



PROCHESTA

AN ANNUAL BULLETIN OF BIKALI COLLEGE

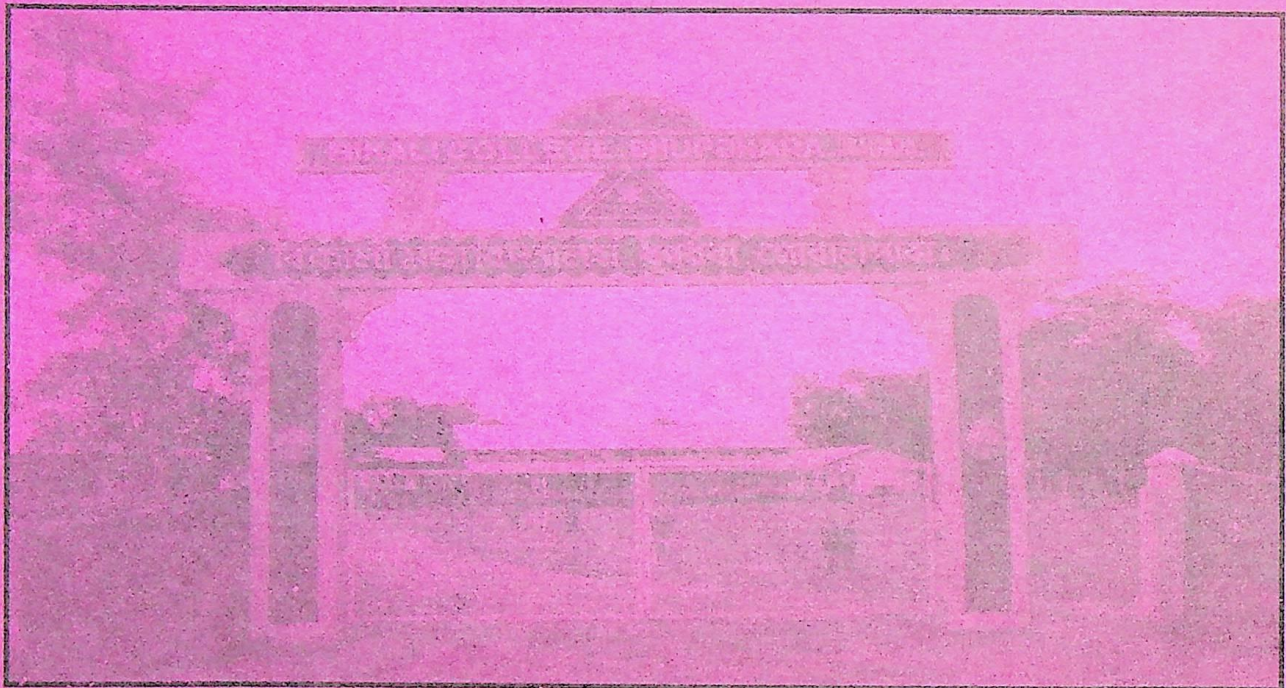
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BIKALI COLLEGE : A BRIEF PROFILE

Bikali college is the seat of higher education in the eastern-most border of Goalpara district. The college was established on 14 the April 1982. It is the outcome of selfless services of the rural



masses of fifty two villages of Bikali area. The college is an Arts stream institution with Three Years Degree Course offering Major Courses in Assamese, Economics, Education, English, Geography, History and Political Science. Besides, the college has a very good foundation of +2 level in Arts. It is affiliated to Gauhati University in the year 1988-89. The college has brought under deficit-Grants- in- Aid system in 1992. The college has been registered under societies' Registration Act xxi of 1860 vide No. Rs/Goal/251/ of 1998-99. Since its inception the college has been able to produce about 500 graduates.

EDITORIAL

The second half of the twentieth century marked a great awakening in the educational development of India, particularly in higher education. The establishment of University Grants Commission under the Act of parliament for co-ordination and determination of standards in higher education, which is a subject in Union list, is a landmark in the history of higher education. Besides, the formation of National Assessment and Accreditation council (NAAC) in 1994 as an autonomous organisation by U.G.C is also another positive step for qualitative development of the higher education. In fact, NAAC is a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) comprising of more than 120 different national agencies devoted to Assessment and Accreditation and Academic Audit of higher educational institutions.

Bikali college, a seat of higher education, albeit, situated in one of the most backward, tribal and rural areas of Assam, can not remain outside the purview of such assessment and accreditation. This college, in the wake of NAAC has initiated a number of plans and programmes so as to meet the emerging needs. The academic session 2002-2003 has been a session of transition for the overall development of Bikali college in the sphere of academic and overall infrastructural development. During this session, efforts were made to bring forth the college as an ideal institution of higher learning. A couple of academic pursuits like seminars, talks, innovative teaching methods and practices, tutorials, academic counselling and healthy practices like introduction of self-financing course, correspondence course, augmenting community orientation programmes and extension services etc. were initiated for the positive development of the learner, teacher and community. Besides, the college with active and strong support from the Governing body, socio-cultural organisations like Bikali Mauza Unnayan Samity, Non-Governing organisations, Governmental Organisation and agencies, panchayats, public, alumni, teacher and students have been able to cater certain basic academic and infrastructural needs of the college. This foundation and

support services would ensure more and more activity in the academic sessions to come.

'PROCHESTA' is a humble attempt to highlight the activities and achievements of the college in various fields. This will help the college to know its strength and weaknesses.

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Dr. M.Gopal Singha.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF THE NORTH EAST REGION

A seminar on language, literature and culture in memory of Dr. Upendra Nath Goswami was jointly organised by Uttar Pub-Bharat Bhasa Sahitya Adhayan Parishad (UPBBSAPP), Guwahati and the department of Assamese, Bikali College, Dhupdhara, at Bikali College Seminar Hall on 26th November 2002

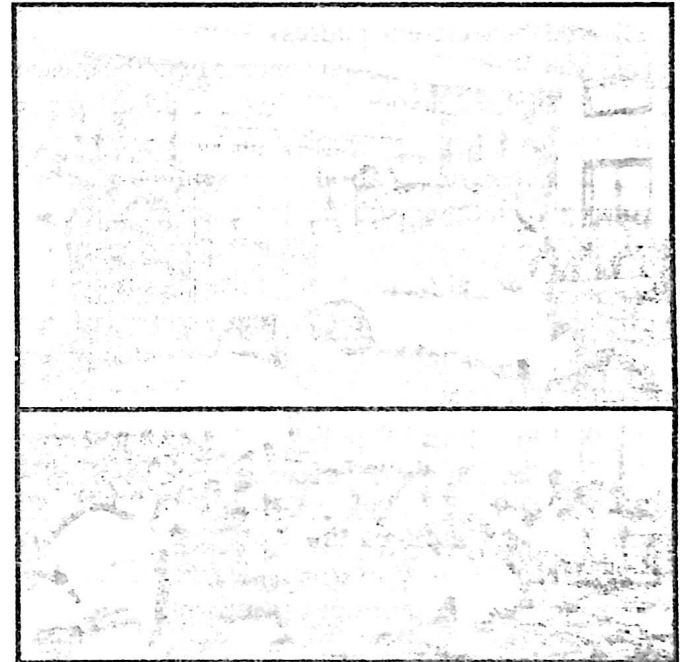
The inaugural session of the seminar was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Umesh Deka, president (UPBBSAPP). It was inaugurated by Mr. Jognarain Pathak, retired Head-master and president, Bikali Mauza Unnayan Samiti, while Mr. Bibhuti Kalita, Head of the department of History initiated the Smriti Tarpan. Mrs. Alpna Sarkar, delivered the keynote address while Dr. Dilip Bora, Secretary, UPBBSAPP delivered the welcome address. Mrs. Sarkar in her address highlighted the language, literature and culture of the North East region and also analysed the contribution of Dr. Upendranath Goswami in the field of regional language as well as dialectical research and study.

The two academic sessions were organised in which a group of eminent scholars, lecturers, and academicians presented papers on several topics related to the subject. Dr. Mira Devi, lecturer, Lakhipur College presented paper on the topic *Asomiya Sutigolpat Sampratic Somayar Santras Birodhi Chetona Protifolan*, Dr. Nilmohon Roy on *Adhunik Asomiya Kobitat Chitrokolpo*, Dr. Khirod Thakuria on *Maroi Geetar Brihat Sangrah*, *Mayabanti Biswahari*, Dr. Mukul Chakraborty on *Asomiya Bhasat Lingabhet Proyog*, Jagat Ch. Kalita on *Somas Aru Asomiya Samas*, and Dr. Rajat Ch. Rabha on *Assamese noun phase*. A couple of papers were devoted to language and dialectical studies, Mr. Habibur Rahman, lecturer, Jagiroad College on, *Goalparia Upobhasar Ati Sthanio Rup: Ujeni (Ujjani): Ek Bhasatatic Adhayana* and Mr. Nagen Medhi, Lecturer, Dimoria College on *Bikali Anchalar kathito Asomiya: Ek Bhasatatic Adhayana*. Besides, a few papers were also presented on cultural arena Dr. Malina Devi Rabha's *Paramparagat Manipuri Sanskriti-Eti Bisleshnatmak Adhayayan*, Prof. Alok Saha's 'A study on the rite and ritual of Coochbehar' and Mr Parithos Chakraborty's, *Samaya Sotat Garo Sahitya: Eti Chamu Alochana*. Altogether 17 papers were submitted on the seminar.

In the concluding session prof. Deka analysed the

papers, some of which however, generated controversy among the scholars while presentation required cross-examinations and further in-depth research, he said. Prof. Deka also mentioned that the UPBBASPP would organise especial seminar session on local area dialectical variation in the near future.

Mrs Ananya Barua, principal i/c, Bikali College also said a few words in the session while Dr. Malina Devi Rabha offered the vote of thanks to the participants and organisers.



BIKALI COLLEGE TEACHERS' UNIT

The Bikali college teachers' unit is a driving force of Bikali college. It is an integral part of the college in every sphere of its developmental aspects. This unit plays a catalytic role in the academic and non-academic activities of the college. The unit is actively associated with Assam College Teachers' Association (ACTA).

The office bearers of the unit during the session 2002-2003 are as follows : Golam Hazarat Ali Ahmed (president) and Mr. Bibhuti Kalita (Secretary).

The teacher representatives from the unit to the Governing Body are G.H. Ali Ahmed and Mr. Bibhuti Kalita for the same session.

SEMINAR ON " THE ROLE OF EDUCATION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SC/ST POPULATION"

(From Bhupati Das)

A seminar on " The Role of Education for socio-economic Development of SC/ST Population" was organised by the department of education on 18th January 2003. Dr. Niramal Kumar Choudhary, former Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University inaugurated the seminar.

Mrs. Ananya Barua, Principal in-charge of the college and Head of the department of Education delivered the welcome address. In the welcome address Mrs. Barua expressed concern over the present trend of higher education in India and laid importance to revitalise it through innovative steps.

The academic session of the seminar was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Gayatri Goswami and Dr. Jagat swargiary (both Reader), department of Education, Gauhati University. A number of scholars, researchers representing various colleges of Assam and neighbouring state presented papers on different topics related to the main theme of seminar. A large number of participants, academicians and students shared the interactions and expressed their views on different issues. Mr. Bhupati Das, senior Lecturer, the department of Education offered vote of thanks to resource persons and participants. **(Abridged from inaugural speech of Dr. N.K. Choudhury)**

Despite statutory provisions, resolutions and recommendations since independence, development of SC and ST people is far below expectation. However, socio-economic development of SC and ST



people cannot be achieved merely through seminar, unless and until whole hearted efforts are made for their implementation.

In our country, reservation has assumed a hereditary character and the privileged sections enjoy the benefits in general while the really needy people remain neglected.

It is hoped that this seminar will examine and discuss the role of education for socioeconomic development of SC/ST people actively, so that something tangible can be achieved for the benefit at least of the locality.

These were the views expressed by Dr. Nirmal Kr. Choudhury, former vice-chancellor of Gauhati University while inaugurating seminar on 'The role of education for socio-economic development of SC/ST people' on the January 18, 2003 organised by Education department.

COLLEGE LIBRARY

The College library has a separate small building placed in a calm and quite environment. It is endowed with a collection of about 5000 books. The students are allowed open access to text books, reference books, journals, periodicals in the library. It has the following services and facilities for the students, teachers and other users :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| * Reference service | * Lending service |
| * Circulation service | * Current affairs service |
| * Computer service for library management | * Rare book preservation cell |

CAREER COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE CENTRE

(From Mrs. M. Roy Choudhury)

The Career Counselling and Guidance Centre was set up on 28th Oct. 2001 under the guidance of the principal Mr. H.K. Baruah to offer proper guidance to the students for building up their career in the appropriate line. With this view in mind a co-ordination committee was formed with Mrs. M. Roy Choudhury and Mr. G. Thakuria as the Guidance officers.

Several counselling sessions were conducted from time to time to help students choose and decide upon a career. The main objective of the centre is to provide information on various courses and scopes for development. A seminar on the facilities of bank loan was organised where the Deputy Manager of UBI, Dhupdhara branch gave important information on the loan facility provided by nationalised banks for different entrepreneurial activities.

In future the centre plans to hold workshop on communication skills to help the students build confidence in themselves and in handling of various job opportunities.

ACTIVITIES OF EXTENSION EDUCATION CENTRE

A three-day long income generation training programme was organised from 19th to 21st September 2003 by the extension education centre (EEC), Bikali college. The programme was sponsored by the State Institute of Rural Development (S.I.R.D.) and Gauhati University.

Seventy two students and unemployed youths attached with the college participated in the programme. The inaugural session was held under the presidency of H.K. Barua, Principal of the college. Mr. Bhabani Rabah, Executive Member of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council inaugurated the session while a number of social workers, academicians and well wishers attended the inaugural session.

Earlier, Dr. M. Gopal Singha, Co-ordinator of Extension Education Centre explained the objectives of the training programme.

During the training session, a number of resource persons like Mr. Govinda Saikia, retired Joint Director, Agriculture department, Assam, Mr. Debabrata Bhagabati, faculty, member of SIRD and Course Coordinator, Mr. Apurba Das, Mr. Mukut Das and Narayan Baishya imparted training on modern agricultural practices, floriculture, pisciculture, animal husbandary and information technology.

On the third day, a valedictory session was held under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ananya Barua, senior lecturer, department of Education wherein certificates were distributed to the participants.

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

(From: Bhupati Das)

The department of education, Bikali college, Dhupdhara organised a literacy campaign on the eve of world's literacy day on the 8th sep/02 at Adarshapara village nearby this college. All students of the department along with the teaching members took part in the campaign. In the campaign, literacy trend of 50 families were surveyed on the basis of a questionnaire prepared for the purpose. Along with other important findings the survey report represents a large number of people illiterates while a few having less education. Economic hindrance, apathy to education, social evils, superstitions, neglecting girls education etc. are the main causes behind this pathetic scenario. A large number of illiterates people are of course interested to receive education through adult education programme. The department has therefore, decided to hold adult education classes at the village. This noble task has been done with assistance given by the local people.



WORKSHOP ON 'NAAC' AND EXTENSION EDUCATION

A workshop on National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and Extension Education in Higher education was organised by the Teachers' unit of Bikali college on 17th September 2002. Dr. B.N. Ray Choudhury, Director, ACE, Extension Centre, Gauhati University and former principal, Bikali college attended the workshop as resource person. Mr H.K. Barua, principal of the college delivered the welcome address. In his speech Mr. Barua pointed out the importance of quality in higher education and also the need for preparation of NAAC Assessment in the college. Dr. Ray choudhury while addressing the teachers of the college as well as a few participants from Habraghat college, Krishnai and B.P. Chaliha college, Negarbera dwelt in length on the emerging need and importance of quality assurance in higher education for the sustenance of the colleges and higher educational institutions. According to him as people also have deep regard for good quality and good things there would also be the question of quality education and good colleges. Dr. Ray Choudhury, however, mentioned the crux of the problem of higher education in North East India and even in the backward places like Dhupdhara.

Preparation for ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION BY NAAC

As assessment and accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is mandatory and also the emerging need of quality sustenance in higher education, Bikali college has vowed to assess and accredit. The purpose of such assessment and accreditation by NAAC are to know institutional strength and weaknesses in different aspects of academic pursuits, research, extension, students' welfare, healthy practices, infrastructure, etc.; to promote quality sustenance of education and to strengthen the basic foundation of the college.

A strong co-ordination committee in the name of 'NAAC' Assessment Preparation Committee has been formed with (i) Steering committee, (ii) Infrastructure

sub-committee (iii) Alumni sub-committee; (iv) Seminar sub-committee and (v) Campus modelling and beautification sub-committee. The members of steering committee are as follows : Chairman- Principal
Co-ordinators- Dr. M. Gopal Singha, Mr. Abdul Haque Ahmed, Members- G.H. Ali Ahmed, Bibhuti Kalita, Alpana Sarkar, Monalisha Roy Choudhury.

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

The 'Bikalian', an annual Magazine of Bikali College was inaugurated by Mr. Pranay Rabha, Minister of State for Labour, WPT & B.C etc. deptt. on 11th January 2002 in the open session of college week. The annual publication was devoted to creative and well written articles of students. Besides, faculty members of the college also contributed valuable articles to the volume. The members of the Editorial Board were as follows: Mr. H.K. Barua, principal (president), Mr. Bhupati Das, (Magazine In-charge), Mrs. Alpana Sarkar, Dr. M. Gopal Singha, Mrs. Monalisha Roy Choudhury, Mrs. Champabati Khakhlary (Teacher members), Simanta Kr. Rabha, Dactor Kachari (student members) and Pradip Kr. Baniko and Rajesh Roy (Joint Editors).

STUDENTS' UNIFORM

The importance of students' uniform in an educational institution is very high. In order to keep the distinctive feature of the college and to generate healthy environment, Bikali college teachers' unit after consultation with the students' union has decided to implement college uniform from the session 2003-2004. The proposal has been accepted by the Governing Body.

WALL MAGAZINES

The teacher-student-friendly approach is a major driving force of Bikali college in the way of its development. Such concerted efforts of students and teachers have been seen particularly in literary and academic endeavours. A numbers of literary wall magazines like 'Gyandeept' (quarterly of Assamese deptt.), Wall Magazine (Bikali college students' union), 'Dharitri' (Deptt. of Geography), Wall-Magazine, (Bodo literary society) and Wall-Magazine (Rabha literary society) (all annual volumes) have been publishing regularly. Besides, 'Siksha Jyoti' another Wall Magazine (deptt. of Education) is also going to bring out.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON RESOURCE, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The department of Geography, Bikali college in collaboration with North East India Geographical society (NEIGS) organised a national seminar on "Resource, Population and Development: Local and Regional Perspectives" on 16th February 2003.

The inaugural session of the seminar was held under the chairmanship of Prof. H.N. Sharma, President NEIGS. It was inaugurated by Dr. M.C. Bhuyan, Ex Registrar, G.U. while Prof. M. Taher, G.U. delivered the key-note speech. Dr. B.K. Kar, General Secretary, NEIGS said a few words on NEIGS and Dr. M.G. Singha, Organising Secretary of National Seminar explained the background of the seminar. 'Dharitri' a magazine of the students of Geography department was inaugurated by Mr. Dhaneswar Rabha, noted social worker of the locality. Earlier, Mrs. A. Barua, Principal i/c delivered the welcome address. A souvenir cum abstract volume of the National seminar was formally inaugurated by Pro. H.N. Sharma. The inaugural session was concluded with a brief speech by the chairperson and



the vote of thanks was offered by Dr. M.G. Singha.

This was followed by two technical sessions where a number of lecturers, research scholars and academicians from North East India presented papers on several topics. The first technical session was chaired by Dr. N.N. Bhattacharyya, Retd. Prof., G.U. and the second session was chaired by Prof. R. Barman, G.U. Among the academicians and scholars who presented papers were Dr. R. Baman, G.U., Dr. P. Bhattacharya, N. Sarma, H.C. Kalita, G.C. Dev Goswami, S. Rao, N. Nath, S. Basumatary, Dr. S. Ali, Dr. P. Bhattacharya, G.P. Bhandari, A.H. Ahmed, M.K. Das, A. Hussain, S.P. Deka, Mrs. A. Deka, Mrs. M. Bhattacharyya, S.K. Mishra and Dr. M.G. Singha. In the concluding session Dr. P. Bhattacharya, Asstt. G.S., NEIGS, and Dr. M.G. Singha offered vote of thanks.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING

In the recent academic year, Bikali college has initiated a significant teaching innovation to improve the quality of teaching-learning process and also to enhance the concentration of students in the class. Under such scheme teachers are encouraged to take classes atleast once a week using Over Head Projector in all the departments. Such audio-visual aid oriented classes are helped by a Media Centre which is equipped with audio-visual aids like O.H.P.

PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS IN INTER COLLEGE YOUTH FESTIVAL

A group of ten students of Bikali college participated in the Inter-College Youth Festival, held at Gauhati University and organised by P.G. classes from 28th January to 31st January 2003.

In the light vocal competition and traditional tribal song, Miss Minakshi Roy (Bishnu Sangeet) a Miss Maidangshree Patgiri (Bodo traditional song) won the third prizes respectively.



FOLK CULTURE PRESERVATION CENTRE

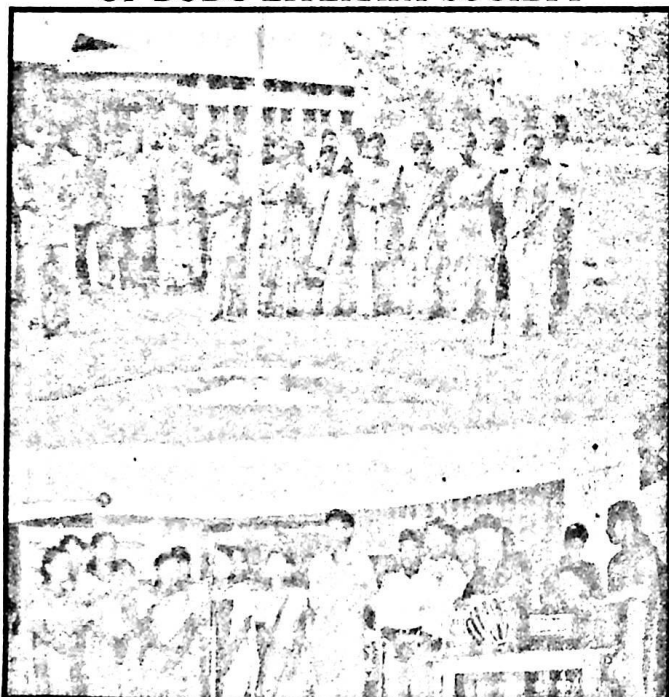
A cell of Folk-lore collection and preservation centre has been established under the joint efforts of teachers and students of the department of Assamese in the name of 'Loka-Sanskriti Sangraha Aru Sangrankshan Kokkho'. Another such cell is also going to start in name of 'Itihas Barta' by the department of History.

GANTS AND PUBLIC DONATIONS

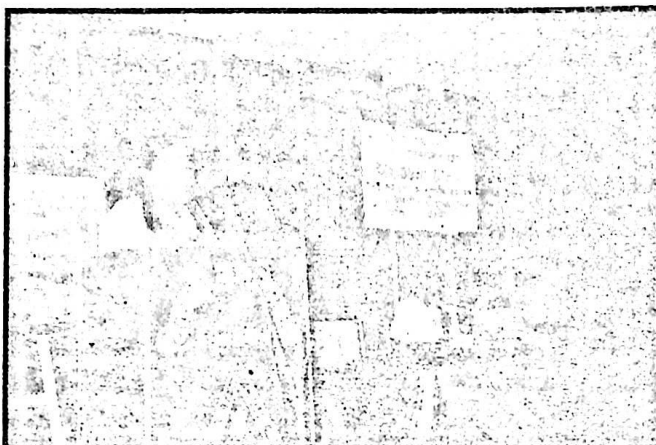
The college envisages a high public support in the development activities. During the session 2002-2003 a number of governmental grants have been implemented such as construction of college approach road under Pradhan Mantri Swadak Yozana, (i) Rs. 2 lakh cost building, (ii) Rs. 3 lakh cost building (under construction), (iii) Rs. 2 lakh cost building under panchayat, (iv) construction of Rabha Literary Office room- (Rs. 50 thousand) under R.H.A.C. Besides, completion of college Main gate (donated and constructed by Bikali Mauza Unnayan Samiti), and construction of college boundary wall through public donations, purchase of books for the library by the college teachers are some of the public and teachers' donations worth mentioning. Apart from this Agriculture Department has also extended grant for plantation scheme.

FILE PHOTOS

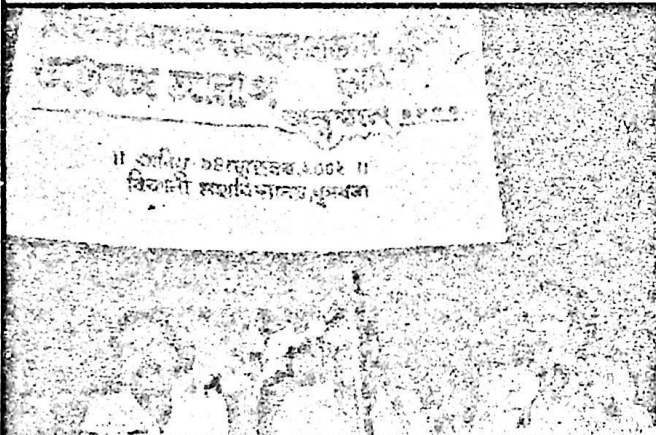
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR OF BODO LITERARY SOCIETY



SEMINAR OF RABHA LITERARY SOCIETY

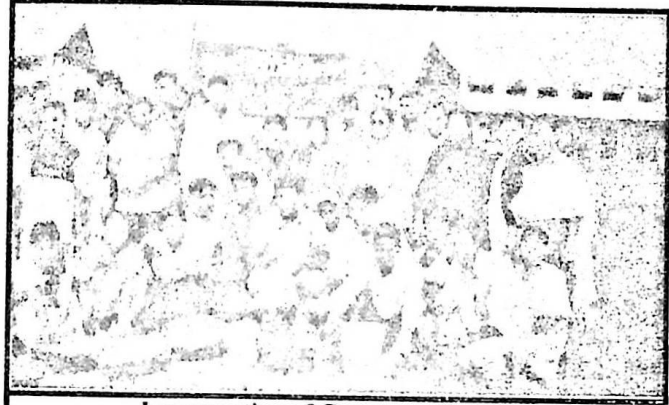


ALUMNI MEET



FILE PHOTO

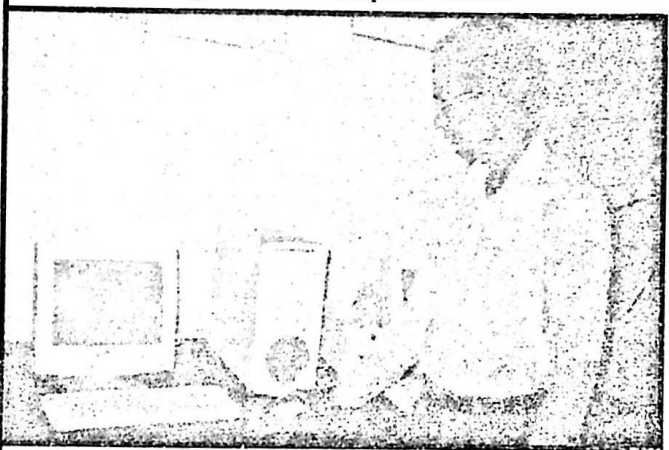
NSS CAMP



Inauguration of Computer Centre



Sitting : P. Hazawary, G A. Ahmed, S. Rabha, B. Rabha.
Standing: J. Rahman, G. Sutradhar, C. Kalita, P. Das.



TEACHING STAFF

Sitting from the left: H. A. Ali Ahmed, D. Kalita, M. Roy Choudhury, R. C. Das, B. Das, A. H. Ahmed, B. Kalita, A. Barua (Principal i/c), S. Sarkar, R. Bhattachrya, Dr. M. Rabha, M. Sarma and Dr. M.G. Singha,
Standing from the left: K. Hussain, H. Kalita, U. Saha, R.S. Rabha, R.L. Hazarika, G. Thakuria, S.A. Ahmed, P. Pathak, J. Islam, C. Khakhlary, M. Basumatary, D. Rabha, B. Bordoloi, J. Talukdar, S. Das and P. Mahanta.
Not seen in the photo: P. Chakraborty, A. Bhuyan and A. Wahed.

MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT

RESOURCE, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT LOCAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Dr. M. Taher (Retired Professor of Geography)
Gauhati University

(Presented at the National Seminar Organised by Dept. of Geography, Bikali College, Dhupdhara and North East India Geographical Society, Feb.16, 2003)

Introduction:

The terms resource, population and development have changed their connotation now-a-days, because of rapid change occurring in science and technology, on the one hand and socio-economic condition, on the other.

Resource has also long ceased to be tangible materials that only fulfil various demands of man. With the discovery of scientific methods of economic utilization of such material as lignite, mudstone, etc, these have come to be regarded as resource. On the other hand, such articles as fresh water, open greenery, which are becoming scarce, have now come to be regarded as resource. Then again the natural scenery, human quality and colourful folk tradition, etc. are now regarded as resource.

Coming to population, we see similar change in the connotation. Population no longer means only the demographic attributes like number, age-sex structure, fertility, mortality, etc. it also includes such attributes as literacy, education, training, professional acumen, sincerity, honesty, mortality, patriotism, etc, because it is these qualities that contribute to the socio-economic condition of a country.

Similarly we can review the connotation of the term development. Development no longer means only material upliftment in the form per capita income or G.N.P. of a society. It now means upliftment in respect of many other aspects. In case of the third-world countries, which are suffering from chronic socio-economic stagnation and, in some cases, rather deterioration, the term development may primarily mean availability of basic facilities for health and hygiene, good education, right to personal choice of living, freedom and empowerment, as has been mentioned by Professor Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate.

These three terms have been reviewed here just to draw the attention of the audience and the scholars and participants, to the fact that, we must not look at the resource, population and development from a static point of view. We must look at them in their changed contexts.

Regional Perspective

This national seminar is being held to consider the above aspects in their spatial association at regional and local levels., It is, therefore, necessary to look into regional setting first. By regional setting, I mean the setting of North-east India. The first geographic reality is, it is situated in the north-eastern corner of the country surrounded by not too friendly countries of China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh with whom we share a common international boundary of about 46000 km. Besides, the region is geographically isolated and linked to the mainland by a narrow corridor of more than 100 km long and at places as narrow as only about 18 km wide.

The second important geographic reality of the region is that, out of its 255,036 sq. km. of area, only 68,000 sq. km. accounting for 27%, is plain whereas the remaining part is covered by hills and plateaus. There is a population of about 38 million in the region (2001) with an arithmetic density of about 141 persons per sq. But the actual density of population over the limited plains is as high as 600-700 in some plain districts of Manipur and Assam. Such a high pressure of population on the most important resource of the region, i.e. arable land, is worth being noted.

The third important reality about the region is its population character. There are 357 constitutional communities of people in this region, giving rise to myriads of socio-cultural and political problems, Included in it, there are 182 scheduled tribe and 36 scheduled caste communities, who are traditionally socio-economically backward.

It is in this geographical backdrop that we will have to consider the processes of development in the region. Before deliberating on the processes of development, we may perhaps look at the resource-base-known and potential- of the area. Apart from the land resource, which is obviously limited, the region has four geo-resources, viz. water, mineral, forest and scenic, art, culture, etc, of the local people, which can be devel-

oped to attract tourists.

It may be noted that arable land has remained under-utilized in region with most of it being used of monoculture. So far the water resource is concerned, only and insignificant part of it is used for generation of hydroelectricity and for irrigation.

It may be noted that due to the increasing pressure of population and lure of money, land alienation has taken place to a substantial extent even in the hill areas. The unscrupulous land-dealers, neo-rich and some selfish village-headmen, both in the plains and hills, take the advantage of the loopholes in customary-laws and alienate rich agricultural land, for money, into built-up areas for settlement, factories, etc, or into brick-fields. It has been noticed that a covert processes of privatization of community land and absentee-ownership of land has been emerging even in the tribal areas. There has been a continuous rise of the number and proportion of agricultural labourers in the otherwise egalitarian tribal society of the region. The agricultural scene in the plains is not better either. For example, in Assam the proportion of cultivators among the total workers went down from 63.81% in 1961 to 51.24% in 1991, while during the same period the proportion of agricultural labourers increased from 3.6% to 12.9%.

Of the mineral resource, petroleum, natural gas, coal, limestone and sillimanite are the main. While the petroleum has been extracted to the capacity possible, millions of cubic-metres of gas is flared away due to lack of technical know-how and infrastructural facilities. Coal has remained under exploited again due to lack of know-how of ridding it of the impurities and due to absence of infrasturctural facilities, especially transport and communication. It is noticed that thousands of tonnes of coals being most crudely and wastefully extracted from some of the rich reserves of Meghalaya and Assam, something even illegally, by some unscrupulous contractors to make an easy buck. Almost similar wasteful methods are seen to be employed in case of limestone and sillimanite also.

It may be noted here that tea, which used to fetch a good amount of royalty and tax to the government of Assam has, of late, lost its economic grip in the international market due to tough competition put up by the tea produced in Sri Lanka, China, Japan, and some African countries as also by such other beverages as coffee and

cocoa. Besides, the small tea plantations developed by some unemployed youths during the last 3-4 decades are now facing crisis in the marketing front due to step-motherly treatment meted out by large planters and government.

Next in importance comes forest resource. It is seen that before the forest resource of the region could be tapped scientifically in a planned manner, it has been recklessly devastated by the selfish timber traders, fuel-wood gatherers and by the increasing agricultural population for development into built-up areas and for cropping-both shifting and sedentary.

The last, but not the least, is human resources. With total population of 38 million and odd, the region can be said to be relatively densely populated in the prevailing stage of economy. Besides, the people of the region are socio-economically backward and lack technological and entrepreneurial skill. The percentage of workers among the total population is more than 41 in each of the hill states. It is further noted that of the working population, the cultivators in each of the hill states account for a much higher percentage than the national norms. The economic condition of these cultivators is such that they can be called as self-employed agricultural labourers. The region suffers from inadequacy of trained manpower, both skilled and semi-skilled. Besides, the North-East region suffers from lack of regional capital formation and industrial development till today. The social implication of this is that, the people of the region could neither generate capital nor develop entrepreneurship.

Industry

The few industries worth the name, that were established in this region during the planning regime, include 3 refineries, 2 cement factories, 3 paper mills-one of which has been closed down, 1 fertilizer factory, which has become sick now, 1 sick jute mill, 3 small sugar mills and a few synthetic fibre and textile mills. It is found that all these industries were started as public sector undertaking and, except a few, all are found to have gone sick. Failure of industrial efforts in this region should teach us two lessons. Firstly, while evolving developmental process we consider from holistic viewpoint and not from discrete viewpoint, that is to say, if an industry is projected, its flow-line, from raw-material supply to the market must be thoroughly considered. Secondly, the planning processes must take into

account the existing natural growth-points and growth centres for location of industries and other services, rather than surrendering to often inept political decisions. Further, we must realize that agro-industrial progress is the prime mover of economic advancement of north-eastern region. This means that industrial development will follow if only agricultural self-sufficiency and surplus make us economically stout and increase our buying capacity.

Infrastructure

Looking at the status of infrastructural development, it is noticed that although north-east India is rich in the sources of power. Such as water, petroleum, natural gas and coal, the development of power is insignificant. The per capita consumption of power in the states of the region varies between 60KWH to 120 KWH, as against about 40KWH of the country. Rural electrification has largely become a mockery in that in a large number of villages one can see nothing but the electric posts standing sordidly. However, in case of development of roads, the region has made some headway, but except in Nagaland and Tripura, the density in all other states is less than the national norms of 47.27 km/100sq. km. Railway is practically absent in the region except in Assam. Roads are often found to be breached by flood in the plains and blocked by landslide in the hills.

Local Perspective

A cursory glance at the economic condition of the locality shows the Bikali region comprising the eastern part of the South Goalpara plain and contiguous western part of the South Kamrup plain, is economically backward, although the area had rich natural resources. The forest resource of the region was famous till recent time. This region is famous for its horticultural products like banana, orange and other citrus fruits and for medicinal and ornamental plants. So far socio-cultural resources are concerned, the region is the habitat of culturally rich Rabha, Bodo and Garo people, whose colourful fairs and festivals can attract national and foreign tourists. The national highway number 37 passes through the region. The N.F. Railways recently opened a B.G. line across it. The area also has a few central points which can be raised to growth points with planned efforts. These include Singra, Rongjuli, Dhupdhara, Darrangiri, etc. The first step to develop the area will

be to make serious effort to regenerate its lost forest resource through afforestation. Side by side, development of horticulture and sericulture must be taken up.

It is hoped that this seminar will examine and discuss all these issues actively, so that something tangible can be achieved for the benefit at least of the locality.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It is a great pleasure that we have been able to publish a Bulletin of the college for the first in the printed form. Publications of this nature are useful for a number of reasons, the most notable being the necessity to make publish our various activities. The Bulletin highlights the glimpses of different academic as well as non-academic programmes which held in the college during the year.

Our college help the students to take their first step in the right direction, to make conscious effort to promote ideas of national integration, scientific outlook and a humanistic approach towards life and to impart training in games and sports, music, Art and culture. To promote in the students and teachers an awareness and understanding of the social needs of state and prepare them for fulfilling such needs. We also look forward to the involvement, support and guidance of all both within and outside the college in our noble endeavour. Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues involved in this literary endeavour. I hope this Bulletin will be able to fulfil its objective.

Ananya Baruah

Principal i/c, Bikali College.

PLAN AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE SESSION 2003-2004

The college proposes to initiate more academic activities like seminars, workshops, lecturers, symposia, health camps, environment awareness programmes, community development programmes and other extra curricular activities which will help the students and teachers in academic pursuits. The college is contemplating for opening of vocational stream w.e.f 2004-2005 session.