opined that intersectional positionalities hold feminist ground.

The talk was interactive and many participants interacted on the issues like difficulties of female researchers in field, status of women studies in India, dowry over girl's education, witch hunting etc. Prof. Diana J. Fox commented that institutional level support is necessary to meet the difficulties of female researchers in the field. On regard of status of women studies she said that there has to be advocacy to reinforce the funds and grants for women studies. There should be also integrated push from the local level to sustain women studies in India. She further advised to appeal the people in power by explaining the need for women studies in India. She at last advocated taking multiple level actions by all the gender to deconstruct the hegemonic ideology.

Dr. Madhurima Goswami ended the session by thanking Prof. Diana J. Fox and anticipating more such talks in near future.

Webinar on “Gendered Inequalities and Covid-19: Survival Strategies for Women”, 17th June 2020

Speakers:

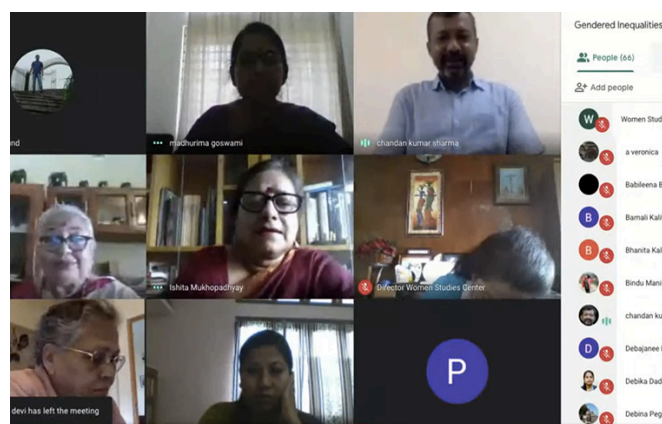
Sheila Bora

Ishita Mukhopadhyay

Monisha Behal

Chandan Kumar Sharma

Dr. Madhurima Goswami welcomed the speakers and all the participants in the session. Prof. Chandan Kumar Sharma welcomed everyone and stated the time limit of the speeches and that there will be question hour after every speech. Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay talked about the present socio-economic situation and how it is difficult for the women to cope up



with the situation especially the pregnant women. Women are suffering mentally as most of the healthcare workers are women. Many women domestic helpers are in stress as they have lost their jobs. She said that severe unemployment had occurred. Domestic violence has increased to a great level during this covid 19 lockdown period. The speaker also highlighted about the problems of the daily wagers.

And many engaged in small business are facing problems in paying rents and bank loans.

After the first session, many questions came up and there was a good interaction between the speaker and the participants.

Prof. Sheila Bora talked about the increase in domestic violence, sexual abuse in shelter homes especially elderly women and girls. Prof. Bora discussed about many other issues that have disturbed the society in their daily normal lives as it has become difficult for the students in remote areas like Arunachal Pradesh and other regions to continue their courses through online and there are certain dropouts due to this.

After her speech, many questions were raised and gave their observations.

Monisha Behal, Chief Executive Officer NEN, pointed out some of the experiences during the covid19 period. She stressed on the problems faced by the migrant labours. She had also emphasized on the issues raised by the other speakers, as there are increased number of domestic violence cases, also women are abused in shelter homes. She talked about how people are suffering scarcity of food stuff. The speaker emphasized on multiple security, for example people can start working on cultivation and herbal development activities that could be of great help in the improvement of the economic development of the society.

Many questions were raised and answered by the speaker.

The chairperson thanked all the speakers and summed up the session adding some observations. Dr. Madhurima Goswami at last thanked all the speakers, the chairperson and the participants for their valuable talk and observations.

Food Fight campaign during Covid-19 in the month of July 2020 in collaboration with The EAST

Food Fight campaign during Covid-19 in the month of July 2020 in collaboration with The EAST (a grassroots philanthropic organization of Tezpur). The economy of this world was heading towards recession due to lockdown.

All the cities, towns, transport remained closed and even the people could not move around. A very tough time for all the governments, organizations of the countries. The campaign in collaboration with The EAST started responding to the most vulnerable section like the daily wagers, elderly women, single women, domestic helpers, scheduled caste and other tribes of Assam by distributing dry ration to the needy people. Initially the distribution was started with 35 families from 8th April 2020 gradually increasing with the rise of phone calls from the needy women

Webinar on “Entrepreneurship: A Way Ahead,(Interrogating questions of Women’s work and livelihood)” 21st July 2020.

Speakers:

Manoj k Das
Managing Director,North Eastern Regional
Agricultural
Marketing Corporation Ltd(NERAMAC)
Shyamkanu Mahanta
Entrepreneur,Proparator of MMS Pvt. Ltd,Assam
Shubhra Devi
Managing Director,Meira Foods,Manipur.

Dr Mousumi Mahanta gave an overview on Entrepreneurship and said that 70% of its work had to be stopped during the covid- 19 and that the pandemic affected globally.

Dr Mahanta stated the topic the speakers were going to speak i.e. on Entrepreneurship and women.

The first speaker,Manoj K Das, talked about the disruptive situation during pandemic. Mr. Das said that the needs have to be limited due to the situation. Shopping malls,restaurants etc. everything is disrupted. Economy is shrinking. Slowly all industries are coping up. Telephone, internet industries are growing. But lots of jobs are in loss affecting the family lives. Women those who work as bread winner and homemaker are in bad situation. Mr. Das mentioned about Shubhra Devi as a successful woman entrepreneur. Mr. Das said that Women in North East are empowered such as for example Meghalaya where there is no discrimination. He emphasized that north east should think of farming, multi farming, fish farming during this situation. He highlighted the rate of different imported products from outside states. The speaker said that our economy is mostly from outside as most items come from outside like wheat based products, clothes etc. He said that Assam has future in handlooms, backyard farming, and poultry. Japan and other countries are looking from Assam in agricultural products. He encouraged the people to plant medicinal and other valuable plants. He talked about bel metal industry in Assam which is about 2000 years old. Local raw materials like eri, bamboo are of great use and handicrafts, bamboo products, piggery have high entrepreneur potential. There are government schemes for women who want to start up as entrepreneurs. The speaker gave some ideas on how women can engage in banana products, Jackfruit food items. Age old silk and mulberry plantation in Assam, muga silk worm, cattle industry, Asiatic buffalo milk products which is rich should be brought in and revived.

The speaker encouraged that education should be linked with entrepreneurship as skill development programmes have been neglected .They have education but no skill. The speaker at last ended with a message that children should be taught how to face failure.

Webinar on
“Entrepreneurship: a way ahead,
(Interrogating questions of women’s work and livelihood)”
Organised by :
Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
Tezpur University
Registration link : <http://www.tezu.ernet.in/wsc/webinar-4.php>
Resource Persons

	MANOJ K. DAS Managing Director, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC)	 11 AM to 1.00 PM  21:07:2020  Hosting on GOOGLE MEET <small>NOTE : Google meet link will be provided at 9:00 PM, 20-07-2020</small>
	Shyamkanu Mahanta Entrepreneur, Proparator of MMS Pvt. Ltd, Assam	
	Shubhra Devi Managing Director , Meira Foods, Manipur	

Shyamkanu Mahanta

Mr Mahanta talked about the future of Assam in entrepreneurship. He passed out in engineering and later did management course. The speaker discussed about many projects he worked and gave an insight in starting as an entrepreneur. Mr Mahanta shared his work experience in different parts of India but as he always wanted to do something in Assam as entrepreneur he quit his job and started to work as project management in different projects. According to him we must start something we have already experienced. He is into project management, designed small hydropower project and some more projects. Mr Mahanta started to work on culture in North East festival. He started this North East festival and slowly included handicrafts in North East festival. Highlighting tourism industry, handloom, textile entrepreneurs, cuisine, Naga kitchen etc. all started from North East festival. All the artist works, music and fashion became a subject of entrepreneurs. Exploring investment in North East they went to Bangkok and realized about the future of North East culture and entrepreneurs.

The speaker said that passion is important but there are failures but failure gives an opportunity. What we have is tourism, wildlife sanctuaries, Arunachal lakes, mountains, food, fashion, crafts in Assam. Earlier flood and insurgency was rampant in North East. After North East festival it changed the view of North East. There is a potential in tourism in North East. At present there are no amenities in highways, no convenient stores. Project like eco resorts project post corona, can be taken up by women entrepreneurs.

Handicrafts is another entrepreneur for women. In North East festival handicrafts have a huge potential. Good quality of muga items like mask are in great demands.

Agro, organic products as our products can be sold in Myanmar. Pine apple and other fruits in silchar can be a huge selling hub. Rice mill is great demand in Assam. Pork is a big market. A project idea is needed; land funding, lots of schemes for women entrepreneurs.

These were some of the points discussed by Mr. Mahanta which can be a great market target for women entrepreneurs. Questions were raised on how remote women can succeed in this field. Mr Mahanta gave many ideas on this field.

Subhra Devi

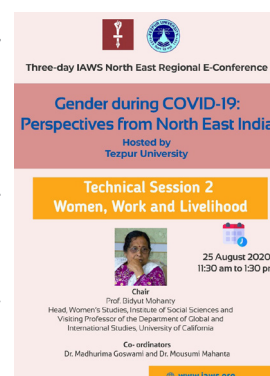
The speaker introduced herself and her working with various organizations. Women empowerment was her main concern. Women in poverty, without economic independence, started to work with her. Women are masters in handloom, handicrafts, and women mostly cook food in kitchen. But they are not involved in industry. Banks are not keen on supporting but she used her kitchen and whatever resources she had, started with very small. According to her as women have less capital so start up in a small way. She started her Meira food. Meira is a strong symbol of women in Manipur. We are in a time where women are in poverty. Women also have to work. When women have own earning women have a say in family and society. Economic independence is important for women as family nutrition improves. The speaker was comfortable with food processing and started with it. She said that there are so many things that can be started in our own kitchen. All dried items come from Myanmar. Preserved with sugar and salt items are easily marketed which can be replaced that is coming from outside. With less money she started her work. And sold her products in Rs.1 per packet. Response was very good so she started spreading her products across India. She bought local fruits and produced other items. She did not have skilled worker at the beginning. Later on they themselves became master trainer after being trained. Many women got involved. School dropouts and less educated women got engaged in her Meira food company. They want to work in safe environment. When she registered as a food processor there were not many but now there are many food processors registered. They are trying more new items. The speaker encouraged the women entrepreneurs to try many more new products. She herself is going to start her pine apple products export to other countries. Food will always be in demand. Seasonal fruits will have to be processed. Her speech was a kind of encouragement to those who have thought to start up as entrepreneurs. She had also started in handicrafts which she started exporting to other countries.

Questions were raised regarding some marketing tactics for local processed food which the speaker answered and gave some important advices.

At last Dr. Mousumi Mahanta gave the vote of thanks thanking all the speakers, Tezpur university administration and participants.

'Women, Work and Livelihood in Three-day North East Regional E-Conference entitled Gender during COVID-19: Perspectives from North East India on 25th August 2020

Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University hosted Technical Session 2 'Women, Work and Livelihood in Three-day North East Regional E-Conference entitled Gender during COVID-19: Perspectives from North East India on 25th August 2020. The session was chaired by Prof. Bidyut Mohanty, Head, Women's Studies, Institute of Social Science and Visiting Professor of the Department of Global and International Studies, University of California. The session was coordinated by Dr. Madhurima Goswami and Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University. 31 participants participated in the session and 9 participants presented papers. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University addressed valedictory session of the Three-day North East Regional E-Conference entitled Gender during COVID-19: Perspectives from North East India on 27th August 2020.



She expressed that virtual media conference are great and innovative but very challenging. She also acknowledged all the members, chairpersons and participants for their active participation in virtual media conference.

A discussion on "Women Empowerment and Agricultural Innovations" on 6th March, 2020.

A discussion on "Women Empowerment and Agricultural Innovations" was organized by Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University, on 6th March, 2020 on account of International Women's Day, 8th March 2020 which is organized as a part of the event observed for a week long programme, International Women's Week 2020. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University, gave the welcome address and welcomed the speaker of the programme, Hema Das.



The resource person, Hema Das is a multi-disciplinary community worker and has contributed a lot in the grassroot level.

Dr. Goswami addressed the gathering about women and agriculture and its reality and also women not being designated as farmers. Women are not being acknowledged as preservers of seed stock. In agriculture, there is no equity nor equality. The attempt is to try to see where the centre is moving and what is the work that can be followed.

A short presentation on "Rural Women and Agriculture" was delivered by Dr. Ivy Daimary, Research Associate, CSCWS, Tezpur University. The presentation is a part of an ongoing project entitled "Women in Economic Sector: Assam" sponsored by Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi. Dr. Daimary presented on how the rural women have empowered themselves through agriculture with their traditional method of cultivation. Women are actively involved in agriculture right from the seed preserving to cultivating and selling the food products to the market thereby contributing to the family and the society.



Prof. Rabin Deka, Head Sociology Department Tezpur University appreciated the centre for initiating such programme on rural women and agriculture. Prof. Deka said that the society is based on agriculture since times immemorial. Men and women have equally contributed to agriculture. In some societies, women's role is more active. In rural societies, women contribute very significantly in the day to day activities and in the economic activities of the family.

The society has not acknowledged this due to structural location. Women's right to property and women land ownership is very rare. This is an important issue. In rural social structure there are different categories of women who work and some of them work as daily wage labours.

The resource person, Hema Das continued with the discussions on "Rural Women and Agriculture". She started her talk with the importance of farming and that farming sector should be included in the syllabuses of schools and colleges for it leads to growing of food. She rhetorically asked about the condition of producers, their economic status. Women are the preserver of seeds and do all sorts of rituals before farming. Women are always in a subordinate position in every sectors of farming. They do not have any say on the status of the land or into the decision making of their lands. Seed is no longer been a property of a community. The seeds and fertilizers are being provided by multinational companies and ultimately leading to seeds becoming a commodity. The one who sells or deals or deals in seeds don't have any relation to agriculture. Farming has become a critical system. It is not in the hands of the community who are the masters of agriculture. The speaker said that women are more marginalized in this condition. The scenario has become very critical and both men and women have become dependent to some other companies. The idea has been shifted from fertilizer farming to organic farming. Organic farming requires a certificate and the product is quite expensive.. The concept of inheriting farming has become very difficult.

The young generations show least interest in farming because the reality is very harsh. The rice which we eat are imported. The farmers don't have proper places to store and sell their crops. The farming community is itself in the receiving end. They go for protests but the government has given no ear. That is why it has become a challenge for farmers. Borrowing of land, money takes lives of many farmers. They lack the idea of organizing themselves into groups and stand up for their own causes. To be with those who are marginalized, as a concerned citizen should talk effectively. Hema Das has organized many advocacy programmes at the grass root level regarding farming issues but according to her there should be certain rules with which the local crops should be procured.

Even food of good quality, the food corporations are not interested in purchasing locally produced rice in Assam rather rice is being imported from other states of India to Assam. The speaker encouraged that chemical farming should be replaced by traditional method of farming. Chemical farming even contaminates water. But the system in the higher levels are very tricky. The corporations are not ready to buy the local rice and not ready to give minimum support price to the farmers.

Women are involved in the entire chain of food from sowing, harvesting to cooking but as they do not own lands they even cannot take loans from banks. They cannot compete with the products that comes from outside and hence agricultural income is negligible. The speaker thinks it is an urgent requirement to bring the farming community as a whole, to make them aware of the tricks that obstructs them in this trade. The technological methods of farming serve no purpose for it is not sustainable. It only destroys the micro-organisms while doing so. Organic farming produces food which are nutritious.

At the end Hema Das responded to many queries by the students and faculty members. Dr Goswami acknowledged about the farming lands that are converted to industry. The speaker replied that farmers have to protest for their rights. Farmers were never made recognized about their rights. The new generation must come forward to make the farmers recognize and provide them their rights. There will always be a question on how we can organize the farmers so that they can get their rights. Farmers curse themselves as poor and unlucky but the youth must voluntarily make them recognize of their will and rights.

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta put a question on how women are taking the advantages provided by the government and whether they are benefitted or not. The speaker replied that even though women are producing, but they are not sustainable because there is no availability of market. There must be an advocacy in the local communities. Since our agricultural system is not highly innovative government must get involved in it and provide markets where the production can be sold. While interacting with students, Hema Das mentioned that now it has grown easy for farmers to get loan from the banks but it has not made the life of the farmers easy rather they are unsecured. Farming is still in a poor condition.

Even though women are involved in the whole chain of production of food but her recognition in the chain is very less. The earning from cultivation is negligible which compels the youth to move to metropolitan cities. Middlemen corrupt the poor farmers so government must also look up to this matter. The gap between the farmers and government must be removed. Traditional practice of farming is the ultimate sustainable way of production rather than technological method.

Hema Das concluded by saying that small scale production should be encouraged. Women are powerful and have the capability to do every sort of work, hence women should be encouraged.

At the end Dr.Mousumi Mahanta summarized that organic farming should be encouraged because it is a mode of ultimate benefit and women should be recognized in each and every field.

An awareness programme on “An Equal World is an Enabled World” 11th March, 2020

An awareness programme on “An Equal World is an Enabled World” was organized by Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women’s Studies, Tezpur University on 11th March, 2020 at Tezpur University. Students from various departments participated in the programme presenting creative poetry recitation, songs and essays based on the theme “An Equal World is an Enabled World”.



A womens’ initiative programme at Harijan Colony, Tezpur on 8th March 2020

On the occasion of International Women’s Day 8th March 2020, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies in collaboration with Dr. Ambedkar Chair and Dept. Of Social Work of Tezpur university organised a womens’ initiative programme at Harijan Colony, Tezpur. Prof.Kedilezo Kikhi, Chair Professor, Dr. Ambedkar chair, chaired the programme. co-chaired by Dr.Madhurima Goswami Head, of Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies. D.R. Gautam, Research Officer co ordinated the programme. Dr.Mousumi Mahanta and other staff of the University were also present at the programme. The focus of the programme was health and hygiene.



A short film on hygiene was shown in the programme. At last the women were trained how to make use of old clothes and make bags out of it. They were taught the skill by cutting graphs on chart papers. The programme ended with an interaction between the University staff and the women of the colony.

An online-workshop on “Gender Sensitivity” on October 1, 2021

An online-workshop on “Gender Sensitivity” was organized by Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University in collaboration with “Durga India”, Bangalore, on October 1, 2021. It was an interactive session, hosted on Zoom platform, which was opened by the Head of the Department- Dr. Madhurima Goswami at 2:30 pm, with a formal introduction of the workshop facilitator- Ms. Margaret Johnson. She is the Youth Engagement Strategist and works with the “VOICE” team of Durga India. She has been working in the field of Education and Youth for more than five years. She believes that the youth play a crucial role in building a society and bridging the gaps, where the onus should be felt first and then acted upon. Around 60 participants attended the programme.

The Session- An hour session, from 2:30 p.m. till 3:30 p.m., was conducted on “gender sensitivity” on October 1, 2021, by Ms. Margaret Johnson belonging to the initiative of DURGA India and coordinated by the faculty members of the department of Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies. It was aimed at providing the students belonging to the course of “Introduction to Women’s Studies”, a perspective to look at gender sensitization and become aware of its consequences.

Workshop on “Dissection and Discussion on “Gender Gaps in Modern India” on 28th October, 2021

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized a workshop on “Dissection and Discussion on “Gender Gaps in Modern India” on 28th October, 2021 in collaboration with DURGA (NGO), Bengaluru. 22 students participated in the workshop. Ms. Margaret Johnson and Antara Buzarbaruah, team members of DURGA led the session on “Gender Gaps in Modern India”. Ms Margaret Johnson made all the students participate in the session through different activities. The session started with some exercises where all the students participated.



The session was a complete interactive session where the students actively participated by sharing their views and comments on various gender issues. The speaker engaged the students with numbers of questions on gender issues and gender based terms. The students gave good respond as all of them participated in the discussion. The speaker also asked the students to fill in the Impact Assessment Questionnaire. The students interacted on discussions made on sensitivity, women’s safety, gender, violence, values, trust etc.

“I am a woman and a warrior. If you think I can’t be both, you’ve been lied to.”

–Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar

Orientation programme on Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) on the 8th of November, 2021



The Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies organised the orientation programme of the project, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI), sponsored by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India on the 8th of November, 2021. The programme was conducted in the Academic Council Hall, Tezpur University. The purpose of the orientation meeting was to introduce the GSAT (Gender Self-Assessment Team) members to the initiative and vision of Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI).

The overarching programme is being undertaken in partnership with Aston University, Birmingham, UK. A GSAT team has been constituted with 62 members comprising of faculties, research scholars, students, technical and office staff of Tezpur University. A total of 30 institutions have been selected all over India to conduct a pilot study on the GATI project. In the Northeast, Tezpur University has earned the distinction of achieving this project.

The project aims to gauge and act upon the severity of the relative absence of women in the field of Science and Technology. The GATI programme commits to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics) disciplines. According to UIS data, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women. Women in scientific laboratories and institutions of higher education face several challenges in moving up the academic and administrative ladder which explains the existence of a structured hierarchy at the structural, cultural and institutional level. Considering the fact, there is a need to restructure and bring transformations at the institutional level. It bears utmost importance to understand how the 'structure' functions as a barrier in incorporating women in STEMM fields. Unfortunately, the disparity in gender statistics is not only in numbers but several micro and macro factors play their role at the institution level. GATI as an initiative aims to study these barriers which work at various levels; physical, structural, psychological, political. To understand these barriers at its grassroots, one has to look beyond the numbers and examine the qualitative factors that deter women from pursuing careers in STEMM fields.

The Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University, Professor Vinod Kumar Jain, (Principal Investigator of the GATI project) honoured the meeting with his presence. Other dignitaries in the meeting were Prof. Chandana Goswami, Department of Business Administration, Prof. Ramesh Chandra Deka of the Department of Chemical Sciences.

The meeting started with a welcome address by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women Studies. Followed by it was the streaming of a short film on GATI by DST, Government of India. The Nodal Officer of the GATI project, Dr. Madhurima Goswami then took the stage to introduce to the GSAT team the vision and aim of GATI.

She starts by making mention of a former DST mission on women scientists, the WISE-KIRAN scheme which came up in the year 2003. It was a scheme on around 5000 women scientists and the scheme came out to be quite successful. Speaking about the cultural and structural disabilities, she says that India is at a depressing state and needs sincere attention. Acknowledging the existing state, she says in order to reduce the gender-disparity, institutional support is important. Additionally, the GSAT members, need to be actively involved because the insider's perspective is fundamental in chalking out the various structural disabilities within the STEMM fields. She emphasizes on how the participation of women is important in the STEMM fields to reduce the gender gap and at the same time focused how women despite making their contributions in the field of science, most of the times remain invisible and unrecognised. She adds on how the GSAT team should embark on their journey towards realising the objectives of the GATI project by engaging in various participatory action like workshops, capacity-building and training programmes. She further goes on to explain to the GSAT team the GATI charter (the charter includes the rights and duties of an institution with respect to the GATI project). She adds how the entire team of GSAT needs to develop a gender-sensitive lens and integrate gender into research development, improving gender values in institutional culture. Professor Vinod Kumar Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University, appealed to the GSAT team to conduct the research in a sincere and unbiased manner. He called the issue of gender-equity and gender-sensitivity a question of justice and moral responsibility. He added that gender-sensitization programmes are fundamental in adopting a gender-specific work culture at the institutional level. He further stressed on the importance of educating the students of the university on gender and gender sensitivity. He further recommended a compulsory gender education course in STEMM departments along with the HSS stream through the Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women studies. Chandana Goswami, Department of Business Administration shared her inspiring experiences as a women employee in management stream. In 1999, she was selected for the Faculty Development Programme by IIM Ahmedabad which came with its own challenges in the social and professional fronts. She shared how she moved through the challenges during the programme. In the year 2004, she was among the privileged twelve ladies across India who were selected for the Women in Leadership and Management programme. She also shared with the GSAT team how she managed to balance her role as a mother as well a faculty to the best of her potential. She advised the young members, especially the students to strengthen their minds and be determined enough to navigate their potentialities and possibilities and fill in the loopholes in the structure of the institutions if and when necessary. Prof. Ramesh Ch. Deka, Department of Chemical Sciences graced the GSAT team with his humble words. He assured his support to the project in all possible ways. The orientation meeting was winded up by a vote of thanks given by Dr. Ivy Daimary, Research Associate, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women studies.

Observed the enforcement day of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 on the 9th December, 2021.

The Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University in collaboration with the Internal Complaints Committee, Tezpur University observed the enforcement day of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 on the 9th December, 2021.

The programme consisted of 50 participants which included students, research scholars and faculty members. The invited speaker of the session was Hema Das, the Director of The EAST, an NGO. The session started with a welcome address followed by the felicitation programme. The organisers of the programme felicitated the invited speaker and invited the speaker onto the stage.

The invited speaker began by introducing the Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to the participants. The 2013 Act is a landmark decision taken by the Government of India to safeguard the working conditions of women and their security at the workplace. The Act was enforced on the 9th of December, 2013. Ms Hema Das, the speaker began by narrating the history behind the incorporation of the Act. On explaining the need for such legislation to be passed she briefed about the Vishaka vs State of Rajasthan case. She interacted with the participants and asked them about their understanding of the concept of sexual harassment. Sexual Harassment at the Workplace is an infringement of women's right to work in decent and safe working conditions. She went on to explain the different ways in which sexual harassment might make its presence. She further added on the importance of the Internal Complaints Committee in every institution so that safety and security of women at the workplace is secured.

A programme on Good Academic Research Practices (GARP) on 14th December, 2021

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized a programme on Good Academic Research Practices (GARP) on 14th December, 2021. Poster making competitions was organized on topic: Plagiarism in Research & Rapport Building in field work. Dr. Madhurima Goswami (Head, CSCWS) and Dr. Mousumi Mahanta (Assistant Professor, CSCWS) gave lectures on "Ethics in Research work". Dr. Madhurima Goswami delivered a talk on the ethics in research work. She emphasized on different ethical and unethical steps in the research process especially during field work. Dr. Goswami presented the good practices in research work. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta gave a PPT presentation on GARP in higher education. She presented on the values underlying research integrity which are:

1. Ethics
2. Accountability
3. Rigour
4. Relevance
5. Transparency
6. Respect
7. Impartiality
8. Independence

Dr. Mahanta also focused on good research questions, conducting research, fabrication and misinterpretation, dissemination, and plagiarism. After the lecture there was a good interaction session.



Organized the first GATI training programme on the 24th December, 2021

The Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized the first GATI training programme on the 24th December, 2021. A total of 30 participants were present in the training programme. The training programme was inaugurated by Professor Chandan Kumar Sharma, Dean HSS in-charge. Professor Sharma welcomed the dignitaries of the programme, the resource person and the students of the university. Prof Sharma began by emphasising on the significance of the project and asserted that the institution needs to take the opportunity of the project to ensure the enhancement of gender equality in the STEM disciplines as well as the larger community.



The programme commenced with a session by Professor Pratibha Jolly, the Principal Investigator, DST GATI, Delhi. Professor Jolly started her session by introducing the genesis of the GATI project. She gave an overview of the framework and methodology of the GATI Pilot. The GATI Pilot is a strategic and systematic attempt to encourage the higher educational institutions towards supporting inclusion and diversity.

It is a labour of love and a mission to achieve a gender-inclusive institutional framework to achieve gender equity and promote women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines. Gender-equity framework have been exercising in the form of initiatives like ATHENA SWAN. However, GATI is an indigenous initiative. It is self-developed within India keeping in mind the Indian ethos and ecosystem. Importance on developing the quality of the institution based on capacity development and creation of opportunities for valuable experiences and growth for all was stressed upon. She explained the GSAT team about the GATI framework and methodology. The GATI framework enlists 7 criteria.



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- Criteria 1- GATI Self- Assessment Team Processes
- Criteria – Gender Profile of the Institution.
- Criteria 3- Gender Advancement, Career Progression, Leadership.
- Criteria 4- Gender Policies, Processes, Procedures, Practices.
- Criteria 5- Gender Climate and Organizational Culture.
- Criteria 6- Institutional Values, Best Practices, Case Studies.

Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) is important as it stands on the principles of bringing equity, celebrating diversity and honouring inclusivity for women in the field of STEM. It is a vision to enhance the participation of all underrepresented groups including women. Women enter into the education system by being awarded PhD degrees but by the time they progress through their academic journey and try to step up the ladder of occupational hierarchy, their numbers keep falling or they most likely relocate themselves in other work conducive to them. The major problems that come their way are lack of mentoring and support during the early years of their research. Women experience implicit and sometimes even explicit bias in appraisal and development. They suffer from lack of inclusion, recognition and opportunity and are constantly made to feel like an outsider which is detrimental for their growth at all levels. This Prof. Jolly calls the problem of the Leaky Pipeline in academia. As an example, amongst 629 Nobel Laureates in Science only 23 are women. At the national level, we have steps like reservation and affirmative action, but we need to take up more gender-responsive efforts to bring equity, diversity and inclusion of women in STEM. Equity would help in providing a level playing field for workforce participation.



Women on their own merit are looking for equal opportunity to showcase their talent and be rewarded for it. The GATI charter enlists the formation of GSAT (Gender Self-Assessment Team) who are given the responsibility to steer change, communicate and engage at the community level. They need to create engagement and awareness among the students, faculty, support staff, administration and stakeholders on issues of gender equity, diversity and inclusion. The GSAT is responsible for conducting awareness campaign on GATI Charter and GATI Pilot, conduct capacity building programmes through seminars,

workshops and training programmes. To conclude, Prof. Pratibha Jolly requested the GSAT members and other participants of the programme to alter their prejudiced belief and value systems through thoughtfully designed sensitization programmes and achieve a gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-inclusive environment for the promotion of women in STEM disciplines. Followed by Professor Jolly's session was the presentation of the first resource person, Kamatchi Sankaranarayanan, Assistant Professor, IASST, Guwahati. Of the 7 criteria, Prof. Sankaranarayanan spoke on the 3rd Criteria of the GATI framework "Gender Advancement, Career Progression, Leadership".



The Sustainable Development Goal 5 which deals with achieving gender equality was elaborately discussed. The various barriers that deter women in climbing the institutional and social ladder were focused upon. The gender-disparity in the leadership roles in the STEM fields were brought to light by Prof. Sankaranarayanan. There is clear gender gap being institutionalised in our everyday life, especially at the workplaces. These gender-based stereotypes hinder the way of career progression proves to be detrimental for a woman's growth and development in academia. Despite progress in the field of education and health, women continue to face economic challenges, denied political participation, equal pay and remain almost invisible in the decision-making process. She mentions about the reduced possibilities of career progression for women and the hindrances that come their way. About 43% of STEM graduates in India may be women-highest in the world but women's share in STEM jobs in India is a mere 14%. These statistics sourced from UNESCO Institute of Statistics show the discrepancy that exists in academia. The speaker also explained the implicit and sometimes, explicit biases that women face in their workplace. The Matilda Effect for example is a bias against acknowledging the achievements of those women scientists whose work is attributed to their male colleagues. It has happened to the work of some extraordinary female scientists as Lise Meitner, Rosalind Franklin and Marietta Blau. To make the session participative, Prof. Sankaranarayanan listed few questions for the participants to answer. Questions pertaining to impact of maternity leave on women's promotion after a long leave, recruitment policies etc. She summed up by suggesting that girls need to have the right role models and mentors so that they can be the ones leading the way because when girls see more women in positions of leadership either in the boardroom or senior management positions, it would be an aspiration for them all.



The 2nd resource person for the training programme was Professor Lipi Banerjee Mahanta, Associate Professor, IASST, Guwahati. Prof. Mahanta took up the Criteria 4 “Gender policies, Processes, Procedures, Practices”. The Global Gender Gap Index with special reference to India was discussed. Additionally, the various policies developed by the Government of India for improving the Gender Gap were highlighted. Government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mahila Shakti Kendra that aims to empower rural women with opportunities for skill development and employment, The National Creche Scheme ensures that women take up gainful employment through providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment to the children, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna which aims to provide maternity benefit to pregnant and lactating mothers and the like. She further talked about the importance of building a gender-inclusive and gender-sensitive work culture that would facilitate favourable working conditions for all genders. She also spoke on formulation of gender policies. The basic elements of gender policy were highlighted. Gender Policies are necessary for promoting a just and gender equitable environment, it would act as a deterrent against gender discrimination and harassment both in workplace and in other areas. Moreover, it would facilitate a gender sensitive and conducive working environment. The programme ended with a vote of thanks to the participants, resource persons of the day.



“Feminism is layered and its power comes from its diversity.”

-Scarlett Curtis

Two-day Youth Conclave entitled, “Empowering the Youth of North East India Through the Advancement of Technology and Skill” from 9th and 10th December, 2021



The Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies (CSCWS), Tezpur University organized two-day Youth Conclave entitled, “Empowering the Youth of North East India Through the Advancement of Technology and Skill” under the aegis of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), An Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, Govt. of India. The programme was conducted on 9th and 10th December, 2021 in the Academic Council Hall, Tezpur University.

A total of 50 members participated in the two-day Youth Conclave. Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD was the Chief Guest. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Prof. CSCWS was the Programme Coordinator. The participants included students of North Lakhimpur College, research scholars of the Centre for Women Studies and the invited guests.



The programme began with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Programme Coordinator. The welcome address was followed by an inaugural address by Prof. Dhruba Kumar Bhattacharya, Pro Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University. Prof. Bhattacharya began his speech by acknowledging the importance of learning beyond the syllabus given to a student. He laid emphasis on the generation of new ideas. He added that it would only be possible when the youth are enthusiastic enough to exercise their creativity and remain associated with the society around them. Their relation with the larger society helps them navigate new avenues and understand the difference between theoretical and practical knowledge.

Followed by Prof. Bhattacharya's inaugural address was a short introductory speech by the Chief Guest Sibnath Deb (Director, RGNID) who joined the Youth Conclave through online mode. Prof. Sibnath Deb greeted the audience and spoke on the importance of skill development especially for the youth of our country. He put emphasis on the development of communication and vocational skills among the youth which would build their confidence and help in their overall growth. He further added that owing to the increasing dependency on Technology today, we need to be familiar and adapt ourselves with the advanced technology.

There were eight resource persons in the two-day Youth Conclave. On the first day of the programme, five resource persons spoke on their respective areas of interest.

On the first day of the programme the invited speaker was Manoj Kumar Basumatary, an Entrepreneur from Assam. The organisers felicitated him with the traditional Gamosha and was invited to the stage. Mr. Basumatary greeted the audience and began by sharing about his journey from a government employee to an entrepreneur. He served as a probationary officer in the SBI and left his job as Chief Manager in 2013 to sail in a different direction. He started with a small piggery farm in his native village, Dhekidol, Ghoramari. In 2016, he incorporated his venture as Symbiotic Foods Pvt Ltd. He has been selected as Asom Gaurav for his contribution in building an ecosystem for commercial piggery and training 1000 of youths in Modern Scientific Commercial Piggery. He modestly shared about his journey as an entrepreneur and appealed to the audience that people need to learn how to connect the Lab to the Land.



Prof. Debendra Chandra Baruah's speech was followed by the former speaker. His topic of discussion was on 'Empowering the Youth of North East India through the Advancement of Technology and Skill'. Prof. Baruah drew the link between the sustainable use of resources and sustainable evolution of the future societies. He discussed about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and emphasised on the importance of reviving our trust on the nature. He further added that we need to consider our time and our intelligence as a resource. We need to gauge our management of the natural resources so that there are reduced risks for the future generation. Followed by Prof. Debendra Baruah's speech was the speech of Pulak Kumar Mandal. He is the Deputy Manager of North East Cane and Bamboo Council. The topic of his discussion was, 'Skill Development for Youth: Incense Sticks and Bamboo Industry'.

He discussed with the audience the working of their industry. They conduct training programmes which span from 2 days to 2 months long. They train people how to use bamboo as a resource to sustain livelihood as well as for commercial purposes. He educated the participants about the various ways a bamboo can be used, for example, bamboo charcoal can be used as a bio-fertilizer, bamboo vinegar as a bio-pesticide and bamboo briquette as fuel. He further added that despite India being the 2nd largest bamboo producer of the world, she lags behind in the manufacturing sector more so as India does not capture even 1% of the Global Export as compared to 76% by China. Every speech was followed by an interactive session with the participants where questions related to the topics were asked to the speaker concerned. Govt. of Assam and her topic of discussion was 'India's National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals'. She began by stressing on the fact that India as a country needs to focus on long term development; a development that takes care of overall growth of the nation.

To her, it is fundamental for the youth to be enthusiastic and participative in the development process and the government needs to strengthen the youth segment to secure the future of the youth as well as the nation as a whole. She highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals related to youth empowerment in particular. She further discussed on the importance of quality education and decent working environment. She also educated the participants about the various government programmes, start-up policy and schemes which have been drafted to support entrepreneurship.



Followed by Manju Gogoi's presentation was the presentation delivered by Dr. Kamatchi Sankaranarayan. Dr. Kamatchi is an Assistant Professor of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati. Her topic of discussion was 'Promotion of Scientific Temper among the Youth'. At the very beginning she discussed how human societies developed an attitude of reasoning and rationality with the advent of enlightenment and further got expanded with every new intellectual revolution like the Copernican Revolution and the like. She emphasised on the importance of developing a scientific attitude among the youth.

The 1st day of the programme ended with Dalimi Choudhury Deka's presentation. Dalimi Choudhury Deka is the proprietor, DBD Enterprise. She spoke on 'Traditional Livelihood Skills in Demand for Income Generation and Entrepreneurship Development'. She shared her journey with the participants and motivated them with her experiences and achievements. She has been awarded the 'Best Entrepreneur Award', 'Nari Shakti Award'. She added that to be a good entrepreneur one has to be competitive and passionate about their work. She also believed that one should build their social networks and work in such a way that



their participation adds to the development of the community. She further added that her enterprise provides employment to nine employees presently.



To make the session more interactive, the students were given activities to do. The students were at first divided into four groups to develop a competitive spirit among them. In their first activity they were given a time-frame of 15 minutes and were asked to jot down few uses of bamboo. All the students participated actively in it. In the second activity, each group was provided with chart papers and pens. They were asked to draw in paper how they imagine their lives 5 years from now. After the end of the task, members of each group came over to the stage and shared the posters made by them and explained how they wished the world around them to be. They painted their dreams in the most innovative ways possible. They dreamed of a clean, plastic free environment, a socially just society, one of the group also shared their dream of starting up small enterprise.

The second day of the Youth Conclave began with a presentation delivered by Madhurjya Mohan Gogoi. His topic of discussion was 'Human Hair management and Entrepreneurship'. Mr. Gogoi started his discussion by citing the unique properties of human hair along with its limitless potential. Its fine chemical and material composition has led to diverse uses in different fields such as beauty and cosmetic industry. Human hair is one of the highest nitrogen- containing organic material in nature hence utilisation of human hair can ensure both socio-economic and environmental well-being. He further added that with the help of adequate training it can be a great source of entrepreneurial needs and has immense market scope.



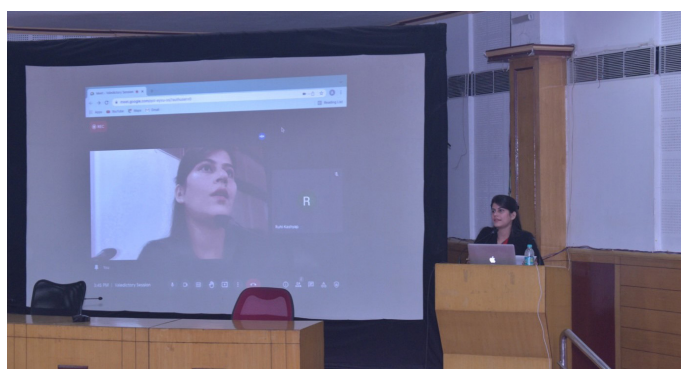
The next speaker for the day was Manoj Kumar Das, Managing Director, North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, Ltd. Mr. Manoj Das shared her journey since childhood. He talked on the different qualities of soil and the various crops that can be cultivated in the Northeast region. He laid emphasis on the capacities the region holds in terms of cultivation of food crops. The North East region is abundant in resources, for instance, the region has the largest wholesale market for banana.



Mr. Manoj Das's talk was followed up by Mr. Abhijit Baishya's presentation. Mr. Baishya's topic of discussion was on, 'Use of ICT and Skill Development'. He introduced the participants to the important topics of Information and Communication Technology like Graphic Designing, Blogging, Coding, Transcribing and the like. Through his presentation, he tried to explain that by developing the ICT skills one can open up new avenues of employment and income. He further added that ICT is a multi-disciplinary concept and everyone can develop their knowledge on computers and technology based on their areas of interests. He also educated the participants about the basic technical know-how and the safe use of gadgets. Mr. Baishya's session was followed by many interesting questions put up by the students. There were students who were inquisitive to learn about the scope of digital marketing and the like.

Followed by Mr. Abhijit's session was the presentation by Mr. Gangaram Dahal. Mr. Dahal is an organic farming expert and his topic of discussion was 'Promotion of Low-cost/ Alternate/ Rural Technologies for Livelihood and Farming'. He is an expert in Bee-Keeping and is also a mushroom cultivator. He also knows the art of making homemade low-cost fertilizer. He began his presentation by explaining the various types of bees-the worker bee, the drone and the queen bee. He educated the participants on the minute details about the lifecycle of bees and how they work. He also discussed about the various equipments needed in bee-keeping like the Beehive Box, the Queen

Chamber Frame and the like. He is also a mushroom cultivator and explained about mushroom cultivation as well. Thereafter, Mr. Dahal took the students for a field visit to his farm. In the field, the students were exposed to bee-keeping, various processes of bee-preservation and regarding for their hands-on training, the students were provided mushroom seeds.



The two-day programme summary was delivered by Ms. Nigar Sultana, Project Assistant, CSCWS, Tezpur University. After the summary of the two-day programme, Vasanthi Rajendran, Head of CTO and BC/CNIC, RGNIYD, Tamil Nadu delivered the special address. She joined the programme through online-mode. At the outset, she greeted everyone and explained the motive of the youth conclave in brief. She then insisted to hear from the participants about their learning experiences in the programme.

She also welcomed suggestions from the participants, if there were any, for better execution of such youth related programmes. Lastly, she appreciated and thanked the organizers for the successful completion of the programme.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Programme Coordinator of the two-day Youth Conclave.

■ Celebrating National Girl Child Day on 24th January,2022

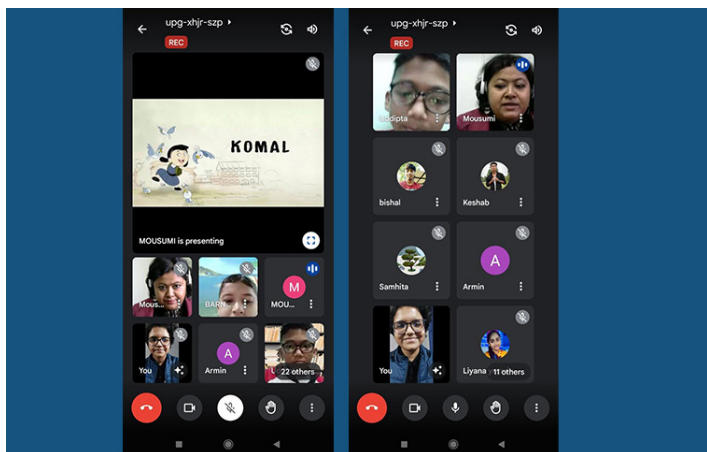
Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized a programme on the occasion of National Girl Child Day on 24th January,2022. Around 11 girls from various schools and colleges attended the programme. The participants were first of all asked to give their introduction then Dr.Madhurima Goswami, Head,CSCWS deliberated on the National Girl Child Day celebration. Ms Sonali Boro (Research Scholar) asked the participants to inscribe their dreams on a chart paper which are rather considered as inappropriate for girls. Later, the participants explained on their dreams in life. They were also given opportunity to express their views on gender issues in the society.



■ One-day web talk cum interaction by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta on “Child Sexual Abuse” on the occasion of National Girl Child day on 24th January, 2022

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized a one-day web talk cum interaction by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta on “Child Sexual Abuse” on the occasion of National Girl Child day in collaboration with SAED Solution Private Limited, Sorbhog, Barpeta.

The programme host, Nelofer Ameen, student of CSCWS, TU, welcomed everyone and initiated the programme by introducing the speaker and the purpose of organizing the programme. Total 40 participants attended the programme. The participants are both boys and girls of age group started from 8 to 20 years studying in different schools and colleges of Barpeta districts, Assam.



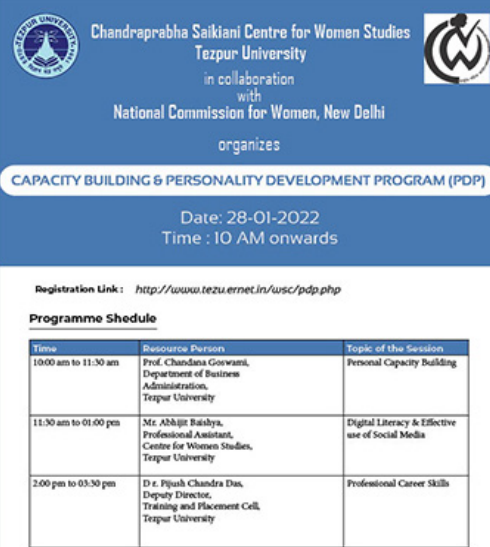
Dr. Mousumi Mahanta addressed the participants. The speaker first of all deliberated on the purpose of celebrating National Girl Child Day that National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24th. It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the government of India, in order to spread public awareness about inequities that girls face in Indian society. The day is celebrated with organized programs including awareness campaigns about Save the Girl Child, child sex ratios, and the creation of a healthy and safe environment for girls. Dr Mahanta stressed on the importance of organizing talks on topic like “Child Sexual Abuse” which is rather considered as something not to be discussed openly. According to the speaker, society cannot be fulfilled only with man or only with woman as contribution from both is needed in the society. She spoke on gender equality, equal division of role for men and women or boys and girls. The speaker discussed about gender roles by asking various questions on gender roles in the family and society. The students actively participated and interacted by answering all the questions. Dr Mahanta presented a PPT on child sexual abuse explaining the meaning of child sexual abuse and its various types. The speaker explained how both boys and girls equally face child sexual abuse. Anyone can be victim of sexual abuse.

The speaker presented a short video on Child Sexual Abuse titled "KOMAL". The video is about a girl who is sexually abused by her neighbor. She shares with her mother who calls the helpline immediately. The culprit is arrested. Through the video children could clearly understand the importance of raising voice in such situation. The speaker informed the participants about the Child Line number (1098) which can be contacted anytime whenever someone faces child sexual abuse. Dr. Mahanta discussed on child sexual abuse citing many examples. The speaker shared her own childhood experiences of such abuses. Dr. Mahanta further explained about the importance of awareness about child sexual abuse that most of the time the culprits are close ones, related to the victim. She narrated many real incidences on child sexual abuse. Dr. Mahanta stressed on the importance and necessity of sharing such incidences with the parents or any one whom we trust. Dr. Mahanta talked about POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences). She explained the rules and regulations under POCSO. She also asked the participants to note down all the Child Line helplines.

Dr. Samhita Baroah, Faculty (Sociol Work, Tezpur University) shared her personal experiences on child sexual abuse and acknowledged the importance of programmes on child sexual abuse. Before winding up, Dr. Mahanta presented another video based on breaking the silence on such abuses. At the end several queries were raised by the participants on child sexual abuse, gender equality, and ways to handle the situations and how to change the mindset of the people. Dr. Mahanta explained that changing people's mindset is not one day process as it would take long time. She said every individual has responsibility to bring changes in the society, to make a better society to live in. At last the participants expressed how the programme helped them to understand about laws related to child sexual abuse and how they also can organize such programme to sensitize the other members of the society of all age group. At the end Nelofer Ameen thanked the speaker for leading the session and thanked the centre for all support for the programme.

One day capacity building and personality development programme (PDP) on 28-01-2022

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University organized a one day capacity building and personality development programme (PDP) online in zoom platform in collaboration with National Commission for Women, New Delhi on 28-01-2022, time : 10 AM onwards. 151 numbers of participants attended the training programme. Students from various colleges and universities attended the programme like Tezpur University, Dakshin Kamrup College, Mirza, Tezpur college, Cotton University, Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College, North Lakhimpur college (autonomous), Barpeta law college, Basic Training Centre, Howly, Chaiduar College, Assam University, Dibrugarh University, Sardar Patel College of Engineering Andheri West Mumbai, Debabrat Bhuyan College, Guwahati University, Sardar Patel College of Engineering, Jagannath Barooah College, DCB Girls' College, Jorhat.



Time	Resource Person	Topic of the Session
10:00 am to 11:30 am	Prof. Chandana Goswami, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University	Personal Capacity Building
11:30 am to 01:00 pm	Mr. Abhijit Baishya, Professional Assistant, Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University	Digital Literacy & Effective use of Social Media
2:00 pm to 03:30 pm	Dr. Pijush Chandra Das, Deputy Director, Training and Placement Cell, Tezpur University	Professional Career Skills

Programme Schedule

Time	Resource Person	Topic of the session
10:00 to 11:30 am	Prof. Chandana Goswami, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University.	Personal Capacity Building
11:30 to 01:00 pm	Mr. Abhijit Baishya, Professional Assistant, Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University.	Digital Literacy & Effective use of Social Media
2:00 to 03:30 pm	Dr. Pijush Chandra Das, Deputy Director, Training and Placement Cell, Tezpur University.	Professional Career Skills

Prof. Chandana Goswami first of all asked all the participants to introduce themselves and later she introduced herself presenting her biodata. Prof. Goswami gave a PPT presentation on Personal Capacity Building. Prof. Goswami explained the following three important steps for personal development. She elaborated following steps of personal capacity building-

1. Listening and Brainstorming: Listening, steps in listening, key techniques for becoming an effective listener, factors that influence listening, why is active listening important in the workplace, brainstorming rules for productive session, importance of brainstorming for career development.

2. Time Management and Stress Management: Time management, strategies for effective time management, importance of time management, sources of stress, psychological effects of stress, physiological effects, stress management at workplace.

3. Internal Communication and Group Discussion: Importance of Internal Communication in Organization, Process and direction of Communication, Formal and Informal communication, Forms of Internal Communication, Group Discussion, Dos and Don'ts of Group Discussion.

After the lecture Prof. Goswami interacted with the participants and asked questions based on her lecture. Many participants actively interacted throughout the session.

In the second session Mr. Abhijit Baishya, deliberated on Digital Literacy & Effective use of Social Media. Mr. Baishya explained the significance of digital literacy. He spoke on Generating email ID, Banking services and use of Social Media. He spoke on following points -

1. Generating email ID (on google): Simple user id, easy to remember; creating strong passwords using alpha-numeric and special characters combinations, using email id on mobile devices, identification of spam email, security settings.

2. Banking Services and Payment Gateways: How to use debit card, credit card, Paytm, google pay, Bhim pay app etc. an example of purchasing an economic item. Relevance of OTP, dos and don'ts for online payment.

3. Use of Social Media: Protection of own account (social media), identification of stalker and cyber-crimes, cyber security: cyber-crimes against women; legal remedies against stalker, dark web, how to keep safe from dark web and porn content.

In the third session Dr. Pijush Chandra Das, Deputy Director, Training and Placement Cell, Tezpur University gave PPT presentation on Professional- Career Skills. Dr. Das gave a vigorous explanation on how to build career skills. Dr. Das presented on:

1. Identifying Career Opportunities: What is career, career opportunity, steps for identifying a career opportunity.

2. Resume Skills: Resume, purpose of resume, difference between resume and curriculum vitae, essentials of a good resume, dos, and don'ts of writing a resume.

3. Interview and Presentation Skills: Interview, job interview, types of job interview, preparation for the job interview, appearing for the job interview, meaning of presentation, importance and type of presentation, tips for making a presentation, delivering a presentation.

Target: Students.

Aid: PPT presentation, Modules of the program

Impact: The capacity building and Personality development programme helped the students to understand the importance to develop their personality and the steps for personal capacity building. The students learned how to use social media effectively and gained knowledge on Digital Literacy. Students gained knowledge on Professional Career Skills.

A capacity building and personality development programme on 9th March,2022

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022 Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies organized a capacity building and personality development programme on 9th March,2022 which is sponsored by National Commission for women, New Delhi. 92 participants attended the programme.

Dr.Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University addressed the participant and the resource persons of the workshop. She further reflected on the objectives and mandate of the workshop among the participant. Dr. Mahanta also deliberated on the importance of the capacity building and personality development programme. By introducing Dr. Vatsala Shoukla, SNDT University she opened the session for interactive discussion and deliberation.

In the first session Dr. Vatsala Shoukla extensively discussed first module of capacity building and personality development initiated by National Commission for Women, New Delhi. She mainly focused on two major components of capacity building and personality development which are listening and brainstorming. In her lecture she discussed these two components in details. She highlighted that the module developed by NCW is in holistic approach to deal with issues of personal as well as professional life. Followed by the speaker:

The broader live skills discussed on the session were divided into three aspects:

1. Listening and Brainstorming
2. Time management and stress management
3. Internal and group communication.

Listening is important in every aspects especially in the case of research. It should start with the 'desire to listen' to get different perceptions. One should know how to cultivate knowledge base by listening. One should know how to engage to listening. There are five ways of listening:

1. Receiving
2. Understanding
3. Evaluating
4. Responding and
5. Remembering.

Techniques for listening are:

1. Pay attention : verbal or non-verbal
2. Raise questions

To improve listening ability, one should summarize what the speaker says.

"A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman."

-Melinda Gates

Brainstorming is gaining ideas which helps one to refine the research at initial stages. It allows new ideas to come in. Brainstorming can be at individual level as well as collective level. The core of brainstorming is, at the initial stage you are not supposed to criticize. One should allow others to bring in different ideas in order to have comprehensive set of ideas. Taking an instance of Women at workplace, what are the challenges faced and what are the mechanisms to tackle the problems? Organising into an orderly basis economically, socially, psychologically, educationally and linguistic category.

Brainstorming also plays as a gateway of generating ideas which help in organising and achieving the objectives. It stimulates the creation of different ideas.

Time management and stress management:

Both are equally important at individual and collective work. There are many models which can be carried out. It depends on the individuals which pattern and model one follows. This sub-topics focussed more on work management rather than time management. How you manage your long and short term work and time. To be effective in carrying out the task one should :

1. Prioritize the work
2. Divide the work
3. Set the deadline of the work
4. Make step by step plan.

Making step by step plans will help to reduce stress level. Forcing oneself too much could lead to increase in stress level.



To reduce stress level; one should cultivate the nature of loving our work. More efforts to learn and to improve ourselves create more interest. Availability of materials to learn from digital means should be utilised to improve oneself.

Stress has different type which needs to be tackle base on individual level. Sharing with reliable persons about your problems thus helped. How you share and whom you share plays a crucial role to avoid stress. The process to take care of the situations should be understood and mitigated strategically.

Love your work or cultivate your love for your work, it reduces your stress level.

Internal and group Communication: It is important to know formal and informal communication when and how to apply, in order to maintain the decorum of any session. Communication is very important which has different ways of understanding. It could be one way, two ways or multiple ways. With different medians of communications such as social media, digital media, blog etc.

Group communication creates problem solving nature. It shows how :


Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
Tezpur University
 in collaboration
 with
National Commission for Women, New Delhi
 organizes
 

CAPACITY BUILDING & PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PDP)

Date: 09-03-2022
Time : 10 AM onwards

Registration Link : <http://www.tezu.ernet.in/wsc/pdp2.php>

Programme Schedule

Time	Resource Person	Topic of the Session
10:00 am to 11:30 am	Dr. Vatsala Shoukla Assistant Professor Women Studies Centre, SNDT University Mumbai	Personal Capacity Building
11:30 am to 01:00 pm	Dr. Pijush Chandra Das Deputy Director Training and Placement Cell Tezpur University	Professional Career Skills
2:00 pm to 03:30 pm	Ankumon Sarmah Assistant Professor Centre for Computer Science and Applications Dibrugarh University	Digital Literacy & Effective use of Social Media

Contact Details
 Dr. Mousumi Mahanta
 Coordinator of the programme
 Assistant professor
 Centre for Women Studies
 Tezpur University

website : www.tezu.ernet.in/wsc/

1. One lead the discussion
2. Quality of participation
3. Problem solving ability
4. Non-verbal behaviour
5. Team spirit
6. Interpersonal and professional communication
7. Group objectives and analytical skills.

It is also important for one to be confident and be a good listener. Bring in relevance and innovative ideas. Also raise pertinent questions to have a dialogue and discussion.

What are the things which needs to be avoided under this sub-topics are :

1. Do not impose your view on others.
2. Don't be silent for too long.
3. When there is conflicting views, do not take it personally.
4. Do not deviate the core topic.

The points which are crucial:

1. Respect the democratic transparency.
2. Listen to other views.
3. Don't overpower other always.
4. Maintain the decorum of the discussion.

In the second session, Dr.Pijush Das, Deputy Director of Training and Placement Cell Tezpur University was invited to deliberate on career skill. Dr. Das make participant understood that getting job in the current days is how difficult. He said that along with degree and diploma extra skill, certification are also important for the career growth by saying these he cited examples of engineering students taking social science course through online platform like Udemy, NPTEL, Moocs, swayam course etc. He added that confidence, positive personality traits, attitude are improved in gradual process so students should practice those from early career or during the college time. He also suggested students to take part in any events like elocution, debate or other extra curricula activities in the college and university to improve good attitude and confidence. Dr Das elaborately explained about different skill related to career opportunities. He advised students to have open and positive mind-set about the career.

The third session started with warm welcome of resource person Dr. Ankumon Sarmah, Assistant Professor, Computer Science Centre, Dibrugarh University by Dr Mousumi Mahanta. Dr. Ankumon Sarmah elaborated in detail about the third module "Digital Literacy & effective use of Social Media". In his session he demonstrated application of digital literacy in career prospect. He trained participant to handle google accounts and elaborately explained about uses of it in career prospect. He stressed on use of social media in the student life and precaution related to social media account. He gave hands on training on various precaution measures of handling those social media account.

Participant of the programme actively participated in all the sessions and raised various queries related to career and personality development.

Organized a painting competition on 9th March,2022

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized a painting competition on the occasion of Women's Week, 2022. The theme was: "Women and Innovation". Mr. Bhargav Pratim Borah bagged the 1st position with a prize money of rupees 3000 in cash.



Celebrated Birth and Death anniversary of Chandrabhabha Saikiani on 16th March,2022

Chandrabhabha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies celebrated birth and death anniversary of Chandrabhabha Saikiani on 16th March,2022. 30 number of women staff of Tezpur University participated in the meeting. On that auspicious occasion, the centre organized two programs simultaneously where the latter was intended for the non-teaching employee especially women employees. There were 30 participants. The main aim was to create awareness among the employees in terms of safe



work place environment. Dr. Madhurima Goswami began the session emphasizing on the importance of safe environment at workplace. Madam asked how safe our working environment is. So, it was an experience sharing session for the non-teaching staff. Afterward, Dr. Mousumi Mahanta was requested to continue the session for further discussion where she addressed the issues regarding women and workplace.

As human beings, we face different problems in our lives and she talked about the importance of safe healthy surrounding. Participants were given papers in order to perform a task.

The participants shared their own experience of how they have come across comments, inequalities during work hour. There are ways through which a safe work environment can be attained like bathroom-hygienic and comfortable, fire safety, CCTV camera, and privacy.

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta made the participants understand the importance of voice against crimes or injustices. Women need to raise their own voice to protect themselves as well as others who are not able to do so. Soon after a short film based on harassment at workplace was shown or played. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta furthered the discussion explaining sexual harassment. She mentioned about the complaint committee. However it is noted that most of the committees do not work on behalf of women. The employees were asked to write their own experience on papers. They brought the topic of common room and how they need a common room since many women go through periods and pregnancy and they cannot take rest without having any privacy. Child care leave is a basic right for a working woman. However, it has come to notice that some of the male colleagues make fun of it. Dr. Madhurima Goswami raised a question if the non-teaching women employees need a platform to express them. To that question, many answered that they want a platform. The other questions brought by Dr. Goswami were- Are we comfortable at workplace? Do we get recognitions by the work we do?

The session came to an end with some solutions such as collective efforts towards having a sound environment, vacation for the women employee at least for a week, induction dustbin to put pads and so on.

"Feminism is for everybody."

-Bell Hooks

Advocacy



Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies observed the UN International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girls. It was observed from 25th November -10th December,2021. Theme: Orange the world: End Violence against Women now.

Dr.Mousumi Mahanta,CSCWS, Tezpur University gave a brief speech on the UN International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girls. Dr.Mahanta announced the student's initiative to resist violence against women and girls in the society.The students performed street plays based on women issues from 25th November -10th December,2021 inside the campus as well as outside the University Campus.The students were divided into groups with different group names and topic.

MC Mary kom group performed on “Xopunor Deuka Meli”. The skit was performed with the objective to raise awareness to the public regarding the importance of women education, the equality deserved by the Indian women. Rani Lakshmibai group presented a skit: “Pehchaan”. This skit was on women those who are suffering from acid attack.The Mulagabhoru group performed a skit named, “Rupantar”. Assamese Literature's Pioneer Lakshminath Bezborua's famous short-story 'Bhadori' was adopted as a street play. The importance of improvisation of that 'domestic violence' story from 19th to 21st century that impact various women's movement, which brought changes to the mind-set of today's people was depicted in the Drama. The group named Joimoti presented a play titled, “Upolobdhi”. The main theme and focus of the skit is “Upalabdhi” which means realization. The story basically sheds light around the practice of witch hunting which is still present today in various parts of Assam, particularly in the village areas. The group named Arundhati performed a play titled, “Lanchana”. The skit was performed based on the theme of 'Eve Teasing'. The group named Aideu Handique performed a play titled, “Oinonto”.





'Oinonto ' means end of a bad or evil phase. By this small play, they highlighted how the dowry system has been practiced and how it results to death or harassment of women for not fulfilling her in-law's demands. The group named Birubala Rabha presented a skit titled "Eta Rongor Vitto". The play revolves around six scenes, of which three portrays the discrimination and violence against women in society. The rest three scenes open the eye towards the discomfort and give a solution to overcome the problem plaguing society. The group named Kanaklata performed a skit on "Aru Kiman Dur". The play focused around:

- o The Educational teachings that leads to discrimination on the basis of racism.
- o The life of a widow woman and society.
- o The life of a rape victim.

The group named Kamala Bhasin presented a skit titled "Darpan". While many initiatives have been taken to make people aware about rape and its horrors, there has been very little sensitization in the grass-root level about the social stigma carried by Rape victims, or more generally any gender based violence victims. The performed skit was an exercise in informing where the real blame lies, encouraging people to take a step away from victim shaming and try to unlearn the patriarchal ideas of sexual freedom in order to relearn how to react in circumstances that



should not be, but somehow are common in our societies. The script and the acting strived to create safe spaces for rape victims that are horrifyingly scarce in the society. Enacting and imbibing the play also allowed all the participants to step in the shoes of rape victims and think how each sentence of condemnation also makes already broken spirits shatter.

Target: Students,staff, Faculty,community people.

Aid: Skit

Imapct: Community people could understand and relate the performances to gender violences.

Felicitating Young Women Scientists



Chandraprabha Saikaini Center for Women Studies, Tezpur University organized International Women's Day on 8th March, 2022. Dr Nirmali Gogoi (Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Tezpur University) was invited as the speaker. Dr. Gogoi gave her presentation on "Climate Change and Women". 68 number of students participated in the talk.

The session started with Dr Madhurima Goswami's address. She wished the audience on women's day and stressed on the importance of giving recognition to the women in the field of science. Dr Ivy Daimary gave an introduction of the speaker and congratulated Dr Nirmali Gogoi's path breaking works in the field of science. This year Tezpur University felicitated three leading women scientists from junior and senior levels. The women scientists were selected on the basis of their research and philanthropic work. Dr. Nirmali Gogoi was felicitated as one of the women scientists for her great contribution in science.

Dr Nirmali Gogoi addressed the audience and started her lecture by pointing towards the increasing GDP and the rapid growth of the economy. She questioned the result of this development.

Dr Gogoi explained the rapid developments impacting the CO₂ concentration in the environment, depleting the Ozone layer. This is leading to the change of temperature. The speaker points towards how this development is breaching the ecological limit, which is leading to the loss of biodiversity, rapid population growth and endangering plant and animal species. The change in the climate is impacting the natural and human systems in the form of physical, social and economic factors. Dr Gogoi suggests that adaptation, mitigation and implementing policies must be encouraged to reduce the green house gases. Adaptive capacities deal with vulnerability.

The speaker went on to say that Gender inequity is a crisis within a crisis. Gender inequalities amplify vulnerability. The relationship between climate change and gender is crucial as how people experience climate change depends on their position in the society. Some of the crises due to climate change are poverty, water scarcity, fuel shortage, natural disaster, diseases, displacement, and conflicts. Women suffer more and differently to climate change.

The speaker went on to say that Gender inequity is a crisis within a crisis. Gender inequalities amplify vulnerability. The relationship between climate change and gender is crucial as how people experience climate change depends on their position in the society. Some of the crises due to climate change are poverty, water scarcity, fuel shortage, natural disaster, diseases, displacement, and conflicts. Women suffer more and differently to climate change. The speaker points towards some of the climate change solutions like thinking out of the box, involving women in the management of climate change, proper training to the volunteers, effective leadership, family planning, and women led actions must be funded, women must be trained. Dr Nirmali Gogoi stressed to the audience the importance of conserving traditional knowledge like water harvesting, food preservation, natural resource management. Traditional knowledge enhances local adaptive capacity. She gave an example of an African woman who represents the 'wisdom pools'.

The speaker said the Agriculture can cope with climate change by limiting erosion, minimum tillage and diverse rotation. This will lead to greater long term profits like – decreased fuel costs, decreased erosion, less greenhouse gas. Controlled release fertilizers are a must. When one uses urea fertilizer, the harvest looks good, but urea is not good for the environment, as Urea is very mobile and spreads to water bodies and soil. Waste management is important. One must reduce the consumption of natural resources. An example of waste management is the making of Biochar. Biochar is useful as it supplies plants nutrients, enhances crop yield and acts as an absorbent. Production methods of Biochar are – conventional, gasifier, pyrolyzer, bioenergy. The presentation showed an example of a success story – a climate smart approach to drought in Kenya, led to food, water and livelihood security. Dr Gogoi says Seasonal shift could be dangerous for the crops. Climate smart technique - Double Row Planting, Early weather information are some of the ways to tackle the change in the climate. The speaker concludes the session by saying that Women are powerful agents and Solutions must be encouraged to slow down and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The session opened for questions from the audience.

Dr Madhurima Goswami suggested that we need to bridge the gap between science and social science. As women are change makers, they must be given the position of climate change leaders.

Dr Madhurima Goswami gave the vote of thanks to the speaker, the Assamese Department of Tezpur University, Dr Chandan Kumar Sarmah and to the audience.

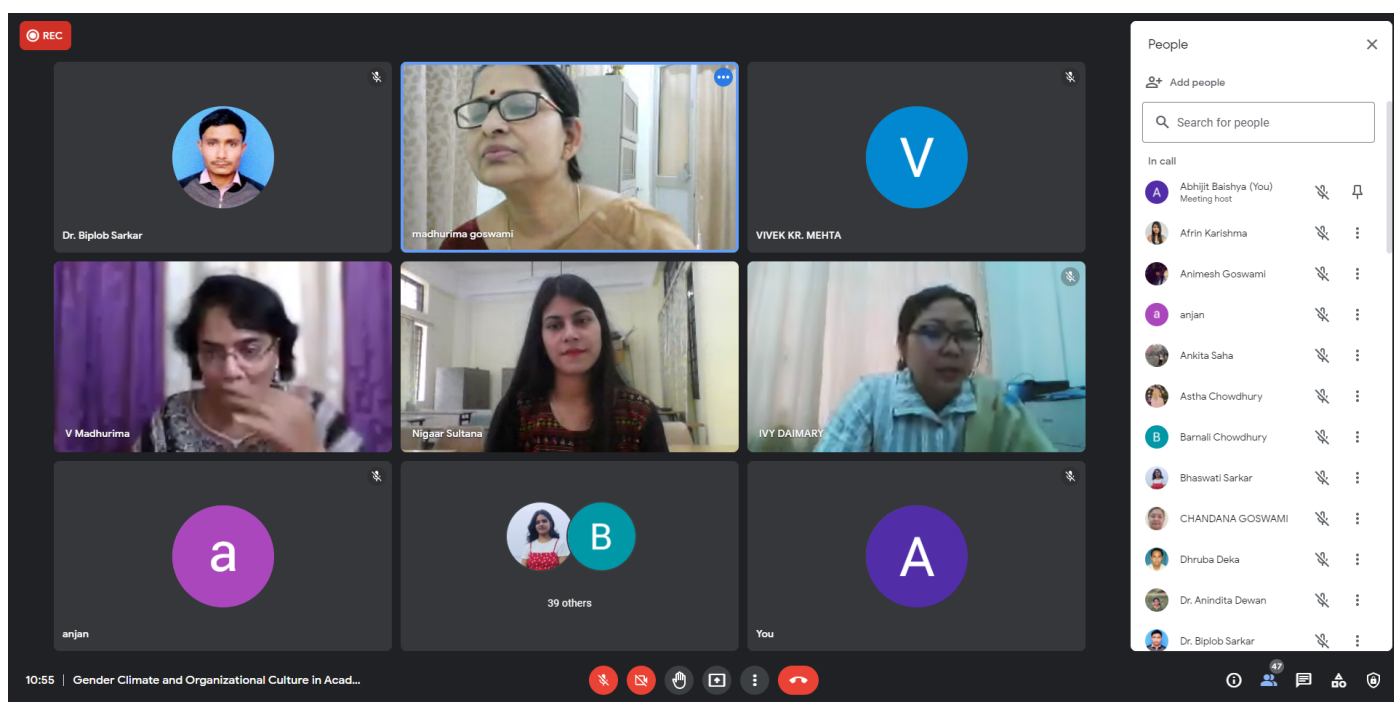
Target : Students

Aid : PPT

Impact : The students were enlightened with the knowledge on climate change and how it impact women.

Whatever the problem, be part of the solution. Don't just sit around raising questions and pointing out obstacles."

– Tina Fey



Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies(CSCWS), Tezpur University celebrated the occasion of women's day through a week long program promoting the theme for 2022 Women's Day : #BreaktheBias "Gender Equality for a Sustainable Future". The women's week commenced from 8th March 2022 and continued till 16th March, 2022. 47 participants attended the talk. The Centre conducts seminars, competitions, memorial lectures to celebrate the entire week as Women's Week. This year the week long programme was conducted in line with Women in Science and Technology in India. The Ministry of Women and Child Development under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav issues a memorandum to felicitate senior and junior women scientists for their contributions in the field of science. Keeping that in view, the Centre felicitated three women scientists of India, Dr. Nirmali Gogoi, Department of Environmental Studies, Tezpur University. Prof. V. Madhurima, Department of Physics, Central University of Tamil Nadu and Prof. Rohini. M Godbole, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. On the Day 4 of the Women's Week programme, i.e. on 11th March 2022, a webinar was conducted on the topic 'Organizational Culture and Climate in Promotion of Science'. The resource person for the seminar was Prof. V. Madhurima, Central University of Tamil Nadu.

She was addressed and felicitated online by Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, CSCWS.

With honor and respect a memento was gifted to the speaker Prof. V Madhurima. Followed by the preliminaries, the speaker began her analytical and enlightening talk on 'Organizational Culture and Climate in Promotion of Science'. Her talk continued for an hour followed by an interaction session with the participants of the programme. The beneficiaries of the programme included students of the university, research scholars as well as faculties of various departments. The Centre for Women Studies has also taken up the DST sponsored project GATI (Gender Advancement for transforming Institutions) which lied in sync with the memorandum issued by Ministry of Education to felicitate female scientists. In that context, The GATI GSAT (Gender Self-Assessment Team) were the immediate beneficiaries of the programme since the talk by Prof V. Madhurima helped them in developing a broader insight about the deeply embedded gender issues related to women in science.

Prof. Madhurima began the webinar through an introduction of the general issues faced by women in science. This included issues like the leaky pipeline, biases, gender stereotyping and lack of role models and intersectionality. It has been observed that the number of women in the field of STEM gradually decreases as they try to move up the ladder of occupational hierarchy from PhD to post-doc, from Assistant Professors to Professors.

It is like a leaky pipeline where the water is gradually leaking and trickling away at every passing staging, hardly remaining at the end. According to a study by the Ontario University named Ontario's Leaking Pipeline of Women in Engineering Education, shows the ratio of female and male students to be 50:50 at grade 10 science students which sharply decreases to 19:81 when it comes to graduates from an engineering program and the engineering faculty in the ratio 14:86. The women enter into the education system but by the time they reach the level of being professors and take up leadership roles, the institutional structure is less favorable. The leaky pipeline has now been picturized as a braided river by UNESCO where the river is continuously changing course with multiple sources of water to the system as well as multiple sources of erosion. However, it never stops and keeps moving forward. Similarly, women do not drop off from the work-force, they relocate their work elsewhere, most likely, based on what seems conducive for her. This is because women relocate themselves in other jobs and don't just drop-off. A woman faces several biases when it comes to workplace most of them being in fact invisible; like men who work alone are credited as 'independent thinkers' whereas women are labelled as a "non-team player". Researches show that both men and women take criticism negatively when it comes from a woman and were doubly disinterested to work for a company led by a woman. At the institutional level, taking orders from a woman is less welcoming. Likewise, talking of other stereotypical understanding Prof. Madhurima cites a general example of how at the very idea of being at the reception or serving at a conference or seminar is given to the girls and incidentally neither the one who commands or the one who takes the command seems to mind.

Gender stereotypes combined with a male dominated culture also gives rise to micro aggressions.

Geography also plays an important part when it comes to gender as it has influence over factors like cultural differences, access to resources, geography-time zone, rural and urban areas and access to funding.

The speaker then spoke on how Women in STEM matter and why inclusion of women in the STEM disciplines is important. An inclusive approach would make a huge difference as they bring more diversity. Tu Youyou, Chinese Nobel Prize Winner who discovered artemisinin, an anti-malarial compound, drawing from traditional medicine is an example here because that traditional knowledge was given to her because she was a woman.

The gender gap in India is increasing with passing years. In 2020, India has slipped to the position of 112th from 108th in 2018 according to the Gender Gap Index. All over the world, women are at a higher risk of unemployment than men at 19%. Some of the institutional practices to bring gender equity include equal opportunities across gender spectrum, address issues of bias and harassment, concern more women in decision making roles, believe all people can contribute to STEM and implement mainstream policies of gender equity. Feedback coaches, bias training, reference letters for women from previous employers, diversity officer, value equity work are few measures that can be taken. We can help by calling out any out any biases we see, speak up on behalf of someone or report. To conclude the pandemic has shown us how flexi-timings in case of work from home is feasible provided there is equal accountability, lesser paperwork with less institutional monitoring, flexi-credits and better access to different genders and differently abled persons.

The webinar ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies.

"No one changes the world who isn't obsessed."

– Billie Jean King



Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies (CSCWS), Tezpur University celebrates 121st birth and 50th death anniversary of the women rights crusader, Chandraprabha Saikiani on 16th March, 2022. 82 number of students participated in the programme. On this auspicious day, the Centre remembers the struggle and sacrifices of Chandraprabha Saikiani who was a torch bearer of women's movement for equal rights and opportunities. To commemorate this day, the Centre for Women Studies invites Prof. Rohini M. Godbole, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and a Padmashri Awardee for an online memorial lecture. The programme was observed in the Academic Council Hall, Tezpur University at 9.30am and continued for an hour. A total of 82 participants benefitted from the programme. The beneficiaries of the programme included students, faculty and the GSAT members of the GATI pilot project.

The event began by offering of floral tribute to Chandraprabha Saikiani. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, CSCWS inaugurated the session and welcomed the esteemed speaker, Prof. Godbole. With due honor and respect, a memento was gifted to the guest speaker who joined the participants online. Dr. Goswami gave a short introduction of Chandraprabha Saikiani and formally started the event.

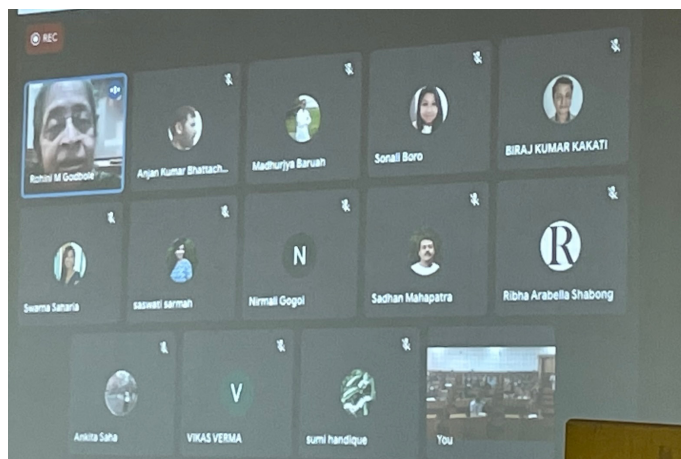
Prof. Godbole paid her tribute to Chandraprabha Saikiani. She applauded Saikiani's dedication and

strong will to fight for the rights of Assamese women. She found it impressive that when in many other states the first crusader for women's rights were men, here, in Assam, the torch was lit by a woman herself.

The speaker delivered a talk on "Equity and Inclusion in Science: What role can individuals, institutions and society play?". She believes that inclusion and diversity can aid in increasing the efficacy of scientific processes by adding more dimensions to the scientific system. Diversity in scientific processes would mean participation of diverse groups, it can be participation of gender diversity, language diversity, socio/economic class, geographical region, physical abilities, knowledge systems. While speaking on how the perspective of a minority or excluded group can add to their respective field of science she tells how their different background, ways of thinking and unique perspective can result in optimal use of humanity's intellectual potential. Moreover, use of traditional knowledge systems can lead to interesting innovations which can make important contributions to sustainable development goals. Several inventions and important contributions were done by African American women in the US Space Program in 1960. Diversity is in fact beneficial to STEM disciplines ecosystem as it adds dimension and complexity to it. Racial and gender equity should not be seen as correcting a wrong done in history or a charity for some groups.

Though Science is universal, and the laws will be same irrespective of the gender of the finder, the areas that one chooses to investigate and the processes that one adopts for it is influenced by their respective gender and race. For instance, Anandibai Joshee who was the first woman doctor from India to get her degree in the USA did her thesis on gynecological problems of women because she herself lost a child at its birth, when she was 14.

There are invisible and unconsciousness bias practiced against excluded groups within the workplace which consequently drains their potential and deprives them of an enabling working environment. Hence, beginnings are tender and crucial. In general, as well, family and career balance is a huge obstacle often faced, especially by women. Women are expected to excel in both home space and the workspace. Therefore, it is necessary to have policies relating to careers after break, flexi-timings, and encouraging young girls to choose science and technology and hold training programs for women studies. However, it is not sufficient. Both institutional changes as well as Change in societal mindset is required. Awareness that it proves to be beneficial not just for the excluded groups but for science in general is also very necessary.



This mindset needs to be the part of the ecosystem for equity and inclusivity in science.

Prof. Godbole's talk was followed by an interaction session where the participants put up their queries, questions and suggestions. It was an interactive and interesting session indeed. The webinar ended with a vote of thanks by the Dr. Goswami, Head of the Department, CSCWS.

Target: Students
Aid: PPT

Impact: The students were able to understand about organizational culture and climate change.

Women Studies Lecture Initiatives (Invited Speakers)



Prof. Maitrayee Chaudhuri,
Centre for the Study
of Social Systems, JNU, New Delhi



Prof. Anuradha Dutta,
Political Science,
Gauhati University



Iqbal Ahmed Ansari,
Chief Justice of Patna High Court



Geraldine Forbes,
State University,
New York, Oswego.



Anungla Aier,
Anthropologist and Social Activist



Jarjum Ete,
Secretary of National Alliances
of Women and former Chairperson,
APSCW



M. Dolores Herrero,
University de Zaragoza, Spain and
University of Saragossa, Spain



Prof. Aparna Mahanta,
English,
Dibrugarh University



Prof. Uma Chakravarti,
History,
Delhi University



Prof. Bidyut Mohanty,
Head, Women Studies,
Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi



Prof. Shiela Bora,
History,
Dibrugarh University



Prof. Moneer Alam,
Economics,
Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi



Prof. Illina Sen,
Prof. TISS



Prof. Indrani Mazumder,
*Centre for Women's Development
Studies*



Prof. Irudaya Rajan,
*Centre for Development
Studies*



Prof. Samita Sen,
*Women Studies Centre,
Javabpur University*



Prof. Stremlet Dkhar,
NEHU, Shillong



**Prof. Romesh Chandra
Borpatragohain,**
*Dept of Law,
Gauhati University*



Padma Ramachandan,
IAS



Usha Rani,
*Centre for Extension Studies &
Centre for Women Studies,
S.V. University,*



Prof. Indu Agnihotri,
*Centre for Women's
Development Studies*



Prof. Sucheta Sen Chaudhuri,
Central University of Jharkhand



Minakshi Bhuyan,
Social Activist



Bhuban Chandra Barooah,
Principal
Tezpur Law College



Kamla Bhasin
*Indian developmental feminist activist,
poet, author and social scientist*



Dr. Vandana Shiva
*Environmental activist, food sovereignty
advocate, ecofeminist and anti-globali-
sation author.*



Dr. V. Madhurima
*Department of Physics,, School of Basic
and Applied Sciences,,
Central University of Tamil Nadu*



Rohini Godbole
*Professor,
Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore*



Dr. Nirmali Gogoi,
*Assistant Professor,
Department of Environmental Sciences
Tezpur University*



Patricia Mukhim,
*Indian social activist, writer,
journalist and the Editor of Shillong
Times*

Extension



Counselling session 'Coping with Stress' was conducted in Tezpur University on 29.09.2010. WSC has initiated a program with the broad objective of sensitizing stress counselling and made provisions for peer and professional stress counselling and management to help students and other TU fraternity to cope with stress.

The program is being run with the following aims:

- i. Sensitize stress counselling
- ii. Identify the stressors
- iii. Stress therapy and management

Sensitization was achieved by holding a Poster Competition, entitled "Coping with Stress" among the student body. Posters and banners were also put up at various spots inside as well as outside the University campus.

Stress counselling was carried out with the help of professional counselling at monthly for small groups as well as individuals. Two consultants from LGB Regional Institute of Mental Health were invited to the counselling session held on 29.09.2010, in the Women Studies Centre, Academic Building – 1. The individuals and groups seeking counselling submitted their requests via mail to the email identity created for the purpose as well as personally in the office of the Women Studies Centre.

The Community Extension Programme is an effort of the WSC to reach out to the women of the nearby villages, to know their problems and try to help them find solutions to those problems. A four member team comprising of Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Head i/c, WSC, TU, Ms. Madhurima Goswami, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Cultural Studies, Ms. Anjuman Borah, Assistant Professor, Dept. of MCJ, and Ms. Mridusmita Boruah, Assistant, WSC, visited nearby village, Napaam, on 27th December, 2010. On 6th January, 2011, Prof. Madhumita Barbora and Ms. Mridusmita Boruah again went to the afore-mentioned village. 83 (eighty three) women attended this programme on these two dates. Many problems came to limelight during these visits, such as, the issue of economic empowerment, medical facilities, electricity, the alarming rate of school dropouts and low literacy rate, etc. The headman of the village, Mr. Mohan Bhumij, helped immensely in gathering the women of the village and making them aware of this programme. The members also took refreshment along-with them for the gathered women on both days.

A counselling programme for the adolescent girls was organized by WSC, TU, on 18th March, 2011 from 2 pm onwards in the Screening Hall of Dept. of MCJ, in Academic Building-I. The following faculty members were present in the programme: Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Dr. Papori Baruah, Ms. Jaya Chakraborty, Ms. Madhurima Goswami, Ms. Hemjyoti Medhi, Ms. Ritamoni Narzary, Dr. Bala Lakhendra, Dr. Juri Gogoi Konwar and Ms. Anjulata. Gynaecologist Dr. Sumita Gogoi Hazarika and Ms. Joya Chakraborty were the invited speakers.

A three member team, consisting of Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Dr. Papori Baruah, and Ms. Ritamoni Narzary, visited the two nearby schools: Napaam Model High School and Napaam M.V School on 11th March, 2011 to meet the school authorities to discuss the forth-coming counselling programme on the problems faced by adolescent girls. The teachers of both the school welcomed the initiative taken by WSC, TU.

The programme was attended by 62 (sixty two) girl students and 2 (two) lady teachers and an ayah from both the schools. As the programme was organized after school hours, a light refreshment was provided to the students and teachers before the start of the counselling programme.

Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Head i/c, WSC, welcomed the students and teachers of both the schools and introduced the members present to the audience. Ms. Jaya Chakraborty, Dept. of MCJ started with an ice-breaking session.

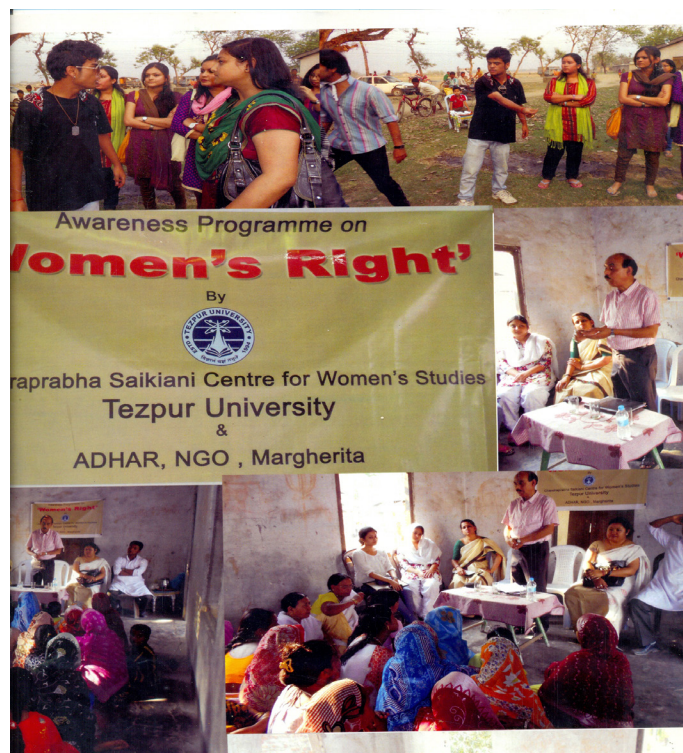
The second speaker Dr. Sumita Gogoi Hazarika spoke mainly on puberty related issues of adolescent girls. The audio-visual presentation of both the sessions had a good impact on the audience and their active participation indicated their interest on the topics discussed.

A debate competition titled, "What is in a Name? Women should change their name after marriage", was held for the students and research scholars of the University on 7th March, 2011. Prize money of Rs.1,000/- for the 1st prize, Rs.750/- for the 2nd prize, Rs.500/- for the 3rd prize was announced. There were two consolation prizes of Rs.250/- each.

Smt. Meenakshi Bhuyan, former Secretary of Tezpur Mahila Samiti (TDMS), Prof. Prasanta Kumar Das, Department of EFL, and, Dr. Debarshi Nath, Department of Cultural Studies were the invited judges. Out of 17 students who registered for the debate, 13 participated in the competition.

A symposium was held on International Women's Day, 8th March, 2011. The programme was inaugurated with a welcome speech by Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Head in-charge WSC, Tezpur University, and Prof. Amarjyoti Choudhury, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University. After the inauguration, lectures were delivered by invited guests: Mr. Kuladhar Saikia, Additional DGP, Govt. of Assam, Smt. Meenakshi Bhuyan, eminent social worker, Tezpur, and Ms. Teresa Rehman, Journalist. A documentary on "Witch Hunting" was screened by Mr. Kuladhar Saikia on the occasion. Prof. Amar Jyoti Choudhury handed over the cash prizes to the winners and certificates to all the participants.

Students of Women Studies presented a street play focusing on "eve-teasing" in Napaam village, Sonitpur District on 8th March, 2013. Presentations were also done on different themes like 'Women and Violence', 'Women and Health' and 'Women and Media' on the eve of International Women's Day 8th March 2013 by the students of Women's Studies Centre.



A community extension programme was arranged in Napaam area of Tezpur on 'Women's Right' in collaboration with Adhar (NGO) on 8th March 2013. The programme focused on the issues related to women and legal rights.

Community extension programme on "Violence against Women" was organized in collaboration with THE EAST, NGO on 13th March, 2013 at Tezpur University.



CBCST students of Women Studies Centre presented skits on different issues related to women, especially on gender crimes and domestic violence during the one day Workshop on Gender sensitization in St. Joseph Convent Higher Secondary School in Tezpur on the eve of death and birth anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani (15th March 2014)



On 8th March 2014, International Women's Day was celebrated by the Centre. Prof. Sucheta Sen Chaudhury, from Jharkhand University was invited as the guest of honour in the programme. The members of Pragati Women's Association made their contribution in the programme organized by WSC delivering gender sensitive speech and songs. Prof. Charulata Mahanta, Dean Research and Development, Tezpur University, spoke on women and education scenario in India.

CBCST students of Women Studies Centre presented drama, skits on different issues and themes like 'women and sexual violence', 'women and domestic violence' and 'women and women's right' 'women and education' etc.



CSCWS organized an awareness and sensitization program on 12th August, 2014 in the M.V. School, Napam among the womenfolk of Amolapam. The working of women's organisation, specific women's issues like property rights, domestic violence and domestic labour were discussed.

A survey of demographic profile of Amolapam Village was conducted by Dr. Madhurima Goswami and Dr. Mousumi Mahanta on April 2014.



Students and Research Scholars of Tezpur University presented various programmes on the topic 'Creative Expressions' on various issues of women on International Women's day on 4th March, 2015 at Tezpur University. Prof. N.S.Islam, Dept of Chemical Sciences gave the inaugural speech. The gathering comprised of members of faculty, students, staff of Tezpur University and members of Pragati Women Association.

An awareness and sensitization programme was organised in Bokagaon Mishing Village, Balipara, Sonitpur District of Assam on 8th March, 2016. One hundred ten women of the village participated in the programme. The programme was arranged in the village school. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, CSCWS and Mridula Sharma (Advocate) resource person along with the students of Centre for Women Studies attended the programme.



CSCWS, Tezpur University organised a meeting on Women Trafficking on 22nd December, 2015. The aim of the meeting was to make people aware about the problem of trafficking in the society. The meeting was presided over by Toyaram Chetry, the Panchayat president of Rekamari.



A gender sensitization programme was organized on 4th March, 2016, 'Missing Women in Rekamari', Rekamari Sabha Ghar, Missamari, Sonitpur District. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta (CSCWS), Bobita Koch, Abhijit Baishya (CSCWS), Sumi Sharma, Rajeshri Goswami, Mausum Hazarika (CSCWS), Josean Korean (Social Activist), Hemanta Saikia (Village Committee Member), and other 17 grass root women participated in the programme.

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University had organized an awareness camp on Women Trafficking in collaboration with NGO Global Organization for Life development (GOLD) on 30th January, 2016, at Gali Borbari, Jonai. The main agenda of the camp was to create awareness among the people about human trafficking and also to study the present status of trafficking in the villages.

On 21st October 2016 at 2:30pm an academic group discussion was organised by the study Circle of Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre Women Studies. Students of PG diploma in Women Studies, CBCS students, and the faculty members participated in the discussion on understanding gender in real life context.



A sensitization programme on “Women Trafficking” was held on 21st December, 2016, at Bhalukpong Gaon, Chariduar, Sonitpur, Assam. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Mridula Sarma Assistant Professor of Tezpur Law College, Project Staff, Research Assistant and Professional Assistant of Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies along with villagers actively participated in the programme. Local Men of the village was felicitated by the Centre for immense support and help for the programme.



On the occasion of International Women’s Day 8th March 2017 a peace march was undertaken by the Centre from Chandraprabha Saikiani Bhavan to ensure harmony and dignity of women in the society. Around 500 people participated in the peace march from various departments of the university. Two skits on violence and women empowerment were staged by the students of the Dept. of Education and the Centre for Women’s Studies, Tezpur University. Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, T.U, Prof. Dhana-pati Deka, Dean Students Welfare, Mr. Hridoy Saikia, Joint Registrar, Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Dept. of Cultural Studies, Dr. Debarshi Prashad Nath, Head, Dept. Cultural Studies, Faculties of Dept. Of Education, Faculties of various Departments and Centres and Staff of T.U. attended the march. Vice Chancellor (Prof. M.K. Chaudhuri) of the university also appreciated the march and assured full support for women’s development.



An Orientation programme on Women Studies was organised by the Darrang College, Tezpur. Dr. Joyshankar Hazarika, Principal, Darrang College, welcomed all the dignitaries, guests and students in the house. The chief guest, Madhurima Goswami (HOD, Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University) and invited guest Mousumi Mahanta (Assistant Professor, Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University) highlighted on the importance of women in higher-education system. Various courses and programmes were also discussed. The focus was to emphasize its interdisciplinarity in higher education system. A skit was performed in the college premise on domestic violence by the students of the Tezpur University.

A community awareness campaign on Child Trafficking, 2017

A community awareness campaign on child trafficking was organised in Napaam, Sonitpur on 2nd June 2017 in association with Global Organisation for Life Development, Supported by ECPAT Luxembourg. Madhurima Goswami the Head, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University addressed the meeting. It was chaired by Kaberi Sarma member of Gold, Jahanara Begum, member of Napaam Panchayat, Asish Sinha, representative of ECPAT Luxembourg, Raj Sarma co-ordinator of Project Mukti, GOLD. The objective of the campaign was to make people of napaam village aware of human trafficking and to form a vigilance committee to fight against trafficking. Dr. Madhurima Goswami in her welcome speech gave a gist of the source and the involvement of the people in the process of human trafficking. She also opined that human trafficking is spreading in the Sonitpur District in a wider magnitude due to various socio-economic and geographical factors. She also questioned on passive participation of people to prevent human trafficking. With reference to many cases of human trafficking she requested the members and participants to stand unitedly for tackling the problem. Mahmad Abdul Kalam, member of Napaam Panchayat offered gratitude for having a platform to fight against human trafficking. He shared about the plight he has witnessed regarding child trafficking and his urge to solve the problem. Kaberi Sarma, member of Gold discussed that human trafficking is the third largest business of the world and is widening day by day. Flood, communal clashes, unemployment, illiteracy, family communication gap and gender discrimination are the major causes of human trafficking. Victims are trafficked by the agents which are most of the time known to them. After being trafficked they are engaged in the coal mining work, horse and camel jokey, blood harvesting, child plantation etc.

Among the victims girls are more vulnerable due to sexual exploitation and sex slavery. She opined that demand of girl from North East India is quite high due to their complexion and resemblance with the foreign girls. She further discussed about how to file a complaint while a child is missing for a week. To combat human trafficking she said community member has a role to play. Inspector-in-charge Jitendra Nath Sarmah said that if there are any cases related to trafficking they are there to help the villagers. Tapan Sarmah, member of the Napaam Panchayat shared his experiences while he was the project Director under DRDA as he brought out many schemes for SHGs. During the project women were given awareness regarding dropouts, talaq and child marriage and got an opportunity to come out of home and participated in various skill training. At the end of the campaign programme vigilance committee was formed.

Extension programme, 2018

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 8th March 2018, the team from Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies of Tezpur Central University left for Nagaon district library where the program was scheduled. The deputy commissioner of Nagaon Mr. Biswajit Pegu was also present in the programme. As the entire team reached the auditorium of Nagaon district library, the program was on its flow and Mr. Dilip Kr. Borah, principal of Ramanujan Junior College was invited on the stage and felicitated with a traditional Assamese 'gamocha'. He shared his line of thoughts regarding the condition of women and the discrimination they face in today's world. He also spoke on the issues regarding the discrimination they face regarding education and social representation. He ended the speech saying that for a developed society it is important that its women are given equal status.

After Mr. Borah, Dr. Madhurima Goswami, the Head of Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies was invited to the stage to address the crowd present in the auditorium which mostly consisted of women from rural areas of Nagaon district and students (mostly girls).

Ms. Sonali Boro, Research Asst. of the centre then presented a short film to the crowd. Then she enlightened the crowd interpreting the film that how the skills possessed by women, which is stereotypically labeled as 'soft-skills' can be transformed into productive work and how it can economically empower the women. After which the students from CSCWS performed a play-card act, holding the banners of Women empowerment and their present societal struggles.

Another one act play was performed by distinguished students of Tezpur University where the issue of 'Women and Polity' was highlighted and showed how the lack of women in politics is backed by stereotypical male representatives of the society.

The celebration ended with interaction of students and the audience present in the auditorium with the invited guests.

"Role of women in the Contemporary Society" was delivered by Dr. Madhurima Goswami, 2018

A talk on "Role of women in the Contemporary Society" was delivered by Dr. Madhurima Goswami at Axomiya Club on 4th March 2018. A group of senior citizen, intellectuals, teachers, students and people from various walks of life assembled to discuss the issues regarding women in the present society. Dr. Goswami facilitated the gathering by her insights in sex-gender debate, various issues concerning the Northeast women, legal mechanism and role of women and men in mitigating them.

"I learned a long time ago that there is something worse than missing the goal, and that's not pulling the trigger."
– Mia Hamm

Nari Mancha of Sonitpur District 2018



On the occasion of International Women's Day, Nari Mancha of Sonitpur District organised a community meeting on 9th March, 2018 in collaboration with The East a Non-Governmental Organisation and Action Aid at Dhankhuna, Missamari. Sonali Boro, Research Assistant, of the Centre was invited to deliver a talk on gender discrimination and women empowerment. Self-help group members, activists, child protection officers, male members of the community were also present at the meeting.

International Girl Child Day 11th October, 2018



Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University celebrated International Girl Child Day at Napaam M.V. School, Napaam. An introductory speech on skilled girl child force was given followed by a film screening on gender discrimination in the family. A self-composed poem on urge for the future was recited by the student of WSC. An interaction was carried with the students of the school, regarding gender bias and gender inequalities found in their family and society.



International Girl Child Day 11th October, 2018

Observed the UN International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girls, 25th November -10th December, 2021

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies observed the UN International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girls. It was observed from 25th November -10th December, 2021. Theme: Orange the world: End Violence against Women now. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, CSCWS, Tezpur University gave a brief speech on the UN International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girls. Dr. Mahanta announced the student's initiative to resist violence against women and girls in the society. The students performed street plays based on women issues from 25th November -10th December, 2021 inside the campus as well as outside the University Campus.

Legal awareness program on 15th March 2022

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University, Napaam organized a legal awareness program on 15th March 2022 at Borbil, Tezpur. The program aimed at highlighting the laws related to women and discussing many issues related to them, which is very important and helpful for a better life of women. The program was conducted by Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant professor, Tezpur University and Dr. Ivy Daimary, Research Associate, Tezpur University. 64 women have attended the program. The program was started at 3.30 PM in an open ground. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta commenced with a warm welcome speech. After that the participants introduced themselves one by one. Most of them were from Boro community and Kurmi community.





Then they were divided into groups to accomplish some tasks. The name of the first group was Jeuti, led by Meera. The name of the second group was Heuti, led by Janoki. The name of the third group was Monalisha, led by Pushpalata. The name of the 4th group was Maloti, led by Junali. They enjoyed a lot in the sessions. Some members from each group performed drama. After that Dr. Mousumi Mahanta talked about Domestic Violence Act 2005. The women were guided about how to complain against domestic violence. Dr. Mousumi Mahanta interacted with them and discussed about their problems. Some common issues of the women are physical and mental harassment by their husbands and other family members, preference for boy child, burden of married girl child, alcoholic husbands etc.



Dr. Mousumi Mahanta was invited as a guest of honour by the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Ketekibari on 13th March, 2022

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta was invited as a guest of honour by the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Ketekibari Centre in International Women's Day celebration organized on 13th March, 2022. Dr. Mahanta deliberated on why women's day is celebrated and on various gender issues and importance of gender sensitization programmes. She talked about women's current problems. She also focused on the ideology of Lord Krishna on women empowerment and how it can inspire the present generation. She elaborated on the notion of equality in Bhagawat Geeta. At last she spoke about how people can be sensitized on gender issues through spirituality.



The Observation of Women's Day by Jeuti Mahila Samiti with collaboration with WSC, Tezpur University, 8th march, 2022



Chandraprabha Saikaini Center for Women Studies, Tezpur University with its endeavour to connect with the community women folk participated in "The Observation of Women's Day by Jeuti Mahila Samiti", Nappam village, Tezpur, Sonitpur district, Assam 784028. 80 number of men and women participated in the programme.

The session began with the lamp lighting ceremony. The President of the Samiti – Srimati Champa Devi read out the programme schedule. It was followed by the Introduction of the Samiti members, members of Chandraprabha Saikaini Center for Women Studies and the audience present.

Dr Madhurima Goswami and Dr Mousumi Mahanta were called upon to take the stage.

Dr Madhurima Goswami, the Head of the Department of Women Studies, Tezpur University wished everyone on the occasion of International Women's Day. Dr Goswami in her address to the Samiti members, and the other people present pointed towards fewer men being present in the event. Dr Goswami said we need men to walk hand in hand with us. Jeuti Mahila Samiti has a rich history and the new generations are giving it a new direction. In today's time, Mahila Samities are important, as it is a powerful organization which works for the upliftment of women. The community women must be given all sorts of information and Mahila Samities bridges that gap. Jeuti Mahila Samiti must be taken forward by all the members and not just the office holders. Chandraprabha Saikaini Center for Women Studies will always be there to help.



Dr Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Chandraprabha Saikaini Center for Women Studies, Tezpur University addressed the audience and started with the question of, why women's day is important? Dr Mahanta said Women's day is important because of the women's contribution to the society and their role in the production economy. For example women farmers are never regarded as farmers. Women's unpaid labor like motherhood is never recognized. This inequality must be changed, and therefore the celebration of this day is important. Women must work in organization so that their voices are heard.

The session then observed a 2 minute silence for the deceased members of Jeuti Mahila Samiti. Felicitation and Gamusha were given to the members of the Samiti and to the members of the Center for Women Studies, Tezpur University.

It was followed by a Group song presentation by the members of the Samiti, poem recitation competition, Assamese modern song presentation and Bihu dance.

Outreach / Networking

The Centre regularly collaborates with different NGOs working on women related issues in the region to raise awareness. The centre collaborates with Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. The Centre also keeps regular communication with other NGOs based in Assam like The East, North East Network (NEN) and Global Organization for life Development (GOLD), INSENCE. Centre communicates with institutions like Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, District Court Tezpur, High Court Guwahati, All India Radio Tezpur, and National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Tezpur Law College, 30 Battalion CRPF, Charduar. Centre has networking with women organisations like Tezpur District Mahila Samiti, Mahila Samata Samiti, and National Commission for Women, New Delhi, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Chennai, Fair Trade A Global Private Limited recently associated with the centre for research work, Kolkata, Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad, Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University, Women's studies Centre, Gauhati University, Women's studies Centre, Dibrugarh University, Women's Study Centre, Kolkata University, Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Women's Studies Centre, Pune, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Gachibowli, Hyderabad etc.

With colleges outside the University: The Centre interacts with different colleges of Assam. The college teachers and students from different colleges as Lakhimpur College, JB College, DCB College, Nagaon College, Chariduar College, Darrang College, Tezpur Law College and Tezpur College etc. usually attends the workshops/ seminars/ training programs organised by CSCWS. The centre interacts with different schools like Gurukul School, St. Josheph Convent Higher Secondary School around Tezpur and had organised the gender sensitization programmes among the students as well as among the teachers of those schools.

With Centres within the University: The Centre also interacts and collaborates with different Cells like Equal Opportunity Cell in organizing different activities.

The Centre regularly collaborates with different NGOs working on women related issues in the region to raise awareness. The centre collaborates with Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. The Centre also keeps regular communication with other NGOs based in Assam like The East, North East Network (NEN) and Global Organization for life Development (GOLD), INSENCE. Centre communicates with government institutions as Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, District Court, Tezpur, High court, Guwahati. Centre has networking with women organisations like Tezpur District Mahila Samiti, Mahila Samata Samiti, and National Commission for Women, New Delhi, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chennai, etc.

The centre has recently collaborated with National Commission for Women to organise a legal awareness camp for sensitization of women concerning their rights and law. National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj acknowledged centre's work and proposals intended for research work in the rural areas.

Research / Projects

Faculty members of the centre have successfully done their Ph.D. in areas like- Health, Culture and Folklore Women and Mental Health (by Mousumi Mahanta): The study is based on an interdisciplinary matrix of postmodernism, cultural studies, feminism, and psychoanalysis and attempts to show the complex interweaving of illness and culture in the context of mental illness. In order to explore the society's attitude towards mentally ill women, the study undertakes an analysis of narratives collected from the field and also of the representation of mental illness in popular cultural texts.



This research has tried to find out the parallels between gender discrimination and discrimination against the mentally ill and also has tried to highlight the nature and magnitude of gender-discrimination faced by women. This study has explored the neighbours, family members, and medical health practitioner's attitude towards mentally ill women of Assam along with the socio-cultural and socio-economic factors in shaping such attitudes. This study is informed by theoretical perspectives of psychoanalysis of Sudhir Kakar and Michel Foucault (madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason). The methodology specially draws on feminist theory, which interprets mental illness as a product of women's social and political operation in a patriarchal society. The research work is pertinent and contemporary study on Mental Health, Culture and Women in North East India. This study is unique by analysing the problems of 'mentally ill women' and their emotional narratives voicing their inner world of pain and misery.

Women and Culture (by Madhurima Goswami): This study examines the process of transition of a traditional ritualistic performance namely, Kherai of the Bodos of Assam. It explains how an ethnic group engages itself in conserving, through creation and reaction, a traditional performance that faces the threat of extinction. In the process, the study looks into the processes and strategies deployed by the community members towards making of a performance. The protagonist of the ritual, the preistess (Daudini) is seen as a community representative.

Women and Folklore (by Ivy Daimary): This research work entitled, "Representation of Women in Folklore of the Bodos: With Special Reference to Folktales and Folksongs" intends to study the various images of women represented in Bodo Folklore especially in Folktales and Folksongs, based on the supposition that Folklore represents the status of women in the society. Throughout the ages many a time women have been by and large, the object in most of the folk genres. Women's stereotypical roles, their certain limitations and miscellaneous roles are represented in various oral forms specially created by patriarchal society. The study looks into the objectification of women and the concept of beauty as represented in Folksongs and examines the stereotype role of women and the influence of patriarchal dominance on women in the society.

Students of Women's Studies CBCT (Course Based Credit Transfer) completed dissertations (2013-18) in different areas such as :

- Role of Education in Determining the Status of Women in a Society.
- Socio- Economic Condition of the Working Women in Napaam.
- Health Status of Tea Garden Worker in Jorhat District and Behavioural Change Communication.
- Woman and Education: A Comparative Study of the Presence of Women in Social Science and Technology.
- To Analyse the Gender role of Assamese Women of the Late 18th century through the works of Trailokeshwari Devi Baruani.
- Representation of Women in Advertisement,
- Maternal Mortality among the Adivasi Women of Assam: a Study on Sonitpur District.
- Experience of the Women Social Workers of Tezpur in the 1970s: An Interview and Analysis.
- Study of the role of mother in the changing society.
- A study on the socio-economic status of Adivasi women of Sonitpur district: Looking through the Photographs

- 'Widowhood' in Assamese Society: with Special reference to Golaghat District of Assam.
- Narratives of the Aged Women in Dharikatti Mishing Village.
- Gender Inequality in Indian Service Sector: A Case Study of Indian Banking Sector.
- A project report on women in sports.
- A report on women in the Indian Armed Force.
- A Study on the women entrepreneurs in the town of Tinsukia.
- A Study on the Women in Organised Sector in the City of Guwahati.
- Status of women workers in Construction Industry of Guwahati city
- Role of women in the corporate sector within the Jorhat city Women and World View
- Contribution of Gold in Rehabilitating Women Trafficking Victim
- Women in the scenario of Trafficking through the lens of Victim
- Forced labour and Human trafficking
- Trafficking and Minor Girls: An NGO study
- A study of Women Trafficking in Tezpur of Sonitpur District.
- A Study on the Cases and Cause of Women Trafficking at Rangagarh and Marangi Tea Garden Numaligarh, Assam
- Elderly Women in 'Amar Ghar': A study of old Age Homes
- Early Marriage in the Mishing Society of Sikari Village, Jonai.
- Human Trafficking: A Study with Special Reference to Women
- A Study on the Impact of Illiteracy and other socio-economic factor on human Trafficking in Lankhang Tea Estate, Anjukpani, Nagaon, Assam
- Gender Transition in Indian Performing Arts: With Special Reference to Kathak
- A Study on Women Trafficking with Special Reference to Tea Garden areas of Dhekiajuli, Sonitpur District
- Health, Education of Women in an Ex-Tea Garden Village: A Study of Hebeda Tea Estate, Makum, Tinsukia, Assam
- A Study on the Relation between Motherhood and Womanhood in Udalguri and Bongaigaon District of Assam
- A Study on the Role of Women in the Private Sector Organization of Assam: With Special Reference to Tezpur
- A Study of Discrimination Faced by Women in the Betel Nut Dyeing Industries of Rupahihat in Nagaon Assam
- A Study of Women Empowerment through Self-help Groups and Other Micro Finance Institution in Hathkhula village, Moranhat
- The Socio-Cultural Context of Napaam and Women's Reproductive Health
- Women in the Business of Local Wine: With Special Reference to Bodo Women of Nichlamari Area, Orang, Udalguri
- A Study on Women Empowerment through Self-Help Groups with Special Reference to North Lakhimpur Area
- A Study on the Literacy of Women in Napaam Area
- Politics of Power and Representation: A Study of the Process of the Recognition of Satriya Dance in Assam.
- Menarche through Girls' Perspective
- The Impact of Media on Body Images of Young Women: With Special Reference to Napaam Area
- A Study on Declining Ratio of Male Performers of Satriya Dance
- Status of Women of Nepali Community with Special Reference to Napaam
- A Study on Domestic Violence with Special Reference to Koliabor Area, Nagaon District of Assam
- Analysing Witch-Hunting Practices of Assam: A Study of Narratives and Witch-Hunting Practices Prevalent Among the People of Bhimajuli village, Biswanath Charali District, Assam
- Religious Conversion and Status of Women: A Comparative Study of Two Villages in Assam
- The Significance of the Bash (Bamboo) Puja with Special Reference to Sri Sri Sardar Baba Temple of Kokrajhar
- A Study on Different Aspects of Women's Education in Napaam Region
- A Study on different Aspects of Women's Education in Napaam Region
- A Study on the Work Life Balance of the Female Faculty Members of Tezpur University
- Understanding Implementation of Different Government Schemes for Empowerment of Women in the Napaam Village of Sonitpur District
- To Study the Challenges of Women Entrepreneurship with Special Reference to the Region of Guwahati
- Nutrition and Resources for the Pregnant Women: A Study on the Women of Amolapam Area
- Women Understanding Technologies
- A Report on Problems and Challenges faced by Urban Working Women with Special Reference to Tezpur
- Socio-economic Status of Tea Garden Women Laborers: A Study on Sycotta Tea Estate, Mariani Under Assam Tea Corporation Limited

- A Study on School Dropouts with Special Reference to Girl Child in Napaam Area
- Gender Disparity in Youth Subculture Among the Students of Tezpur University
- Problems and Challenges Faced by Working Women in Guwahati City
- A Study on Health Perception Among the Female Adolescents: Special Reference to Amolapam Village of Tezpur, Assam
- The Role of Education Regarding Women Empowerment of the Napaam Area of Tezpur
- A Study on Role of Women in Rural Development
- Life of Women in Mobile Theatres in Assam: A Detailed Case Study
- A Qualitative Assessment of the Challenges and Opportunities of entrepreneurship for Women Empowerment in Present Day Assam with Special Reference to Nagaon District
- Women's Representation in Newspapers: With Reference to Newspapers and Online Media Outlets
- A Study on the Modern Woman's Perceptions on Girl Child Adoption in a University Campus
- A Study on Women Contribution in Sports in Udalguri
- Disparity in Education: A Gender Perspective in Tamulipathar, Golaghat
- A Study on Socio-economic and Cultural Factors leading to Child Marriage in Napaam Area
- Construction of Female Body Image: Reading the Silences

CONSTRUCTION OF A FEMALE BODY IMAGE: READING THE SILENCES (Kasturi Saikia)



The study attempts to understand the notion of a 'female body image' of the university girls and to comprehend their notion of beauty and fitness. It also examine whether target group adhere to the 'beauty myth'.

A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN PRESENT DAY ASSAM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NAGAON DISTRICT (Normada Chetia)

This study is mainly concerns about the challenges and opportunities that a women may face to be an entrepreneur. This study is mainly targeted for qualitative assessment of challenges and opportunities and intended to give an overall scenario of the Assam and Nagaon.

DISPARITY IN EDUCATION: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN TAMULIPATHAR, GOLAGHAT (Bhargov Phukan)



Differential treatment of sons and daughters by parents is a potential explanation of the gender gap in education in developing countries. The gender difference in educational attainment is decomposed into the part that is explained by men and women's differential characteristics. This study analyses gender disparity in education evident across the socio-economic spectrum in Tamulipathar, Golaghat. Concern for girl's education in last few years has led to a considerable expansion of access at the primary level.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TEA GARDEN WOMEN LABORERS: A STUDY ON SYCOTTA TEA ESTATE, MARIANI UNDER ASSAM TEA CORPORATION LIMITED (Vandana Dutta)

In spite of the fact that the tea industry in Assam is the most productive in the country, the sector has faced many issues in the past years. The declining international prices, contracting markets and increase in competitions from other countries, and lack of investment, deferred replanting and inadequate maintenance have contributed to its problems.

An in depth study is conducted to find the socio-economic status of women laborers in the tea industry.

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY URBAN WORKING WOMEN IN GUWAHATI CITY(Abhishek Kumar Barua)

This study intends at exploring the challenges faced by women in the workplaces which creates obstacles for them, and coping mechanisms can be offered to help them lessen such problems, so that women can appreciate their own value and capacity to face challenges in new and better ways.

A STUDY ON THE WORK LIFE BALANCE OF THE FEMALE FACULTY MEMBERS OF TEZPUR UNIVERSITY (Nawaz Naushad)

Today's working women have many competing responsibilities such as work, housework, children, spouse, elderly parent care etc. and managing all simultaneously increases stress on the individual as well as the family and community in which they reside. This study aims to measure the work life balance of female faculty member of Tezpur University and draw out necessary and significant recommendations for a healthy work life balance of the employees of the organizations considered.

Project work/Dissertation of PG Diploma, WSC

Representation of Women in Advertisement (Priyanka Borgohain)

Women have always been targeted as an object of entertainment as well as victim of oppression. This study attempts to find out the reasons and causes of representing women's beauty and to analyze the outlook of women regarding the image of women represented in advertisement. Enormous variety of images or representation of females in television, advertisement and magazine shows women as subordinate, subservient and male pleasing roles. Women's body is objectified and female are given only those roles that support stereotyped representation of women.

It shows the outlook of women regarding representation of female body as most of them says that there is gender disparity in advertisements, degrading the position of women as in most of the advertisements women are depicted as housewives, home maker, engaged in cleaning, cooking and washing. There are advertisements which are erotic where the sexuality of women has been used to sell the products. Most of the time women are projected as objects or products that are dehumanized and dismembered by males who are in power. It has created a kind of trend to have beautiful female body in all kinds of advertisements.

A Study on Sexual Abuse and Young Girls with Special Reference to Tinsukia District

(Madhusri Sarkar)

This study seeks to understand the sexual abuse of the young girls of a particular age group from 5 to 18 years. It is about the exploitation done upon the young girls and the physical and psychological impact on them. It throws light on how the victims have to endure the societal norms after the incidents. It is found that most of the girls were sexually abused at their initial stage. The study shows how society has put all the burdens alone to the victims rather to the abusers. The victims are taught to be silent instead of raising their voice against the crime. The two cases were deprived from justice nor the cases were registered. Such cases remain unnoticed as no initiatives are taken by the family members as well as the victims. The rights of women, justice and voice of freedom are exclusively dominated and suppressed by the system of patriarchy.

Status of Women in Islam with Special Reference to Balibaat Area, Golaghat District of Assam

(Anjelina Ahmed)

This study aims to examine the status of Muslim Women and how religion has been used to oppress women. It is observed in the field that most of the women are uneducated and they regard their husbands as "God" and without their consent they do not do anything. None of them work outside and most of them are under veil. The traditional belief systems have restricted them from taking any decisions.

The status of women in Islam is not equal in the society. Hijab being mostly practiced by the women. According to them, the veiling is not only just covering the head; it indicates a way of behavior, which is called to be more modest, and purer. Most of the time the wives are forced by their husbands to use veil for securing their purity, chastity and virginity. The village people believes in magical powers to reduce diseases rather than modern medical treatment which influences the health of the women. Domestic violence, dowry system and early marriage in daily life is a common issue in the area. The study explains the fact that religion as it is practiced in the world is patriarchal, misogynistic and oppressive to girls and women as religions are inherently patriarchal and religion is inherently a part of culture.

Tezpur District Mahila Samiti : A Study of its Growth from Past to Present

(Plabana Mahanta)

This study examines the history of Tezpur District Mahila Samiti from 1919 -2018. It discusses about the leading women engaged in Tezpur District Mahila Samiti and their life history. It studies the present situation of Tezpur District Mahila Samiti and its contribution in empowering the women. It explains how through its welfare activities and various schemes TDMS has played a crucial role in changing many lives and impacting even more, both in Tezpur as well as nearby places.



Reflection of Widowhood in Indira Goswami's Writing

(Madhusree Saud)

Indira Goswami is one of the renowned Assamese writer of Assam.

Through her novel Dr. Goswami exposes the condition of widows in Assamese Brahmin society and her search for self-fulfillment and self-realization in a repressive world full of socio-religious conventions.

The study covers the various aspects of the issues of widowhood in Indira Goswami's novel. Indira Goswami's concern for the social life of widows in Vrindaban was defined as those who were leading a happy and colourful life but were suddenly pushed into the darkness of widowhood. Her writings on widowhood and her raising a voice against its malpractices did bring about an attitudinal change towards the widows.

Women in Organized Sector With Special Reference to Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Sivasagar District

(Manusmita Mazumder)

The main aim of the study is to examine the status of working women in the organized sector with special reference to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of Sivasagar District. The study tries to find out the problems and prospects of working women in this sector and gendered condition in the corporation. It studies the mechanisms to cope with the problems of the working women in the corporation. The study shows that the women often face some kinds of problems in equally carrying out their household and official duty which creates hindrance in their work. And the organization does not provide any child care facility like crèche within the campus which creates problem for the women. It is found that the female workers are very less in comparison to men because it is believed that women have very lesser knowledge regarding technology than men.

Impact of Insurgency: A Study on How Extortion Affects Women with Special Reference to Mazbat, Udalguri dist. (Payal Sarkar)

This study intends to look into women's condition in conflict especially impact of Insurgency in social relationship and consequences of the insurgency in terms of extortion. The analysis is based on different viewpoints such as family, social and health of the respondents narrated by themselves. The outcome that has come up is that almost all the women have documented a combination of emotional and psychological stress as they become overwhelmed with the magnitude of tasks and responsibilities where circumstances force them to head a household and run their families in the face of heavy odds. Depression, anxiety, stress, insecurity, insomnia and eating disorders are the issues most commonly associated with their experience.

Thus, the impact of insurgency in terms of extortion that the women had to bear is not only physical, emotional or mental but it always transfers their social and economic spheres of life.

Confronting Calamities: A Study on Women Affected by the Kaliabor Floods, 2017
(Niaz Md. Dilwar Rahman)



The primary aim of this research work is to analyze women's work while confronting disaster. The response mechanism of men and women while confronting any kind of scenario is different to one another. More frequently than not, entitlement guidelines in the relief and rehabilitation stage favor men over women. Women are more likely to suffer from malnutrition because they have specific nutritional needs. Involvement in a disaster situation causes and exacerbates tremendous anxiety, depression, and grief. (PDSS). Women's vulnerability is connected to their generally lower socioeconomic status. Women cannot take independent steps or less mobility due to cultural restrictions. Natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes have inspired women living in extreme poverty to take action and organize their own self-help initiatives. Still a large number of women are unaware of the recovery schemes of the government. The study emphasizes on women's situation and their role during flood.

The flood affected women say that even if they are labelled as second class citizens they are the one to act as front runners in collecting relief for their family while confronting the calamities. It is the women who takes up the responsibility of taking care of the family needs. Some of the women in the area worked as maid servants during the flood. The case study demolishes the idea of women being less intellectual and capable than men as in this situation, women were the ones who stood up against all odds and set an example that whenever danger looms over one's family women are stronger in defending them.

Projects

Ongoing Projects

Sl no	Project Name	Duration	Sponsored by	Supervisor/Nodal Officer
1.	"Lives of the Ritual Priestesses of Assam: A Study with special reference to the Institution of Doudinis in the Bodo Society".	(2021-2023)	Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi	Dr. Madhurima Goswami
2.	Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)	(2021-2023)	Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi.	Dr. Madhurima Goswami

Completed Projects

Sl no	Project Name	Duration	Sponsored by	Supervisor/Nodal Officer
01.	Women And Trafficking	(2018-2019)	ICSSR	Dr. Madhurima Goswami
02.	UGC Sponsored Programme On 'Capacity Building Of Women Managers In Higher Education'.	2012	UGC	Dr. Madhurima Goswami
03.	UGC Sponsored Programme On 'Capacity Building Of Women Managers In Higher Education'.	2009	UGC	Dr. Madhurima Goswami
04.	"Women Empowerment and Skill Development through Technological intervention in cooking stove"	(2019 - 19)	DSIR	Dr. Madhurima Goswami
05.	Effectiveness Of Sexual Harassment Of The Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition And Redressal) Act. 2013: A Study In Assam	(2018 - 19)	National Commission for Women, Delhi	Dr. Madhurima Goswami
06.	"Women In The Economic Sector In Assam"	(2018 - 19)	Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi	Dr. Madhurima Goswami

List of the faculty Publications, Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies

Books

1. Goswami, Madhurima. (2020). Chandrababha Saikiani - A Force in History , DVS Publishers, Guwahati. ISBN 978-93-858339-31-3
2. Daimary. Ivy (2019). The Bodo women: Representation in Folklore and Culture, Akansha publication, Delhi. ISBN 978-81-8370-456-2
3. Goswami, Madhurima. (2018), ed. The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN- 978-93-87035-23.
4. Goswami, Madhurima. (2015), ed. Chandrababha Saikiani: A bilingual collection of essays on Assam's first women's rights crusader, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN-978-81-931547-0-0.
5. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2015), Women, Society and Mental Health: Narratives of Solitudes, New Delhi: Mittal Publications. ISBN-8183245439.
6. Boro, Sonali. (2011), 'Jahanabi' An Assamese Novel written by Rita Choudhury translated in Bodo language, Guwahati: Akhar Prakash.

Chapters in Books:

1. Goswami Madhurima(2022), "Women trafficking:Subtle lying challenge towards building equity",Comprehending Equity, Edited by Kedilezo Kikhi and Dharma Rakshit Gautam,Routledge:London &NewYork.
2. Goswami,Madhurima, Mahanta,Mousumi (2020),Globalization as a Threat:Narratives of Women Weavers. Women And Urbanity:Cultural Memory of North-East India edited by Mandakini Barua,published by Tezpur University:Napaam
3. Goswami, Madhurima. (2018), Staging of Rituals: Role of a Ritual Priestess, The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN- 978-93-87035-23.
4. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2018), Women and Mental Health, The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law, edited by Madhurima Goswami, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN- 978-93-87035-23.
5. Daimary, Ivy. (2018), Bodo Women in Conflict Situation, The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law, edited by Madhurima Goswami, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN- 978-93-87035-23.
6. Boro, Sonali. (2018), Women Trade in Assam: An Analysis, The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law, edited by Madhurima Goswami, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN- 978-93-87035-23.
7. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2016), Globalization and Mental Health in Assam: A Gendered Reading, Women's Narratives from North-East India: Lives in the margins, ed. Debarshi Prasad Nath, Purbanchal Prakash:Guwahati, ISBN: 978-81-7213-282-8.
8. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2015), Understanding Chandrababha Saikiani: Ideology and its Ramification, Chandrababha Saikiani,CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN-978-81-931547-0-0, 64-69.
9. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2014), Chandrababha Saikiani: Personality and Progress, Agnikanya Chandrababha Saikiani: A Collection of Articles,Tezpur University Publication,Tezpur,48-56.

10. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2013), Axomor Sangbad Jagatat Saptahik Dhansirir Pramulyabudhar Samu Alokpaat, 'Samajpran Apurba Kumar Baruar Jiban Ayan', Dhansiri Nyas and Golaghat Press Club, Golaghat, ISBN 81-7281-033-2-1993-9423-26.
11. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2010), Women and Mental Health: A Case Study of Sonitpur District, Women and Mental Health, published by NIMHANS, Bangalore and Flinders University, Australia ISBN-81-86430-00-X.
12. Goswami, Madhurima. (2010), Performance Studies, Cultural Studies: Perspectives from North East India, Tezpur University Publication, Tezpur, 105-115.
13. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2011), Traditional Dress and Ornaments of Karbi People and Adaptation of Modernity, Samaj Sanskarak Jaisaing Doloi Jibon Darsan Aru Karbi Anglong, Jaisaing Doloi fufu publication, Karbi Anglong, 201-203.

Journals:

1. Sharma, Prachi. Goswami, Madhurima (2021), "Un-Accounted Violence: Women Domestic Workers during Covid-19 Funding", International Journal of Social Sciences. vol.10, issue(02).
2. Daimary, Ivy. Swargiary, Dina. (2019), Women and Witch-Hunting: Challenges as Victims, ISSN:2454-7891, vol:4 issue:3.
3. Goswami, Madhurima. (2018), Food Culture: A Space for Creativity, Protest and Negotiation, International Journal of Economics and Social Sciences, ISSN 2249-7382, Impact Factor- 6.225.
4. Goswami, Madhurima. (2017), Status and Challenges of the Northeast Women: Quest for New Humanity, Academic Discourse, ISSN: 2278-3296, Vol 6 No 2 p6-12.
5. Goswami, Madhurima. (2017), Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking of the Concept in Art. Indian Journal of Arts, ISSN 2320-6659, 7(21), 59-64.
6. Mahanta, Mousumi. Boro, Sonali. (2018), Panchayati Raj and Women of Rural Assam, Desh Vikas, ISSN-2394-1782, Vol-4 Issue-4.
7. Boro, Sonali. (2018), Women's Participation in Agriculture and The Urbanization Process of North East India, Mahila Pratishtha, ISSN- 2494-7891 Vol-3 Issue-3.
8. Boro, Sonali. (2018), Power game of Witch Hunting in Assam: An Analysis, International Journal for research in Social Science and Humanities, ISSN-2208-2107, vol-4, Issue 2.
9. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2016), Chandraprabha Saikiani: A crusader of Women Empowerment in Assam. International Multidisciplinary Journal on Women and Gender Studies, ISSN2454-7891, Vol 2 Issue 1.
10. Liyanage, Darshana. Daimary, Ivy. Hazarika, Rituparna. (2015), Cultural Studies In India: Lessons from the past and Challenges for the future. IJRSSH 5.2:32-42. ISSN: 2249-4642.
11. Daimary, Ivy. (2014), "Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi": The Annual festival as a Site of Re-asserting Ethnic Identity. 'The IJHSS' 2.10 190-194. ISSN: 2321-9203.
12. Daimary, Ivy. (2014), Witchcraft, Identity and Gender in Tiren Boro's Deobari. Some Critical Observations. Contemporary Discourse 5.2:83-89.print. ISSN: 0976-3686.
13. Goswami, Madhurima. (2013), Kherai of the Bodos: Imagination of their world, International Journal of physical and Social sciences, ISSN no.2249-5984, Vol. 3 Issue. 187-100.

14. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2012), Mental Health and Contemporary Society of Assam: A Study from Gender Perspectives, Contemporary Discourse, A Peer Reviewed International Journal, ISSN 0976- 36686,Vol.3,No.1.
15. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2012), Double Stigmatization: Fighting with Mental Illness and Womanhood, International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, ISSN 2250-3226,Vol. 2,No-2,129-134 .
16. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2012), Myth Stereotype and Illness: It's Effect on Human Life, International Review of Social Sciences and Humanities, ISSN 2248 – 9010,online, ISSN 2250-0715, print Vol. 2,No.2 ,230-235.
17. Goswami, Madhurima. (2012), Intangible dimension of the Kherai Ritual Site, Indian Journal of Applied Research,Vol4.,Issue No.3,80-83.
18. Goswami, Madhurima. (2012), The Bodos: Culture and Society, Journal of Social Sciences Vol,1,Issue No1,88-103.
19. Goswami, Madhurima. (2012), Constructions of sacred space: the spatial dimensions of the Kherai Altar, Journal of Research, Extension and Development ,Vol.2 No.3, 140-146.

Monograph

1. Goswami,M. (2013) 'Chandraprabha Saikaini: Life and Struggle', Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University.
2. Goswami,M. (2012) 'Chandraprabha Saikiani: A Tribute', Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University.

Newsletters

1. Goswami,M. (2012) 'Varta', Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University.
2. Goswami,M. (2011) 'Varta', Women Studies Centre, Tezpur University.

Achievement

1. Priyanka Acharya: Awarded 1st prize-Rs.10,000(cash) in Bimal Bhagwati essay writing competition conducted by school of management,Tezpur University 2017.
2. Tanaya Sharma: Awarded 2nd prize in Indian group song competition, UNIFEST, held in Mysore University (2016).
3. Priyanka Borgohain:
 - Awarded best singer,Tezpur University, Annual Meet 2017.
 - Awarded 2nd prize, western chorus, UNIFEST 2017, Vidyasagar University, Kolkata.
4. Plabana Mahanta won 1st position, Folk dance Competition, Texchxetra, T.U. 2017
5. Plabana Mahanta won 2nd position, Classical Dance competition Annual Meet, T.U. 2018
6. Gayotri Phukan won 2nd position, Folk Dance, Annual Meet, T.U. 2018



People

Faculty

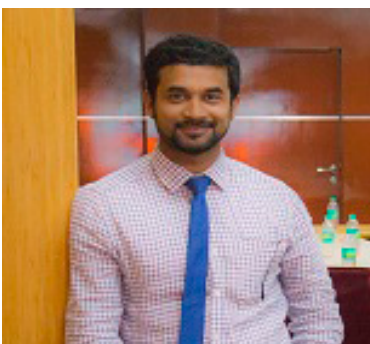


Dr. Madhurima Goswami,
Head & Associate Professor



Dr. Mousumi Mahanta
Assistant Professor

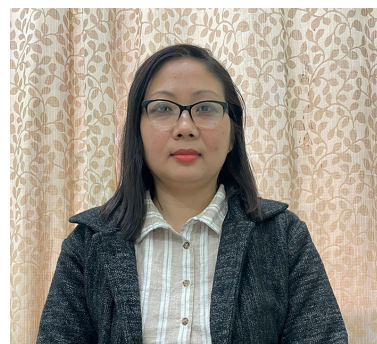
Staff



Abhijit Biashya,
Professional Assistant



Pranjal Sarma,
Data Entry Operator



Dr. Ivy Daimary,
Research Associate



Nigaar Sultana
Project Assistant
DST-GATI



Malati Boro,
Multi-Tasking Staff



Student's Statistics

Year	Course	Students
2021-22	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Women & Digital Literacy, Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects), Basic Computer Literacy	96
2020-21	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Women & Digital Literacy, Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects), Basic Computer Literacy	149
2019-20	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Women & Digital Literacy, Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	272
2018-19	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Women & Digital Literacy, Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	238
2017-18	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Women & Digital Literacy, Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	226
2016-17	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Women & Digital Literacy, Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	260
2015-16	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	55
2014-15	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	131
2013-14	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	33
2012-13	P.G. Diploma, CBCS(Introduction to Women Studies, Introduction to Women Studies Projects)	156

Future Plan

Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies has completed 9 years in the year 2019 (21.10.2009 (proposal no. F.40-13(2005) (GA-1) (Vol.-II)/5069)). To promote the expansion and strengthening of teaching and research programmes in the university, few initiatives are being made for qualitative growth of the centre in future.

- (i) Focussed evolution of the centre into a department.
- (ii) Staff positions (faculty, administrative).
- (iii) Development of teaching and technical research programme.

SL NO	Year	Objectives
1	2017-2018	• To introduce M.A. Programme in Women's Studies
		• Mission for Digital Literacy of Women
		• Research on Women issues (Project, Translation, Documentation)
2	2018-2019	• Audio- Visual Archive on North East Women • Departmental Library
3	2019-2020	• To introduce M.Phil and Ph.D. programme in Women's Studies
4	2020-2021	For Curricular development • To organise a Refresher/ Orientation Course in Women's Studies • International Conference
5	2021-2022	• To start a periodical Journal in Women's Studies • Inter-University Exchange Programme

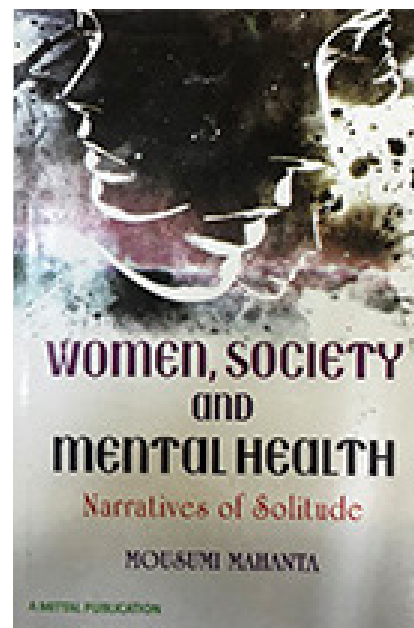
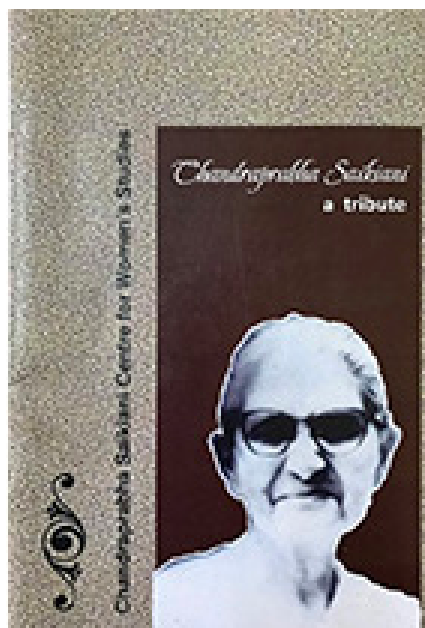
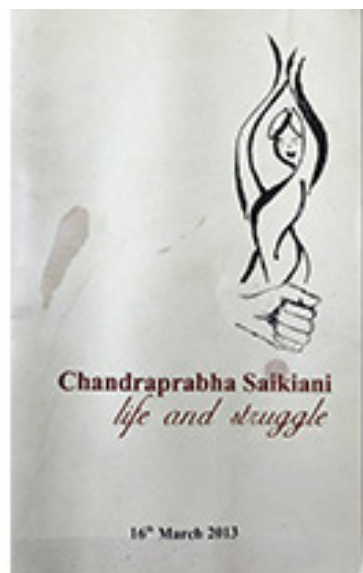
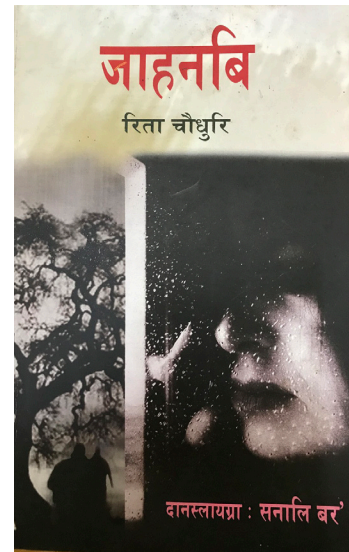
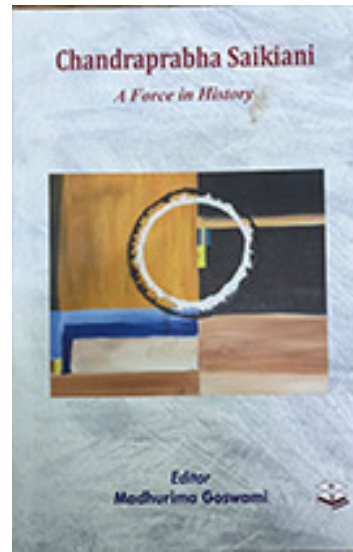
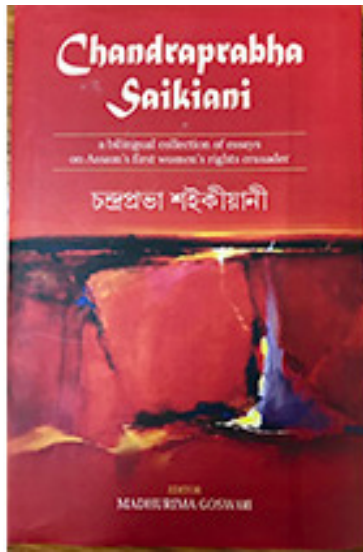
Research

Sl.No	Activities
1	Research on women pioneers of Assam (in the field of literature, activism, science, culture, politics, media etc.)
2	Research on marginalized women (differently able, mentally ill, old age, caste, class, transgender etc.)
3	Archive on Women Pioneers

Documents

- i. 'Varta' (the yearly activity report)
- ii. Monographs on Chandraprabha Saikiani
- iii. Newsletters of various Women's Studies Centre throughout India
- iv. Booklets of various Government, Non-Government and International Organisations.
- v. Library books (380nos.)
- vi. Dissertations (120)
- vii. Journals (20)
- viii. Published books (5)
- ix. Annual Report of the Centre.

Publications



Community work









Tilottama Boruah Memorial Award

Instituted at Chandrababha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
for outstanding
research work, activism in the area of women's empowerment and
social justice.

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