

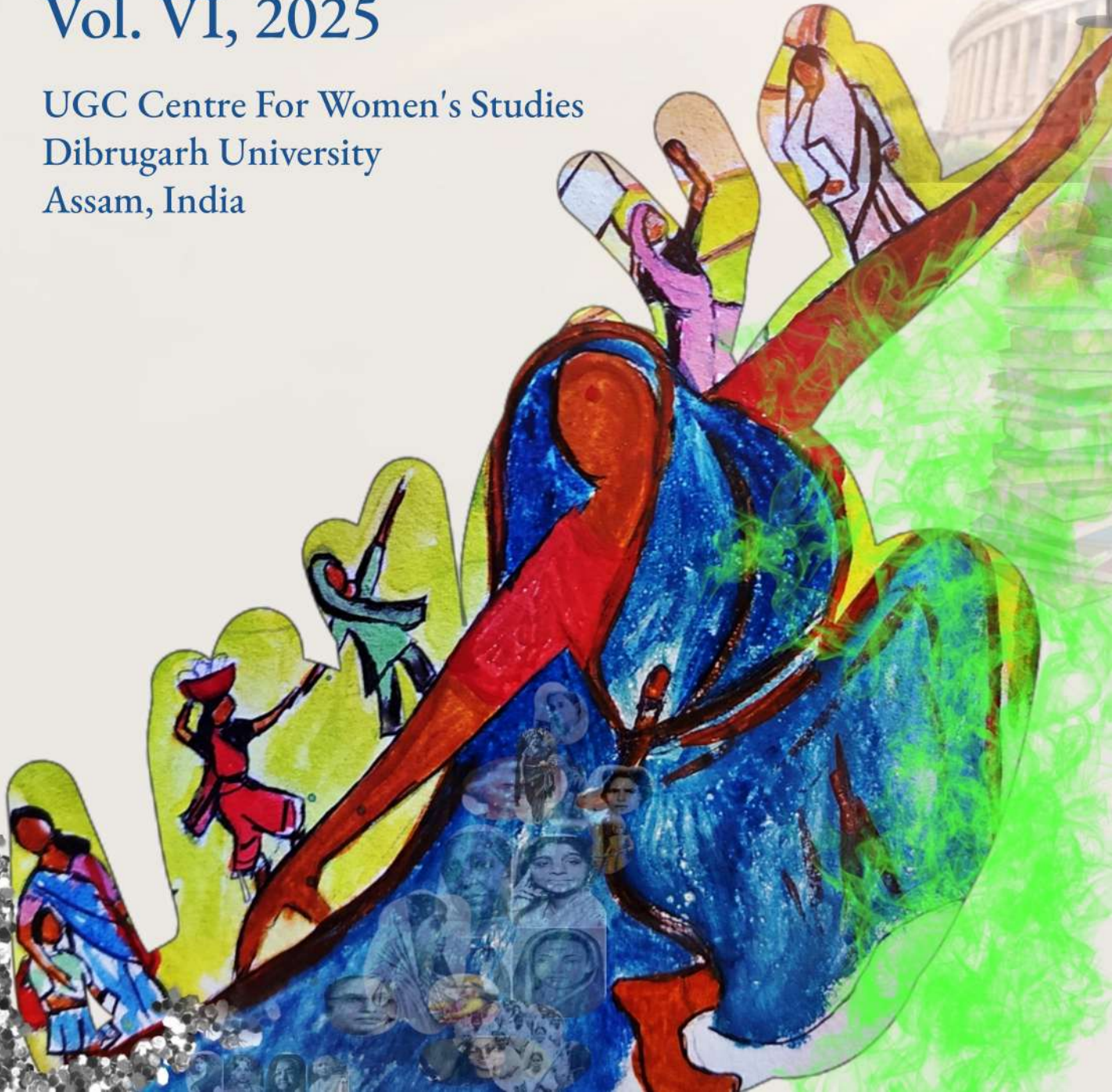


SRUTI

THE CWS COMMUNIQUE

Vol. VI, 2025

UGC Centre For Women's Studies
Dibrugarh University
Assam, India





MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

I am delighted to learn that the UGC Centre for Women's Studies is presenting the sixth edition of its newsletter, *Sruti: the CWS Communique*.

I congratulate the team for their tireless endeavour towards a gender equal society and for carving a niche for themselves as one of the most prominent Women's Studies Centres in the country.

As the university has just recently celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, I feel it is an opportune occasion to put on record the laurels, the landmarks and the milestones achieved by its women faculties, employees, researchers and students, thereby taking the university to greater heights. They have not only earned distinction for themselves but have also been a huge source of inspiration to generations of young women who are determined to challenge stereotypes and move beyond boundaries.

In particular, the UGC Centre for Women's Studies envisages a gender equal society, where, all individuals irrespective of sex are endowed with equal opportunities and access to resources to nurture their dreams and follow their passions. From the Activity Reports, I have been given to understand that the faculties, research scholars and students at the Centre have always stood up to give fruition to the nation's vision of Viksit Bharat, 2047.

Besides, from organising awareness programmes on various women related issues ranging from health to government led schemes to initiating serious academic engagements, the Centre has been at the forefront of all initiatives towards attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, especially SDG 5 which aims at granting equal opportunities to all gendered minorities. And the Centre does this all, taking in its fold all stakeholders—former faculties, alumni, activists and women from varied professional, socio-economic, geographical, linguistic, cultural backgrounds.

We understand that the Centre has had to walk through rough terrain while making itself heard and seen in the regional and the national fora, but we note with appreciation the team's zeal to turn all challenges into opportunities and march forward. The result is for all to be seen: research projects sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and National and State Commission for Women, International and National Conferences with frequent visits by noted national and international scholars and activists, collaborations with government as well as non- government organisations of repute and of course, annual publication of the Journal and the Newsletter. At this point, I would like to congratulate the Team at UGC CWS for having received financial assistance of Rupees Fifteen Lakhs under OIL's CSR Project, "OIL Shrishti" towards Development of Infrastructure.

I wish the Director i/c, the faculties, students and employees at the UGC Centre for Women's Studies all success in their future endeavours.

(Jiten Hazarika)

Dated Dibrugarh, the 18th August, 2025



UGC CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

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From the Chair.....



Namaskar!

Greetings from the UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University!

It is August and it is that time of the year when we take you to our journey through the past one year... Presenting *Sruti: the CWS Communique*, 6.0.

Let me begin with a word of gratitude to each and everyone who has been with us throughout yet another eventful year—the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Professor Jiten Hazarika, the Registrar, Dr. Paramananda Sonowal and their respective offices, the esteemed officials at the Women's Studies Section, UGC, New Delhi, senior faculties, members of the Advisory Board and the Board of Management, students, research scholars and employees at Dibrugarh University, our Research Project Sponsors (National Commission for Women, Ministry of Women and Child Development and other government and non-government agencies), faculties and students from colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University and the universities both within the region and country...in fact I could go on and on, yet I fear missing a few more names and organisations. To put it short, we are overwhelmed at the support and cooperation that not only kept us going but inspired us to keep aiming higher and higher.

We at the Centre have been going all out to every nook and corner within and in the vicinity of the University as we strive to spread the message of gender equality in the society. To this end, we have been actively engaged in academic deliberations, in the form of national and international seminars and invited lectures, research projects and field visits by students and outreach and extension activities in and around Dibrugarh District.

Yet, while all that we do and say seems rosy and bright, we cannot but help feel concerned about the fact that the real progress is yet to start. We are waiting with baited breath to witness Women's Studies being treated with equal "seriousness" as any other discipline. We are desperately hoping that it will be not long before all responsible citizens of the society realise that at the root of a society free from all kinds of discrimination and violence against women lies a revolutionary change in the mindset of people and that such a change can happen only when Women's Studies as a discipline receives a place of pride in the academia and amongst activists.

Till then, I solicit your cooperation as we continue pushing boundaries and shaking systems...

Please feel free to reach out to us with your suggestions, feedback and support.

Dated Dibrugarh, the 19th of August 2025


Nasmee F. Akhtar

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THE CENTRE AT A GLANCE

2024-25

The UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University, is one of the UGC approved Women's Studies Centres in the country and second such Centre in the North East region of India. It was approved by the UGC in November 2004 after being founded as a Centre (Project) in 1998 with a UGC grant under the IX Plan. The Centre has been actively involved in many facets of women's studies and gender issues since

its establishment, including advocacy for women's causes, gender sensitization, oral history, violence against women, and the preservation and documentation of diverse experiences of women. The Centre has been working on topics pertaining to women, gender, and women's empowerment through teaching, research, training, documentation, dissemination, and extension activities.

GENDER/ BENDER: TEACHING PROGRAMMES

The UGC Centre for Women's Studies believes the classroom as the field and the field as the classroom. The Centre is currently offering M.A. and Ph.D. Programme in Women's Studies. Apart from that the Centre offers Generic Elective (GE) Courses and Ability Enhance Courses (AEC) to students from various

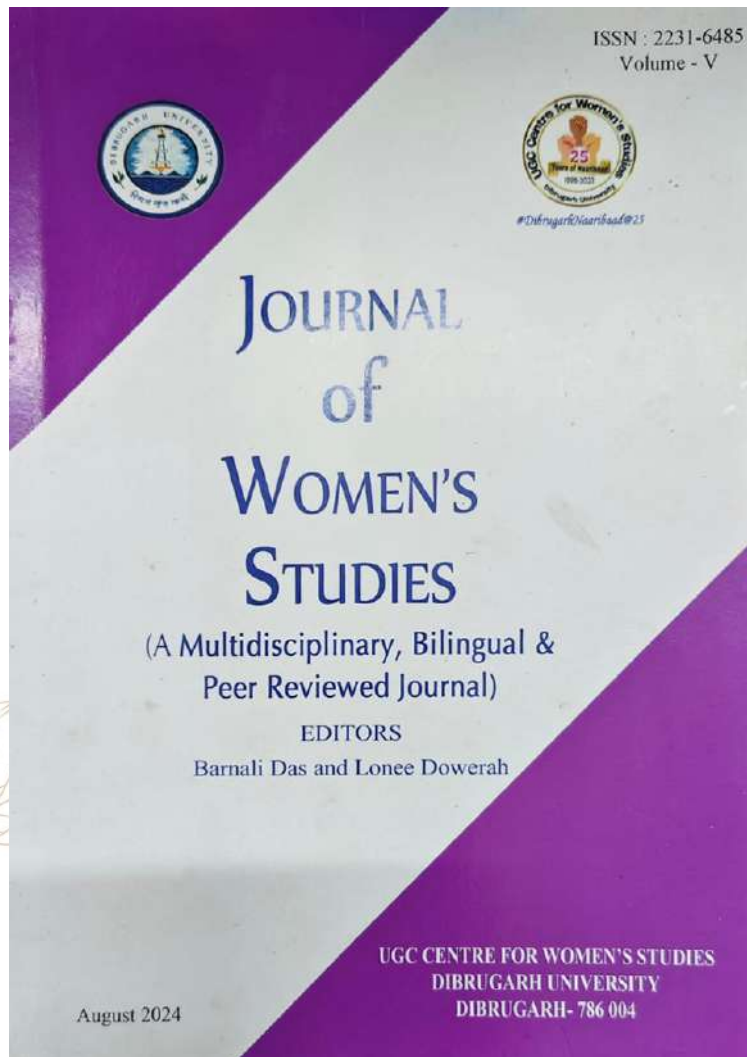
Departments and Centres for Studies of Dibrugarh University. Further, the students at various Colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University have been opting Generic Elective (GE) Courses and Skill Enhance Courses (SEC) offered under the Four Year Under Graduate Programme (FYUGP) in Women's Studies.



ACROSS BREADTHS AND DEPTHS: RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Centre's research encompasses a broad spectrum of topics related to the social, political, and economic lives of women, with a focus on their experiences, contributions, and the challenges they face within society. It critically explores how intersecting identities—such as gender, race, and class—shape individual experiences and influence broader social structures. The research topics have been carefully selected to raise awareness among students, while studies have been conducted in the surrounding areas of Dibrugarh University. This localized focus aims to generate and disseminate knowledge specific to the region, thereby enriching the understanding of women's issues in the nearby areas of Dibrugarh University.

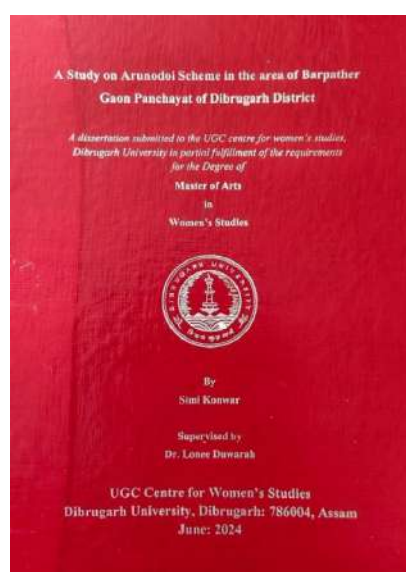
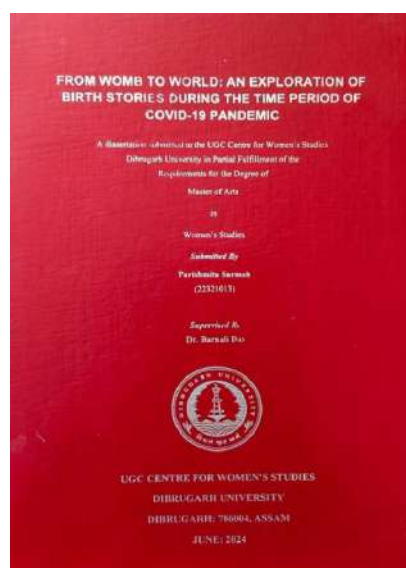
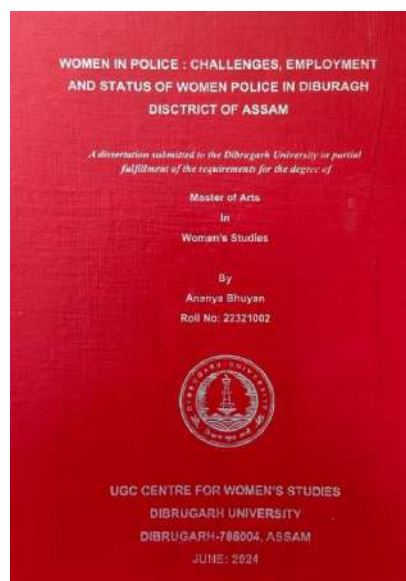
As a part of Research activity, the Centre has been publishing the Annual Journal of Women's Studies (A Multidisciplinary, Bilingual & Peer reviewed Journal).



The fifth Volume of its Annual Journal - Journal of Women's Studies (A Multidisciplinary, Bilingual & Peer reviewed Journal) on August 2024.

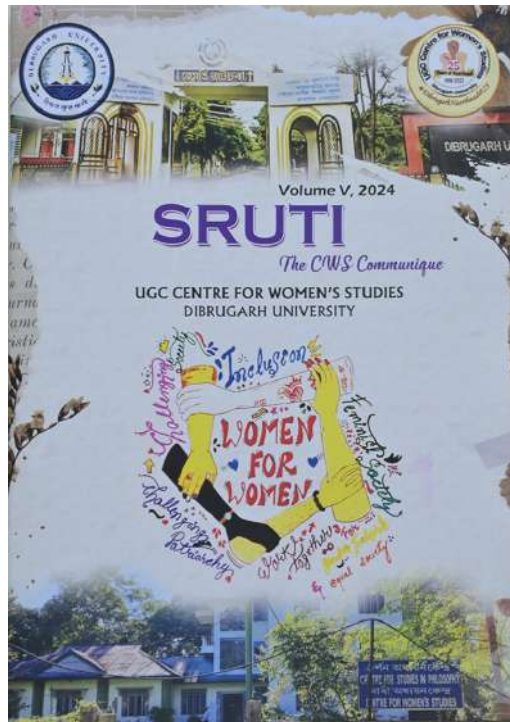
The Fourth Semester students of the Batch 2022-25, have completed their M.A. dissertations on the following topics:

- Unveiling Silence Understanding the Layers of Sexual Harassment
- Women's Lives and Caste Realities: An Ethnographic Study of Moranhabi Village, Chairaideo, Assam
- Between Exclusion and Inclusion: Women in Campus Politics at Dibrugarh
- The Rituals of 'Horu Biya': A Feminist Analysis and Study of Tuloni Biya
- A Study on Arunodoi Scheme in the area of Barpather Gaon Panchayat of Dibrugarh District
- Menstruation and Matrimony: Listening to the Stories of Menstruating Bodies and Marital Bodies
- Gender and Body: Documenting the Rights, Privileges and Discrimination Faced by Muslim Women
- A Study of Female Domestic Workers of Sivasagar District: Challenges and Emergent Issues
- Unveiling the Invisible: Documenting the Narratives of Health and Illness Realities of Female Students with Physical Disabilities in Dibrugarh University.
- Representation of Mother Figure on Bollywood Movies
- Gender Norms and Roles on Screen
- Continuing Women Education after Marriage
- Gender Based Violence on Screen
- Women in Police: Challenges, Employment and Status of Women Police in Dibrugarh District of Assam
- A Study of Pradhan Mantri Mantru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), with special reference to Amguri, Sivasagar
- Analysis of Work- Life Balance of Female Nurses in Hospitals – Comparative Study Between Few Selected Private and Public Hospitals in Sivasagar District
- Domestic Violence: Unveiling the realities and experiences through women's voices
- From Womb to World: An Exploration of Birth Stories During the Time Period of Covid-19 Pandemic



DOCUMENTING 'HERSTORIES'

Documentation forms a significant component of the Centre's work. During the 2024–25 period, the Centre released the fifth volume of its newsletter ***Sruti: The CWS Communique***.



As part of the coursework, students are encouraged to engage with diverse topics within the field of Women's Studies for their project work. Some of the broad areas explored include:

- Documentation and analysis of the portrayal and normalization of gender-based violence in advertisements and Assamese short films
- Normalization of gender-based violence in web series
- Documentation and analysis of the portrayal and normalization of gender-based violence in Assamese songs
- Documentation and analysis of the portrayal and normalization of gender-based violence in Assamese movies
- Women and entrepreneurship
- Women and self-help groups



REACHING OUT - OUTREACH AND EXTENSION

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES

National Seminar

“Harnessing AI Opportunities for Women”

On 20th November, 2024, the UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University in collaboration with the National Commission for Women, New Delhi hosted a National Seminar on the topic “Harnessing AI Opportunities for Women”. The seminar was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor Professor Jiten Hazarika and was attended by college and university faculties, students, research scholars, lawyers and other professionals. Director i/c of the Centre and convenor of the seminar, Dr. Nasmeeem F. Akhtar welcomed the delegates while the key note address was delivered by noted scholar Professor Rekha Pande, former Director of the Centre for Women's Studies and Department of History, University of Hyderabad and Professor Emeritus, Henry Martin Institute, International Centre for Institutional Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation. Advocate Sumitra Sarma of Gauhati High Court, Dr. Suresh Pande from the Society for Empowerment through Environment Development and Professor Surajit Borkotokey, Professor



of Mathematics, Dean Students' Affairs and Director of International Affairs, Dibrugarh University participated as resource persons in the seminar. Issues like gender disparity in STEM fields, advantages of AI- driven technology to address concerns like effects of climate change, legal implications of indiscriminate use of AI, ways and means to tackle threats to individual privacy and the need for extensive research and study of the gender implications of AI were deliberated upon in the business sessions of the seminar.

International Conference on “Women’s Studies in STEM: Convergences and Divergences”

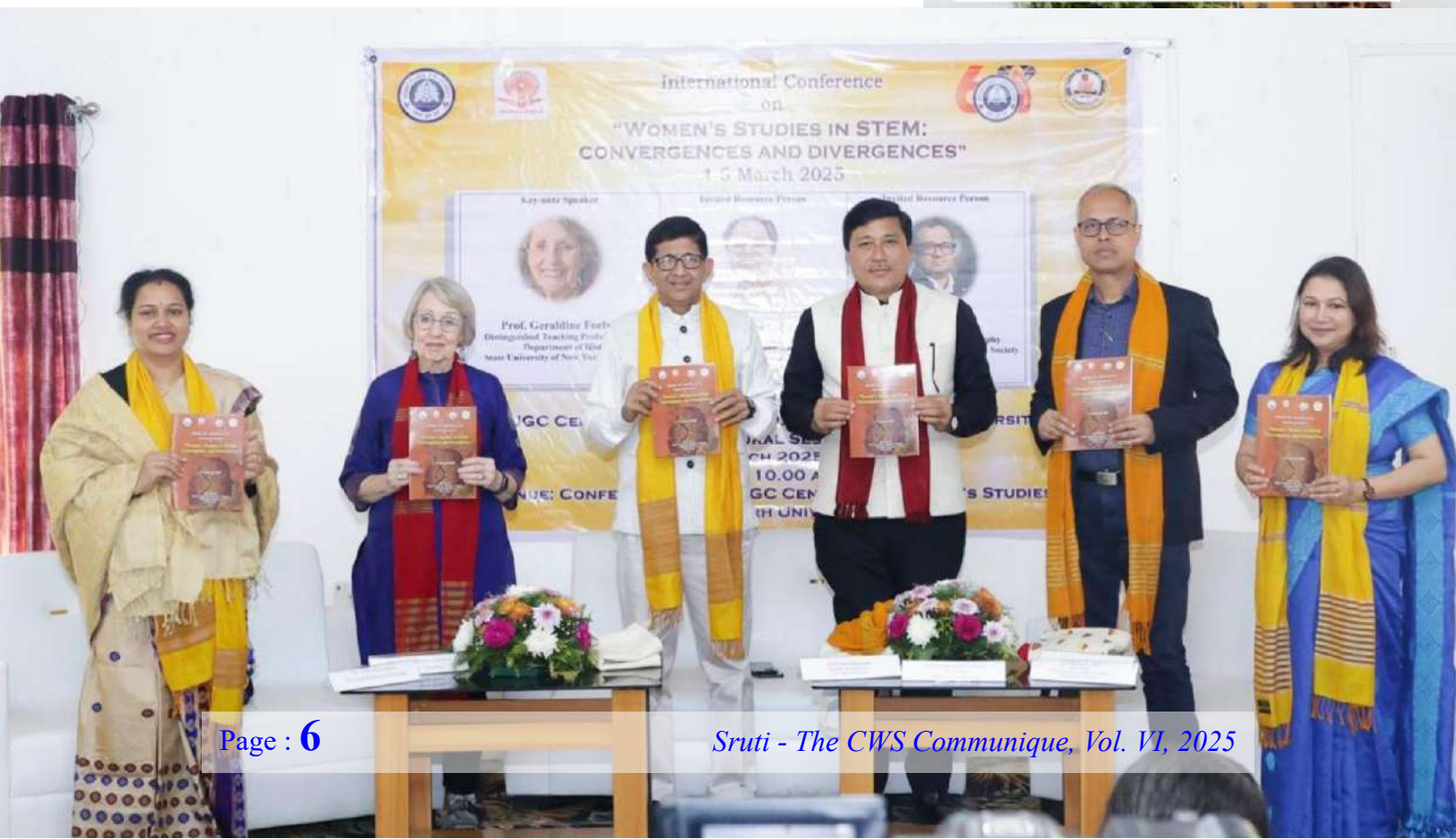
An International Conference on “Women’s Studies in STEM: Convergences and Divergences” was organized on 4th and 5th of March 2025, by the UGC Centre for Women’s Studies, Dibrugarh University. Prof. Geraldine Forbes, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita, Department of History, State University of New York, Oswego; Dr. Purabi Saikia, recipient of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar: Vigyan Yuva – Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar 2024 in Environmental Science and Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Banaras Hindu University; and Dr. Pronoy Rai, Associate Professor of Geography, School of Earth, Environment & Society, Portland State University, were invited as distinguished resource persons. A total of 31 paper presenters participated and shared their valuable contributions across the various themes of the conference.



Prof. Geraldine Forbes



Dr. Purabi Saikia



HAND IN HAND: COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOPS

No Space for Work: Audio Workshop

The Centre in collaboration with Zubaan, New Delhi organized a Three Days Workshop on 'No Space for Work: Audio Workshop' from 20th October – 22nd October, 2024. The objective of the workshop was to raise participants' awareness of audio storytelling and to enrich their experience as feminist researchers. A total of 11 participants attended the workshop. They engaged in discussions about personal and self-researched stories and incidents, complemented by various activities such as ice-breaking exercises and imitations to enhance their confidence. On the second day, participants were instructed on story presentation, script writing, and the incorporation of sound effects. Finally, on the third day, there was a concluding discussion regarding the stories chosen by the participants. The workshop significantly expanded the participants' understanding of storytelling through an innovative and effective audio medium.



Critical School on Queer Theory: Global Discourses to Local Realities

The UGC Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with Akam Foundation Dibrugarh, organized a two day workshop on 'Critical School on Queer Theory: Global Discourses to Local Realities' at the Conference Hall of UGC Centre for Women's Studies on 4th and 5th June, 2025. Noted feminist activist and trainer of grass root women Sarika Sinha from Coady Institute, Canada was invited as a resource person. These two days workshop brought together 30 participants who were emerging activist from LGBTQIA+ community from Assam and Manipur and also research scholar from universities like Gauhati University, Cotton University, North- East Hill University, Tezpur University, Assam Women's University and Dibrugarh University came together. The two day journey was full of reflection from global context to local realities.



IN COMMEMORATION: CELEBRATION OF SIGNIFICANT DAYS

International Menstrual Hygiene Day

On the occasion of International Menstrual Hygiene Day Dr. Nasmeen F. Akhtar, Director (i/c) of the centre participated in a discussion on menstrual hygiene by Akashvani, Dibrugarh which was broadcast on 27th May, 2024



To mark International Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28th May, 2024, the faculty and the students of the UGC Centre for Women's Studies visited PAHI the sanitary napkin production and marketing unit set up under Project 'OIL Shakti' at Laipuli, Tinsukia. This unit is run and maintained by women who manufacture hygienic sanitary napkins and the same is marketed at a subsidized rate.



World Breastfeeding Week, Closing The Gap: Breastfeeding Support for all

In connection with "World Breastfeeding Week" Dr. Nasmeen F. Akhtar, Director (i/c) of the centre participated in a discussion on World Breastfeeding Week, Closing The Gap: Breastfeeding Support for all by Akashvani, Dibrugarh which was broadcast on 2nd August, 2024



Teachers' Day

On the occasion of Teachers' Day on 5th September, 2024, Dr. Nasmeem F Akhtar, Director i/c of UGC Centre for Women's Studies delivered a lecture on 'Women in Indian Knowledge System' to the students of the UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University.



International Day of the Girl Child

As a part of the Celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October, 2024 Mr. Deeptangshu Das, Ph.D candidate in Religious Studies at the University of Denver, Colorado was invited for an online lecture on the topic 'Who holds the Shakti?: Gender Politics in this Season of Goddess Festival.'



16 DAYS ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, 2024

From 25th November, 2024 to 10th December, 2024 the UGC Centre for Women's Studies took up various activities in connection with the campaign 16 days Activism Against Gender Based Violence :

25th November, 2024

An interactive session amongst the students and faculties was organized to deliberate on the topic "No Excuse, Unite to End Violence Against Women."



27th November, 2024

Dr. Barnali Das delivered a lecture on 'Reimagining Art and Education in the Modern Era' during an Online Lecture Series organized by UGC CWS in collaboration with the IQAC and Research & Innovation Outcome Cell, PNGB Govt Model College, Kakopathar.

27th November, 2024

Ms. Debajanee Bora delivered online lectures on the topics- 'State and Non-State Actors, Safe Spaces, Sexual Harassment as Gender Based Violence and Gender-based Violence; Female Genital Mutilation; and Honour Killing'- for the students of various Departments and Centres for Studies of Dibrugarh University.

7th December, 2024

Dr. Barnali Das and Ms. Debajanee Bora acted as the resource persons in a workshop on 'Gender Based Violence' at Khowang College organized by the Office of the District Social Welfare Officer, Sankalp: HEW (District Cell), Dibrugarh, Govt. of Assam as part of '16 days of activism Against Gender Based Violence.'



National Girl Child Day

On 25th January, 2025 Dr. Lonee Dowerah delivered a lecture on the occasion of National Girl Child Day titled "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future" at Athabari Higher Secondary School, Sivasagar.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science

To commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11th February, 2025, Prof. Dipsikha Bora, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Dibrugarh University, and Prof. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi, Dean, Faculty of Earth Sciences and Energy, Dibrugarh University, were invited for a panel discussion held in the conference hall of the UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University.



International Women's Day

A series of events were conducted to mark the celebration of International Women's Day

- 1) Lecture on International Women's Day, 2025- "Accelerate Action" by Nasmeem F. Akhtar at Tinsukia College on 8th March 2025.
- 2) Dr. Barnali Das and Debajanees Bora participated as resource persons at the International Women's Day celebration 2025 organised by District SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women and Child Development Department at the Training Hall, Office of the District Commissioner, Dibrugarh on 8th March 2025.
- 3) Dr. Lonee Dowerah, participated as resource person at International Women's Day celebration organized by Attabarrie Tea Estate Community Development Forum, Sivasagar on 8th March 2025.
- 4) Dr. Nasmeem F. Akhtar, participated as Chief Guest and Panelist at International Women's day Celebration, 2025 organised by Women Development Forum, Assam Asset, ONGC, Nazira on 12th March 2025.



WALK THE TALK : INVITED LECTURES

One Billion Rising, 2024

The Centre organized a series of event to celebrate "One Billion Rising" – a global campaign to create awareness in order to end violence against women (cisgender, transgender, and those who hold fluid identities that are subject to gender-based violence) in human history.



Movie Screening and discussion by
Dr. Madhumita Purkayastha

On 2nd April, 2024 as a part of the campaign of One Billion Rising 2024, a movie Screening programme was organized which was followed by a discussion by Dr. Madhumita Purkayastha, Associate Professor, Department of English, DHSK College, Dibrugarh.

The Centre in collaboration with Akam Foundation organized a public lecture on 4th April, 2024. Abha Bhaiya, a pioneer of feminist activist and founding member of Jagori New Delhi and Jagori Rural Charitable Trust, Himachal Pradesh delivered a lecture on the topic “Towards Feminist Future: Cross Movement Solidarity Building”, at the UGC Conference Hall.



Third Prof. Aparna Dutt Mahanta Memorial Lecture

The Third Prof Aparna Dutt Mahanta Memorial Lecture was organized on 28th August, 2024. Noted social activist Dr. Monisha Behal, Chairperson of North East Network, Guwahati, Assam delivered a lecture on the topic “Women’s Organisations and Women’s Movement in North East India”. She spoke of the genesis of the women’s movement in Assam and the Northeast. She gave the audience a glimpse of the start of the women’s movement in Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Dubri and other places. She also mentioned how the contributions of Dr. Aparna Dutt Mahanta towards the feminist movement and how she was instrumental in opening

the UGC Centre for Women’s Studies in Dibrugarh University in 1998. She concluded by stating that feminism is about addressing inequality between men and women and this can be addressed by convergences of ideas and collaborative efforts among women organizations. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University. ‘*Sruti*’-the Centre’s Newsletter and the annual journal of the Centre ‘*Journal of Women’s Studies, Vol. V (A Multidisciplinary & Bilingual Journal)*’ were also released on the occasion by noted scientist Dr Paramananda Mahanta.

VOICING IT OUT : INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

Promoting Gender Inclusivity and Diversity in Education Institutions

The UGC Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with Akam Foundation on 22nd October, 2024 organized a discussion programme on 'Promoting Gender Inclusivity and Diversity in Education Institutions' among the faculty members of educational institutions. Dr. Sumita Agarwal, Vice Principal, Dispur College participated in the discussion along with the Director i/c UGC Centre for Women's Studies Dr. Nasmeem F. Akhtar and Rituparna Neog from Akam foundation. Faculties from colleges of Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur and Margherita also participated in the discussion.



In Discussion

A discussion with Ms. Dona Biswas, Independent Researcher, Women's Studies, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi and the Ph.D scholars of UGC Centre for Women's Studies was held on 19th May, 2025.



FIELD VISITS : ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Field Visit cum Research

The Fourth Semester students were taken for a field visit to OIL's CSR projects for Women Empowerment Rupantar: OIL SWARNIBHAR and Baghjan on 17th May, 2024.



North-East Women Entrepreneurs Association (NEWEA) Exhibition

The Second and Fourth Semester students were taken for a field visit cum research trip to North-East Women Entrepreneurs Association (NEWEA) Exhibition on 9th March, 2025 at Dibrugarh.



DO IT NOW, DO IT NEW: BEST PRACTICES AT THE CENTRE

In Fond Memory

In recognition and appreciation of their contribution to Dibrugarh University, four Parallel Technical Sessions were titled as Professor Aparna Dutt Mahanta Memorial Session, Professor Ruma Handique Memorial Session, Dr. Kabita Goswami Memorial Session, and Professor Indira Barua Memorial Session in a two-day International Conference on “Women’s Studies in STEM: Convergences and Divergences” organised by the Centre on 4-5 March 2025.

In Gratitude

A ‘Felicitation Programme’ to honour the retired female teachers in the Science and Technology departments of Dibrugarh University for their contributions to society, academia, and research was organized on 4th March 2025, in conjunction with the International Conference on ‘Women’s Studies in STEM: Convergences and Divergences,’ by the UGC Centre for Women’s Studies in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Dibrugarh University



In Sisterhood

The UGC Centre for Women's Studies believes in empowering women and amplifying their efforts in building inclusive, resilient communities. The Centre takes immense pride in recognizing women who boldly tread paths less traveled and inspire others along the way. To promote women entrepreneurs and small scale women organizations, the Centre purchase items for felicitation and Conference Kits from organizations such as North East Development Forum, Sivasagar by Priyam Hazarika, Ezaar Collective by Barsha Sharma, and many other aspiring women entrepreneurs. Since the last year the Centre has attempted to promote Ms. Nashita Shah, a budding photographer and videographer to document our various programmes.

Mirroring Out: Presentation at the office of the UGC, New Delhi

Dr. Nasmeeem F. Akhtar and Ms. Debajanees Bora made a presentation on the activities of the Centre before the Secretary UGC Prof. Manish R. Joshi on 27th August, 2024 at the UGC Office, New Delhi.



Strength Matters : Financial Grant to UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University

The UGC Centre for Women's Studies has been sanctioned a financial grant of Rs 15 Lakhs towards infrastructural development by Oil India Limited, Duliagan. This was announced by the Resident Chief Executive of Oil India Limited, Duliagan, Mr. Anfor Ali Haque in a meeting at the Centre for Management Studies, Dibrugarh University on 12th August, 2024.

Dibrugarh University
14 August 2024

Mr. Anfor Ali Haque, Resident Chief Executive (RCE) of Oil India Limited addressed the 2024 batches of MBA (FT), MTM and BBA on 12/08/2024. Among others, he announced a scholarship worth ₹ 50,000/- for MBA (FT) students.

He also announced a scholarship for M.Tech (Petroleum Technology) students worth the same amount. Grants were also announced for the UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University (₹ 15 lakhs) and for UPSC/APSIC Coaching.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, Prof. Iten Hazarika along with Deans, other faculty members and staff of the University were present in the programme.



SPOTLIGHT AT UGC CWS

News Published in Assam Tribune
On 22nd August, 2024

3RD PROF APARNA DUTT MAHANTA LECTURE AT DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY

'Feminism is about addressing gender inequality'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Aug 22: The UGC Centre for Women Studies, Dibrugarh University (DU), hosted the third Prof Aparna Dutt Mahanta lecture on 'Women Organisations and Women's Movement in Northeast India' at its Centre here on Tuesday.

Late Dr Aparna Dutt Mahanta, considered to be a pioneer in the modern feminist movement in Assam, was a proficient writer who authored several books. She is said to be the first Assamese female doctorate in English literature. She served as a professor in Dibrugarh University and was the founder director of the UGC Centre for Women Studies in Dibrugarh University. The lecture was organised by UGC Centre for Women Studies coinciding with the birth anniversary of late Dr Aparna Dutt Mahanta.

The lecture was delivered by noted social activist Dr Monisha Behal, the chairperson of North East Network. Dr Behal, while speaking on the genesis of the women's movement in the State and the Northeast, said that con-



A Journal of the UGC Centre for Women Studies of Dibrugarh University being released on the occasion of the Aparna Dutt Mahanta lecture. — Photo: Staff Correspondent

the audience a glimpse of the start of the women's movement in Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Dhubri, and other places.

Dr Behal said that the worst things happened to civil society in Assam during the 1970s and 1980s when insurgency and the Assam Agitation were at their peak. Issues like internal displacement, violence, unemployment, trafficking and violence against women had become a matter of grave concern.

"The existing women groups were not able to raise their voice against these evils. They, however, took part in the protest marches and became followers of the male bastion. But Aparna Dutt Mahanta detached herself from the traditional women groups as their activities were aligned with those of the men. Influenced by feminism and having drawn inspiration from women activists from abroad and different parts of India, including universities and Indian Association of Women Studies, she took up writing and fought for the rights of women," Dr Behal stated.

The social activist also spoke about how Dr Aparna Dutt Mahanta started the feminist movement and was instrumental in opening the UGC Centre for Women Studies in Dibrugarh University in 1996. She concluded by stating that feminism is about addressing inequality between men and women and this can be addressed by convergence of ideas and collaborative efforts among women organisations.

Asmita Mahanta, daughter of Dr Aparna Dutt Mahanta and a mining professional working in Perth, Australia, also addressed the gathering. The programme was inaugurated by Prof Jiten Hazarika, vice chancellor of Dibrugarh University. *Sruti*, the Centre's communiqué, and a journal were also released on the occasion by noted scientist Dr Parmananda Mahanta, husband of Dr Aparna Dutt Mahanta, and Prof Jiten Hazarika, respectively.

Earlier, the programme commenced with lighting of the ceremonial lamp and paying of homage to Dr Aparna Dutt Mahanta.

The welcome address was delivered by director in-charge Dr Nasmeem F Akhtar.

News Published in Assam Tribune
On 23rd Nov, 2024

DU holds seminar on AI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Nov 22: The UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University here hosted a national seminar on the topic 'Harnessing AI Opportunities for Women' at its centre here with support from the National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

The seminar inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Professor Jiten Hazarika of the university, was attended by college and university faculties, students and research scholars, lawyers and other professionals.

Director i/c of the centre, and convenor of the seminar, Dr Nasmeem Farhin Akhtar welcomed the, assembly while the key note address was delivered by noted scholar, Professor Rekha Pande, former Director of the Centre for Women's Studies and Department of History, University of Hyderabad and Professor Emeritus, Henry Martin Institute, International Centre for Institutional Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation.

The event had resource persons advocate Sumitra Sarma of Gauhati High Court, Dr Suresh Pande from the Society for Empowerment through Environment Development and professor Surajit Borkotokey, professor of mathematics, Dean, students' affairs and Director of International Affairs, Dibrugarh University. Former professor, department of physics, Dibrugarh University, professor Parmananda Mahanta was also present in the seminar.

Issues like gender disparity in STEM fields, advantages of AI-driven technology to address concerns like effects of climate change, legal implications of indiscriminate use of AI, ways and means to tackle threats to individual privacy and the need for extensive research and study of the gender implications of AI were deliberated upon in the business sessions of the seminar.

OUR STUDENTS, OUR PRIDE

Student's placements (April 2024 - March 2025)

1. Ananya Bhuyan (Batch 2022-24) has secured a position as Project Assistant with Shristi Organisation at Dibrugarh Municipality Board in Dibrugarh.
2. Bhukhan Jyoti Gogoi, (Batch 2021-23) served as a program consultant for Purva Bharati Educational Trust in Jorhat from May 2024 to September 2024.
3. Bhukhan Jyoti Gogoi, (Batch 2021-23) is currently employed as a Program Associate at Akam Foundation since September 2024.
4. Dharitri Gogoi (Batch 2022-24) was selected through campus recruitment as Executive Trainee by Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SesTa) NGO.

Performance in Competitive Examinations



Rakhi Moni Dutta
(Batch 2019- 21)
Net Qualified
for admission to PhD



Darshana Hazarika
(Batch 2020-22)
Net Qualified
for admission to PhD



Chimpy Baruah
(Batch 2021-23)
Net Qualified
for admission to PhD

Laurels Won in the VARSITY WEEK, 2024

Solo Category Prizes:

1. Shrestha Phukan (3rd semester)
"Best Figure" Subtitle in Miss DU
2. Gouri Bora (3rd semester)
Ghazal - 2nd Position
Bhupendra sangeet - 2nd Position
Jayanta sangeet - 1st Position
Bishnu rabha sangeet - 2nd Position
Parboti Prashad Boruah sangeet - 1st Position
Modern song - 1st Position
Folk song (solo) - 2nd Position

3. Group Category

Indian Chorus - 1st position
Biya Naam - 3rd Position

Biya Naam group Members:

Gayatree Borah
Akanshya Muhit
Urmimala Boruah
Krittika Hondikoi
Bidikha Gogoi
Bhupalika Baruah
Gouri Bora
Rimpi Chutia
Barasha Lahon

Indian Chorus Group: members:

Akanshya Muhit
Gayatree Borah
Rimpi Chutia
Krittika Hondikoi
Annasha Boruah
Gouri Bora



নাৰী অনুপমা

তুমি এক নাৰী
তোমাৰ পোছাকী নাম নাই
কাৰোবাৰ কন্যা, ভগ্নী পত্নী
নাইবা মাতৃ তুমি!
জন্মলভা মা-দেউতাৰ
ঘৰখনৰ তুমি আলহী হে হেনো !
সেৱা তোমাৰ ধৰ্ম,
সহনশীলতা সকলোৰে কাম্য,
নমনীয়তা তোমাৰ আভূষণ
ঘৰখনৰ মৰ্য্যদা তোমাৰে হাতত;
সমাজত তুমি বহু চৰ্চিতা।
সেইবোৰলৈ ঞ্ৰক্ষেপ কৰাৰ
মোৰ পিছে আহৰিয়ে নাই
সদাব্যস্ত নিজস্ব গতিপথত।
মই কিছু আৱেগিক,
আত্মভিম্বানী, খেয়ালীমনাও,
সৰু-সুৰা ভুল অৱশ্যে মোৰ প্ৰয়েই হয়
বন্ধ দুৱাৰ খন টানি খোলে বুলি জানিও
কেতিয়াবা ঠেঁলি দি হাঁহিয়াতৰ পাত্ৰ হওঁ,
সাধাৰণ হিচাপ এটাও সময়ত
আঙুলিৰ মূৰত লেখিহে উলিয়াওঁ।
বাধ্য-বাধকতা নীতি-নিয়মৰ হেঁচাত
খেলিমেলি হৈ যায় !
ইয়াৰে জানো মনৰ পৰিধিক জুখিব পাৰি ?
নমনীয় হলেওঁ মানসিক শক্তি মোৰ অপাৰ
সাংসাৰিক বোজাই নকৰে ক্লান্ত,
সামাজিক কৰ্তব্য নিষ্ঠাৰে পালো।



ঘৰৰ চাৰিবেৰৰ বাহিৰত ও
মই পৰিচিত নিজস্ব গুণেৰে ;
শিক্ষা-দীক্ষাৰে পুষ্ট
সকলো দিশতে দক্ষ।
সুদৃঢ় কাপেৰে সাৱলীল লেখনীৰে
সমাজৰ খুটি - নাতি সকীয়াও সময়ে-সময়ে,
হব পাৰো শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী, বৈজ্ঞানিক
মহাকাশচাৰিণী,
দেশৰ সৰ্বোচ্চ কৰ্তৃত্ব লব পৰা
অৰ্হতা ও মোৰ আছে।
আৰু আছে মোৰ এক সুকীয়া অস্তিত্ব
ময়েই গঢ়ো শান্তিৰ আলায়
জীৱন শৈলীত আউল লাগে
মই নাথাকিলে !
গৰ্বিতা মই
মই যে নাৰী।

ড° ফৰিদা আহমেদ
প্ৰাধ্যাপক (অৱসৰপ্ৰাপ্ত)
নৃতত্ত্ব বিভাগ
ডিব্ৰুগড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

অনুভৱৰ পৃষ্ঠাত নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰ

- গৌৰী বৰা

স্নাতকোত্তৰ তৃতীয় ষাণ্মাসিক

নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰ



“নাৰীবাদ”ৰ সৈতে পৰিচিত হোৱাৰ পিছত সমাজখনক এগৰাকী নাৰীৰ দৃষ্টিৰ পৰা পৰ্যবেক্ষণ কৰাৰ লগতে সমাজৰ পৰম্পৰা বা নীতি- নিয়মৰ মাজেৰে নাৰীৰ শোষণৰ এক চক্ৰবেহু সৃষ্টি কৰা “পুৰুষতন্ত্ৰ”ৰ ধাৰণাটো লৈ মনত বিভিন্ন প্ৰশ্নৰ উদয় হৈছিল। ডিব্ৰুগড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰত নামভৰ্তি হোৱাৰ পিছত পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক সমাজখনৰ লগতে সমাজত নাৰীক বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত পুৰুষৰ অধীন কৰি ৰখাৰ যি প্ৰৱণতা সেয়া সূক্ষ্মভাৱে অনুভৱ কৰিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিছিলোঁ। কেৱল নাৰীয়ে নহয়, পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক সমাজ ব্যবস্থাত কুইয়াৰ(Queer) লোকসকলো শোষণৰ বলি হ’ব লগা হৈছে। এই কেন্দ্ৰত আমি পাঠ্যপুথিত অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত জ্ঞানৰ লগতে শ্ৰেণীকোঠাত জীৱনৰ শিক্ষাও লাভ কৰিছোঁ। নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰ এক বৌদ্ধিক বিকাশৰ কেন্দ্ৰ। এই কেন্দ্ৰই সমাজখনক এক নতুন দৃষ্টিৰে চাবলৈ শিকোৱাৰ লগতে সমাজত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হ’বলৈ আমাৰ প্ৰজন্মৰ মাজত চলি থকা প্ৰতিযোগিতাখনত

জয়ী হৈ নিজকে মানৱ সম্পদ হিচাপে গঢ় দিয়াৰ জ্ঞানো প্ৰদান কৰে। নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰত অধ্যয়ন কৰাৰ পিছত মই অনুভৱ কৰোঁ যে সমাজত দ’ কৈ শিপাই থকা পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক ধাৰণাক আমি সহজে নাইকিয়া কৰি পেলাব নোৱাৰোঁ যদিও আমি নিজৰ চাৰিওকাষে যদি এক পৰিৱেশ গঢ়িবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰোঁ য’ত প্ৰত্যেকজন ব্যক্তিয়ে নিজৰ অধিকাৰসমূহ উপভোগ কৰাৰ লগতে বিনা-দ্বিধাই নিজৰ দায়িত্ব আৰু কৰ্তব্যসমূহ পালন কৰিব পাৰে , তেতিয়াই সমাজৰ পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক শোষণৰ প্ৰভাৱ হ্রাস হ’ব। ডিব্ৰুগড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰৰ এজন সদস্য হিচাপে সদায় গৌৰৱ অনুভৱ কৰোঁ। এই কেন্দ্ৰৰ অধ্যয়ন পদ্ধতি, উদ্দেশ্য অন্য বিষয়সমূহতকৈ সাধাৰণতে পৃথক হয় যদিও এই পাৰ্থক্যই নাৰী অধ্যয়ন কেন্দ্ৰক অদ্বিতীয় কৰি ৰাখিছে।

A Journey Led By Destiny.....

Jasmine Gogoi (3rd Semester)

UGC Centre for Women’s Studies, Dibrugarh University



As I sit down on my table to write about my journey that has led me to this centre, I feel nostalgic, I feel overwhelmed with emotions. I was a student, preparing for my civil service examination in a faraway city and pursuing a Masters degree was never really my plan. But something within me just did not sit well. The urge to know more, to learn more, to experience life as an University student just kept pushing me back and forth many at times. What I really needed was a bit of motivation to

sit for an entrance test and so did I with the help of some really amazing friends who were pursuing their Masters from this very university. As I was a student from a literature background, I had little knowledge about this course. But I was fascinated with its title as it read "Women's Studies". I knew I would learn something new.

I still remember the day when my classes started, I could somehow relate to every instances stated to us as an example. It invoked a sense of awareness within me that how being a woman we tend to normalise everything as a tradition, custom or a norm, but the point is how can we make a difference in this patriarchal society. This course not just made me acquainted about the rigid structures we all live in but to voice out against the injustices. It often raises questions in my mind that why do we need to remain under the shade of a man to make a decision for ourselves, why are we meant to feel protected only when we have a male figure by our side, why are we considered womanly only if we know how to manage an entire household, why do we have fear the thought of judgement on wanting to wear something of our choice and so on and so forth. But the truth is we all are one individual capable enough to voice out our needs, make our independent choices, live a life that feels safe and sound.

If you ask me, how can a course make a distinct impact in our life, it will be a lot. It shaped me as a person, a person who thought cooking was a chore, have now developed this chore as a life skill, but it also pushes me to voice out that it is not just a woman's job but rather a skill we all should learn, irrespective of our defined gendered roles. It is not just the gender dimensions we look into but each terminologies has a deeper meaning in itself. For instance, we all have faced some sort of harassment or violence in our lives, in the form of depression, body shaming, eve-teasing, domestic violence, verbal abuses, cyber crime and the like but how often do we talk about it openly. Are we not made to hush it up to ourselves just to safeguard the so-called honour of the house? This centre has enlightened me about my strengths and weaknesses that I hold within myself. It invokes a sense of power to speak up for the right reasons, to voice out against the wrong. This centre has not only carved my moral and personal growth, but it also pushes me to strive for a future full of my dreams. And the day I walk out of the centre I can confidently speak out that claiming our equal right doesn't make us a feminist but rather feminism as a whole stands to break down the shackles of disparity between a man and a woman because we are all an individual meant to live a life of dignity and honour.

THE CENTRE IN ACTION : MOMENTS CAPTURED

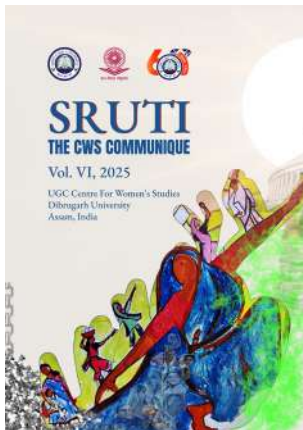




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About the Cover Design

This artwork represents a symbolic leader — a woman, a fighter — not as a single individual, but as the collective spirit of countless Indian women who have fought for their rights, their nation, and their families. Her saree's *anchal*, adorned with embedded faces and figures, embodies a lineage of courage — connecting historical freedom fighters with contemporary activists. They are united by a shared history and a collective struggle for justice and equality. She stands as a symbol of women's progress, breaking through the glass ceiling to claim visibility, power, and voice. The narrative suggests women lifting each other up, building strength through solidarity. The radiant light surrounding her represents hope, enlightenment, and the positive change that women leaders can bring to society.



Cover Design By

Taki Tayaba Hussain
(MAWS 2019-21)

OUR STRENGTH, OUR PARTNERS



Priyam Hazarika is a social entrepreneur from Sivasagar, Assam. She is the founder of North East Development Forum, a Non-Profit Organisation dedicated to social cause furthering sustainable livelihood among the men and women of rural areas of Assam. Her main objective is to work towards women empowerment, develop the community to sustain their economic conditions and bring their thoughts and connect them to the world. Currently the organization is working with both handcraft (Natural Fibre) and Handloom (Artistic Textile) of Assam, to preserve the culture and tradition of the state. She works with various clusters, assistant them with information, operation, production design, manufacturing and weaving handcraft products.



Barsha Sharma is a social entrepreneur passionate about sustainability, artisan empowerment, and building inclusive livelihood ecosystems in India. She is the founder of Ezaar Collective. It's a sustainable social enterprise that transforms textile waste into functional, stylish handcrafted products while empowering marginalized women artisans across India. Her main aim is to achieve zero-waste by upcycling their fabric waste into meaningful, eco-conscious merchandise. Rooted in circular economy in principles, Ezaar combines conscious design with community-led production to drive both environmental and social impact.



Nashita Shah, is from Dibrugarh. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Commerce, Marketing Specialisation. She hold a Diploma in Photography, Videography, Graphic Designing and Audio-visual production.

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