



2020

VARTA The News



**Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
Tezpur University**





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Tezpur University**

CONTENT

P 01. Chandraprabha Saikiani

P 02. The Centre

Inception
Continuation
Vision
Location
Strategies



P 04. The Committee

Advisory Committee
Standing Committee
Statutory Committee
Editorial Board

P 05. Teaching

CBCS
PG Diploma

P 07. Trainings/Workshops/Seminars

Training: Capacity Building of Women Managers, Legal Awareness Programme, Orientation programme.

Workshop: Research Methodology, Gender inequality, Domestic Violence and Legislation.

Seminar: Aging in India, Security for Women at Workplace.

P 32. Advocacy

Advocacy on women's rights.



P 41. Women Studies Lecture Initiatives

Distinguished Women Studies scholars from India and abroad deliver talks on women's question.

P 46. Extension

Extension programme at community level, Schools, Colleges.

P 53. Outreaching/ Networking

Networking with other departments, centres, NGOs and voluntary organizations.

P 55. Activity of 2020

P 68. Research

Projects
Student's Dissertations

P 76. Publication

Journals
Books
Chapter in Books

P 79. Achievement

Essay Competition, Dance Competition,
Singing Competition,
UNIFEST, Annual Meet

P 80. People

Director
Core Faculty
Research Staff
Administrative Staff

P 81. Future Plan

Establishment of Women Archive,
Introducing M.A. and Ph.D programmes

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

From the Registrar



It is my pleasure to note that the Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies has been striving to work in 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 Chandraprabha 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

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 2010-2018. 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



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 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.



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.

Location

The centre is currently located inside the Chandraprabha Saikiani Bhavan. An extension of the bhavan for accommodation of the centre is under process.

Success stories

- a. Passed out students of P.G. Diploma in Women's Studies are admitted into Ph.D., M.A. Programme in the top universities of Assam.
- b. The knowledge gained by the students through the CBCS Women's Studies course and PG Diploma in Women's Studies helped them to acquire the critical thinking on women related issues that helped them for their further academic research.
- c. 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 Aparna Mahanta
(Retd. Prof. of English and former Head,
CWS, Dibrugarh University) | Member |
| 3. | Prof. Shiela Bora
(Retd. Prof. of History, Dibrugarh University) | Member |
| 4. | Ms. Jarjum Ete
(Social Activist, Itanagar) | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Biren Das
Registrar, T.U. | Member |
| 6. | Prof. P. K. Das
Dean-School of Humanities and Social Science, T.U. | Member |
| 7. | Prof. Charulata Mahanta
Dept of FPT, T.U. and Dean R&D, T.U | Member |
| 8. | Dr. Madhurima Goswami
Head, CSCWS | Member – Secretary |

Standing Committee

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Prof. P. K. Das
Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences | Chairperson |
| 2. | Dr. Madhurima Goswami
Head, CSCWS | Convener |
| 3. | Dr. Shravani Biswas
(Associate Prof. Dept of EFL) | Member |
| 4. | Dr. Papor Barua
(Prof. Dept of MBA) | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Hemjyoti Medhi
(Associate Professor, Dept. of EFL, T.U.) | Member |

Statutory Committee

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Prof Madhumita Borbora
(Prof. Dept. of EFL, T.U.) | Member |
| 2. | Dr. Debarshi Prasad Nath
(Prof. Dept of Cultural Studies, T.U) | Member |
| 3. | Dr. Hemjyoti Medhi
(Associate Professor, Dept. of EFL, T.U.) | Member |
| 4. | Dr. Madhurima Goswami
Head, CSCWS | Convener |

Editorial Board

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 1. | Dr. Debarshi Prasad Nath
(Prof. Dept of cultural Studies & Dean
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, T.U) | Member |
| 2. | Prof. Chandan Kumar Sarma
(Prof. Dept of Sociology, T.U) | Member |
| 3. | Dr. Nirmali Goswami
(Asst. Prof. Dept of Sociology, T.U) | member |

Courses offered



Introduction to Women's Studies (WS-101)

CBCS

Introduction to Women's Studies (Project) (WS-102)

CBCS

Women & Digital Literacy (WS103)

CBCS

One year PG Diploma Course on Women Studies

MA in Women's Studies (syllabus drafted and principally accepted in Academic Council of Tezpur University)



Chandraprabha Saikiani

a bilingual collection of essays
on Assam's first women's rights crusader

চন্দ্রপ্রভা শইকীয়ানী

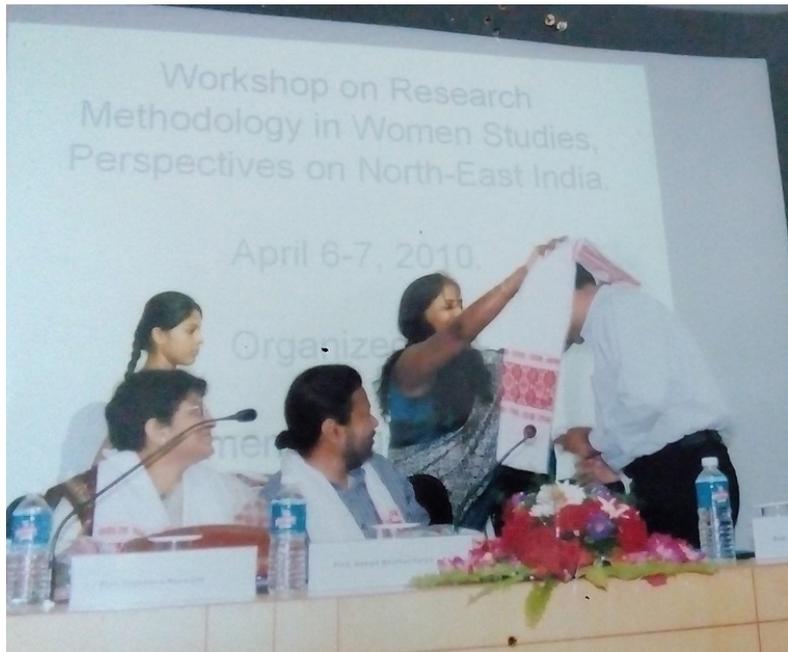
EDITOR
MADHURIMA GOSWAMI

The book is an anthology of various aspects of the life and works of Chandraprabha Saikiani. In this collection, there are essays, translations of Saikiani's own writings, bibliography and a chronology of Saikiani's life events as traced by various scholars and activists.

Available in Women Studies Centre office

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 Banerjee, 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 Saikani 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, Jadhavpur 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.

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. Shiela 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.

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 Chandrapabha 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”.

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.SaritaToshniwal who was murdered in the Assam Medical College Hospital. The interaction raised many questions of security for the girl students and the working women.





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 Leadership and Participation'.

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, CSCWS, Tezpur University on "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.

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.

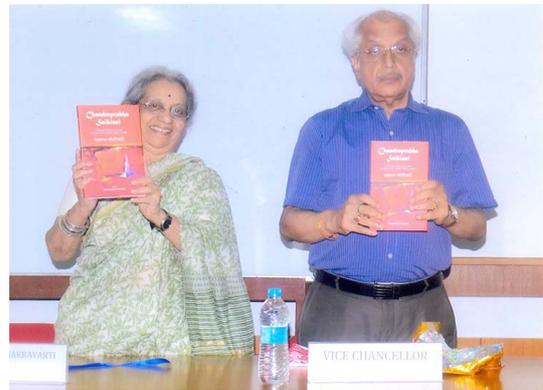




“Domestic Violence and Legislation: A workshop to Raise Awareness” was organised by CSCWS on 22nd and 23rd September, 2015. Total no. of the participants was 50. They were member of Amolapam Mahila Samitee, Napaam Mahila Samitee, Tezpur University Students, Research Scholars and Faculties. The inaugural 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 Chandrabha 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 em-

phasis 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.



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.



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 introductory note she said these are total disquiet in the field of women studies in North East region.

She emphasised that it is very important to make collaboration and network.

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

Prof. Bhupen Sarma, Director of Omio 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 Women’s 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 alleviation 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 multi-cultural 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 on when necessary, the Commission also arranges counselling sessions in different sub-division 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/ disserted/ 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 Chandrabha 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.



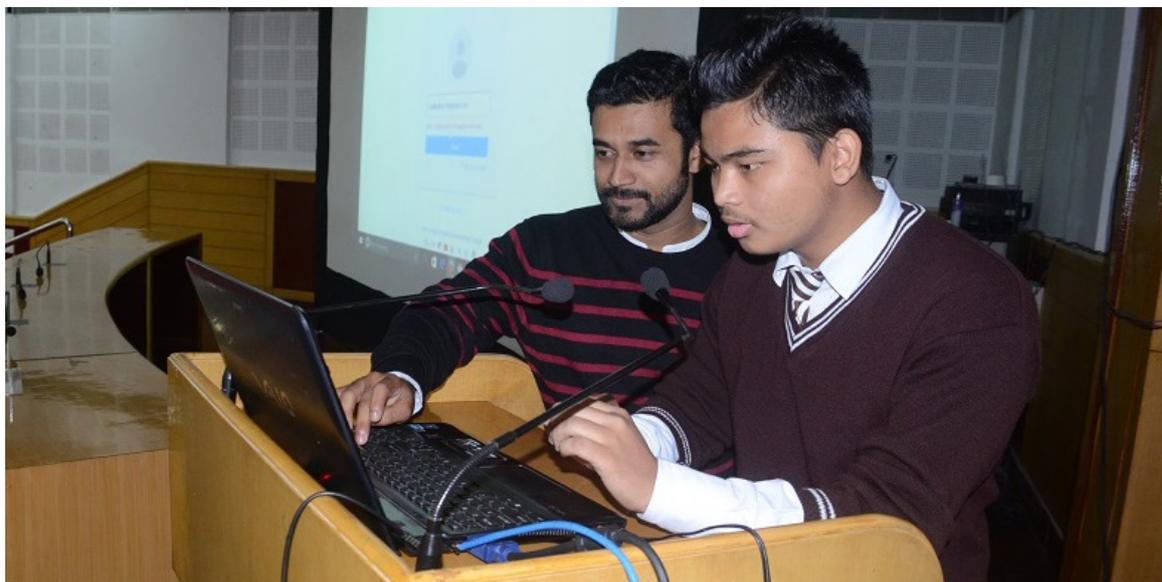
A number of academicians, students (T.U. and outside), lawyers, faculty members from various field particularly from judicial services participated in the programme. Total number of participants were seventy with eight resource persons. Prof. R.C. Borpatragohain, Gauhati University, Dr. Bhuban Chandra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





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 abuses. Ivy Daimary, Research Associate, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University delivered a talk on “Child Sexual Abuses”. She described about the meaning, forms, natures and magnitude of the child sexual abuses. 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.

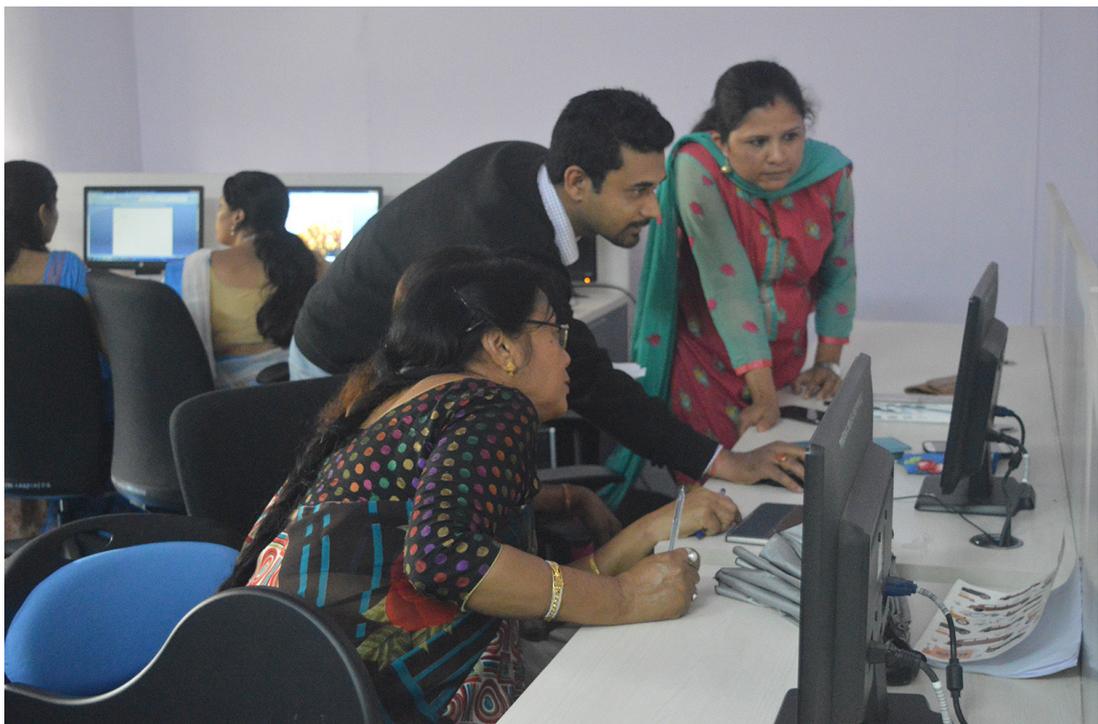


Nation-wide competition on “Laws relating to Women” 10th October, 2018

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.



International Women's Week, 2018
A seven day basic computer training programme, 2018



A week long basic computer training programme was initiated by Chandraprabha 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 Chandraprabha 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 received 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. Prof. starting 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 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.

I know enough women who are totally patriarchal, who are totally anti-women: who do nasty things to other women, and I have known men who have worked for women's rights their whole life.

Feminism is not biological : feminism is an ideology

-Kamla Bhasin

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.



The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law



Editor
Madhurima Goswami

This book is a nascent contribution to the developing field of women studies. Viewing the problems in India's North-East, the socio-cultural issues related to women are presented with an aim to correlate research outcomes by the authors in the field of displacement, media, health, law, violence and society. Along with these local issues like control over livelihood, customary practices, inheritance issues, crime and violence, representation in media, present day realities, appropriation of cultural ideology, internal displacement within the community and family, political unrest like ethnic conflicts and militarization, etc. makes the indigenous question of the Northeast women and various gender concerns significant subjects for study.

Available in Women Studies Centre office

On 15th of September 2011 Chandraprabha 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.

*We are either going to have a **future where women lead the way** to make peace with the Earth or we are not going to have a human future at all.*

-Vandana Shiva



The CSCWS, commemorated the birth and death anniversary of Padmashri Chandraprabha Saikiani on 16th of March, 2012 at Chandraprabha 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 memorial monograph on Saikiani was taken out on the occasion. A talk by Prof Anuradha Dutta on “Life and Times of Chandraprabha 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 sensitised about 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.

CSCWS 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.



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’s Rights Crusader”, edited by Dr. Madhurima Goswami was released by Prof. Uma Chakravarti on the occasion. Prof. Pradipjyoti Mahanta, Dean H.S.S. gave an account of the activities and the engagements of the Women Studies Centre within the campus and in the public forum.

The talk helped the participants to understand different issues of feminism, glimpses of feminist theories and its importance in higher education.



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 and 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 “Jyomoti” 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 Pusalata 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-in-charge 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 Baruah 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.



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.

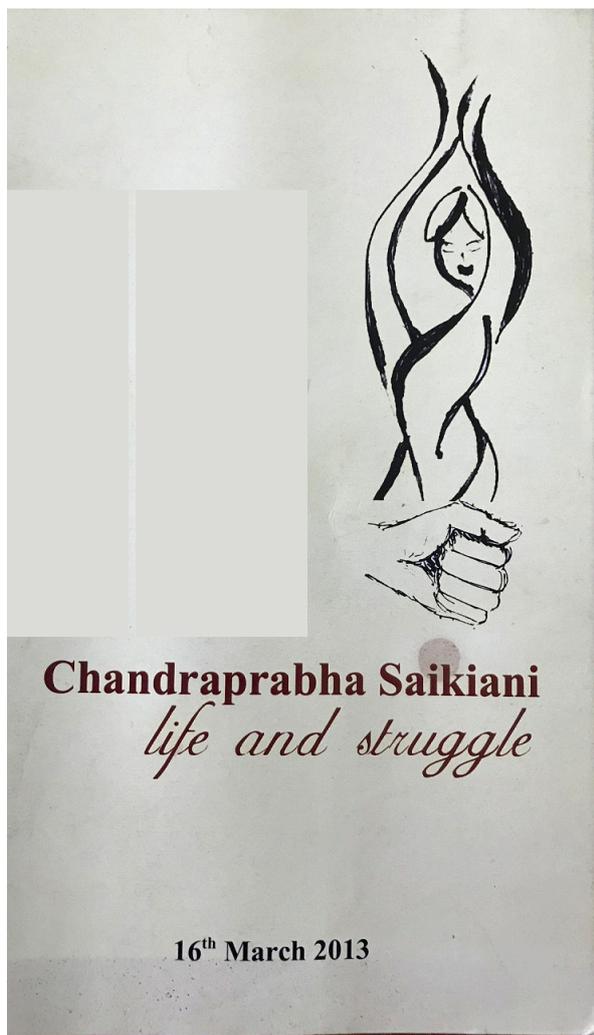
Prof. Kaushik was instrumental in strengthening the capacity building programme in higher education for women in India and North-East India. She showed her enthusiasm in visiting the local M.V. School in Napaam, and inspired the students with her experiences of childhood. Later on, she distributed prizes 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.

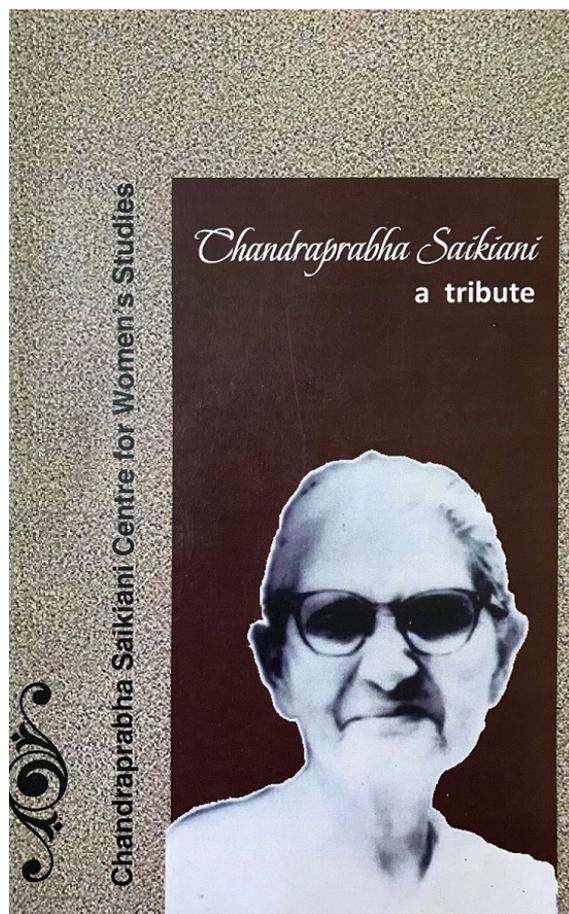
The talk helped participants to understand the relevance of Women Studies in the higher education system.





Released by Nirupama Borgohain on 16th March, 2013.

Released by Anuradha Dutta on 16th March, 2012.



Available in Women Studies Centre office

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, Prof. of the Depto. Filologia Inglesay Alemana, University de Zaragoza, Spain and Annette Gomis, 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,
Tirupati*



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



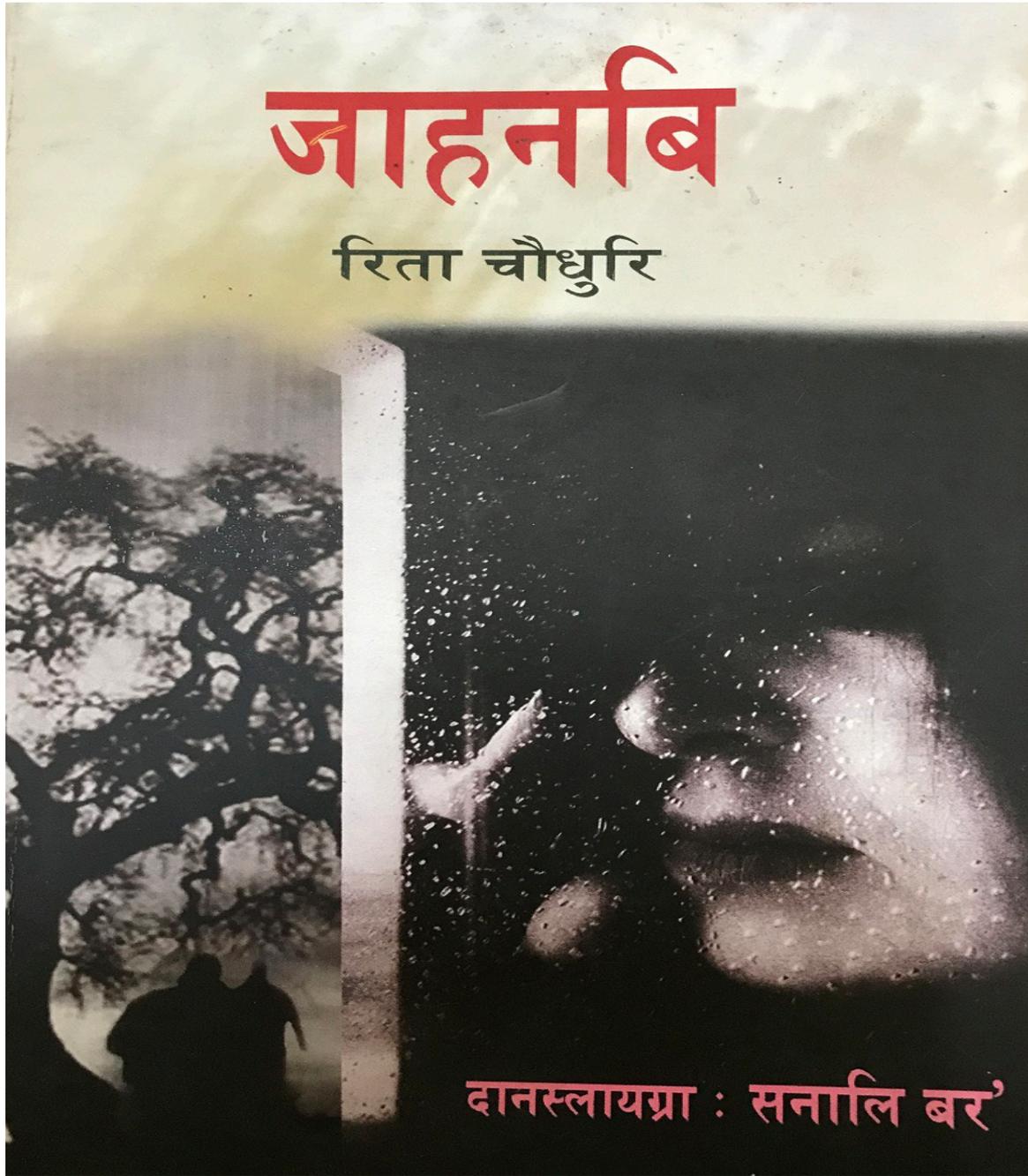
*Prof. Sucheta Sen Chaudhuri,
Central University of Jharkhand*



Minakshi Bhuyan, Social Activist



*Bhuban Chandra Barooah, Principal
Tezpur Law College*



'Jahnabi', a novel written by Rita Choudhury in Assamese is about the state Assam when insurgency was at its peak and almost ran a parallel government. The issue of ethnic violence, communal clashes surrounded the minds of the people. In the novel, the author has tried to show existence of love and kindness in conflict times through the protagonist 'Jahnabi'. It is translated by Sonali Boro into Bodo language. A testimony of women's engagement with the political unrest in Assam.

Available in Women Studies Centre office



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. Paporu 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. Paporu 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.

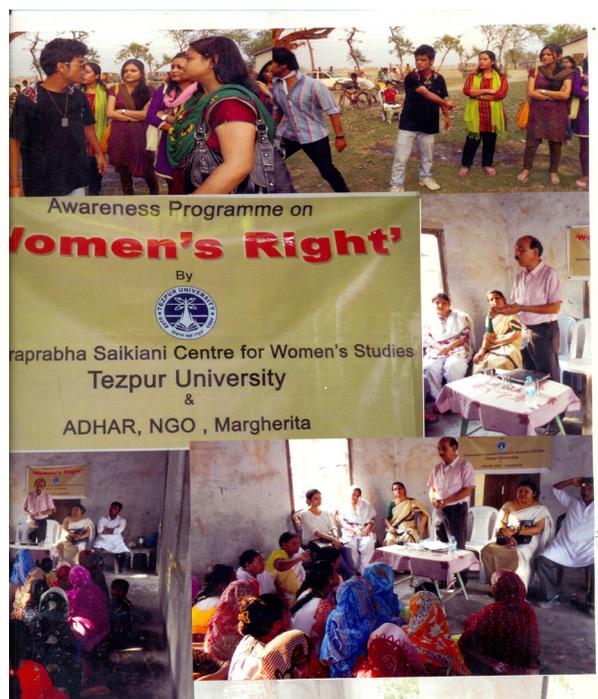
Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Head i/c, WSC, welcomed the students and teachers of both the schools and introduced the members present to the audience. Ms. Jaya Chakraborty, Dept. of MCJ started with an ice-breaking session. The second speaker Dr. Sumita Gogoi Hazarika spoke mainly on puberty related issues 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 focussing 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 Naapam 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.



C BCT 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. Josheph 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.

C BCT 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.



C SCWS 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 were discussed.

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



S tudents 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.



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.



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.

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.



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.



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. Dhanapati 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 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 Chandraprabha 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 Chandraprabha 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.

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

Outreaching / Networking

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, English and Foreign Languages and Mass Communication and Dept. of Law helps in taking classes as well as in organizing different activities in the Centre.

With centres of other Universities: The centre had an interaction with Women Studies Centre of Dibrugarh University and OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati and had planned to organise a workshop on different issues of Women Studies in North East India in August, 2015. Experts from Women's 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's Studies, Alagappa University, School for Women's Studies, Jadavpur University,

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.



ACTIVITIES OF 2020

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.

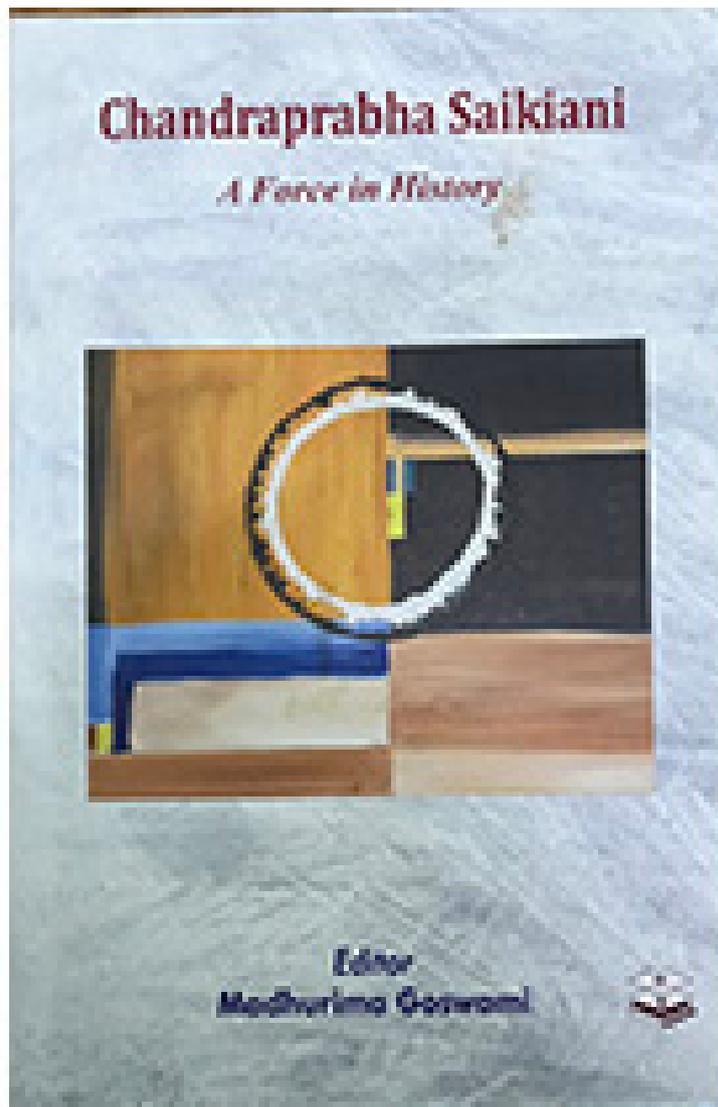
Patricia Mukhim started her speech mentioning her association with Women Studies in Guwahati. She acknowledged Chandraprabha Saikiani as a great activist. She talked about taboos in menstruation and the struggles in fighting such practices. She said that to make a change we have to be proactive as change 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

At last Dr.Ivy Daimary gave the vote of thanks and wind up the programme and welcomed the guest for refreshment



A Force in History is an anthology comprising of Saikiani's life, struggle, movement and memories. It gives an understanding of the genesis of women's movement in Assam. The emergence of Mahila Samiti and the participation of the women in the freedom movement, spearheaded by Saikiani. The collection gives an idea of 'Saikiani' as a crusader of women rights. An effort on the part of Saikiani to transform the position of women in the society. This compilation would interest a wide readership, besides students and researchers of women's history and women's movement.

Available in Women Studies Centre office

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

ChandrababhaSaikiani 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, Chandrababha Sakiani 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.Kalpna 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.

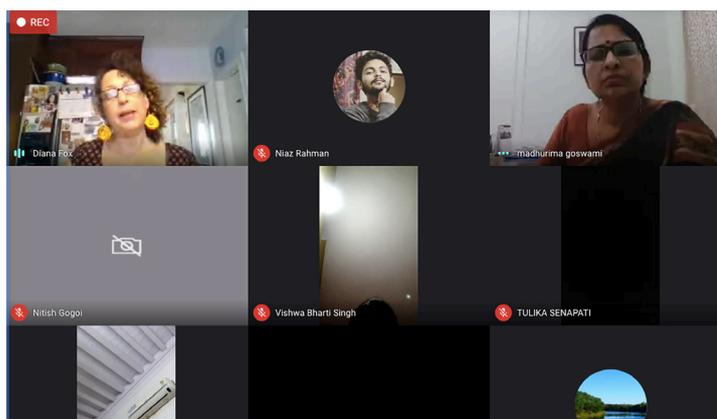
She also said gender also play significant role on mental health. Women and men experience stress differently due to biological differences of male and female. Hormonal status also affects women differently which led to some physical obstacle as well as it affects reproductive health of the women. She 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 Maharashtra 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 ChandraprabhaSaikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University wined up the webinar by acknowledging gratitude to resource persons and the participants.

International Web Talk on Feminist Anthropological Research and Writing Methodology

Chandraprabha 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



Chandraprabha 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 Chandraprabha 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.

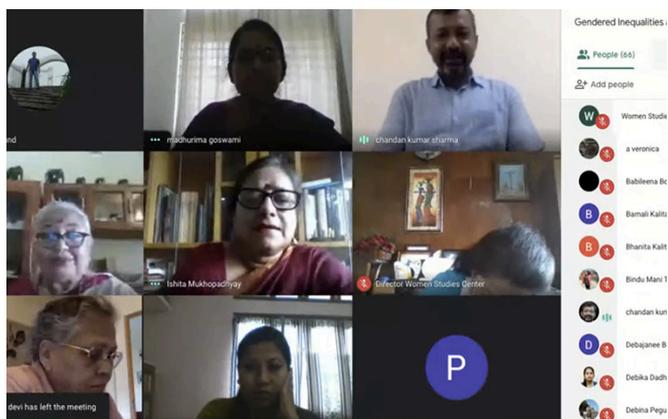
Webinar on “Gendered Inequalities and Covid-19:Survival Strategies for Women”, 17th June 2020

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 raised questions 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 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 grassroot philanthropic organization of Tezpur). The economy of this world is 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, Proprietor 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.

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
	Shyamkanu Mahanta Entrepreneur, Proprietor of MMS Pvt. Ltd, Assam		21-07-2020
	Shubhra Devi Managing Director, Meira Foods, Manipur		Hosting on GOOGLE MEET

NOTE: Google meet link will be provided at 9:00 PM, 20-07-2020

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.

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. In women and entrepreneurship we can look into tourism. What we have is tourism, wildlife sanctuaries, Arunachal lakes, mountains, food, fashion, crafts in Assam. Earlier all flood, 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.

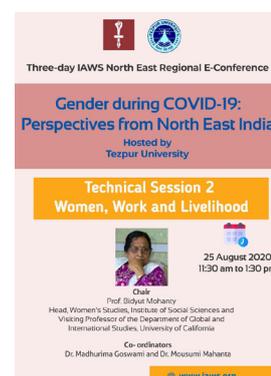
Questions were raised regarding some marketing tactics for local processed food which the speaker answered and gave some important advices.

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

Chandraprabha 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, Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Tezpur University. 31 participants participated in the session and 9 participants presented papers.

Dr. Mousumi Mahanta, Chandraprabha 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 Chandraprabha 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 Chandraprabha 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 grassroots 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. Robin Deka, Head Sociology Department Tezpur University appreciates 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 being 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”.



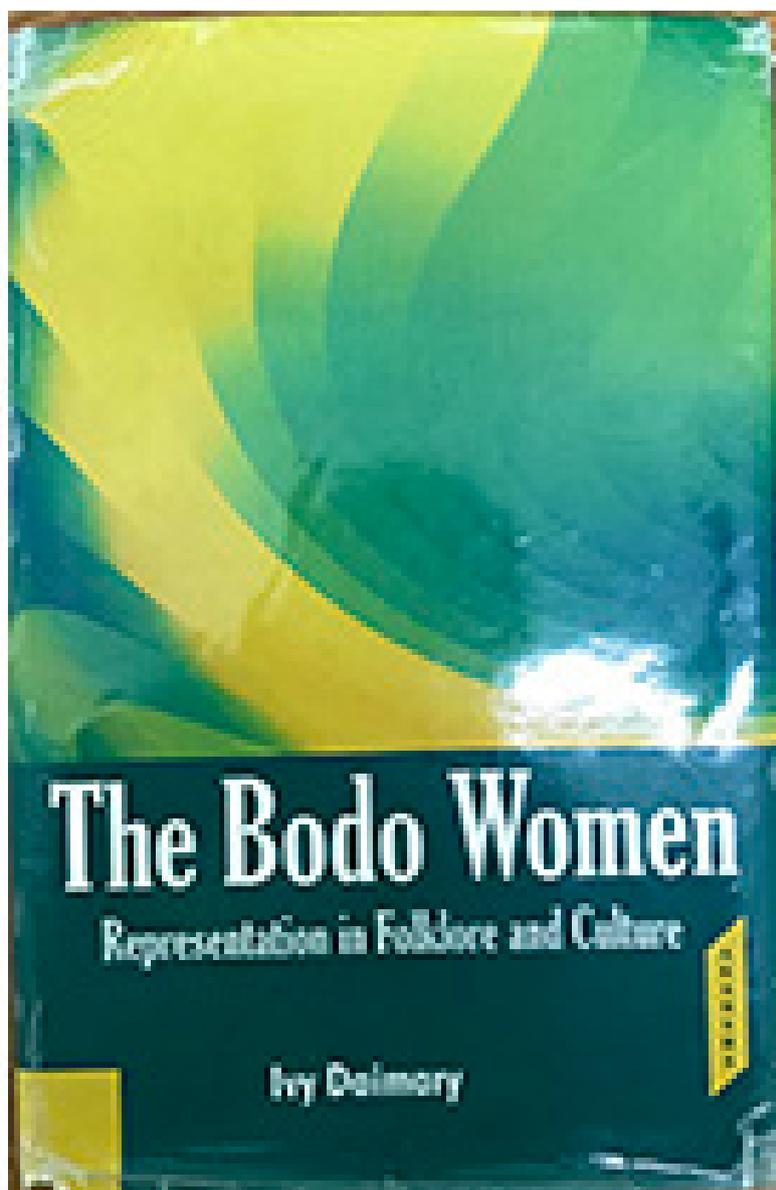
A womens’ initiative programme at Harijan Colony, Tezpur on 8th March 2020

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 of cutting on chart papers. The programme ended with an interaction between the University staff and the women of the colony.



The Bodo Women: Representation in Folklore and Culture intends to study the various images of women represented in Bodo folklore especially in folktales and folksongs, based on the argument that folklore represents the status of women in the society.

Women's stereotypical roles, their certain limitations and miscellaneous roles are represented in various oral forms specially created by patriarchal society. Such kind of representation depicts the kind of society that existed in the ancient society. The study on various forms of folklore brings to light the pattern of society that existed in the ancient time.

Available in Women Studies Centre office

Projects at Present

The Women Studies Centre in collaboration with FAIRTRADE, Network of Asia & Pacific Producers, Singapore and India will be working on Gender Gap analysis of Tea Estates (Upper Assam) of Golaghat, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia (2018 - 2019).

The Women Studies Centre in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi working on "Women in the Economic Sector in Assam" (2019 - 2020).

The Women Studies Centre working on a project "Effectiveness of Sexual Harassment of the Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013: A study in Assam (2018-19)" sponsored by National Commission for Women, New Delhi.



Research/project

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 Trailokswari 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 examines whether target group adheres to the 'beauty myth'.



A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ENTERPRENEURSHIP 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(Abhiskek Kumar Barua)

This study intents 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.

ICSSR PROJECT 2015 - 17

Trafficking and Women: A study on the border areas of Sonitpur District

A project funded by ICSSR, New Delhi entitled "Women and Trafficking: A study of the Border Areas of Sonitpur District of Assam" started from August 2015. Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery where traffickers profit from the control and exploitation of others. Although slavery is commonly thought to be a thing of the past, human trafficking still exists today throughout the globe and traffickers use force, or coercion to control other people for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex or forcing them to provide labour services against their will. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to trap victims in horrific situation in India.

All trafficking victims share one essential experience – the loss of freedom. And it is pathetic that often child under the age of 18 are the main victims of this social evil. Trafficking of children is a form of human trafficking. Child trafficking can be defined as recruitment or transportation or transfer or harboring or receipt of child for the purpose of exploitation. The International Labor Organization estimates that 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. Child trafficking has been internationally recognized as a major human right violation which exists in every constituency of the planet. Yet; it is only within the past decade that the pervasiveness and ramification of this practice have risen to international prominence, due to a dramatic increase in social research and public relations.

The selected sites of the project:

- Rikamari, Near Sonai-Rupai
- Bhalukpong
- Bishwanath
- Gohpur

Connected to mainland India by the thin 'chicken neck' area – the peculiar geographical location of Assam makes it more vulnerable to infiltration and insurgency resulting in slow economic growth. Over the decades, Assam has witnessed large scale migration of the local population to the comparatively richer parts of the country. The growing need for better livelihood options and employment has turned Assam into a fertile place for human traffickers and in the past few years, thousands of young men and women of the state have fallen prey to the designs of traffickers and have been exploited as cheap labour.

Factors of trafficking in Assam

a) Poverty

Poverty is a risk factor for the problem of trafficking. There is a high risk of being trafficked from a poor family. In the poor families girls are mainly the victims of trafficking. They are sold out to earn money. Sometimes parents are also desperate to sell their daughters to earn money. In a poor family, parents also send their children with the agents to make a better life in terms of education and safety, better food and shelter. The traffickers play a leading role promising good jobs and better life to the young people of the family specially the girls. But in reality, they are kept in a very miserable condition as sex workers, house maids etc

b) Forced Marriage:

Girls and women are not only trafficked for prostitution but they are also used as commodity to sold out. In many regions in India the female ratio is very less in comparison to male due to female infanticide. So girls and women are being sold out to those regions and they are being forced to marry.

c) Bonded Labour:

In the poor families both boys and girls are sold out as bonded labour. The parents who are generally running out of cash sell their kids as debt labour in exchange for cash. But generally they are not paid regularly. Here the victims have great chances of suffering from issues like depression, mental disorder, anxiety etc.

Findings

Over the years, one of the worst socio-economic problems that any society has faced is the women trafficking. The victims mostly belong to remote and backward areas from economically unsound families. Under such circumstances, poverty and illiteracy has been playing a vital role in the process. A trafficker generally tries to put a veil by luring the victims to provide lucrative jobs with high incomes. Many a times, victims do not want to leave such great opportunities and inadvertently penetrate into the business of trafficking. In the discussion with the villagers it is observed that the root of the problem of women trafficking lies in the society itself. Lack of proper awareness among the people play a vital role in making them an easy access to the traffickers. Under such backdrop, the people themselves have to try for an upliftment.

Before the implementation of the project, people of the study area (viz Rikamari) were not aware of the concept of human trafficking. People from the other parts of Sonitpur district were also not very familiar with the term human trafficking. A massive number of boys and girls were missing from the study areas. It is quite normal for the people as they were least bothered of trafficking and its consequences. Even if some of them wanted to work to prevent trafficking, they were not aware of legal provisions. In an interview with one of the villager from Rikamari Village, who said that though they wanted to stop trafficking or child abuse there was no single platform.



Sumi Sharma, Research Investigator conveying awareness Programme



Masum Hazarika and Rajashree Goswami (Research Investigator) interacting with victim's mother

Conclusion

Human Trafficking has become a scorching woe of our civilization. In Assam, the problem of trafficking mostly occurs in the border areas where people are predominantly illiterate and are alienated from the mainstream society. These people are socio-economically backward. The source of income depends on single person of the family member, As a result the younger member of the family takes the step to help the family. Hence the brokers come and promise them for a better life with a high paid salary. The brokers employ these young girls as sex workers or house maids and they are sexually and economically exploited. So to overcome the problem of trafficking we have to make a connection between them and the main stream societies. Their economic conditions have to be improved. Education is also important in their context. And they also have to be aware about what trafficking is and how trafficking occurs. By taking these measures the problem of trafficking in Assam can be prevented. The age of globalization has brought a drastic change all over the country, which included transportation of goods and services, migration, speed etc. Transportation also includes, human trafficking which is a global issue right now.

After the women and children get trafficked, they are being transported to other places of the world. Children and women are inducted forcibly through abduction. Children and women victims are inducted in racket by pimps, brothel keeper and sometimes by mother herself. They are forced to be migrant workers. The migrant workers do not have the freedom to leave the worksite & go to their native place. when, they decide to go home to attend the ailing parents, arrange treatment or discharge personal and ceremonial obligations; they have to mortgage one of their family members or any other relative at the worksite to enable them to get leave. Migrant women often fall prey of commercial exploitation. Authorities, Non Govt. Organisations (NGOs) and the security forces have to step forward hand in hand to combat against such a universal socio-economic menace.

Publications

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

Books

1. Goswami, Madhurima. (2018), ed. The Northeast Indian Women: Issues of Displacement, Violence, Media and Law, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN- 978-93-87035-23.
2. Goswami, Madhurima. (2015), ed. Chandraprabha Saikiani: A bilingual collection of essays on Assam's first women's rights crusader, CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN-978-81-931547-0-0.
3. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2015), Women, Society and Mental Health: Narratives of Solitudes, New Delhi: Mittal Publications. ISBN-8183245439.
4. Boro, Sonali. (2011), 'Jahanabi' An Assamese Novel written by Rita Choudhury translated in Bodo language, Guwahati: Akhar Prakash.

Chapters in Books:

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2015), Understanding Chandraprabha Saikiani: Ideology and its Ramification, Chandraprabha Saikiani,CSCWS, Tezpur University. ISBN-978-81-931547-0-0, 64-69.
7. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2014), Chandraprabha Saikiani: Personality and Progress, Agnikanya Chandraprabha Saikiani: A Collection of Articles,Tezpur University Publication,Tezpur,48-56.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Goswami, Madhurima. (2010), Performance Studies, Cultural Studies: Perspectives from North East India, Tezpur University Publication, Tezpur, 105-115.
11. Mahanta, Mousumi. (2011), Traditional Dress and Ornaments of Karbi People and Adaptation of Modernity, Samaj Sanskarak Jaisaing Doloir Jibon Darsan Aru Karbi Anglong, Jaising Doloi fufu publication,Karbi Anglong, 201-203.

Journals:

1. Daimary, Ivy. Swargiary, Dina. (2019), Women and Witch-Hunting: Challenges as Victims, ISSN:2454-7891, vol:4 issue:3.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Goswami, Madhurima. (2017), Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking of the Concept in Art. Indian Journal of Arts, ISSN 2320-6659, 7(21), 59-64.
5. Mahanta, Mousumi. Boro, Sonali. (2018), Panchayati Raj and Women of Rural Assam, Desh Vikas, ISSN-2394-1782, Vol-4 Issue-4.

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7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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 .
15. 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.
16. Goswami, Madhurima. (2012), Intangible dimension of the Kherai Ritual Site, Indian Journal of Applied Research,Vol4.,Issue No.3,80-83.
17. Goswami, Madhurima. (2012), The Bodos: Culture and Society, Journal of Social Sciences Vol,1,Issue No1,88-103.
18. 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

Director



Madhurima Goswami, Head
Qualification: M A (Sanskrit), M.Phil, PhD
(Women and Religion)

Core staff



Mousumi Mahanta, Assistant Professor
Qualification: M.Sc (Anthropology), PhD (Women
and Mental health)

Research Staff



Ivy Daimary, Research Associate
Qualification: M.A(Cultural Studies), NET/JRF, B.Ed.,
PhD (Women and Folklore)

Administrative Staff



Abhijit Biashya, Professional Assistant
Qualification: MCA



Pranjal Sarma, Data Entry Operator
Qualification: B.A.



Malati Boro, Multi-Tasking Staff

Student's Statistics

Year	Course	Students
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 pioneer 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, trans-gender etc.)
3	Archive on Women Pioneer

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 (4)
- ix. Annual Report of the Centre.



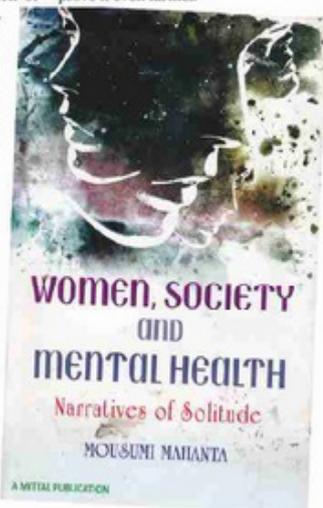


Instituted at Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies
for outstanding
research work, activism in the area of women's empowerment and
social justice.

The book *Women, Society and Mental Health, Narratives of Solitude* by Mousumi Mahanta is a pioneering work of some importance because the author has broken new ground here, in so far as the condition of the mentally ill among women in Assam has not been treated in such detail before. Mental illness is still a dreaded stigma in Assamese society, and the family and close kin are keener to hide it from public view than understanding and providing for treatment. Among women the condition is even more serious, as women in a largely patriarchal society live under more stressed conditions than the men, and any case of mental illness brings more misfortune down on the head of the afflicted. Her field studies, drawn from her investigations and interviews with patients, family members, neighbours and health-workers show their terrible plight, both physically and mentally. The author must be complimented for the pioneering effort which lifts a corner of the veil that conceals this immense tragedy.

But the book also has some unfortunate shortcomings. First, the language is rather uneven, fluent in some parts but inadequate and given to errors in others. Secondly, while she has read much of the published material in theory, and mastered them, her attempts to apply them are sketchy. For example, while she has much to say about Foucault's ideas about 'construction' of madness, they do not have much traction in her case-studies. Indeed, it seems to me that while she does her best to apply them, the actual case-studies rather expose the irrelevance and pedantry of Foucault's massive erudition. Her work, rather than condemning the intrusive and manipulative character of modern medicine, as is Foucault's wont, underlines the effectiveness and urgent need for modern medical interventions in an area where patients are left to the tender mercies of witch-doctors and the darkness of superstitious beliefs, making recovery difficult. To be sure, she shows how the unfeeling and harsh attitudes of nurses and care-givers affect their plight. But the point is that even in such unpropitious conditions, modern medicine and the enlightened approach

of doctors seem to greatly improve their condition. A better understanding of their condition in the society at large can improve it even further.



of doctors seem to greatly improve their condition. A better understanding of their condition in the society at large can improve it even further.

The author in the second chapter gives a competent historical account of the varying ideas and attitudes to mental illness. From that discussion, it emerges that the medieval idea of mental illness as 'possession by evil spirits' leading to harsh, coercive



Breaking new grounds

Following the introduction, the author covers a lot of ground in the second chapter on the history of mental illness

Hiren Gohain

and that of concepts governing its understanding and treatment. Then comes an important chapter on gender issues and the evolution of understanding women's position in society and its relevance in treating mental illness among women. She also underlines the fact that the position of women in Indian society and the prevailing attitudes to women in that society have a definite impact on the mental health of



treatment practices gave way, following the enlightenment, to a more benevolent and scientifically clinical approach, but treating the patients as human beings arrived quite late on the scene. But no sooner had a scientific approach, along with caring and circumspection, taken shape, than a subversive attack on it as invasive and detrimen-

tal to the patient's dignity began undermining it. Foucault, of course, led the pack of critics. But as results showed, the new scientific approach not only led to great improvement in the mental functioning and restoration of mental balance in the patient, but actually treated the patient as an individual deserving respect. Whatever intrusion took place was in the interest of restraining the patient from harming himself or others. The author's case studies in the Sonitpur district of Assam amply bear it out.

Indeed, Assamese society at large, especially in the countryside, seems in the same stage as medieval Europe, as far as understanding of the mentally ill, especially women among them, are concerned. They are regarded as possessed by evil spirits and handed over to traditional *bezas* and *ojas*, who subject them to their mumbo jumbo and inflict physical cruelties on them in the name of driving away the 'evil spirits'. As a result, more often than not, the patients slip into graver states of the illness.

Popular ideas about mental illness confirm this attitude and approach. Mental illness is regarded as such a stigma by the family and the neighbours that the patient internalises this disapproval and is further alienated from society. The author also does a good job of laying bare the very origins of mental illness of women in their subordinate and oppressed role in society in Assam, arousing tremendous, tensions that they are unable to resolve in their day-to-day life. The present work must, therefore, be commended for throwing light on this vital but neglected area of social life.

It is a pity that many of the care-givers themselves betray a callous and crude attitude to patients in their charge. As distinct from their professional service, they mentally entertain a mistrustful and mildly hostile attitude to the patients, which must tell on the rate of recovery. The author, thus, alerts the authorities to the need for sensitising the professional paramedics to the reality of patients as suffering human individuals, especially plagued by traditional gender injustice.

Available on www.mittalbooks.com
www.abebooks.com
www.dkagencies.com

A project in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi on Women in Economic Sector in Assam and Border Areas.



Women Market in Border Areas (India - Myanmar) and Cultural Confluence.



Women street vendors in Guwahati



Gender and Market: A study on women working in the beetle-nut dyeing industries of Rupahihaat.



Women and Market: A shift in Development Paradigm, Tinsukia

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