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7	DUFOR EFFECT ON THREE-DIMENSIONAL FLOW PAST A POROUS VERTICAL PLATE IN A POROUS MEDIUM WITH PERIODIC SUCTION AND PERMEABILITY	Lukendra Kakati	Mathematics	JP Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer	http://www.pphmj.com/journals/jphmt.htm	http://www.pphmj.com/abstract/14148.htm
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10	Availabilities of adequate manpower facilities in rural health institutions: A case study of Assam	Raju Saikia	Economics	Adalya journal,	https://adalyajournal.com	https://doi.org/10.37896/aj9.9/027
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12	Availability of Manpower facilities in the health sector of Assam	Raju saikia	Economics	Indian journal of Public health research and development,	https://ijphrd.com	https://ijphrd.com
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15	A Study on the Impact of Micro-Finance Practices Through Self Help Groups on Women Empowerment in Hojai District, Assam	Baidya Nath Paul	Accountancy	Pramana Research Journal, Acharya Academy, Bharat ,	www.pramanaresearchjournal.com	only Print Verson
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23	Wansuwa Misewa: A Socio Religious Festival of the Tiwa Community of Assam	Mukul Barthakur	Philosophy	UTKAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH JOURNAL& Department of History &ISSN 0976-03132	Print Only	Print Only
24	Traditional Birth Beliefs and Practices of the Tiwa Community of Assam: A philosophical Outlook	Mukul Barthakur	Philosophy	Naagfani	https://naagfani.com/	https://naagfani.com/purane-ank/
25	SAGRA KHAM : A religious and Social Festival of the Tiwa Community of Assam	Mukul Barthakur	Philosophy	ANVESAK ,	www.spiersr.ac.in	
26	Death Disposal of Tiwa Community : A Philosophical Outlook	Mukul Barthakur	Philosophy	DOGO-RANGSAN Research Journal	https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/Apps1/User/WebA/ViewDetails?JournalId=101024265&flag=Search	PRINT ONLY
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29	The Kaivarttas in Kamarupa (Assam) from c. 600-1600 C. E: An Overview	Silpisikha Baruah	History	Proceedings of NEIHA,	https://neiha.org/proceeding-volumes	https://neiha.org/proceeding-volumes
30	Exploring Spatial Dimensions in Conrad: A Critical Analysis of His Fiction	Dr. Anuradha Chaudhuri	English	Rock Pebbles	NA	Print ONLY
31	Spatial Analysis of the Select Fiction of Joseph Conrad	Dr. Anuradha Chaudhuri	English	Rock Pebbles	http://www.rockpebblesindia.in/	PRINT ONLY

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भारत

ISO 9001:2008

- ☛ योगसूत्र - चित्तभूमि व चित्तवृत्ति पर संक्षिप्त विवेचन
नीतू 298-301
- ☛ **Femineity In Sikhism**
Angatpal Singh 302-308
- ☛ ज्योतिषशास्त्रोक्त आनुकूलक्षा प्रकरण व गुण-मैलापक
डॉ. राजीव रंजन 309-313
- ☛ संत रविदास की सामाजिक चेतना एक अध्ययन
अनुराधा शर्मा 314-319
- ☛ हिन्दी सिनेमा और दलित
डॉ. आशाराम भार्गव 320-325
- ☛ **A Study of the Behavioral Characteristics of North Zone Inter University Basketball Players**
ChhayaChaudhary, Dr. Shiv Kumar 326-330
- ☛ देवर्षि कलानाथ शास्त्री कृत संस्कृत नाट्य वल्लरी में वर्ण व्यवस्था
डॉ. (श्रीमती) साधना कंसल, मोनिका जोशी 331-336
- ☛ स्वाधीनता संघर्ष में महिलाओं का योगदान - 1927 से 1936 के संदर्भ में
डॉ. रोताश कुमार 337-344
- ☛ मुंडा जनजातियों के पर्व : प्रकृति और मानव में सामंजस्य का दर्शन
मंजूषा पूर्ति 345-348
- ☛ आशु कवि पंडित लखमीचंद के सांगों में ब्रह्मज्ञान
डॉ. हरीन्द्र कुमार 349-354
- ☛ महाभाष्य में ब्राह्मणों की स्थिति
डॉ. हिमांशु पण्डित 355-359
- ☛ **Analysis of Determinants of Hotel Industry in Jaipur District**
Dr. Pawan Aswal 360-365
- ☛ **Real Estate Regulation Authority Act: Review and Analysis**
Pinky Bangarh 366-373
- ☛ **Benami Transactions Prohibition Amendment Act, 2016 and other Acts: A way to curb black money**
Paramjeet Kaur 374-378
- ☛ **A Qualitative Assessment on Loan Portfolio Quality of Microfinance Institutions in India**
Dr. Subodh Kumar Nalwaya, Baidya Nath Paul 379-387
- ☛ **Ideal Man in Guru Nanak Bani**
Dr. Vani Arora, Anu Kandhari 388-391
- ☛ **A study on an analysis of the financing practices of the district co-operative central bank Mandsaur District, Madhya Pradesh**
Dr. D.C. Gupta, Ankita Bagherwal 392-398
- ☛ द्रव्यवती नदी बेसिन में भूमि उपयोग प्रतिरूप-एक भौगोलिक अध्ययन
उदय सिंह भादा, डॉ. जैनेन्द्र कुमार गुप्ता 399-406



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A Qualitative Assessment on Loan Portfolio Quality of Microfinance Institutions in India

Dr. Subodh Kumar Nalwaya
Associate Professor

Baidya Nath Paul
Research Scholar Commerce
Mewar University, Chittorgarh (Raj.)

Abstract

The loan portfolio is the primary income-generating asset in the balance sheet of a micro finance institution. Interest income typically constitutes over 90% of the total income of MFIs. Lending, obviously, is uptight with the intrinsic risk of repayment default. Therefore, maintaining a healthy loan portfolio with minimum loan default ensures the profitability and financial health of an MFI. This paper aims at analyzing the loan portfolio quality of microfinance players operating in India. For this purpose Portfolio at Risk (PAR) and Write off Ratio are used as the indicator of loan portfolio quality. Loan portfolio quality of different players in the sector was analyzed on the basis of PAR>30, PAR>60 and PAR>90. It was found that the loan portfolio quality of all the players in the microfinance industry has deteriorated during the period of study. Banks has the highest PAR>30 value while NBFC-MFIs has highest PAR>60 and PAR>90 values. Write off Ratio of microfinance industry has also shown a significant increase and stood at 1.61% which is highest ever.

Key-Words : Loan Portfolio, MFIs, Portfolio at Risk, Write off Ratio.

1. Introduction

Microfinance or microcredit is a type of financial service in which loans of small ticket size are given mainly to poor's in the rural, semi-urban and urban areas. By providing credit to the borrowers at the bottom of the economic pyramid, microfinance sector plays an important role in promoting inclusive growth.

Microfinance corresponds to a credit of low amount destined to people having little or no income. It fulfills credit needs of people at the bottom of the economic pyramid as most of them are trapped in poverty, have limited financial resources or do not have enough income to do business with traditional financial institutions. It also acts as a potential tool for empowering women especially in rural areas which may lead to more stability and prosperity for families. Due to its connection at grass-roots level, microfinance not only supports income generating activities but also impact livelihoods in both rural and urban geographies.

One of the essential and most important characteristics of microfinance loans is that they are small in size, short term, carry over without collateral, and the loan repayment frequency is higher than that of traditional commercial loans. These loans are generally taken out for income-generating activities. They are also provided for consumption, housing and other purposes.



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Availability of Manpower Facilities in the Health Sector of Assam

Raju Saikia

Research scholar, Department of Economics, Gauhati University

ABSTRACT

Role of Manpower is the important factor in the health care facilities. Human resources in the health sector is considered to be the heart of the health system. The availability of human resources positively affects the quality of public health services and has a direct impact on health outcomes. The paper is based on the secondary data where qualitative and descriptive methods are used. The paper tries to examine the status of Manpower Facilities in Assam wherein 85.6 % of people live in rural areas. It attempts to analyze the status of health workers in rural health care facilities after the implementation of NRHM in 2005.

Keywords: Manpower, Health, Assam

Introduction

The Human resources health define as the stock of all Individuals engaged in the promotion, protection or improvement of Population Health” (WHO, 2000), are “the heart of the Health System”. Looking on the health system of a country the Human resources play a pivotal role in delivering healthcare services: they determine “what services will be offered; when, where, and to what extent they will be utilized; and as a result, what impact the services will have on the health status of the people”¹, hence the efficient functioning of the health system depends on having the adequate human resources with appropriate skill mix and equitable distribution. It is well recognized that availability of human resources positively affects the quality and efficiency of public health services and has a direct and positive effect on health outcome².

The knowledge about lack of Manpower facilities was taken into consideration in 2004 by the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI)- a network of global health leaders. The JLI’s report on human resources for health highlights

that India has about 11.3 health manpower facilities (Doctors, Nurses and Midwives) per 10,000 people in 1998, and was regarded as the low health manpower density countries. The world health Organization Report 2006 estimated that the health manpower in India has a critical shortage and placed India at 57 countries (ranked at 52). The India’s Health sector has also been suffered Misdistribution of the healthy workers. The health workers are unevenly distributed across the state. The Economically backward states, such as, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and the Northeastern States have lower density and less educated Health workers³. Having glimpse on the above context paper tries to examine the status of Manpower Facilities in Assam wherein 85.6 % of people live in rural areas. It attempts to analyze the status of health workers in rural health care facilities after the implementation of NRHM in 2005.

Data Sources and Methodology: This paper is based on both qualitative and quantitative method where the data has been taken from secondary sources-

- (a) Bulletin on Rural Health Statistics 2011,
- (b) National Health Profile 2011 (both published by the Health and Family Welfare, Government of India),
- (c) Population Census 2011 published by Registrar General, Government of India, and

Corresponding Author:

Raju Saikia

Research Scholar, Department of Economics,
Gauhati University

Phone: 8638931461

Email: rajjsaikia45@gmail.com

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Sl. No.	Name of Author	Name of Topic	Page No.
17	Md. Shahidul Islam Dr. Papari Kalita	The English Language Teaching and Learning Scenario of Assam ; A Study Based on Some Selected Assamese Medium Secondary Schools of Barpeta District, Assam	109
18	Rekha Moni Kutum Dr. Papari Kalita	Gender Inequality -Rebellious note in some selected Poems of Kamala Das	116
19	Mr. Mukul Borthakur Dr. Dominic Meyieho	Wansuwa Misewa : A Traditional Socio-Religious Festival of Tiwa Community of Assam	122
20	Krishna R. Patnaik	Threats to Indian Democracy	129
21	Mr. Lakhi Prasad Medok	Mising Religion and Culture	132
22	Dr. Tilutoma Barua Mr. Atul Saikia	A Case Study of Rural Women on Self Help Groups of Kaliapani Gaon Panchayat under Golaghat Sub Division, Assam	145
23	Mrinal Kr. Gogoi	Namghar: An Agent of Social Changeover in Assam, A critical study	151
24	Dr. Haren Chandra Kalita	Education and Its Politicisation : Indian Prespective	154
25	Dr. Ripun Doley	Religious Beliefs and Taboos of the Misings of Assam	159

**WANSUWA MISEWA:
A TRADITIONAL SOCIO-RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL OF TIWA COMMUNITY OF ASSAM**

Mr. Mukul Borthakur

Research Scholar, Deptt. Of Philosophy
Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia (Kamrup)

Dr. Dominic Meyieho

Deptt. Of Philosophy, Assam Don Bosco University

1. ABSTRACT

North East India is a diverse region. There are many festivals in North East India which highlight the region with rich indigenous culture and folk songs, folk dances, food and crafts. A folk festival celebrates traditional folk crafts and folk music. This list includes folk festival worldwide expect these with only partial focus on folk music or arts. Folk festivals may also feature folk folk dance or ethnic food. The Tiwa tribe is one of the indigenous tribe of the region which inhabiting in the state of Assam and Meghalaya. They observed various festivals and out of which Wansuwa festival is one of the major one. Basically this Festival is the process of recreation of cultivation, labor and as the part of recreational activities this Festival is celebrated. These indigenous people of Assam has distinct and multifarious characteristic of its own which had contributed to form greater Assamese society ;these indigenous people has their own culture , sociological background , own religion, own language and different colorful festival ; and out of such colorful festival Wassuwa Festival is major one and this festival has a very deep rooted religious and sociological importance in their society. The traditional forms of such festivals of Tiwa community are hardly seen in these days yet they try to preserve and transmitted their age old culture since ancient times by performing annual of various types of fairs and festivals. The Wansuwa festivals is unique in nature while at the time of performing . The traditions and custom followed in performing the festivals continued till today in accordance with their strict adherence of social traditions, culture and fixed yearly schedule. In short the whole calendar of such festivals shows their peculiar identity of tribal outlook, cultural background, unique folklore ,verbal oral traditions and religious activities which are transmitted from their ancestors and out of the various festivals of Tiwa Wansuwa is one of them, and the term 'Wansuwa' which comes from the word 'Wan' means rice powder and 'Suwa' means grinding therefore wansuwa means (Pithaguri Khunda) **rice grinding festival.**

Key Words: Tiwa, Samadi, Panthai, Khram, Ani Asi Sandewane Tin, Wan Tunga Chaya

2. Introduction:

The word 'Tiwa' which is arises from the word 'Ti' which means 'water' and 'wa' which means superior and the Tiwa had landed down to the plains areas following the course of the river Brahmaputra who identified themselves as "Tiwa". Tibet is considered to be their original home of the Tiwa., and their settling to the plain is still remain in mystery. Scholar Borpujari said that the Tiwa or Lalung are one of the offshoots of the Mongolian race of Tibeto-Burmese group of Sino-Tibetan speech family who had their migration to this land in the pre-historic period (Thakur : 1985) The Lalung prefer to call themselves Tiwa [1] This Tribe is a unique culturally rich indigenous people not only in Assam but also in the North-East India. The traditions and customs followed in process of performing festivals continued till today in accordance with their strict adherence of social and religious traditions. In short the whole calendar of such festivals shows their peculiar identity of tribal outlook, cultural background, unique folklore ,verbal oral traditions which are transmitted from their ancestors .Out of various traditional misewa [2] of this tribal community ,Wansuwa is



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- (২) মাজুলীৰ মৃৎশিল্প : নিৰ্মাণ পদ্ধতি, সংৰক্ষণ আৰু সংবৰ্দ্ধন
□ ড° হৰেন হাজৰিকা / ১৫
- (৩) অসমৰ প্ৰেক্ষাপটত স্থায়ী নাটশালা : এটি পৰিচয়মূলক অধ্যয়ন
□ বাজেশ্বৰ বড়ো / ২১
- (৪) সত্যপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ দুখন নাটকত নাৰী চৰিত্ৰৰ বিচিত্ৰতা
□ ড° ইন্দ্ৰানী ডেকা □ বিস্মিতা দেৱী / ৩২
- (৫) মুখা শিল্প : এটি অৱলোকন
□ ড° অশ্বেশ্বৰ গগৈ □ বি. ডি. নিশা / ৪৫
- (৬) অৰুণা পটঙ্গীয়া কলিতাৰ চুটিগল্পত প্ৰতিবাদী নাৰীকৰ্ম : নিৰ্বাচিত পাঁচটা গল্পৰ
আধাৰত এক বিশ্লেষণাত্মক অধ্যয়ন
□ ড° কুসুম্বৰ বৰুৱা □ অমল চন্দ্ৰ দাস / ৫২
- (৭) লক্ষ্মীনাথ বেজবৰুৱাৰ সাধুকথাত লোকজীৱন
□ হিমাশ্ৰী দলে / ৬০
- (৮) শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ গাৰো জনগোষ্ঠীৰ সমাজ আৰু সংস্কৃতি : এক ক্ষেত্ৰ ভিত্তিক
অধ্যয়ন
□ প্ৰণৱ দুৱৰা / ৭২
- (৯) শদিয়া অঞ্চলৰ আহোম জনগোষ্ঠীৰ জীৱনবৃত্ত সম্বন্ধীয় লোকাচাৰ : এটি আলোচনা
□ মাধৱ চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা / ৮০
- (১০) দিলীপ বৰাৰ 'কলিজাৰ আই' উপন্যাসৰ শিল্প-ৰীতি
□ ভূপেন গগৈ / ৯২
- (১১) পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ গীতত স্বদেশপ্ৰেম : এটি অধ্যয়ন
□ বঞ্জন দত্ত / ১০৫
- (১২) অতুল চন্দ্ৰ হাজৰিকাৰ নৰকাসুৰ : পৌৰাণিক নাটকৰ দৃষ্টিৰে নাট্য-বিচাৰ
□ জ্ঞানশ্ৰী দত্ত / ১১৫
- (১৩) আধুনিক অসমীয়া নাটকত লোক-কথাৰ পুনৰনিৰ্মাণ
□ ভূপা পাটগিৰি / ১২২



পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ গীতত স্বদেশপ্ৰেম : এটি অধ্যয়ন

□ বঞ্জন দত্ত

গৱেষক ছাত্ৰ, অসমীয়া বিভাগ, কটন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ভ্ৰাম্যভাষ : ৮৬৩৮৬-৭৬৪২৫

ই মেইল : ranjandutta726@gmail.com

সংক্ষিপ্তসাৰ : অসমীয়া গীতি-সাহিত্যলৈ উল্লেখযোগ্য বৰঙণি আগবঢ়োৱা গীতিকাৰ সকলৰ ভিতৰত 'পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱা' (১৯০৪-১৯৬৪) অন্যতম। অসমীয়া গীতি-সাহিত্যৰ জগতত জ্যোতিপ্ৰসাদ আগৰৱালা (১৯০৩-১৯৫১), বিষ্ণুপ্ৰসাদ ৰাভা (১৯০৭-১৯৬৯)ৰ লগতে পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ নাম উচ্চাৰিত হয়। পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ গীতৰ কথা আৰু সুৰৰ সন্মোহনী শক্তিয়ে পাঠক শ্ৰোতাৰ অন্তৰত নিগাজি স্থান লাভ কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছে। জ্যোতিপ্ৰসাদৰ দৰে তেওঁ অসমীয়া থলুৱা লোকগীত, আইনাম, ধাইনাম, গোসাঁই নাম, বিহুনাং, বিয়ানাং আদিৰ সুৰত গীত ৰচনা কৰি অসমীয়া গীতি-সাহিত্যৰ শ্ৰীবৃদ্ধি কৰিছিল।

গীতি-সাহিত্যৰ প্ৰায়বোৰ বৈশিষ্ট্য পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ গীতত দেখা পোৱা যায়। গীতি-সাহিত্যৰ বিষয়বস্তু আৰু বৈশিষ্ট্যলৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি, তেওঁৰ গীতসমূহক বিভিন্ন ভাগত ভাগ কৰিব পাৰি—প্ৰকৃতি-বিষয়ক, প্ৰেমমূলক, স্বদেশ প্ৰেম তথা জাতীয় চেতনাৰ গীত, মানৱপ্ৰেমৰ গীত, গ্ৰাম্য জীৱনৰ চিত্ৰ প্ৰকাশক গীত, আধ্যাত্মিকভাৱৰ গীত আদি। এখন ক্ষুদ্ৰ গৱেষণা-পত্ৰৰ মাজেৰে সকলোবোৰ দিশ আলোচনা কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়। সেয়ে বিষয়ৰ গুৰুত্ব আৰু গৱেষণা-পত্ৰৰ পৰিসৰৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য ৰাখি 'পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ গীতত স্বদেশপ্ৰেম'—উক্ত বিষয়টো আলোচনাৰ বাবে নিৰ্বাচন কৰা হৈছে। পৰনাথ শৰ্মা সম্পাদিত 'পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱাৰ ৰচনাৱলী'ক মূখ্য উৎস আৰু বিভিন্ন গ্ৰন্থ আলোচনী আদিৰ সহায়লৈ, বিশ্লেষণাত্মক পদ্ধতি আগত ৰাখি বিষয়টো আলোচনাৰ প্ৰয়াস চলোৱা হ'ব।

বীজ শব্দ : গীতি-সাহিত্য, পাৰ্বতিপ্ৰসাদ বৰুৱা, স্বদেশপ্ৰেম, জাতীয়-চেতনা আদি।

০.০০ অৱতৰণিকা :

০.০১ বিষয়ৰ পৰিচয় :

অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ এটি অতি গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ আৰু বিশিষ্ট বিভাগ হৈছে—গীতি-সাহিত্য। গীতি-সাহিত্যৰ বীজ অসমীয়া থলুৱা লোক-গীতত নিহিত হৈ আছে যদিও, লিখিত গীতি-সাহিত্যৰ প্ৰমাণ খ্ৰীষ্টিয় অষ্টম-দশম শতিকাৰ চৰ্যাপদৰ মাজত পোৱা যায়।

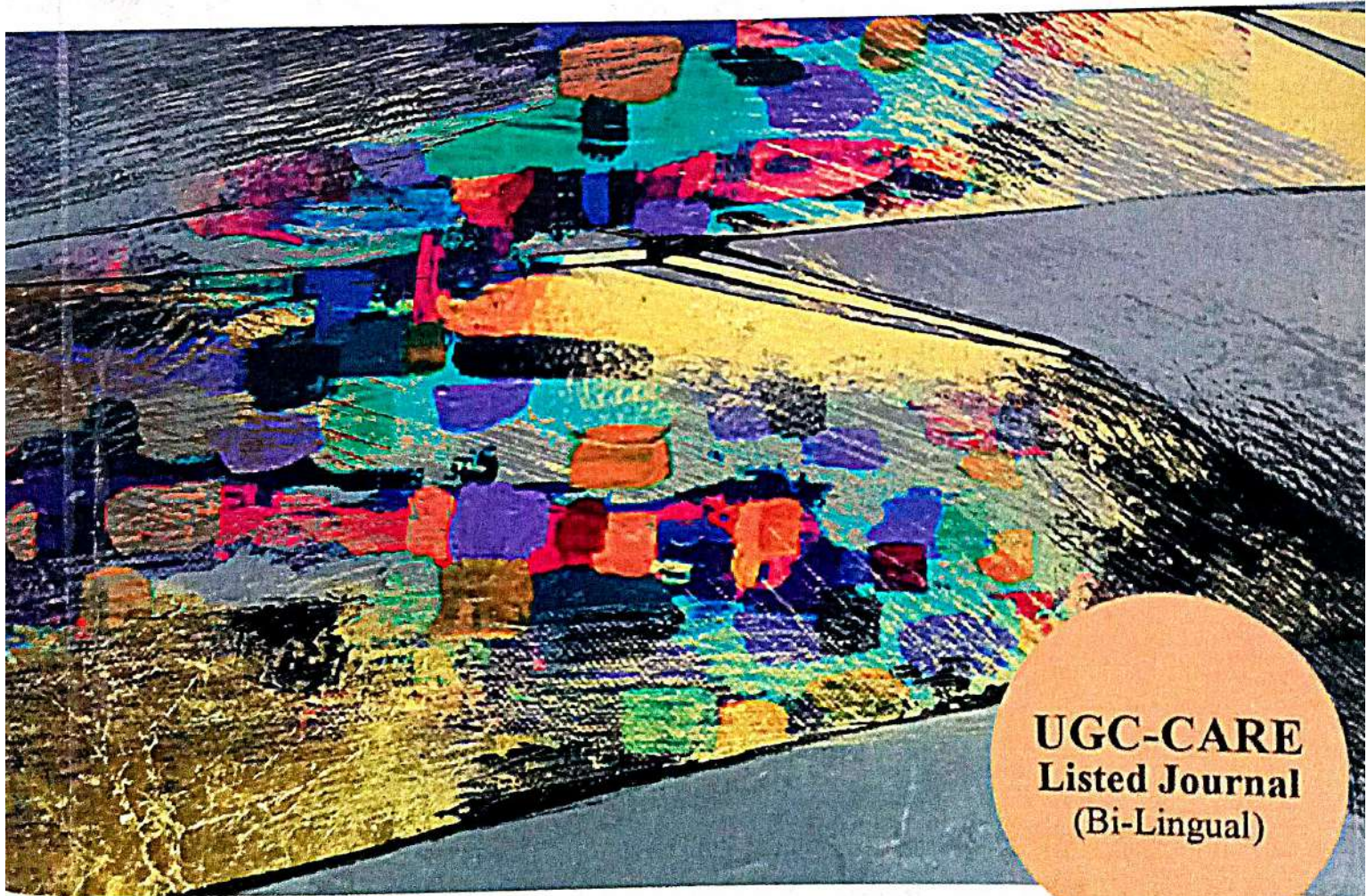
আলোচনাৰ সুবিধাৰ্থে লিখিত অসমীয়া গীতি-সাহিত্যক চাৰিটা ভাগত বিভক্ত কৰিব পাৰি—

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Dr. Dhiraj Patar

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Dr. Rumi Patar

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Content

- অসম বুৰঞ্জীত প্ৰতিফলিত পুৰণি অসমৰ মাত-কথা আৰু সমাজ ব্যৱস্থা
সাতসৰী অসম বুৰঞ্জীৰ আধাৰত এক আলোচনা
ড° সংগীতা শইকীয়া 11-26
- গগণ চন্দ্ৰ অধিকাৰীৰ শিশু সাহিত্য : এক অধ্যয়ন
সঞ্জয় আচাৰ্য 27-39
- অসমৰ সাহিত্য আৰু সংস্কৃতিৰ উত্তৰণত আহোম স্বৰ্গদেউ ৰুদ্ৰসিংহৰ ভূমিকা
ড° মিতালী নাথ 40-47
- ভবেন্দ্ৰ নাথ শইকীয়াৰ গল্পত আৰ্থ-সামাজিক দিশ : এক বিশ্লেষণ
ড° ধনেশ্বৰ কলিতা 48-53
- ভূপেন হাজৰিকাৰ গীতত উত্তৰপূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ সামাজিক-সাংস্কৃতিক
জীৱনৰ প্ৰতিফলন : এটি আলোচনা
লক্ষণা দত্ত 54-61
- কোচ ৰাজবংশী জনগোষ্ঠীৰ লোক দেৱতা : এক সমাজতাত্ত্বিক অধ্যয়ন
চক্ৰধৰ ৰায়, ড° বাতুল ডেকা 62-70
- জেহিৰুল হুছেইনৰ হাস্যৰসাত্মক শিশু সাহিত্য : এক বিশ্লেষণাত্মক আলোচনা
ড° নৱমী গগৈ 71-76
- বন্তি শেনচোৱাৰ চুটিগল্পত লোকপৰম্পৰা
গীতাত্মী দেৱী 77-85
- নৱকান্ত বৰুৱাৰ কবিতাত মহাকাব্যিক সমল : সংগ্ৰহণ আৰু পুনঃসৃজন বিচাৰ
ড° হৰি প্ৰসাদ বৰুৱা 78-94

জোনাকী যুগৰ চুটিগল্পত বাচিক কলাৰ বৈচিত্ৰ্যময় প্ৰয়োগ : এটি বিশ্লেষণ টুটমণি দাস	95-111
ধান আৰু ইয়াৰ লগত জড়িত অসমীয়া সমাজ ড° কাকলি গগৈ	112-119
মামনি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ দঁতাল হাতীৰ উঁয়ে খোৱা হাওদা উপন্যাসৰ সমাজ জীৱন আৰু ভাষা প্ৰয়োগ বন্দিতা পাটৰ	120-128
নিৰুপমা বৰগোহাঞিৰ উপন্যাসত নতুন নাৰীৰ প্ৰসংগ (অভিযাত্ৰী উপন্যাসৰ বিশেষ উল্লেখসহ) নিপম কলিতা	130-136
অসমীয়া গীতি-নাট : বিকাশ আৰু বিৱৰ্তন ড° বৰ্ণালী গগৈ	137-153
ভূপেন হাজৰিকাৰ অসমীয়া কাহিনীবিযুক্ত গদ্যৰ শৈলী পৰেশ খনিকৰ	154-161
শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ নগা জনগোষ্ঠীৰ সমাজ আৰু সংস্কৃতিঃ এক ক্ষেত্ৰভিত্তিক অধ্যয়ন প্ৰণৱ দুৱৰা	162-171
পাৰিপাৰ্শ্বিক সাহিত্য সমালোচনাৰ আলোকত সৌম্যদীপ দত্তৰ অৰণ্যাতুৰ ভ্ৰমণকথা গ্ৰন্থ : এটি অধ্যয়ন পূবালী বৰা	171-183
গোৱিন্দ প্ৰসাদ শৰ্মাৰ ডেফডিল ফুল দেখিছা ভ্ৰমণ-সাহিত্যত প্ৰকাশিত কাব্যধৰ্মিতা : এটি আলোচনা ৰুবী বৰা	183-191
গাৰো জনগোষ্ঠীৰ বিবাহ প্ৰথা আৰু ৰূপান্তৰণ : এক পৰ্যবেক্ষণ সনাতন মাৰাক	193-199
নগাঁও জিলাৰ শঙ্কৰোত্তৰ যুগৰ নাটৰ ভাষা আৰু সংগীত : এক বিশ্লেষণাত্মক অধ্যয়ন ড° হিমাত্ৰী হাজৰিকা	200-214
ৰামধেনু পৰৱৰ্তী অসমীয়া ব্যংগ চুটিগল্পত অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ প্ৰসংগ শোভাকৃষ্ণা ফুকন	215-225

ৰংবং তেৰাঙৰ ৰংমিলিৰ হাঁহি উপন্যাসত প্ৰতিফলিত ক্ষমতাৰ প্ৰসংগ (সাংস্কৃতিক বস্তুবাদৰ আধাৰত) প্ৰাৰ্থনা দত্ত	236-246
অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ শইকীয়াৰ গল্পৰ ভিন্ন স্বাদ ড° লোকেন্দ্ৰ কাকতি, অৰ্চনা হাজৰিকা	247-254
A preliminary investigation of the sesquisyllabification in Bodo-Garo <i>Aleendra Brahma</i>	255-262
Weaving Widowhood: Reflections on Life and Literature of Mamoni Raisom Goswami <i>Dr. Rena Laisram</i>	263-270
Journey of Jhollywood: A Study in the Context of Napuri Cinema <i>Amit Kumar, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Rashmi Verma & Dr. Rabindranath Sarma</i>	271-280
Negation in Assamese and Deuri: A Comparative Study <i>Dr. Dipak Das & Dr. Khirapada Dutta</i>	281-296
The Mising Youth Dormitory: Continuity and Change <i>Ajit Konwar</i>	297-305
Lai Haraoba: Indigenous Ritual Festival of the Meiteis of Manipur <i>Dr. L. Anupama Singha</i>	306-313
Participation of Women In Panchayati Raj Institutions (Pris) A Case Study In Dibrugarh District of Assam <i>Dr. Gitamoni Handique Gogoi</i>	314-322
Nature of Tensions, organizations and movement of the Tiwa Tribe in North East India <i>Ranjit Bordoloi</i>	323-333
Voting Behaviour of the Tea Garden Women of Monabari and Shakomato Tea Estate: An Analytical Study <i>Dr. Bipul Das</i>	334-340
Title of the paper: Causes of Rural-Urban Migration in Assam to Outside: An analytical study <i>Julfair Mazid Kazi</i>	341-350
Introduction of Wet Rice Cultivation In Assam And The Role of The Ahoms: A Vexed Historiography <i>Anurag Borah</i>	351-358

- An Analysis of the Women's Participation in Economic Activities of India
Anshumi Dutta 359-366
- Population Growth and Trend in Assam: An Analysis of Census Data
Atul Saikia 366-371
- Trauma and the Precarious in Prabhat Goswami's *Sukola Hatir Khoj*
Dr. Saurav Sengupta & Mr. Biswajit Kalita 374-383
- Role of Public Libraries in promoting Information Literacy in Assam
with special reference to Nagaon District
Dipankar Borah & Ratna Kanta Bora 384-393
- Nationalist Consciousness in Lakshminath Bezbaroa's *Jaymati Kuwar*
Dipankar Saikia 393-404
- An Analysis of Economic Condition of the Meche Community of Naga
Dr. Dipen Basumatary & Anjan Sarma 404-412
- Role of Drama in Teaching-Learning Process : A Review
Dr Runumi Devi 412-428
- Locating 'Identity' in Jhumpa Lahiri's *In Other Words*
Dr Rimi Nath 428-433
- Arabic Language between Authenticity and Renewal
Dr. Syed Muhamed Ul Hashmi 433-440
- Patriarchy, Prison and COVID19 : A sociological study of the impact of
COVID19 on Women prisoners
Miss Dwijiri Ramchiary 440-448
- Avenues of Open Educational Resources (OER) for Higher Education
Dr. Gouri Sankar Karmakar & Dr. Barsha Rani Duarah 448-458
- A Study on Financial Services Companies Listed Under National Stock Exchange
Gunjan Kumar & Dr. Vandana Mehrotra 459-464
- Monasticism and the Tai Khamyang of Assam: A Critical Appraisal
Dr. Kuntal Sarma 465-474
- Historical Significance of Oral Traditions of Assam With Special
Reference to Kamakhya Temple and Malinitan
475-482
- 483-488

- Conditions of Inmates in Old age Homes of Assam: An Explorative Study
Dr. Mallika Kalita, Dr. Nabanita Sarmah 489-497
- A study on the problems faced by the students, teachers and Principals in the implementation of semester system at the undergraduate level of education
Manisha Chaliha & Prof. Probin Kr. Gogoi 498-503
- Need for Quality of Work Life and its Programs in Organizations
Manisha Murthynath & Dr. Smitha M Reddy 504-509
- Feminist Community work in Bodoland : Struggles, Transitions & Transformations
Meghali Senapati 510-518
- Issues and Challenges of Child Marriage in India with special reference to Sivsagar District of Assam
Dr. Mridusmita Devi 519-536
- An Economic Analysis of the Relationship between Socio-Economic Characteristics and Livelihood diversification of the Morans of Assam
Parswa Jyoti Neog & Dr. Pranjal Protim Buragohain 537-546
- Role of Political Parties and Civil Society in Democracy
Dr. Pranjit Saikia 547-552
- Textural Structure of Bodo Proverbs
Purnasmriti Kalita 553-561
- Influence of Tourism on Economic Growth in North East India
Dr. A. Pushpalata Singh & Dr. Monalisa Das 562-569
- The Dynamics of the Familial Relationships in Shashi Deshpande's "That Long Silence"
Puspita Panda & Lalendra Kumar Tiwari 570-577
- Armed Conflict Psychological Impact On The Civilian Population
R.K. Chinglenbi Devi & Dr. Smitha Reddy 578-584
- "The Lockdown-Induced Scenario of Digital Education In Assam": a study on the effects of online classes on the college students of Barpeta District.
Mr. Ripunjoy Goswami & Mr. Abhijit Dakuah 585-602
- Factors Responsible for Non-immunization of children under 5 years among Tea Tribes Community of Assam, India
Dr. Sahidul Ahmed & Dr. Himanta Borgohain 603-610

The role of akshara naming in teaching decoding in Assamese <i>Subhash Rabha</i>	611-62
Sufism In Assam With Special Reference To Azan Faqir <i>Faruk Ahmed</i>	622-62
Trade and Trade Routes of Ancient Assam: A Historical Investigation <i>Dr. Susmita Hazarika</i>	630-64
Forgotten Freedom Fighters of North East India: Ropuiliani Sailo <i>Ms Hoipi Haokip</i>	642-65
Representation of Ethnic Elements of The Karbi Community In Assamese Short Stories of Rongbong Terang : An Analysis <i>Shikha moni Saharia</i>	652-65
Quest for Identity in Mulk Raj Anand's <i>The Untouchable</i> and <i>Coolie</i> <i>Pranjal Hazarika</i>	660-665
Globalization, Neo-liberalism and Social Change in Assam <i>Sarita Chetri</i>	666-670

অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ শইকীয়াৰ গল্পৰ ভিন্ন স্বাদ

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সহকাৰী অধ্যাপক, গণিত বিভাগ; লংকা মহাবিদ্যালয়

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আশী-দশকৰ পাছত অসমীয়া গল্প কথকসকলৰ ভিতৰত এক স্বকীয় বৈশিষ্ট্যবীতিৰে জনপ্ৰিয় হৈ উঠা এগৰাকী গল্পকাৰ হৈছে অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ শইকীয়া। সাহিত্য অকাডেমী প্ৰাপক গল্পকাৰ অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ শইকীয়াৰ গল্পৰ বিষয়বস্তুৰ ভিন্নতা, অৰ্থঘন, নিৰ্মেদ আৰু চাতুৰ্যপূৰ্ণ গল্পভাষাৰ নিৰ্মাণ আৰু তাৰ সঠিক ব্যৱহাৰেৰে তেওঁৰ গল্পই পাঠকৰ বাবে চিন্তা উদ্দেককাৰী এখন সংবেদনশীল জগত কঢ়িয়াই আনে। পৰম্পৰাগত গল্পৰীতি অতিক্ৰমি গল্পকাৰে বৈচিত্ৰ্য ভৰা বিষয়বস্তুৰে নিজস্ব শৈলীক এক ভিন্ন আয়তন দিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছে। অসমীয়া গল্প সাহিত্যৰ ক্ষেত্ৰখনত ই এক নতুন সম্পৰীক্ষা। উক্ত দিশসমূহৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য কৰি এই আলোচনাত অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ শইকীয়াৰ গল্পৰ ভিন্ন স্বাদ সম্পৰ্কে বিশ্লেষণ কৰা হ'ব।

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हेमलता 200-203
- देवर्षि कलानाथ शास्त्री कृत जीवनस्य पाथेयम् उपन्यास में नारी स्थिति
डॉ. (श्रीमती) साधना कंसल, मोनिका जोशी 204-207
- स्वाधीनता संघर्ष में महिलाओं का योगदान - 1919 से 1926 के संदर्भ में
डॉ. रोताश कुमार 208-213
- पंडित लखमीचंद के सांगों में समाज, धर्म और नीति
डॉ. हरीन्द्र कुमार 214-220
- महाभारत में पर्यावरण चेतना
डॉ. हिमांशु पण्डित 221-225
- **Benami Transactions Prohibition Amendment Act 2016: Prospective or Retrospective,
A Legal Conundrum**
Paramjeet Kaur 226-231
- **Impact of the Agriculture Finance of the Corporative Bank on Socio- Economic Life
of Farmers: A case of Mandsaur District**
Dr. D.C. Gupta, Ankita Bagherwal 232-242
- **A Study on the Impact of Micro-Finance Practices Through Self Help Groups on
Woman Empowerment in Hojai District, Assam**
Dr. Subodh Kumar Nalwaya, Baidya Nath Paul 243-259
- महाकवि कालिदास की सौन्दर्य दृष्टि
डॉ. सुधीर कुमार शर्मा 260-264
- आचार्य मम्मट का शब्दार्थ चिन्तन
डॉ. स्नेहलता शर्मा 265-271
- वाल्मीकि रामायण में परिवार प्रबन्धन
शवी गुप्ता 272-275
- माघे सन्ति त्रयो गुणाः
शालू रानी 276-279
- हरियाणवी सिनेमा में प्रयोग की गई भाषा-बोली का विश्लेषणात्मक अध्ययन
Rajinder Meerwal 280-286
- सौन्दर्यशास्त्र और काव्यशास्त्र : अन्तर्सम्बन्ध
पूनम रानी 287-289
- भारत-अमेरिका सम्बन्ध
नीरू यादव 290-293
- अध्यात्म एवं योगविद्या का समन्वय आधुनिक परिप्रेक्ष्य में
महेश कुमार मीणा 294-298
- रघुवंश महाकाव्य का समीक्षात्मक अध्ययन
कोमल 299-302
- 'म्हारी माटी : लाल घाटी' - एक अदभुत कृति
डॉ. शर्मिला यादव 303-312

A Study on the Impact of Micro-Finance Practices Through Self Help Groups on Woman Empowerment in Hojai District, Assam

Dr. Subodh Kumar Nalwaya
Associate Professor

Baidya Nath Paul
Research Scholar Commerce,
Mewar University, Chittorgarh (Raj.)

Abstract

The empowerment of women is one of the central issues in the process of development of countries all over the world. Poverty is one of the main reasons for the disempowerment of women. Government agencies and NGOs use different strategies at the micro and macro levels to reduce women's poverty in order to empower them. Microfinance has become an important component of the strategy for development, poverty reduction and economic recovery in the world. In India, the microfinance program is implemented through self-help groups (SHGs). The SHG is an association of people belonging to similar socio-economic characteristics, who reside in the same locality. SHGs are voluntary associations of people formed to achieve common goals. These are groups that have a social identity, heritage, caste or similar traditional occupations. This study analyzes the role of microfinance in the empowerment of women members of self-help groups and to better understand the functioning of self-help groups. The concept of microfinance is analyzed using the size of the loan received, loan recovery and loan term, and economic, social and knowledge empowerment is used to analyze empowerment. Finally, it is concluded that microfinance has contributed to knowledge and social empowerment rather than economic empowerment. The impact of microfinance is significant by providing confidence, courage, skills development and empowerment.

Key-Words: Mitigation of Poverty, Women Empowerment, Micro-finance, Micro-Finance Institutions, Poverty Alleviation, Upliftment of Life Style, Socio-Economic Assessment.

1. Introduction

The socio-economic empowerment of people, especially women, is an important characteristic and indicator of transformation. In recent years, the transformation of the lives and livelihoods of disadvantaged people has assumed greater importance around the world, especially in developing economies.

Women's empowerment is a phenomenon of the 90s, which means endowing women to be economically independent, self-sufficient, with a positive self-esteem that enables them to face any difficult situation and actively participate in the decision-making process. Women are the main contributors to the socio-economic development of the country. To improve

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CONTENTS

1.	Socio-Political Implication of BJP Regime in Assam: People's Perception Dipendra Kumar Khanal	09
2.	Democratic Decentralization and Rural People: Identifying the issues and potentialities with special reference to Notun Tekela Chirring Mottock Gaon, Dibrugarh Satyadeep Lahkar	19
3.	Significance of Palliative Care in India - An Analysis Karavi Barman	25
4.	A village festival brings the social cohesion, tranquility and liberal attitudes in the Society (A Study on Panchadevata Mela-festival in Rajamayong Village in the District of Morigaon, Assam) Guneswar Deka	30
5.	Socio-Cultural Aspects of Tibetan Refugees with Special Reference to the Settlement of Mainpat, Chhattisgarh Sanjiv Kumar Lavania, L. S. Gajpal	36
6.	Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Ageing in Assam: Census based Perspective Rima Devi	43
7.	Assessment of the Rural Health Care Infrastructures and Manpower Services and Its Scenario in India Raju Saikia	48
8.	Armed Conflict and Gender Based Violence Juli Deogharia	54
9.	Demographic Changes in Assam: Challenges and Policy Measures Dinesh Pegu	58
10.	Environment and Sustainable Development: Implications on Tourism Industry of North-East Abhilasha Mazumdar	64
11.	Elevation of Employees through Training and Development: An Overview Shiwani	68
12.	The perspective of International Compensation: A Theoretical Study Anamika Tirkey	72
13.	The Employment Quality of the Informal Migrant Workers in Guwahati Saurabh Pran Sharma, Anamika Sarma	77
14.	Changing Trends of the Banking Industry Roma Khanna, Monika Khanna, Nidhi Varshney	84
15.	A study of profitability of I. T. Companies in India Gathani Nirali S.	88
16.	Consumption of Tea in Professionals and Non-professionals Renuka Mayuri B., F.C. Shastri	91

Assessment of the Rural Health Care Infrastructures and Manpower Services and Its Scenario in India

* Raju Saikia

Abstract- Health is prerequisite for well being of the people. Good health represents better outcomes in the economy; it is the ability of the people to manage their physical, mental, and social aspects throughout the life. This paper tries to focus on the assessment of Health services and their impact on the people. It is based on the secondary data where it focuses mainly on the infrastructures and the manpower development in the health sector.

Key Words- Health, Physical, Mental, Social, assessment.

Introduction: Health is considered to be the wellbeing of every people in society. According to World health organization "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". It may be defined as the ability of a people to adopt and manage physical, mental and social aspects throughout the life. In 21st century the concept of health can be considered as ability opened the door for self-assessments to become the main indicators to judge the performance of efforts aimed at improving the human health conditions (Jadad, 2016). It is very important to live under what context an individual lives both for his health status and the standard of living. It has been recognize by the World health organization, that the main determinants of health include the social and economic environment (Income, education, literacy, caste etc), the physical environment and the person's individual characteristics and their behavior.

For achieving an acceptable standard of health for the general population of the country different Health Policies and Programme has been established by the country. The main focus of different health Policies and the Programme is to reduce disparities in health across regions and communities by providing access to affordable health, especially to the weaker sections and the underprivileged like women and children, the older persons, disabled and different tribal groups. This paper tries to study the assessment of the performance of the country's health related indicators (expectancy at birth, child and maternal mortality, morbidity). The paper tries to review the progress of primary health care services in India, especially in rural areas. It will try to look on the origin and evolution of health care services in India, where it tries to cover the details of the different stages of primary health care in India.

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9. Economic Reforms Since 1991: Impact of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation on Indian Economy- Hemashree Bailing	105-106
10. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Technological, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge (TPACK): A Conceptual Study- Mr. Mihir Kumar Beura - Dr. Prasanta Kumar Barik	107-110
11. A Study of Attitude of Students on Using Social Media in English Language Learning in India- Ksh. Manoj Kumar Singha /Dr. Chingakham Dinachandra Singh	111-113
12. Influence of Motivation on Academic Performance of College Students of Assam- Dr. Rantu Gohain	114-117
13. Rashbehari Bose and the Hindu Nationalist Connection: A Less known Chapter of a Revolutionary in Exile- Saumya Bose	118-120
14. Evaluation of Vishwakarma-Shram-Samman-Yojana (S. W.Y.) In Muslims Minority Society in Basti Dis- trict of U.P.- Lalit Kumar Goyal	121-125
15. A Study on the Promotion of Bareilly International University Library's Information Products and Services- Priya Shukla /Dr. B.K. Rajput	125-128
16. Traditional Birth Beliefs and Practices of Tiwa Community of Assam: A philosophical Out look- Mr. Mukul Borthakur /Dr. Dominic Meyieho	128-131
17. Status of School Libraries Assam, India : A case study of Sivasagar District- Abhijit Borpuzari	131-133
18. Economic Thoughts of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar- Dr. Siddhartha Haridas Meshram	134-136
19. Modern Indian Art: Growth and Evolution of <i>Paintings</i> as a Modern form of Art in India.- Miss Nidhi Gogoi	137-138
20. Socio- Economic Condition of Mayamara Sect in Majuli- Binod Das	139-142
21. Changing Contours of Morals in law Through Indian Judiciary- D.B. Kolte	142-144
22. Consumers' Perception and Attitudes Towards Organic Food Products in Namakkal District- Dr. K. Kumutha devi	144-146
23. Inclusive Education: Attitude of Secondary School Teachers - Monika Sharma/Dhananjoy Devnath/Dr. Ravi Ranjan	147-149
24. Status of Public Libraries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands- Y. Ganesh	150-152
25. Revisiting Gandhi Through Cloth- Politics: Analysing The Importance of Sartorial Choices in The Field of Social Work - Gyanashree Kotoky/Bedika Neog	153-156
26. A study on Buddhist Eco-discourses, Human-Nature Orientation and Attunement with Nature -With Refer- ence to Jātaka Tales- Monalisha Ghosh	157-159
27. Human Capital Formation & Ethnicity: Some Issues and Perspectives From North East India- Sadiqur Rahman	160-161
28. Usury: A Brutal Instrument of Social Subjugation- Dr. Rajpal	162-165
29. Spirituality at Work Place: A Study- Dr. Gulam Mohiuddin	165-166
30. Realism in Ibsen's A Doll's House: A Critical View - Dr. B. Sreenivasulu	167-168
31. Empowerment of Women Through Self- Help Groups In India- A Case Study - S.B. SREERAMA NAIK	168-169
32. Indian Tourism: A Persistent Inclusive Growth- C. BABA FAKARDHIN	170-171
33. An Social Awareness Study about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in Gungram City- Satish Kumar/Dr. Trupti Singh	172-174
34. National Education Policy 2020 and Research Possibilities in India- Dr. Renu Sain	175-177
35. Quality of Work Life in Employees of Cement Companies in Kadapa District: A Study- Dr. K. Sankar Reddy	178-179
36. Application Of Grice's Theory of Conversational Maxims in Wole Soyinka's Poem 'Telephone Conversation'- Sanjoy Das	180-182
37. Changing Paradigm of Cashless Economy: Pros and Cons- Dr. Sarfraj Ahmed	182-185
38. The Hungry House of <i>Burnt Offerings</i> : A Critical Inquiry of Magical Realism behind Horror- Virginia Kashyap & Dr. Prachand Narayan Piraji	186-188



tion and mission statements, opening and graphs of events are the common elements **University libraries.** University library websites possess networking features and social media link are the most services of University libraries. Most prominent online service available of

e-books, e-journals, databases, OPAC and tely marked of University libraries. of declining patronage, library market- rative to rekindle the interest of user eve maximum utilization of library re- acilities. The introduction of ICT in li- nued to engender innovation in the way re marketed. Web-based marketing of rvice has become a global trend as it ge the awareness gap that typically ex- unities and available resources/services. marketing functions of visibility, s, consultation services, and online re- s perform well in the areas of visibility, n services and online resources. How- n networking and online services is re concluded that library websites have tions, there is a need to improve their online service offerings to ensure their ing purposes.

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Traditional Birth Beliefs and Practices of Tiwa Community of Assam: A philosophical Out look

Dr. Dominic Meyieho
(Supervisor) Deptt. Of Phi-
losophy , Assam Don Bosco
University

Mr. Mukul Borthakur
Research Scholar Deptt. Of
Philosophy Assam Don Bosco
University, Tapesia (Kamrup)
Assam 781017

1. Abstract: The culture of Assam is a common culture of various ethnic groups , religions and languages. The Tiwa are one of the major ethnic group that have contributed to the formation of the larger culture of Assam. The Tribe scattered mainly in Nagaon ,Morigaon , karbianglong , Kamrup and Lakhimpur districts of Assam. The Tiwa people worshipped various Gods and Goddesses but their main Deity is Faa- Mahadeo The Tiwa people have their independent traditions ,customs , religious beliefs and practices. Various rituals , practices , ceremonies , have been traditionally performed in the their society. In their society from the beginning of a new born and till the death has to encompasses a number of traditional beliefs and practices which has deep rooted implications in their total way of life. And in their traditional birth process they practices some specific beliefs , rituals ,customs and traditions and such traditional beliefs and practices are performed before or after the birth of a child and even while the child is in the womb. These practices are performed according to some social norms where besides involving family members respective clan members and community members plays a important role. And such beliefs and practices is always joyful in order to ensure that child is not harmed in any way and that is their philosophy and such beliefs and practices followed in the birth process is based on unique religious philosophies followed by this son of the soil of Assam.

Key words: Tiwa , Giyati , Ojani ,Manswa ,Kecha Su-
wa ,Hari Knowari

2. Introduction: The Tiwa Tribe is one of the major indig-
enous group of Assam who is said to be the son of the soil
not only Assam but also North East India. These tribal
people dwells hill , foot hill and plain areas of Assam and
Meghalaya also. The plain Tiwa inhabit particularly in the
districts of Nagaon , Morigaon , some places of
kamrup ,Dhemaji and the hill Tiwa inhabit in the greater
karbi anglong district of Assam. The word 'Tiwa' which is
comes from the word 'Ti' which means 'water' and a
'wa' means superior and different scholars mentioned that
Tibbet was their original abode and they had landed down
to the plains areas following the course of the river Brah-
maputra who identified themselves as Tiwa. Earlier they
also known as Lalung , they prefer to call themselves as
Tiwa and their settling to the plain areas is still remain in
mystery. Some Scholars mentioned that they are the
offshoots of the Mongolian race of Tibeto-Burmese group
of Sino-Tibetan speech family who had their migration to
this land in the pre-historic period (Thakur: 1985). This

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Editor speaks.....

India is a multicultural and multilingual country. At the same time the creative trend too here is very diverse. The oral and written traditions especially in poetry and drama have their own special influences even in the contemporary writings.

The literary world was saddened on 10th June, 2019 with the heartrending demise of Girish Karnad. Though he is chiefly branded as a dramatist in the world of Indian writings in English, he is equally acknowledged as an actor, director in South Indian cinema and in Bollywood as well. His plays are marked with the tinges of history and mythology though those are very modern to the core. His works are marked with local cultures in global sphere and his translation of his Kannad dramas to English has taken him to a greater height with his wide recognition in the literary arena. The translation of his dramas to different Indian languages and direction by the veteran directors like Ebrahim Alkazi, B. V. Karanth, Alyque Padamsee, Prasanna, Arvind Gaur, Satyadev Dubey, Vijaya Mehta, Shyamanand Jalan, Amal Allana and Zafer Mohiuddin measures his success as a dramatist. His active role as a director, actor and screenwriter also has brought this multidimensional personality laurels with different awards and recognitions which include Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Vathur Navya Award (1972), Padma Shri (1974), Padma Bhushan (1992), Kannada Sahitya Parishad Award (1992), Sahitya Academy Award (1994), Jnanapith Award (1998), Kalidas Samman (1998) and Rajyotsava Award, besides many Filmfare awards in the category of South Indian films as well as in Bollywood along with several Karnataka state film awards.

Gubbi Veeranna Award for his services to theatre (as a playwright) and Honorary Doctorate from University of Southern California, Los Angeles - 2011 and Dr. T.M.A. Pai Konkani Distinguished Achievement Award for Performing Arts of 1996 have brought him recognition worldwide. His services in the leading cultural organisations of the country in the capacity of many prestigious posts depict his love for the national culture and the best that the country can give him.

The Rock Pebbles family condoles the sad demise of such a great personality- and expects rise of such talents to take the rich regional literature and culture of the country to the national and international spheres.

- Editor

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	ii
Criticism - (pp. 05 - 113)	
Negotiating 'Mythical Method' and 'Archetypal Pattern' in the Plays of Girish Karnad Bishnu Charan Dash	05
Spatial Analysis of the Select Fiction of Joseph Conrad Anuradha Chaudhuri	13
Productive Class-room Business Time: An Integrated Perspective on Teacher Development in ESL Contexts Krushna Chandra Mishra	17
Translating Gopal Bulhub Das's Odia Novel <i>Bhima Bhuiyan</i> (1908) into English: An Abstract-cum-Review Jagneswar Badhei	24
A Review of the Article Titled "Basanti" by Brahmananda Singh Published in Kalinga in 1975 August Issue Krishnaprada Dash	26
Utopia and Indian Imagination: Revisiting <i>Gitanjali</i> Kalikinkar Pattanayak	29
Essence of Feminism and Women's Revolt in Anita Desai's Novels : A Study of <i>Cry the Peacock</i> and <i>Fire on the Mountain</i> Rashmi Rekha Saikia	36
Ngugi Wa Thiongo : Concern for Women Rajesh Kumar Dinkar	41
Dramatic Irony in the Short Stories of Jayant Khatri Rajesh V. Basiya	51
Understanding the Complexities of Context in Single Word Utterances during Teaching and Communication Process: A Study Pradeep Kumar Debata	55
Marginalisation of Women in the Society of Bengal during Pre-independence Period as Reflected in Women's Autobiographies Emily Pandey	61
The Shifting Paradigm from Home to the Workplace : A Study of the Philosophical Perspectives of AdvaitaKala's Chick-Lit Romance <i>Almost Single</i> Gobinda Sahoo	66
Search for Identity: A Study through Edward Ricardo Braithwaite's Novels <i>Reluctant Neighbors</i> and <i>Honorary White</i> Pramila Kumari Das	75
The Agony of Black Women in Zora Neale Hurston's <i>Jonah's Gourd Vine</i> R. Sheela Banu	83

Spatial Analysis of the Select Fiction of Joseph Conrad

Anuradha Chaudhuri

The spatial analysis of Conrad's fiction is definitely going to open up a new area of studies in the field of critical studies in literature at the present juncture, particularly in the field of Conrad Studies. As a postcolonial reader, it has been pertinent to discuss the literary stalwarts of the past from newer perspectives with a view to bringing out certain unexpected and unexplored facts regarding their creative treasure for lending further momentum to the active and vibrant academic world of the present times when there has been the explosion of knowledge all around. Interestingly the period of Conrad happened to face certain crucial spatial problems as the world turned out to be a disenchanted one throwing the author himself in ambivalence as to how to respond and react to the tendency of rationalising the over-exploration of the earth and the act of materialising space. In his 1918 Speech titled "Science as a Vocation", Max Weber points out that the fate of the time is characterised by rationalization and intellectualization and also by the disenchantment of the world. Being a close observer of the whole process of colonialism, being a victim first and then a participant in its execution over the years as a Master Mariner of British Merchant Marine, Conrad has worked to develop the

concept of space through his fiction under consideration, *Lord Jim* and *Nigger of the Narcissus* to redirect the readers from a sense of remoteness, strangeness and enchantment to that of immediate surroundings, familiarity and actuality as such. As Weber argues that with the fast progress in science and technology throughout the centuries, people found new, rational explanations for the inexplicable past demolishing the concept of the existence of incalculable, mysterious forces as rationality and science had disenchanted the world by technical means and calculation. But a spatial analysis of Conrad's fiction shows an effort on the part of the author at the re-mystification of space as well as incomprehensibility and obscurity, a kind of ambivalence seems to be pervading his fictional domain facilitating the emergence of third space, a space for negotiation and adjustment and all these have become possible because of Conrad's utmost belief in humanity and human relationships despite all the disintegrating and contrary forces present in the human world. By the time Conrad started documenting his variegated experiences, gathered from his eventful travels across the globe in the form of fiction, both the notions of the expansion and constriction of globe captured the attention of the enlightened

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II	
12.	Influence of Aging on Cardiovascular System in Elderly Male and Female Healthy Subjects59 <i>I.N. Mitra, Lily Walia, B.K. Aggarwal, Gurdev Goyal</i>
13.	Incidence and Profile of Gross Congenital Malformations in a Tertiary Care Hospital in North India..... 66 <i>Jagjit Singh Dalal, Rohit Kapoor, Sandeep Jhagra, Manish Gupta</i>
14.	Attitude Towards Mental Illness among the Adolescents in Selected Colleges of Udupi District 70 <i>Jeeva M.V., Michelle J.M., Preethika, Manjula</i>
15.	A Clinico-Epidemiological Analysis of Seropositive Cases of Tropical Infections and their Co- Infection in Tertiary Care Hospital in South India 74 <i>Kristel Bhalla, Pooja Rao, Radhakrishna Manipura</i>
16.	Correlation between Neutrophil- Lymphocyte Ratio and Proteinuria in Diabetes.....80 <i>Meenakshi Shetty, Mohammed Ahmed Hussain, Jayakumar Jeganathan, Pavan M.R.</i>
17.	Changes in the Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potentials in the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease83 <i>Monika Kamra, Lily Walia, Sonia Kochhar</i>
18.	Emotional Intelligence and Happiness88 <i>Nitin Girdharwal</i>
19.	The Role of Psychological Well-being in Positive Human Health93 <i>Nitin Girdharwal</i>
20.	Online News Media Coverage of Women’s Health in India: A Content Analysis98 <i>Olive Nerurkar</i>
21.	Migration and Displacement: The Case of Tuberculosis 104 <i>Paramita Barman</i>
22.	To Study the Knowledge Regarding Immunization among Caregivers of Under Five Children in Amritsar, Punjab109 <i>Pooja Sadana, Kanwal Preet Kaur Gill, Manisha Nagpal, Amanpreet Kaur</i>
23.	Health Issue as One of the Barrier to Women Weavers 114 <i>Raju Saikia</i>
24.	Temporal Processing Ability in Normal Hearing Participants with Type-II Diabetes..... 118 <i>Rajesh Ranjan, Jayashree S. Bhat, Gagan Bajaj, Sujay P.</i>
25.	Impact of Dividend Announcement on Stock Returns and Market Efficiency in India 123 <i>V. Shanthaamani, V.B. Usha</i>
26.	A New Ensemble Approach to Predict Breast Cancer 129 <i>G. Manikandan, J. Poigai, R. Bala Krishnan, B. Karthikeyan, P. Rajendiran</i>
27.	Effectiveness of a Parent Education Programme on Knowledge Regarding Home Care Management of Children with Epilepsy 132 <i>Anila K.P., Rajee Reghunath</i>

Health Issue as One of the Barrier to Women Weavers

Raju Saikia

Research Scholar, Gauhati University

Abstract

Health is an important factor for the up gradation of the society as a whole. A person with a good health can contribute more to the working than a person with bad health. Weaving is one of the activity which require the use of whole body and the mental and the physical strength. Weavers are a person whose job is to weaves cloth. Weaving involves using a loom to interlace two sets of threads at right angles to each other. Weaving is a method of textile production in which two distinct sets of Yarns or thread are interlaced at right angles to form a Fabric or cloth. Other method are knitting, crocheting, felting, and braiding. The longitudinal threads are called thewarp and the lateral threads are the Weft or filling. The method in which these threads are inter-woven affects the characteristics of the cloth Weaving can be summarized as a repetition of these three actions, shedding, Picking, Beating Up or battening which are primary motion of the loom, let of motion and take up motion is a secondary motion of the loom and lastly warp and weft is the tertiary motion of loom. The health issue can be one of the barriers to women weavers. The paper is based on primary data were it tries to focus on the health condition of the people and their impact on weaving. The primary data has been collected on the basis of simple random sampling from the district of Lakhimpur in Assam.

Keywords: *Health, weavers, shedding, picking, Motion.*

Introduction

Health is an important issue for nations, who are engaged in economic development. All development activities, whether economic as well as social depend upon the sound mind, health and environment. The economic pressure in the country is the most striking factor that leads to the development of women weaver¹. Women weavers are endowed with in valuable talent of weaving masterpieces on textiles. Women in rural areas basically take up entrepreneurship to improve their standard of living². Weavers are a person whose job is to weaves cloth. Weaving involves using a loom to interlace two sets of threads at right angles to each other. One of the encouraging steps is the development of women handloom weavers and the artisans. Weaving is a method of textile production in which two distinct sets of Yarns or thread are interlaced at right angles to form a Fabric or cloth. Other method are knitting, crocheting, felting, and braiding. The longitudinal threads are called the warp and the lateral threads are the Weft or filling. The method in which these threads are inter-woven affects the characteristics of the cloth Weaving can be summarized as a repetition of these three actions, shedding, Picking, Beating Up or battening which are primary motion of the loom, let of motion and take up

motion is a secondary motion of the loom and lastly warp and weft is the tertiary motion of loom³. The women in Assam have also been gifted with artistry of weaving intricate and mesmerizing design on their looms. As during Mahatma Gandhi Visit in Assam he remarks that, "the women in Assam can weave dreams on their looms"⁵. The preamble of the charter of world health organization defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"⁴.

With the existence of creativity skill, the women in Assam spends their available time to build the beautiful garments basically for their family and sometime for the business purpose too which help in the creation of a position for herself in the textile market with her artistic skills⁶. Since there is very less research regarding the health condition and artistic skill of the women weavers, the present study tries to focus on the condition of weavers and their health condition in Assam. The paper tries to look on the women in villages of Assam who have desire to weave cloth as their spare time activity and as a income source and to focus on their hindrances

Objective: Women weavers are blessed with the skill of weaving masterpieces on textiles, this papers

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- (45) **Strains of Covid-19 on the Conjugal Life: An Analytical Study of Divorce Rate in the Top Four Metropolitan City of India**
 ● Samikshya Madhukullya ● Dr. Sandeep Gupta /360
- (46) **Nationalist Consciousness and Patriotism in Ambikagiri Raichoudhury's Poetry**
 ● Manisha Haloi ● Tarulata Boruah /367
- (47) **Buddhist Ethics and Euthanasia with Special Emphasis on Japanese Zen Buddhism**
 ● Dr. Minakshi Das /374
- (48) **Recurring Flood and its Impacts on Livelihood of Flood-Affected Households in Dhemaji and Lakhimpur Districts of Assam**
 ● Jayanta Barooah ● Dr. Santosh Kumar Upadhyay ● Dr. Rabinjyoti Khataniar /385
- (49) **Inter District Variation in Social Infrastructure Development in Assam**
 ● Dr. Barindra Das /397
- (50) **The Cyborg in Dystopian Films**
 ● Dwitun Basumatary /408
- (51) **Becoming a *Donthe*: The Religious Specialist of the Tutsa of the Patkai Hills of Arunachal Pradesh**
 ● Kampan Bo ● Dr. Tajen Dabi /414
- (52) **Hegemony of Colonial Discourse and the Feminine Silence in Mamoni Raisom Goswami's *The Moth-eaten Howdah of the Tusker***
 ● Ranjan Gogoi ● Amal Chandra Das /420
- (53) **Socio-Economic Status of Mising Women and Their Significant Role in the Society**
 ● Ranjit Taku ● Bodising Narah /427
- (54) **Writing a New History: A Study of U.R. Ananthamurthy's Novel, *Samskara***
 ● Dr. Chandrima Sen ● Prof. Pradip Kumar Patra /438
- (55) **Festivals of Tiwa People and its Correlation with Nature: A Descriptive Study**
 ● Deepak Nath /446
- (56) **Death Disposal of Tiwa Community of Assam: A Philosophical Outlook**
 ● Mukul Borthakur ● Dr. Dominic Meyieho /458
- (57) **Depiction of Child Psychology in Assamese Lullabies**
 ● Dr. Banalata Das /468
- (58) **Performance Analysis of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in the State of Assam: A Study on Rural Households in Selected Region**
 ● Bikash Baruah ● Priyadarshani Baruah /474



Death Disposal of Tiwa Community of Assam: A Philosophical Out Look

□ **Mukul Borthakur**

Research Scholar, Deptt. of Philosophy , Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia (Kamrup)
Assam 781017, e-mail: mukulborthakur12243@gmail.com

□ **Dr. Dominic Meyieho**

Professor of Philosophy, Assam Don Bosco University.

Abstract: *'Death' is an eternal truth. But it is seen that people believe the fact that death is not the end of life, there is another world beyond death. This idea prevalent in the society is reflected in old rituals. From time to time this immemorial people have created a variety of beliefs and traditional customs based on such ideas. However, its nature methods vary from society to society. They are also more active and influential in the religious life of the people. It can be seen that such death centered folk-beliefs and customs have in many cases played an important role in determining the cultural life of a single ethnic group. On the other hand it is sometime observed that the concepts, beliefs and ideas centered on human death often become more complex and mysterious than death. In fact, death is certainly a big question even if people accept this fact easily; it is against the backdrop of many such questions that death is the last limit for life in every part of the world. Folk beliefs and customs is an old tradition of the concept in the social life and such beliefs and customs are prevalent in society. From time immemorial, people like other ethnic group in India, carrying the same beliefs and tradition of the ancient inhabitants of the Northeast. Assam which is known as the land of ethnic groups with more than twenty six ethnic groups and Tiwa/Lalung is a major group out of those. This ethnic people have their independent thought, belief, custom, tradition relating to birth, death, culture, language, religion etc.*

Key words: *Tiwa, Mangkhor, Hatham, Faa-Mahadeo.*

1. Introduction:

The Assam is the heart of North East India which has diversity of cultures, languages traditions of various tribes well known all over India. Tiwa or Lalungs is one of the prominent

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Correspondence Address

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Delhi Office : H-97, Gyan Mandir Road, Jaitpur Extn., Badarpur, New Delhi - 110044

e-mail : rockpebbles2007@rediffmail.com / rockpebbles2010@gmail.com

website : www.rockpebblesindia.in

Tel - 06728-223005 Cell - 9437009135 / 9861012630 / 7978238911 / 9040249490

To
Dr. A. Chandhuri
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Editorial.....

Ideas govern the world. They belong to men of sense & sensibility. People of these variety are very few. They are the philosophers, ideologists, physicists & the poets. All of them, particularly the poets, are chiefly concerned with the human predicaments. Human beings, as the social anthropologists define, are the most helpless creatures on the earth. Earth being an isthmus, the human beings are destined to be blessed with the virtues of heaven & the vices of hell.

As such, the human actions are deemed to be influenced by these dual traits; there is neither escape nor exceptions. One who is born to this earth inherits this duality of human character that makes his social life eventful.

These events that happen around us is the human society as reflected in the pages of poetry, drama, novels, essays & letters. It is, therefore, rightly said that 'Literature is the mirror of society' that deals with human predicaments, full of events & incidents.

In the works of major creators, they are presented in a camouflage as if it doesn't have any personal / individual touch; it runs underneath like an under-current. And these major writers, poets and essayists are widely read & praised by the readers.

'ROCK PEBBLES has been wisely & widely propagated to present these immortal creations of regional & universal temper so as to make and reflect this universe as a global village as does a smart phone now-a-days.

Editor

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	ii
Criticism - (pp. 05 - 139)	
Encountering Domestic Violence by the TeenAgers in Sharon M. Draper's <i>Forged by Fire</i> N.K. Saranya & B. Visalatchi	05
Exploring Spatial Dimensions in Conrad: A Critical Analysis of His Fiction Anuradha Chaudhuri	11
Negotiating Enviromental Ethics : An Eco-Critical Reading of the Poetry of John Keats Sanjib Kumar Sarma	19
Hate-Love Relationship Between Father and Son in Harish Gore's <i>A Tribute to My Father's Struggle for Life</i> A.N. Dadas	27
Communist Philosophy in Arundhati Roy's <i>The God of Small Things</i> Bikash Chandra Dash	31
Estrangement in Mother- Daughter Relationship in <i>The Dark Holds No Terrors</i> Riazul Hoque	35
Need for a Learner - Centred Syllabus in English at College Level Mrutyunjaya Rath	39
Importance of Reading and Writing Skills in General English Courses at Undergraduate Level Syed Wajahat Hussain	43
The Theme of Absurdity in the Plays of Badal Sircar and N. Sribiren Uma Snkar Padhy	49
Challenges in Adapting Various Cultures in Jhumpa Lahiri's <i>The Namesake</i> A. Evangeline	55
Mallikarjun Patil's <i>Under the Mango Tree</i> : A Critical Study Prashant Sinal	60
Inhabiting Interstices: Issue of Cultural Hybridity and Acculturation in Jhumpa Lahiri's <i>The Namesake</i> Binu K D	63
Moral Vision of Modern Man in the Materialistic Universe in the Select Novels of William Faulkner Helen Hema	72
A Study of Romantic Poetry with Reference to Coleridge's <i>Kubla Khan</i> and Keats' <i>Ode to Autumn</i> P. Madhan	78
Invinsible Apu : A Study of Ananda Patnaik's <i>Apoorva Aparajita</i> Swayamshree Mishra	82
Theme of Estrangement in Anita Nair's <i>Mistress</i> C. Chellappan & V. Nagaranjan	87
Diasporic Sensibilities, Displacement and Alienation in the Works of Jhumpa Lahiri and Amitav Ghosh R. Sangeetha	90
Creative Versatility, Mystique and Romance in the Poetry of Basudev Chakraborti Jernail S. Anand	96

Exploring Spatial Dimensions in Conrad: A Critical Analysis of His Fiction

Anuradha Chaudhuri

Search for space is a continuous process in Conradian fiction. As Joseph Conrad's early life was not a happy one, an irrational and hostile universe is portrayed in his fiction written against colonial backdrop where he has been very much pre-occupied with such themes as exile, loneliness, alienation, and issues pertaining to man's existence in the world. Writing in an alien language was another fact that accentuated his sense of frustration and solitude. The necessity of struggle in human life is something which is very much important in Conrad canon particularly from the spatial point of view.

Conrad's constant concern with the problem of space, himself being a British émigré, gets reflected in his fictions pre-occupied with the problems of moral failure, desertion, betrayal, utter helplessness etc. which actually sprang from his own sense of having betrayed his motherland. The real space lived through in Poland has turned out to be an imagined one whereas an imagined space supposed to have been appropriated has finally become a real one with his decision of taking British citizenship.

If Conrad's imagination was fed with Renaissance ideology of the vastness and beauty of this world, he was also aware of the reality of the shrinking of the same

world into a tightly-networked place, known, familiar and within human reach. The explosion of global space is followed by its diminution. His fiction records such changes in spatial realities.

The colonized space with its wealth, landscape and its people are laid bare to the colonial masters. The author very often shows his threatened whiteman failing to make meaning out of the abundant chaos of the 'other land/bodyscape'. For Conrad, East and West meet together at a certain space under specific situations which again gives rise to multiple other sets of relationships. During the whole period of imperialism, followed by colonialism and neo-colonialism as well, there was not only the process of creation of another living space, hence 'settlement' but also a more deliberate, mercenary expansion of European power into non-European spaces. In many of Conrad's novels, even in the novels under study-*An Outcast of the Islands* and *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, it is found that the native inheritance overpowers the white supremacy. The colonizers while trying to possess the colonial space, a lived space, loose at least temporarily the inherited space in their own nation, more secured and familiar and get disappointed at the loss of their imagined

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Girish Karnad (1938 - 2019)
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Correspondence Address

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Bhubaneswar Office : U-22/2, Second Floor, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751009.

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Editor speaks.....

India is a multicultural and multilingual country. At the same time the creative trend too here is very diverse. The oral and written traditions especially in poetry and drama have their own special influences even in the contemporary writings.

The literary world was saddened on 10th June, 2019 with the heartrending demise of Girish Karnad. Though he is chiefly branded as a dramatist in the world of Indian writings in English, he is equally acknowledged as an actor, director in South Indian cinema and in Bollywood as well. His plays are marked with the tinges of history and mythology though those are very modern to the core. His works are marked with local cultures in global sphere and his translation of his Kannad dramas to English has taken him to a greater height with his wide recognition in the literary arena. The translation of his dramas to different Indian languages and direction by the veteran directors like Ebrahim Alkazi, B. V. Karanth, Alyque Padamsee, Prasanna, Arvind Gaur, Satyadev Dubey, Vijaya Mehta, Shyamanand Jalan, Amal Allana and Zafer Mohiuddin measures his success as a dramatist. His active role as a director, actor and screenwriter also has brought this multidimensional personality laurels with different awards and recognitions which include Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Vathur Navya Award (1972), Padma Shri (1974), Padma Bhushan (1992), Kannada Sahitya Parishad Award (1992), Sahitya Academy Award (1994), Jnanapith Award (1998), Kalidas Samman (1998) and Rajyotsava Award, besides many Filmfare awards in the category of South Indian films as well as in Bollywood along with several Karnataka state film awards.

Gubbi Veeranna Award for his services to theatre (as a playwright) and Honorary Doctorate from University of Southern California, Los Angeles - 2011 and Dr. T.M.A. Pai Konkani Distinguished Achievement Award for Performing Arts of 1996 have brought him recognition worldwide. His services in the leading cultural organisations of the country in the capacity of many prestigious posts depict his love for the national culture and the best that the country can give him.

The Rock Pebbles family condoles the sad demise of such a great personality- and expects rise of such talents to take the rich regional literature and culture of the country to the national and international spheres.

- Editor

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	ii
Criticism - (pp. 05 - 113)	
Negotiating 'Mythical Method' and 'Archetypal Pattern' in the Plays of Girish Karnad Bishnu Charan Dash	05
Spatial Analysis of the Select Fiction of Joseph Conrad Anuradha Chaudhuri	13
Productive Class-room Business Time: An Integrated Perspective on Teacher Development in ESL Contexts Krushna Chandra Mishra	17
Translating Gopal Bulhub Das's Odia Novel <i>Bhima Bhuiyan</i> (1908) into English: An Abstract-cum-Review Jagneswar Badhei	24
A Review of the Article Titled "Basanti" by Brahmananda Singh Published in Kalinga in 1975 August Issue Krishnaprada Dash	26
Utopia and Indian Imagination: Revisiting <i>Gitanjali</i> Kalikinkar Pattanayak	29
Essence of Feminism and Women's Revolt in Anita Desai's Novels : A Study of <i>Cry the Peacock</i> and <i>Fire on the Mountain</i> Rashmi Rekha Saikia	36
Ngugi Wa Thiongo : Concern for Women Rajesh Kumar Dinkar	41
Dramatic Irony in the Short Stories of Jayant Khatri Rajesh V. Basiya	51
Understanding the Complexities of Context in Single Word Utterances during Teaching and Communication Process: A Study Pradeep Kumar Debata	55
Marginalisation of Women in the Society of Bengal during Pre-independence Period as Reflected in Women's Autobiographies Emily Pandey	61
The Shifting Paradigm from Home to the Workplace : A Study of the Philosophical Perspectives of AdvaitaKala's Chick-Lit Romance <i>Almost Single</i> Gobinda Sahoo	66
Search for Identity: A Study through Edward Ricardo Braithwaite's Novels <i>Reluctant Neighbors</i> and <i>Honorary White</i> Pramila Kumari Das	75
The Agony of Black Women in Zora Neale Hurston's <i>Jonah's Gourd Vine</i> R. Sheela Banu	83

Spatial Analysis of the Select Fiction of Joseph Conrad

Anuradha Chaudhuri

The spatial analysis of Conrad's fiction is definitely going to open up a new area of studies in the field of critical studies in literature at the present juncture, particularly in the field of Conrad Studies. As a postcolonial reader, it has been pertinent to discuss the literary stalwarts of the past from newer perspectives with a view to bringing out certain unexpected and unexplored facts regarding their creative treasure for lending further momentum to the active and vibrant academic world of the present times when there has been the explosion of knowledge all around. Interestingly the period of Conrad happened to face certain crucial spatial problems as the world turned out to be a disenchanted one throwing the author himself in ambivalence as to how to respond and react to the tendency of rationalising the over-exploration of the earth and the act of materialising space. In his 1918 Speech titled "Science as a Vocation", Max Weber points out that the fate of the time is characterised by rationalization and intellectualization and also by the disenchantment of the world. Being a close observer of the whole process of colonialism, being a victim first and then a participant in its execution over the years as a Master Mariner of British Merchant Marine, Conrad has worked to develop the

concept of space through his fiction under consideration, *Lord Jim* and *Nigger of the Narcissus* to redirect the readers from a sense of remoteness, strangeness and enchantment to that of immediate surroundings, familiarity and actuality as such. As Weber argues that with the fast progress in science and technology throughout the centuries, people found new, rational explanations for the inexplicable past demolishing the concept of the existence of incalculable, mysterious forces as rationality and science had disenchanted the world by technical means and calculation. But a spatial analysis of Conrad's fiction shows an effort on the part of the author at the re-mystification of space as well as incomprehensibility and obscurity, a kind of ambivalence seems to be pervading his fictional domain facilitating the emergence of third space, a space for negotiation and adjustment and all these have become possible because of Conrad's utmost belief in humanity and human relationships despite all the disintegrating and contrary forces present in the human world. By the time Conrad started documenting his variegated experiences, gathered from his eventful travels across the globe in the form of fiction, both the notions of the expansion and constriction of globe captured the attention of the enlightened