

Annual Report on Academic Activities 2022-2023

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

1. ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

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.

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 2022 – 23.

2. STUDIES COMPLETED

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

Sponsoring Agency: OKDISCD, Guwahati

Study Team: Gorky Chakraborty (Associate Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata) and Ro Hmingmawii (Associate Professor, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, Mizoram)

Date of Starting: 1.10.2017

Date of Submission: 7.09.2022

Amount: ₹3,00,000/-

In sync with the research Agenda set in the institute, that underscores North-East India and emerging South-East Asia, the institute has undertaken several projects whose immediate objective is to examine the development of North-East India through the lens of Look (Act) East Policy. This study intends to understand space in the context of borderland areas. The report argues that the Indian state and its agencies and apparatuses aspire to usher in through the Look East Policy a ‘place’ for the region in the global circuit of capital. The people inhabiting these spaces remain skeptical if not apprehensive about the intentions and ramifications of such statist imaginations. Eventually, it tried to problematize the ‘connotations’ associated with the trade space of the state and ethnic space of the communities. It also tries to identify the policy measures in terms of actualizing the Look (Act) East Policy in the Mizoram-Myanmar borderland.

The study had found sharp contrast between the existing border trade in NER and container trade that is envisaged in Look (Act) East Policy Documents. The study highlights that for the state trade is purely an international or pan-regional attempt at making economic gains. However, to the borderland communities, trade continues to be petty and informal, and an inter-community (if not intra-community) process of exchange. This not only includes exchange of goods and commodities, but also social and community exchange. This kind of border trade operated through inter/intra-ethnic cooperation.

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

Sponsoring Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research

Research Team: RikilChyrmang (Assistant Professor, Central University of South Bihar) Gorky Chakraborty (Associate Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata) and Bhupen Sarmah (Professor, OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: 30.12.2015

Date of Submission: 11.07.2022

Amount: ₹ 10,00,000/-

Char dwellers of Assam, a population group mostly comprising of Muslims (more than 85 per cent) historically hailing from erstwhile East Bengal (present-day Bangladesh) and who continue to be the worst victims of ubiquitous “indigenous-foreigner-minority” syndrome not only in the Northeastern region but far beyond. Furthermore, the socio-economic conditions of *Char* areas are strikingly poor in the Brahmaputra valley. In this backdrop, the study tries to discuss the life and livelihood, struggle and adaptation, exclusions and nationality formation of the char dwellers in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam.

The study suggests that the major socio-economic factors related to the poor socio-economic conditions of the char dwellers are not only varied but intertwined too. If geography appears to be the constitutive factor in their isolation, the socio-psychological surroundings also equally contribute to the isolation of char dwellers. With a higher cropping intensity and diversified crop profile, an intersection of structural factors as well as instrumental rigidities debar them from enjoying the fruits of the market ultimately affecting their living and livelihoods. This study also points out that a legislative gap and a jurisprudential hiatus concerning the governance and administration pattern of the impermanent land often add to the precariousness of the existence of the char dwellers. The study also observed that migration from a less stable char to a relatively more stable area if not to the mainland is an existential reality of the char dwellers. The study opines that the problems of exclusion and underdevelopment in the study areas are not merely confined to lagging income levels, but also extend to the process of development itself. A bottom-up approach to development planning strategy is required for the char dwellers to uplift their backwardness and deprivation.

Revisiting ‘Khawkhawm: The Application and implication of Village Re-settlement in Mizoram

Sponsoring Agency: OKDISCD, Guwahati

Research Team: Joseph K Lalfakzuala (Assistant Professor, Government T. Romana College, Aizawl, Mizoram).

Date of Starting: 12.09.2017

Date of Submission: 7.07.2022

Amount: ₹ 4,00,000/-

The research project is the outcome of the deliberative effort of OKD Institute of Social Change and Development to make comprehensive study on the grouping of villages in the present state of Mizoram. As counter-insurgency measures, grouping of villages has a serious impact on the socio-economic life of the people of Mizoram. The impact was not only on the economic and social arena but the psychological impact on the people needs a deeper inquiry in order to understand the distortion created by the institution of the State.

The study finds that the grouped centre had been christened as the centre of development which was a scapegoat for army operation. After the grouping was halted due to the high court intervention and the upgradation of Mizo district to Union Territory, the grouped centres came under the jurisdiction of UT government of Mizoram from the state Govt. of Assam. Eventually, people were allowed and de-restricted to move back to their old villages. This

was also necessary due to economic and social constrain as enough land for jhum cultivation soon become scarce on which almost all the people depended for their livelihood.

Social Review of Disaster Death

Sponsoring Agency: Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of Assam

Research Team: Bhupen Sarma (Professor, OKDISCD), Akshay Jyoti Sarma (Assistant Professor, OKDISCD), Arunima Deka (Assistant Professor, OKDISCD), Swapna Kr. Singha (former research associate, OKDISCD) and ChiraiBeKuame (former research associate, OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: 4.07.2022

Date of Submission: 06/10/2022

Amount: ₹ 6,60,000/-

The unprecedented rain experienced by Assam during April-May, 2022 caused massive floods across the state and landslides in Dima-Hasao district, leading to the death of 25 people. In view of this catastrophe, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority conceived an idea to do a ‘Social Review of Disaster Deaths’ to explore and investigate personal behaviour of people that might have cause the deaths and family background of the deceased. ASDMA assigned OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati to conduct a research based on case studies of the 25 persons died during the disaster. The victims were mainly daily wage earners or engaged in petty business. The educational attainment of the victims was below the level of Higher Secondary except for one. The victims who died due to flood had visibly poor housing conditions that indicated their low level of economic well being. However, the victims affected by landslides had concrete houses but built in hill slopes vulnerable to landslide.

The study reiterated the importance of capacity building among the people in disaster-prone areas to mitigate future disasters through raising awareness and fostering qualitative changes in both individual and societal behaviour. The report also emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among various government departments to mitigate these disasters.

Efficacy of Arundhati Gold Scheme in Assam

Sponsoring Agency: Inspector General of Registration, Govt of Assam

Research Team: Saswati Choudhury (Associate Professor, OKDISCD) and Antora Borah (Assistant Professor, OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: 17.8.2022

Date of Submission: 14.12.2022

Amount: ₹ 5,31,300/-

The Study ‘Efficacy of Arundhati Gold Scheme in Assam’ was taken up by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati at the behest of the Office of the Inspector General of Registration, Assam. The study report has made an attempt to understand the effectiveness and usefulness of the Arundhati Gold Scheme launched in Assam in the year 2020.

The report observed that the scheme has been particularly helpful for the economically weaker section of people since the cash benefit has helped the parents to gift their daughters with cash amount for purchase of gold. However, the scheme requires wider publicity so that it can benefit its intended population especially in tea garden areas and minority pockets. The report also suggested revamping the programme by including other options like saving instruments for a fixed tenure of 10 years with any nationalized bank in the name of the married girl which would provide future financial asset to the girl.

Estimation of Gross Fixed Capital Formation in Assam

*Sponsoring Agency: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam
Research Team: Saswati Choudhury (Associate Professor, OKDISCD), Prof. Ratul Mahanta, (Professor, Department of Economics, Guahati university), Anshuman Barua (Assistant professor, Department of Economics, Guahati University)*

Date of Starting: 19.03.2021

Date of Completion: 30.06.2023

Amount: ₹ 17,69,111/-

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 study, therefore, contributed 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 and developing the methodology for estimation of GFCF for private and household sector for the State of Assam.

3. ON-GOING STUDY

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

*Sponsoring Agency: North Eastern Council, Govt. of India
Research Team- Akshay Jyoti Sarma (Assistant Professor, OKDISCD)
Date of Starting: 27.10.2020
Expected date of completion: 30.11.2023.
Amount: ₹ 32,80,000/-*

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. Therefore, the North Eastern Council, Govt. of India has assigned to the institute a study to provide an in-depth mapping of the minority ethnic communities in the region and identify certain key socio economic issues which might require certain development interventions. The study, therefore, intends to comprehend the problems and development deficits of the minority ethnic groups in the Northeast. The study therefore will make an attempt to map the minority ethnic communities in each state of the Northeast and create a socio-economic profile of the identified communities. In addition, the study will seek to understand the status of development/development deficits of the select/identified minority ethnic groups in the Northeast and identify the causes responsible for their deprivation, if any. Finally, the study envisaged to development/policy intervention in addressing the identified problems of the minority ethnic groups in each state of the Northeast. The study intends to come up with some broad policy options for the minority ethnic groups in the region.

Impact Assessment of the Pilot Phase of Skill Development Training Programme under ABOCWNB

*Sponsoring Agency-Assam Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Board
Research Team- Saswati Choudhury(Associate Professor, OKDISCD)and Krishna Surjya Das (Assistant Professor, OKDISCD)*

Date of Starting: 28.11.2022

Expected Date of Completion: 10.10.2023.

Amount:₹ 36,26,700/-

The Government of Assam constituted the Assam Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board in 2008. Under this board, the Govt. of Assam initiated the Skill Training Programme (STP) since the year 2018-19 in two phases covering the districts of Barpeta, Nalbari, Baksa, Bongaigaon, Darrang, Kamrup, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Sivasagar and, Jorhat. Three agencies were engaged for the purpose. A total of 30 districts are covered under the Programme with 99 centres utilised by 13 Training Partners selected for the purpose. The Assam Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board requested the responsibility on OKD Institute of Social Change & Development, Guwahati to assess the learning outcome of STP for the trained construction workers. The Institute, has taken up an impact assessment study on the outcomes of STP in eleven districts of Assam. This study mainly focuses on identification of exclusion or wrong inclusion in the beneficiary selection; assess the beneficiary satisfaction, effectiveness of Training partners, impact of STP upon the overall growth of the beneficiaries.

Preparation of a pictorial presentation of the history of settlement in Assam

Sponsored Agency: Director of Land Record & Service

Research Team: Bhupen Sarma (Professor, OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: 29/03/22

Amount: ₹ 35,05,000/-

Expected Date of Completion: 30.12.2023.

The objective of this pictorial is to depict the changes in the nature of settlements. This process aims to facilitate the digital mapping of both colonial and contemporary settlement patterns within Assam. The digitized maps, encompassing colonial and contemporary data, will prove valuable in delineating the trends and alterations within the settlements that have unfolded over time.

4. Lecture Series

- i. Special Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav Online Lecture on “Colonial Borders as State Simplification Project: Garo Hills in the late 19th and early 20th century” by Sanjeeva Kumar IAS (retd) on 6th April, 2022.
- ii. Special Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav Online Lecture on the topic "Impact of New Technologies on Manufacturing Employment in India: The Case of Multi-purpose Industrial Robots" by Professor Sunil Mani, Director and RBI Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala on 17th August, 2022.
- iii. Special Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav Online Lecture on “Space, Method and Ideology: Some Notes on Knowledge Making in British Assam” by Dr Manjeet Baruah, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 9th September, 2022.
- iv. Special Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav Online Lecture on "Meanings of Democracy in Post-Colonial India" delivered by Dr. Hilal Ahmed, Associate Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi, on 14th October, 2022.

5. Discussion Series

Special Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Union Budget Discussion 2022-23

A discussion on Union Budget was organised by the Institute on February 10, 2023. The panellists of the discussion were Dr. Gautam Mazumdar, Professor at Royal Global University, and Shri. Biswajit Chakrabarty, a Senior Director at FICCI and Saswati Choudhury, Director, OKDISCD moderated the panel discussion. The discussion was attended by the Faculty members, research scholars of OKDISCD and various other academic institutions.

6. Seminar/Conference/Workshop

Workshop on Livelihood Vulnerabilities and Changing Agricultural pattern in Flood and Erosion prone districts of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji

A workshop was organized in collaboration with Dhakuakhana College at Dhakuakhana on 28th April, 2022 on “Issues on Livelihood Vulnerabilities and Changing Agricultural Pattern in the Flood and Erosion Prone Districts of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji”. The idea of the workshop was to understand the issues and vulnerabilities of flood and erosion affected areas in districts of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. The workshop was attended by around 30 participants including 10 resource persons from local communities of both the districts who are well acquainted with the local situations and working on different areas for promoting alternative livelihood and agricultural practices. The event was coordinated by Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma of OKD Institute and Dr. Pankaj Borah of Dhakuakhana College.

National Seminar on Quest for Alternative Livelihood Measures in Flood-Affected Areas with Special Reference to Majuli

OKD Institute of Social Change and Development in collaboration with IQAC, Majuli College has organised a National Seminar on Quest for Alternative Livelihood Measures in Flood-Affected Areas with Special Reference to Majuli on 30th September, 2022 at Keshabram Borah Auditorium, Majuli College. Prof. Sailajananda Saikia of Rajiv Gandhi University delivered the key note address of the inaugural session of the seminar and subsequently two technical sessions were conducted where scholars from different colleges in the region presented their paper. The papers highlighted about indigenous alternative livelihood strategies especially of Mishing tribes, local adaptation and coping strategies of farmers to mitigate disasters, educational and economic status of flood affected people, etc.

National Seminar on Forest Rights, Administration and Challenges in Assam

Two-day national seminar was organised by DCB Girls’ College in collaboration OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati on 29th & 30th November, 2022. Prof. Bhupen Sarma from OKDISCD delivered the key note address in the inaugural session of the seminar. The research scholars and academician from across the state have presented their paper. The scope of the seminar is to understand the forest rights in the context of Assam such as relation of forest to community spaces in Assam, role of the state in maintaining forest cover, rights of the indigenous communities, and challenges of deforestation, encroachment and eviction. The seminar had four technical sessions with 19 papers.

Panel Discussion during 23rd North East Economic Association Conference

The OKD Institute of Social Change and Development collaborated with the Economics Department of Tripura University to organize a panel discussion on 17th November, 2022 titled “India and her Neighbouring Countries” at the North East Economic Association conference held at Tripura University during 16th to 18th November 2022. Prof. Prabir De, ASEAN Centre, RIS New Delhi; Prof. B Panda, NEHU & Hony Director, ICSSR-NERC;

Prof. C Priyoranjan Singh, Manipur University; Prof. Ashish Nath, Tripura University; Dr. Loken Das, General Manager, NABARD, Agartala and Dr. Sabyasachi Datta, Director Asian Confluence, Shillong participated as panelist which was moderated by Saswati Choudhury, OKDISCD.

Interaction with Kerala Administrative Service Trainee Officers

On 27th of October, 2022, 21 newly selected State Civil Service training officers of Kerala and a guide came to visit Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development for their training purposes in the North Eastern region. The programme started with an introductory session followed by felicitation of the guests. Saswati Choudhury, Director (i/c) OKDISCD made a brief presentation about the Institute and its objectives and functions. She also provided the KAS training officers with insightful information about the history, culture and geographic attributes of North East India. Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sharma, Faculty OKDISCD highlighted about Look (Act) East policy, and development constraints in the border areas. The cadres also shared their experiences in the state of Kerela. Dr. Krishna Surjya Das, (faculty OKDISCD) also highlighted the limitations in data availability that hinder adequate policy interventions in North-eastern region. The cadres gave a vivid description of decentralization system that exists in Kerala and how the Civil Society plays an important role in dealing with the various issues and challenges. They also threw light on the importance of Kudumbashree in Kerala. The program concluded with a vote of thanks offered by the guests.

Workshop on Qualitative Research Methodology

A workshop was held between 12 March to 18 March, 2023 at the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD). The purpose of the workshop was to share provide an indepth understanding to young social science researchers about different facets of Qualitative Research. The workshop was organized by OKDISCD and was attended by 27 participants.

The workshop was conducted over the course of seven days, with a total of 25 sessions. The resource persons for the course covered various topics related to Qualitative research. The sessions were interactive and provided ample opportunities for the attendees to engage in discussions. The participants expressed satisfaction with the content and delivery of the sessions.

ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar on Fiscal Policy and Economic Development: Sustainability Perspective in the North Eastern States of India

The OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, in collaboration with Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, organized a two-day National Seminar on Fiscal Policy and Economic Development: A Sustainability Perspective in the North Eastern States of India on the 21st and 22nd of March, 2023, at Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. Prof. Pinaki Chakraborty, Former Director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi delivered the keynote address during the inaugural session of the seminar. In the technical sessions, scholars from various academic institutions including

universities and colleges from Assam and neighbouring states presented papers. The conference highlighted the issues associated with fiscal prudence in North-East India and the importance of fiscal consolidation and effective fiscal policy in the region.

7. Publication of the Institute

1. Social Change and Development, Journal of OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Volume XIX, No.2, July 2022 with 8 research papers and 1 book review.

8. Celebration/Events

Celebration of Independence Day

This year India celebrated its 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav on 15th August, 2022. OKD Institute of Social Change and Development also celebrated Independence Day, 2022 with great pomp and show with the rest of the nation.

Celebration of International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day, 2022 was observed in OKDISCD, Guwahati on 21st June, 2022. The OKD employees came together and practices Yoga Asanas on this day for better health and well-being under the guidance of Shri Rustom Ali, who has been a regular Yoga practitioner. This was also followed by a discussion session on the benefits of Yoga as way towards a healthy living.

Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Bhagaban Birsa Munda as Janajatiya Gourav Diwas

To commemorate the contribution of the tribal freedom fighters, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development celebrated ‘Janjatiya Gaurav Divas’ on 15th November on the occasion of birth Anniversary of tribal warrior Birsa Munda. One of major objective of this Diwas is to celebrate the life history of various unsung janjatiya/indigenous heroes in the Freedom Struggle of India. Dr. Antora Borah, Faculty of OKDISCD made a presentation on “Unsung Tribal Heroes of Independence Movement & Anti-Colonial Resistance Movements of North-East India” which was followed by a brainstorming discussion among the participants. Prof. Bhupen Sarma also highlighted about the significance of such celebration and how most of the anti-colonial movements in North-East India are peasants or land reform movements.

Celebration of Republic Day

On 26th January, 2023 Republic Day was celebrated in the campus with hoisting of the national flag followed by singing of the national anthem. A friendly badminton match was organised among the employees of the Institute followed by a breakfast.

Motivational Camp for all employees of OKDISCD at its Tetelia Campus

A motivational camp was organised on 5th January, 2023 at Tetelia campus of the Institute for the overall development of the employees of the Institute. It was a day long programme with various ice-breaking sessions and games among the employees.

9. Academic Contribution of Faculty Members

Prof. Bhupen Sarma

- Delivered the Valedictory Lecture at the two day National Seminar on "Towards Social Equality: Multiple Contexts and Approaches with special reference to North-East India" organised by Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Tezpur University during 2-3 November, 2022.
- Delivered the Keynote Address of the two day National Seminar on "Forest Rights, Administration, and Challenges in Assam" organised by DCB Girls' College Jorhat during 29-30 November, 2022.
- Delivered two lectures on 'Qualitative Research Methodology Workshop' organized at Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development on 13th March 2023.

Saswati Choudhury

- Delivered two lectures on 15th September, 2022 titled 'Understanding Development Through Gender Lens' and 'Gender and Labour Participation' in the Short-term Course in Gender Sensitization organized by UGC, HRD Cell, NEHU (w.e.f. 13th to 19th September, 2022).
- Delivered a lecture on 22nd November, 2022 titled 'Women's Issues and Government Programmes' for a Refresher Course on Women Empowerment: Issues and Challenges and Social Issues on Child and Women Development organized by Gauhati University, Guwahati (w.e.f. 16th November-1st December, 2022).
- Participated as a Resource Person and presented a paper titled "Act East Policy: Situating North Eastern States of India" in one-day conference on 'Act East Policy, Regional Economic Integration and Development of the North-eastern Region of India.' on 13th May 2022 at Shillong organized by Indian Council of Social Science Research, North Eastern Regional Centre (ICSSR-NERC), Shillong in collaboration with Association of Asian Scholars (AAS), New Delhi.
- Participated as a penelist in the panel discussion 'Migration & Peace-building' at the Conclave, Northeast Indian Region: A Strategic Connector for the Indo Pacific Region organized on 18th August 2022 at Shillong organized by Asian Confluence Center, Shillong in collaboration with ICCR, NER.
- Participated and presented a paper on 'Cross-Border Boundaries and Corridors of Connectedness: Assam in Sub-regional Development' at a national seminar with the

theme of 'Subregional Co-operation for Trade, Investment, and Employment with Reference to North Eastern States of India,' organized at Tripura University on 22nd March, 2023.

Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma

- Published a paper "Developmental Transformation in India's Northeast: A Critical Appraisal" in Pankaj K Sarmah (ed.) *Democratising the Discourse of Rights and Human Security in India's Northeast*, DVS Publishers, Guwahati.
- Published a paper "Paradox of Development in India's Northeast: The Act East Policy and beyond", in *Social Change and Development*, in January, 2023.

Dr. Arunima Deka

- Completed the Post-Doctoral Fellowship program from September 2022 to March 2023 at the MS Merian-R. Tagore International Centre for Advanced Studies 'Metamorphoses of the Political' (ICAS: MP). The fellowship was undertaken as part of the project 'Land, Resource, and Politics: Looking at Contemporary Northeast India'.

Dr. Krisha Sujya Das

- Published a paper with Pratisha Borborah, titled Building Agency: Women Vendors and Gendered Technology in Informal Markets in Assam in *Gender & Development*, 30(3), 517-530, Routledge.
- Resource person for three online sessions on the topic of "Population Growth and Projection" for the Department of Economics at Gargoan College, as part of their lecture series on "Basic Demography: Scope for Future Research," from November 21st, 2022, to December 1st, 2022.
- Joint Convenor for ICSSR-sponsored two-day National Seminar on Fiscal Policy and Economic Development: A Sustainability Perspective in the North Eastern States of India organized in collaboration with Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University on the 21st and 22nd of March, 2023, at Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati.

Dr. Antora Borah

- Delivered a lecture title "Hostility to Co-existence: Cross-cutting Ties & Hybrid Identity among the 'Immigrant Bangladeshi' and Indigenous Groups in the foothill border of Assam-Nagaland" in 4th Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for the years 2022 -2023 on 25th October, 2022 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Chaired a session "Displacement, Encroachment & Eviction" in National Seminar on "Forest Rights, Administration and Challenges in Assam" in DCB Girls' College on November 29, 2022.

- Participated as Resource Person in “State Level Workshop on Creating Enabling Ecosystem for Women’s Safety & Empowerment” by Directorate of Women & Child Development, Government of Assam.