

**Annual Report on Academic Activities
2020-2021**

**Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development
Guwahati**

The Institute

Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD) is an autonomous research institute situated in Guwahati that undertakes, promotes and coordinates research on problems and processes of social transformation and development of Assam and other states of the North Eastern region of India and contributes to the formulation of strategies and programmes for speedier regional development. As envisaged by the founders of the Institute, it acts as a “clearinghouse of ideas and information on research in social sciences with special emphasis on the problems of Assam and other States of the North-Eastern region”.

Established in 1989 under the joint initiative of Government of Assam and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) New Delhi, OKDISCD is recognized as a leader in the field of social science research in Northeast India. It is reputed for the quality of its research and various programmes for promoting social sciences and policy research. Over the last more than two and half decades, a large number of studies have been completed by the Institute which has contributed towards the corpus of knowledge on various aspects of social concerns and research priorities in the region. It is noted for its strong research thrust in varied areas of democracy and governance, regional development, health and education, environment, gender, human development that are making substantial contributions to regional and national level. Over the years, the Institute has also created a niche for its innovative courses in capacity development of young scholars of social sciences. It is also the leading Institute in the region in designing and carrying out evaluation and monitoring of various programmes of government agencies, corporate houses and international bodies. The Institute has also emerged as a well-built centre of teaching especially research oriented courses. Currently, the Institute has a fulltime PhD Programme and a Certificate Programme in Northeast India Studies.

With continuous attempt to achieve new heights in social science research and teaching, the Institute has conducted and initiated several academic activities during the year 2020-2021. It has to be mentioned that due to outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Institute could not conduct many of the programmes scheduled during the year.

The Ph.D. Programme

Institute launched its Ph.D. Programme in pursuance of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Academic Collaboration with Dibrugarh University from January, 2017. As per the MoU, Dibrugarh University recognizes OKDISCD as a Research Centre in Arts and extends the Institute as an affiliated research institute of Dibrugarh University to undertake full time PhD programme fully adhering to the Dibrugarh University Regulations for the Research Council and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) 2015. Accordingly, a Departmental Research Committee (DRC) was constituted known as DRC in Social Sciences (OKDISCD). A total of 18 students have enrolled so far in the Institute under the PhD Programme in different batches since 2017. The Institute conducts pre-registration PhD course-work of six months duration every year for the students enrolled.

Post Graduate Certificate Course on North East India Studies

The Institute has launched a Post Graduate Certificate Course on North East India Studies in August 2016. The course has been duly approved by Dibrugarh University. This six months full time course aims at introducing the young scholars interested in working on the region to

the complex diversities of the region and also to provide them with required understanding for carrying out research on pertinent socio-political, economic, developmental, historical, cultural, environmental and gender questions. The course also aims at equipping the young scholars to understand the region in the overall global and national context and providing them with the theoretical knowledge required for setting their research agenda. The effort has been considered as a much needed academic intervention in the region and is expected to encourage a new spate of scientific research required for addressing myriad themes and questions pertinent to North East India. A total of 19 students have successfully completed the course till now.

Studies Completed

Economy of Assam in the Backdrop of Covid-19 Pandemic

Lead Author: Dr. Joydeep Baruah, Prof. Kalyan Das
Co-Author: Dr. Saswati Choudhury
Study Team: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah, Dr. Monjit Borthakur, Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma, Dr. Arunima Deka
Collaboration: State Innovation and Transformation Aayog, Government of Assam

The institute prepared a report on Economy of Assam in the Backdrop of Covid-19 Pandemic. The study was carried out at the request of State Innovation and Transformation Aayog, Government of Assam. The study team worked tirelessly amidst lockdown and prepared the report which was presented before the Chief Minister of Assam and submitted to the Government of Assam on May 26, 2020. The study was basically an attempt to assess the impact of Covid-19 in the economy of the state.

The Report tried to understand the impact of the pandemic on the macro economic scenario besides assessing impact on key economic sectors followed by broad policy options and recommendations. The report particularly highlights the areas where Government of Assam can play a critical role to mitigate and/or to minimise the damaging impact of Covid-19 in the economy of the state. The urgency was to generate a sense of confidence among different sections of people to counter the environment of negativity and uncertainty which is disastrous for an economy. Keeping this in view, the report offered broad policy options for meaningful interventions.

Work and Wellbeing in Rural Assam

Principal Investigator: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah
Study Team: Prof. Kalyan Das, Dr. Joydeep Baruah, Dr. Saswati Choudhury, Dr. Monjit Borthakur, Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma
Sponsoring Agency: In-house Study

The Institute has completed a study titled *Work and Wellbeing in Rural Assam* covering all the districts of the state. The primary objective of the study is to look at the issues related to life and livelihood of people in the rural areas of the state. It focuses on aspects of work and income in rural areas covering both farm and nonfarm sectors together with myriad challenges thereof.

The study offers important insights regarding the necessity and criticality of work and employment in determining the levels and aspects of wellbeing of people. Most significantly

the study has found that overall quality of employment and regularity and security of income are crucial for improving wellbeing of people. The study has found that people in rural Assam are engaged in range of assorted activities implying lack of income security in any one work or employment. Moreover, the study reveals that there is a marked shift amidst rural workforce from agricultural to non-agricultural sector on one hand and evident trend towards casualisation within non-agricultural works and/or employment. Both these tendencies found to have impacted the income security among the rural workforce, which, consequently, have affected the myriad aspects of well-being. The study, therefore, underscores interesting questions as to whether the agricultural sector in the State has reached the optimum causing outflow of people from the sector and whether non-agricultural sector is capable of accommodating the increasing inflow of people without suppressing the levels of income within the sector. These questions bear significant policy implications for improving the scope and quality of work and employment in the rural areas of the State in general as well as well-being of people in particular.

Ethnic Identity, Regionalism and Coalition Politics in India's North East

Principal Investigator: Dr. Arunima Deka

Sponsoring Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

The study "Ethnic Identity, Regionalism and Coalition Politics in India's North East" is an exercise to understand the complex trajectory of state formation in the Northeast India. It attempts at critically comprehend the tensions inherent in the centralizing and decentralizing tendencies of the state imposed upon by a neo-liberal regime of good governance and its paranoia of internal security. Northeast India because of its critical politico spatial location provides a ground to both problematize and theorize the changing nature of Indian politics. It also attempts to capture the political changes both at procedural and substantive levels, and address the issue of identity politics. The study would try to understand as to where do the discourse of democracy and development figure in the political exigencies of the region. It would also try to comprehend a plethora of issues like the dynamics of how the hegemony of the centralist political parties, especially Congress got contested by the identity movements of the region. The study endeavours to understand how the regional political parties' attempt to address the identity as well development issues after capturing power in their respective states and why coalition politics has turned into a reality for the region despite strong undercurrent of regionalism. Most importantly, the study envisages understanding as to why regional political parties are regarded as essential to the psyche of existence of peripheral democracies.

Livelihood in the Context of Resources and Regulations in North East India: Does Outmigration for Work Ensures Economic Freedom?

Principal Investigator: Prof. Kalyan Das

Sponsoring Agency: In-house Study

This study comes out with certain propositions, short as well as long term, to lessen agony of the out-migrants for work to non-standard jobs from Northeast India. The outward movement of the workforce is not merely to fulfil immediate needs of the workers in crisis; plans of the workers reveal desire to go for self-employment initiatives; thus reflects yearning for freedom at work from the persistent constraints and un-freedom associated with casual works at distant places, not accounting the social costs involved not being with the family.

Encouraging out-migration for work needs to be considered as short run approach to deal with the adversities of present times in the states of the Northeast region of India. It requires long term plans on the part of the states on two fronts; one, support and facilitates the ventures of the return migrants or ventures initiated with remitted money at their places of origin, and two, make planning to use the available resources, physical and manpower, even by creating satellite platforms to generate avenues for economic activities. All the approaches however need to be well regulated to ensure sustainability in the long run.

Causes and Consequences of Outmigration in the Northeast region of India

Principal Investigator: Dr. Indraneel Bhowmik

Sponsoring Agency: In-house Study

The present study was conceived as part of Institute's research agenda for the Northeast. It attempted in exploring the causes and consequences of out-migration from the India's NER particularly in the backdrop of the perceived increase in the number of people moving out of the region. The broad objective of the study is to understand reasons for migration from the region and also to compare reasons of migration in other regions of the country. The present study on outmigration from the North-eastern region (NER) of India stemmed in the backdrop of the notional idea that out-migration from the region is rising in recent years owing to limited economic opportunities, widespread social and political stress and changing aspiration of the populace, particularly the youth. The broad goal of the effort was to examine and discuss the cause and consequence of such out-migration. The secondary data analysis based on Census 2011 aggregates provided the answers to the queries on the direction and flow of the out-migration; discussed and analysed the reasons behind such out-migration and also examined whether any difference existed over the causes with that of other parts of the country. The study argued that migration decision is a complex process and includes several behavioural determinants. Nonetheless, the conclusion is – cause of out-migration from the NER is economic and the consequences are also mostly economic though social features are also in abundance.

Evaluation of CSR & S Initiatives of NEEPCO Ltd, 2018-19

Principal Investigator: Dr. Monjit Borthakur, Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma

Sponsoring Agency: NEEPCO Limited

Following the mandatory provisioning of Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) has initiated numerous activities under its CSR and Sustainability programme. The Institute has undertaken the evaluation of CSR interventions implemented during 2018-19 in all project sites of NEEPCO Ltd in the Northeast. During the year, a total of 99 interventions were carried out which could be broadly categorised in five thrust areas such as Promotion of Education, Preventive Health Care, Rural Area Development, Entrepreneurship Development Program and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The interventions were selected and implemented carefully so that they succeed in catering some of the important needs of the local communities, specially the underprivileged section. The interventions were of various natures and yielded wide ranges of benefits. The community and public toiled constructed across the region helped in eliminating open defecation and in keeping the surrounding clean and healthy. The construction of large numbers of school buildings and classrooms increased the enrolments and encouraged the students to go back to the schools, the increased attendance of most of the schools were also the reflection of the same. Further, the interventions could usher significant changes in the

remote locations of the region. However, it has also been outlined in the report that interventions need to be complemented with supportive provisioning for better outcome and sustainability.

Ongoing studies

Discovery of Assam: History of Settlement in Assam

Principal Investigator: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah
Study Team: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah, Dr. Joydeep Baruah, Dr. Monjit Borthkaur, Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma
Sponsoring Agency: Government of Assam

Owing to myriad historical factors, contemporary Assam is a unique showcase of ethnic, linguistic, racial, cultural religious and many other forms of socio-cultural diversities. The state with its own demographic as well as physiographic diversities took its present shape as a distinct political unit of the federal structure of India through a complex politico-economic process rooted deeply in its colonial past. The unique diversities of the state therefore must be comprehended in its own historical context or spatio-temporality for envisaging common future. Understanding these diversities along with the challenges they offer and potential they contain, therefore, is of paramount significance and the present study has been proposed as an attempt at achieving this. The study envisages to bring out the unique physiographic specificities and diversities of the state and to understand their linkages with the environment and society. It wants to make a detailed study of the unique eco-system of the state by highlighting the myriad resources like natural, environmental and biodiversities and looking at their linkages with the economy of the state. The study is aimed at providing a comprehensive analysis of the demography of the state highlighting the specific features in each district outlining the changes with regard to the nature and movements of people since pre-independence period. Finally, the study will probe in depth the potentials and possibilities that the unique physiology, eco-system and social fabric offer for transforming the future of the state.

Estimation of Gross Fixed Capital Formation in Assam

Principal Investigator: Dr. Saswati Choudhury
Sponsoring Agency: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam

Estimation of capital formation is an important exercise in preparing national income accounts. The changes and expansion of the economy and economic activities requires fresh estimation of national income statistics taking note of the changes occurring as well as issues related to international comparability. This calls for updating definitions and base year, recognising changing activities, identifying new trends and initiatives. Over the years, several significant changes have taken place in the nature and functioning of the economy. This makes it imperative to examine the existing procedures and practices of estimating national income statistics at the state and district level. The present study, therefore, intends to contribute to the preparation of national income statistics by carefully looking at the pertinent issues, particularly, identifying data gaps in estimating Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in Assam.

Documentation, Monitoring and Evaluation of CSR interventions of North Eastern Electric Power Cooperation, 2019-2020

Principal Investigator: Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma
Sponsoring Agency: NEEPCO Limited

The Institute has pioneered the evaluation of CSR interventions implemented by many of the public sector enterprises operating in the region. The Institute prepared the baseline survey and formulation of CSR projects for North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited during 2012-13. Since then, the Institute has been undertaking the responsibility of documentation, monitoring and evaluation of CSR interventions implemented by the NEEPCO Limited for six years till 2017-18. The Institute has again signed one MoU with the NEEPCO Limited for the task of documentation, monitoring and evaluation of CSR interventions for another three years starting from 2018-19. Accordingly, the report for the year 2018-2019 has been submitted and the process of evaluation of CSR intervention is in progress for the year 2019-20.

India-Southeast Asia Relations and the New Silk Road: A Study of the Impacts for North-East India (Post Doctoral Fellowship)

Post-Doctoral Fellow: Dr. Dipongpou
Supervisor: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah
Sponsoring Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

The Northeast India which lies at the corridor of tri-junction of East, South and Southeast Asia is the first to be impacted with the New Silk Road as it can overcome the long overhaul and isolation in terms of economic and infrastructure development. With the enforcement of the New Silk Road, the Northeast can now revitalize its opportunity in terms of the social and economic paradox through the cooperation with East and Southeast Asian countries.

The study is about India and Southeast Asia's relations with special focus on the significance of road connectivity between the two regions after when India changed its foreign policy from dominantly West looking to looking East in the post-cold war. New Silk Road that is reopening along the old redundant route has the potential of linking India with Myanmar, China and other Southeast Asian countries. Moreover, it can create a platform where major stakeholders could meet and discuss issues in the context of promoting economic growth and trade, identify specific sectors and projects which would promote greater collaboration. For India, the New Silk Road is primarily to produce tangible relations between India and Southeast Asian countries and enhance economic ties. The Northeast region is the first to be impacted with this road connectivity as it lies at the corridor of tri-junction of East, South and Southeast Asia. From this perspective, the study is important to see the possibility of harnessing relations. As part of the study, few objectives are laid down to understand the impacts of New Silk Road viz. to study the changing dynamics of India-Southeast Asian countries relations in the post Cold War period; to assess the role of New Silk Road in strengthening the India-Southeast Asia relations in terms of social and economic cooperation; to examine how far the India-Southeast Asia connectivity through the New Silk Road can enhance the development of the Northeast region; to study the significance of New Silk Road in integrating the Northeast with mainland India and economically with the Southeast Asian countries; and finally to critically examine the challenges and prospects of New Silk Road for the inclusive development of the Northeast region.

Life, Livelihood and Exclusion: The Char Dwellers in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam

Principal Investigator: Dr. Rikil Chyrmang

Sponsoring Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

In terms of demography, Assam has the second largest concentration of Muslim population in India. But in this generalised statement the diversities, schism and contradiction within this minority population group in the state is often missed. As a result, the economic and social issues confronting certain sections within the Muslims in the State are glossed aside which not only hampers their socio-economic development but also limits the development discourse in the state in particular and the Northeast region in general. This project seeks to deal with one such population group within the minorities, i.e. the char dwellers of Assam. The history of migration and settlement of this 'people' are over a century old. But what has transpired in the lives and livelihood of this people is seldom an agenda of research in the region. The project wants to discuss about the life and livelihood, struggle and adaptation, exclusion and nationality formation of Char dwellers in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. Chars or the river islands of the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries have been under large scale anthropogenic intervention since the beginning of 20th century during the British rule. These people hailing from densely populated districts of erstwhile East Bengal (presently Bangladesh) were encouraged and facilitated by the British administration to migrate, settle and put under the plough the abundantly available 'wastelands' of Assam. Since then it has been over a hundred years now but there is a lack of any comprehensive study on the economic and social issues the lives of these people except for a few and piece meal ones. This study proposes to fill this research gap with field level and secondary interventions.

A Study on NRC and Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2016

Principal Investigator: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah

Sponsoring Agency: In-house Study

The issue of immigration from East Pakistan/ Bangladesh has been causing political ferments ever since Independence. The Bangladesh war of Independence during 1971 greatly complicated the issue. Due to the reign of terror unleashed by Pakistani army, a large number of people had to take refuge in Indian territory. Looking at the vexed issue, IMDT act was enacted in 1983 which was struck down in 2005 by the Supreme Court of India. The Foreigner Act 1946 is applicable in the matter of illegal immigrants and most recently the Citizenship Amendment Bill has been moved in Lok Sabha to deal with the matter. With this backdrop, it can be clearly seen that there are different political and social issues involved in this subject and need to be explored and considered very seriously to avoid any kind of arbitrariness on the procedure. Moreover, in the international prospective, there are many convention and declaration by the United Nation since 1951 on immigrants and eradication of statelessness in world of which India is a signatory. Hence a close investigation is necessary to see the complex issue by taking different aspects into consideration. The study proposes to look carefully whether the documents needed to claim registration in NRC are easily available or not particularly in the case of aged people, destitute women, orphans, children etc. It wants to look at the issue of D-Voters and its legal implications. The issue of human rights would also be looked closely of the people who have been lodged in the detention camps.

Status of Women Studies in the Northeast

Principal Investigator: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah
Sponsoring Agency: In-house Study

The Institute has taken up an important project to document the status of Women's Studies in the region. This attempt is a follow up of the workshop on 'Status of Women Studies in North East India' held by the Institute in collaboration with Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women's Studies, Tezpur University on 26th -27th November, 2015. Despite the long presence of Women Studies Centers/Departments/Cells in the region, they were unable to make their mark within the system and very little effort was made to document their history, existence and functioning. Not much was known about their existence and role they were expected to play. The study aims to bring out a report on the functioning of the Women Studies Centres/ Departments in the region and to understand constraints and challenges faced by them. This initiative of the Institute is aimed to contribute towards the future of research on women not just within the Northeast but also globally.

Research Agenda for the North-East

The Institute launched a Research Programme in 2017 following a workshop titled Research Agenda for the North-East. The workshop was attended by 50 scholars and experts from different Universities of the region where the idea of a collaborative research programme was mooted. As a follow-up of the workshop, 23 research proposals were considered for collaborative study approved by the Governing Body of the Institute. Following studies have been currently in progress at the Institute under the research programme. Title of the study and the name of the principal investigator are mentioned below.

Political Economy of Cash Crop in North East: A Value Chain Approach

Principal Investigator: Dr. Rajib Sutradhar

Distressed Situations and Indebtedness of Rural Households in Assam and Tripura

Principal Investigator: Dr. Saswati Choudhury

Does Informality Matter? Understanding Interactions Along and Across the Indo-Myanmar and Indo-Bangladesh Borders

Principal Investigator: Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma

Situating the Ethnic Communities in the Polity Discourse: A Study of the Mizoram-Myanmar Borderlands

Principal Investigator: Dr. Gorky Chakraborty

Understanding the Human-Nature Interaction: Political Ecology of Wetland Conservation in Assam

Principal Investigator: Dr. Monjit Borthakur

Emerging Agrarian Relations in North East India

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joydeep Baruah

Encountering Development: Locating Changing Gender Relations in India's North East

Principal Investigator: Dr. Arunima Deka

Integrationist-Transformative Agenda of the Nation State and the North East India

Principal Investigator: Prof. Bhupen Sarmah

Experiences and Experiments over Refugee-hood: A Study on Camps-Colonies and Spatial Change in North East India (1947-1971)

Principal Investigator: Dr. Anindita Ghoshal

Revisiting 'Khawkhawm': The Application and Implication of Village Re-settlement in Mizoram

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joseph K Lalfakzuala

Quality of Life and Livelihood Options of Landless Households in Mizoram

Principal Investigator: Dr. Benjamin L Saitluanga

Evolution of Democracy and Political Integration of Sikkim with the Indian Union

Principal Investigator: Dr. K. Santha

The Efficacy of Road Transportation Network in North East India: An Aggregative Study Principal Investigator: Dr. Subir Kumar Sen

New Research Initiatives

Understanding Problems of Minority Ethnic Communities in Northeast India for working out possible solutions

Principal Investigator: Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma

Study Team: Dr. Arunima Deka, Prof. Bhupen Sarma, Dr. Saswati Choudhury

Sponsoring Agency: North Eastern Council, Government of India

Northeast India is the home to hundreds of ethnic communities existing with myriad diversities of race, culture, language, religious beliefs, and others. The co-existence of numerous ethnic groups provides significant impetus to the identity and the ethno-cultural milieu of the region. However, ethnic communities and particularly the minority groups confront with variety of problems and challenges in the context of their development and quality of life. The study, therefore, intends to comprehend the problems and development deficits of the minority ethnic groups in the Northeast.

The study is to, first, map the minority ethnic communities in each states of the Northeast and create a socio-economic profile of the identified communities. Secondly, to comprehend the status of development/development deficits of the select/identified minority ethnic groups in the Northeast and to identify the causes responsible for their deprivation, if any, and finally to ascertain specific development/policy intervention in addressing the identified problems of the minority ethnic groups in each states of the Northeast. Thus, the study intends to come up with some broad policy options for the minority ethnic groups in the region.

Seminar and Workshops

Workshop on ‘Discovery of Assam: History of Settlement in Assam’

A workshop was organised as part of the study *Discovery of Assam: History of Settlement in Assam* on 21st August, 2020 at the Institute. The workshop was to decide about the outcome of the study with detail discussion on the chapter plans. The workshop was chaired by Shri Jishnu Baruah, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Assam. The workshop stressed that history of survey and settlement operation should be focussed in the study. The workshop was attended by host of academicians, subject experts and professionals and senior officials of Government of Assam.

Workshop on ‘Land Issues of Undivided Nagaon District of Assam’

Question of land is pertinent to the rights of citizens in the state. Lack of proper survey and settlement policy, land rights of people has already been threatened in the state. Consequently, issues such as land alienation, illegal encroachment, landlessness, and land entitlements needs proper attention in order to ensure land rights of the people. To understand the land issues of undivided Nagaon district which is divided into three districts i.e. Nagaon, Marigaon and Hojai, the Institute organised a workshop *Land Issues of Undivided Nagaon District* in collaboration with Buniad, Nagaon on 22nd November, 2020. The workshop was held at Bagh Hazarika Bhawan, Nagaon and attended by persons from different quarters such as academicians, farmers, social organisations etc. from all three districts of undivided Nagaon. The workshop highlighted how encroachment and land alienation are happening and how land rights are being violated.

OKD Dialogue on ‘National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)’

The Institute organised a Panel Discussion under its OKD Dialogue Programme on the issues raised in the report of National Family Health Survey-5 on 18th January, 2021. The programme organised through virtual platform and three prominent scholars from the areas of Gender and Health Economics –Dr. Sumit Majumdar from University of York, United Kingdom, Dr. Bijoya Roy from Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi and Prof. Polly Vauqueline from Gauhati University, Guwahati took part as resource persons in the event. The event was attended by around fifty participants from across the country and was moderated by Dr. Arunima Deka of the Institute. The deliberation raised the concerns over the issues of gender and state of family health in the country. The deliberation was followed by a lively discussion on different questions pertaining to the report.

Two-day Workshop on ‘Minority Ethnic Communities of Karbi Anglong: Problems and Development Deficits’

A two-day workshop was organised on ‘Minority Ethnic Communities of Karbi Anglong: Problems and Development Deficits’ at Bokajan, Karbi Anglong, Assam during 12th and 13th March, 2021. The idea of the workshop was to understand status of development of several minority ethnic communities living in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. Different minority communities such as Rengma, Banai, Kuki, Chakma and Man-Tai were represented in the workshop and raised their developmental concerns in the district in particular and the state in general. A total of 32 participants took part in the two-day long deliberations. Dr.

Akashy Jyoti Sarma coordinated the workshop and Prof. Bhupen Sarmah participated in as moderator of the event.

Workshop on ‘Minority Ethnic Communities of Goalpara: Problems and Development Deficits’

A workshop was organised on ‘Minority Ethnic Communities of Goalpara: Problems and Development Deficits’ at a village called Harimura in the Goalpara district of Assam on 16th March, 2021. The workshop was part of a series of workshop planned in different parts of the region in order to locate and understand minority ethnic communities in the region. Community organisation and their leadership from three different communities i.e. Hajong, Koch and Dalu participated in the workshop and made presentations on the status of their respective communities highlighting development deficits of each communities.

News from the Academic Staff

Prof. Bhupen Sarmah

Published a chapter ‘Nation State and North-east India: From Exclusion to Autonomy’ in Pankaj, Sarma and Borah (eds) *Social Sector Development in North-East India*, Sage Publication, 2021.

Published an article ‘Arunachal Pradesh: Political Economy of Becoming a Circumstantial State’, *Social Change and Development*, Vol. XVII, No. 2.

Published a Book Review ‘Global Governance and India’s North-East Logistics, Infrastructure and Society’, *Social Change and Development*, Vol. XVII, No. 1.

Made a presentation on ‘Women and Migrant Workers’ in the Virtual Regional Consultation on *Reviewing Laws Related to Inter-State Women Migrant Workers* organised by National Commission for Women in collaboration with National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam on 19th June, 2020.

Made a presentation on ‘Custom and the Constitution: Women in the Cultural Fabric of India’s North East’ in the web Symposium organised by ICC, Assam University on 28 July, 2020.

Made a presentation on ‘Land in the Areas of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution’ in the discussion organised by nezine.com on 20th December, 2020.

Delivered a Lecture for the participants of the Refresher Course organised by the UGC Human Resource Development Centre, University of North Bengal.

Delivered the Key-note address in the National Seminar on “Immigration of population in Assam and its impact on indigenous ethnicity: its solution through NRC” organised by F.A. Ahmed College, Goroimari, Assam on 18th and 19th March, 2021.

Prof. Kalyan Das

Published a Chapter ‘Unemployment and Outmigration for Work from North-East India: How Does it Ensure Wellbeing?’ in Ashok Pankaj, Atul Sarma, Antora Bora (eds) *Social Sector Development in North-East India*, Sage Publication, 2021

Report on ‘Economy of Assam in the backdrop of Covid 19 Pandemic’ (one of the lead authors), State Innovation and Transformation Aayog, Assam and OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, May 2020

Jury, Sustainable Development and Digital Process in North East India; 7th eNorth-East Award 2019-20; held virtually during June 9-12, 2020

Delivered an invited lecture through virtual mode ‘Diversification of Rural Employment in North-East India: Issues and Challenges, Mankachar College, Mankachar July 14, 2020

Dr. Saswati Choudhury

Publication

Report on “Economy of Assam in the Backdrop of Covid 19 Pandemic” (Co-author) prepared by OKD Institute of Social Change and Development for State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA), Government of Assam in May 2020.

Three Decades of Look east/Act East Policy: Where does Northeast India Stand, (Co-authored with Atul sarma), CSEA, GU Occasional Paper No.3, published by Centre for South East Asian Studies, Gauhati University, June 2020.

Nutrition, Human Development and COVID-19: Some Thoughts on Assam, published in *Functional Foods, health and Nutrition* e-journal, Vol. 2, No 33: Oct 2, 2020 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3701433>

Social Security Issues: Reflecting on Assam’s Concerns during the COVID-19 Pandemic published in *Political Economy Development: Health* e journal, Vol.8, No.204: Oct 20, 2020 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3702208>

PLFS-2018-19 and NFHS-4: Drawing Inferences for Indian Women during COVID-19 Pandemic published in *Economic Anthropology* e journal, Vol.3, No 163: Dec 10, 2020 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3708075>

Invited Talk/Lecture as Resource Person

Delivered the Key Note Address on 16.06.2020 on the theme Importance of Cross-Disciplinary Research in the Post Covid-19 Scenario: Social Perspectives at the Seven Days E-Faculty Development Programme on Cross-Disciplinary Research in the Post Covid-19 Scenario: Social Perspectives (16.06.2020 - 23.06.2020) organized by Royal Global University, Guwahati.

Delivered an invited lecture titled Social Security and Women’s Issues: Some Concerns at a National Webinar on Covid 19 and Assam: Challenges to the Economy and Social Security held on 16.6.2020 organized by Social Science Research Community (SSRC), India.

Delivered an invited lecture at the webinar ‘Covid 19 and Assam Economy: Some concerns’ organized by Biswanath College on 26.06.2020

Delivered an invited lecture titled ‘Healthcare in Assam: Looking from a gendered perspective’ on 2.7.2020 at Royal Global University organized by the Department of History, Royal Global University.

Delivered an invited lecture at the webinar ‘Coping with Economic challenges posed by Covid-19 Pandemic’ organized by THB College, Jamugurihat on 03.07.2020

Delivered a lecture titled Quantitative Research Design and Methods in a national webinar Statistics and Social Science Research: Field Realities, organized by Department of Statistics, Cotton University on 19.7.2020.

Delivered two lectures viz. Methodological issues and research process on 14.08.2020 and Quantification and Data Analysis on 16.08.2020 at five day Research Methodology Course on Social Sciences (13-17 August, 2020) organized by Department of Education, Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, Nalbari, Assam.

Delivered an invited lecture titled Indian Economy from Gender perspective: From the pandemic times to the future on 17.8.2020 at Pragjyotish College, Guwahati.

Delivered two lectures titled Dissemination of Research through publication and ethical concerns on 27.8.2020 in five day course (23-27 August, 2020) on Academic Writing for Research Publication organized by Department of Education, Assam University Silchar.

Delivered a lecture titled Public Policy and Governance on 8.9.20 at the Refresher Course in Political Science organized by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Gauhati University, Guwahati

Delivered an invited lecture titled Women Migrant Workers in India and Health Issues during Covid 19 pandemic on 26.9.20 at National Seminar Organized by KKH Open University, Guwahati and National Law Commission on Women Migrant Workers: Issues and Challenges during Covid 19 pandemic and post pandemic situation.

Delivered a lecture titled Gender and Economy: Northeast India Perspective on 14.12.20 at the Refresher Course in Gender Studies organized by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Gauhati University, Guwahati

Presented a paper titled *Act East Policy: Linkage from local economy to the regional economy* in the two day seminar on Revisiting North Eastern Region Vision 2020: Achievement, Emerging Challenges and Reorientation of Development Strategy for Future organized by the NIRD-NER during 6th-7th March, 2021.

Dr. Joydeep Baruah

Publication

“Poverty in North-east India: An Overview” in *Social Sector Development in North-East India*, Ashok Pankaj et. al. (eds.), Sage Publication, New Delhi, January 2021 (ISBN: 978-93-5388-532-8)

Report on Economy of Assam in the Backdrop of COVID 19 Pandemic (as one of the Lead Authors) on behalf of State Innovation and Transformation Aayog, Government of Assam, May 2020

Member of Government Committee

Served as a Member of the Advisory Committee constituted by Chief Minister, Assam for Reviving the State's Economy in the backdrop of COVID 19 during May – June, 2020

Invited Talk/Lecture as Resource Person

“Atmanirbhar Bharat: Towards an Understanding” in *National Webinar on Atmanirbharsir Bharat: Challenges and Opportunities* organized by SBMS College, Sualkuchi on June 19, 2020

“Political Economy of COVID 19: The Question of Inequality” in *4 Day Online Lecture Series on Economy, Health and Education* organized by Gargaon College, Sibsagar on June 23, 2020

“COVID 19 and Macro-economic Considerations” in *National Webinar on COVID 19 and Its Impact* organized by DCB Girls College, Jorhat on June 26, 2020

“Introduction to Research Design and Quantitative Analysis” in *Online Faculty Development Programme* organized by Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University on June 27, 2020

“Doing Social Science Research in Contemporary Times” in the *Online Faculty Development Programme* organized by Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University on August 3, 2020

“Impact of COVID 19 on the Economy of Mizoram” in *National Webinar on Impact of Covid-19 on Migrant Workers, Employment & Economy: Special reference to Mizoram* organized by Government T Romana College, Mizoram on August 19, 2020

“COVID 19 and Agriculture in Assam” in *National Webinar on COVID 19 and Assam's Economy* organized by Dispur College in Collaboration with KKH State Open University on August 22, 2020

“COVID 19 and Impact on MSMEs” in *National Webinar on Covid-19 Pandemic: Some Economic Issues* organized by Majuli College, Majuli on August 30, 2020

“Idea of Human Development and Human Development in Assam” in *Online Refresher Course in Political Science* organized by Gauhati University on September 14, 2020

“Revitalising the Economy after COVID 19: Issues and Challenges” in *Webinar on Reviving the Economy of Mizoram after COVID 19* organized by Government Saitual College, Mizoram on October 10, 2020

“Sources of Data: Thinking Beyond Primary Data” in *Online Workshop on Doing Social Science Research amidst COVID 19* organised by School of Social Sciences, Tata Institute of Social Science Research, Guwahati Campus on December 11, 2020

Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma

Published a paper “Borderlands of India’s Northeast and Myanmar: a Community and Cultural Space” *Dialogue Quarterly*, 21:2.

Presented a Paper ‘State and Rhetoric of Development in India’s Northeast’ in the National Seminar on *Democratising the Discourse of Right: Understanding the question of Human Security and the Role of the State in North East India* organized by Kumar Bhaskar Barma University of Sanskrit and Ancient Studies, Nalbari, March 19-20, 2021.

Participated in the virtual workshop *Promoting Improved Water Cooperation in South Asia: Building a cohort of practitioners through Inter-disciplinary training in Hydro Diplomacy* organised by the Asia Foundation and Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, 24th June, 2020

Dr. Monjit Borthakur

Published a paper “Swelter in the city: Urban greenery and its effects on temperature in Guwahati, India”, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 41.3 (2020): 341-366. (1st Author)

Published a paper “Aboveground biomass estimation and carbon stock assessment along a topographical gradient in the forests of Manipur, Northeast India”, *Arabian Journal of Geosciences*, 13 (2020): 1-16. (Co Author)

Dr. Arunima Deka

Published a book review ‘Agrarian Relations in Tripura’, *Social Change and Development*, Vol.XVII, No. 2

Delivered a lecture ‘How to do Review of Literature’ in the workshop on Social Science Research During Covid 19 and Academic Writing, organised by School of Social Sciences and Humanities, TISS, Guwahati held on 11-12th December, 2020.



D. K. Sarmah, M.Com, F.C.A.

DILIP SARMAH & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants

2G, Century Apartment
G. S. Road,
Ganeshguri, Guwahati-6
Phone : 2232570 (O)
98640-68225 (M)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change & Development, Upper Hengerabari, VIP Road, Guwahati – 781036, Assam, as at 31st March, 2021 and the annexed Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date, which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the Institute.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been maintained by the Institute, so far as it appears from our examination of those books.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said Balance Sheet and the Income & Expenditure Account give respectively, a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Institute as at 31st March, 2021 and the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date. Our Observations and suggestions on accounts are enclosed separately.

For Dilip Sarmah & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Place : Guwahati
Date : 29-07-2021



(D.K.Sarmah)
Proprietor
Membership No. : 054100
FRN : 319039E

OBSERVATIONS & SUGGESTIONS

1. The Institute is maintaining MOD (Multi Option Deposit) with SBI Six Mile and SBI Hatigaon Branch. Balance in MOD Accounts are subject to confirmation and reconciliation.

2. The following advances were made from 'Foreign Contribution' Account :

(i) Advances under Peace Studies Programme : Rs. 21,902.00

(ii) Advances for project on Pivot to The East : Rs. 620.00

It has been observed that these advances are lying unadjusted though the advances were made long back.



NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
ON 31-03-2021

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Basis of Accounting :

The financial statements have been drawn up under the Historical Cost on Accrual Basis. Further, the accounts have been prepared to comply, in all material aspects with the Generally Accepted Accounting principles followed in India.

2. Fixed Assets :

Fixed Assets are valued at Cost. All costs relating to acquisition and installation of Fixed Assets are capitalised.

3. Depreciation :

Depreciation is charged on written down method, applying the rates specified in the Income Tax Act, 1961 on single shift basis.

4. Contingent Liabilities:

No contingent liability exist as on the date of Balance Sheet, i.e., 31-03-2020.

5. Grant in Aid : All grants including specific grants are recognized as income and are credited to Income & Expenditure Account.



OMEEO KUMAR DAS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
UPPER HENGERABARI, VIP ROAD, GUWAHATI-781036, ASSAM

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31-03-2021

	Sch. No	Amount (Rs.)	
		Current Year 31/03/2021	Previous Year 31/03/2020
<u>CAPITAL FUND & LIABILITIES</u>			
CAPITAL FUND	1	176,628,899.89	252,044,667.56
ENDOWMENT FUND	2	29,750,189.14	29,536,883.14
DEVELOPMENT FUND	3	29,548,786.00	28,144,361.00
CORPUS FUND	4	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00
SPECIFIED ACCUMULATION FUND	5	103,262,071.00	0.00
EMPLOYEES WELFARE FUND	6	714,769.65	709,807.65
CURRENT LIABILITIES	7	4,248,712.00	4,207,005.00
		<u>364,153,427.68</u>	<u>334,642,724.35</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
FIXED ASSETS	8	105,213,435.00	86,854,473.00
INVESTMENTS	9	0.00	0.00
CURRENT ASSETS	10	255,655,085.35	245,563,854.02
LOANS & ADVANCES	11	3,284,907.33	2,224,397.33
		<u>364,153,427.68</u>	<u>334,642,724.35</u>

Signed in terms of our report of even date

For Dilip Sarmah & Associates
Chartered Accountants



Place : Guwahati
Date : 29-07-2021

(D K Sarmah)
Proprietor
Membership No. 054100
FRN : 319039E

OMEEO KUMAR DAS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
UPPER HENGERABARI, VIP ROAD, GUWAHATI-781036, ASSAM

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31-03-2021

	Schedu	Amount (Rs.)	
		Current Year 31/03/2021	Previous Year 31/03/2020
<u>INCOME</u>			
GRANT IN AID	12	45,743,000.00	109,187,870.00
INTEREST EARNED	13	12,472,196.03	7,923,411.86
OTHER INCOME	14	133,930.00	41,128,768.62
		<u>58,349,126.03</u>	<u>158,240,050.48</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES	15	22,451,818.00	25,301,011.00
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.	16	2,028,395.70	7,160,144.58
EXPENDITURE ON PROJECTS	17	2,573,856.00	23,240,414.00
DEPRECIATION	7	1,831,022.00	2,180,592.00
SPECIFIED ACCUMULATION RESERVE		103,262,071.00	0.00
SURPLUS/DEFICIT CARRIED TO CAPITAL FUND		(73,798,036.67)	100,357,888.90
		<u>58,349,126.03</u>	<u>158,240,050.48</u>

Signed in terms of our report of even date

For Dilip Sarmah & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Place : Guwahati
Date : 29-07-2021



(D K Sarmah)
Proprietor
Membership No. 054100
FRN : 319039E

**OMEQ KUMAR DAS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
UPPER HENGERABARI, VIP ROAD, GUWAHATI-781036, ASSAM**

SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31-03-2021

	Schedule No	Amount (Rs.)	
		31/03/2021	31/03/2020
<u>CAPITAL FUND</u>	1		
Balance at the beginning of the year		252,044,667.56	182,288,346.80
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure		(73,798,036.67)	100,357,888.90
		<u>178,246,630.89</u>	<u>282,646,235.70</u>
Less : Transferred to Development fund		1,404,425.00	28,144,361.00
Less : Transferred to Endowment fund		213,306.00	2,457,207.14
Balance at the end of the year		<u>176,628,899.89</u>	<u>252,044,667.56</u>
<u>ENDOWMENT FUND</u>	2		
Balance at the beginning of the year		29,536,883.14	27,079,676.00
Add : Transfer from Capital Fund		213,306.00	2,457,207.14
Balance at the end of the year		<u>29,750,189.14</u>	<u>29,536,883.14</u>
<u>DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>	3		
Balance at the beginning of the year		28,144,361.00	0.00
Add : Transfer from Capital Fund		1,404,425.00	28,144,361.00
Balance at the end of the year		<u>29,548,786.00</u>	<u>28,144,361.00</u>
<u>CORPUS FUND</u>	4		
Balance at the beginning of the year		20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00
Add : Received		0.00	0.00
Balance at the end of the year		<u>20,000,000.00</u>	<u>20,000,000.00</u>
<u>SPECIFIED ACCUMULATION RESERVY</u>	5		
Balance at the beginning of the year		0.00	0.00
Add : Reserve Created		103,262,071.00	0.00
Balance at the end of the year		<u>103,262,071.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>EMPLOYEES WELFARE FUND</u>	6		
Balance at the beginning of the year		709,807.65	625,676.00
Add : Net income earned		4,962.00	84,131.65
Balance at the end of the year		<u>714,769.65</u>	<u>709,807.65</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	7		
TDS Payable		111,439.00	339,400.00
Professional Tax		5,484.00	5,184.00
CPF		332,547.00	342,159.00
Payable to Dr. Anindita Ghoshal		6,790.00	6,790.00
Payable against Project on Women Armed Conflict		957.00	957.00
Labour Cess payable		0.00	120,808.00
GST Payable		0.00	342,078.00
Security Deposit		3,791,495.00	3,049,629.00
		<u>4,248,712.00</u>	<u>4,207,005.00</u>

