



Abstract Volume
Two-Days ICSSR Sponsored
National Seminar
on
Witch Hunting : A Curse in Assam



Organized by:
Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College
Sivasagar, Pin: 785683, Assam, India

In Collaboration with

ACTA, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College Unit
Sivasagar, Pin: 785683, Assam

26th & 27th October, 2018.

I



Abstract Volume
Two-Day ICSSR Sponsored
National Seminar
on
Witch Hunting : A Curse in Assam



Organized by:

Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College
Sivasagar, Pin: 785683, Assam, India

In Collaboration with
ACTA, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College Unit
Sivasagar, Pin: 785683, Assam

Website: www.jhanjihnscollege.edu.in
Date: 26th & 27th October, 2018

II

A collection of abstracts of papers to be presented in the two-day ICSSR sponsored national seminar on Witch Hunting : A Curse in Assam organized by Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College, Sivasagar, Assam in collaboration with ACTA, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College Unit, Sivasagar, Assam - 785683 on 26th & 27th October, 2018.

Editorial Board:

Chief Advisor

Dr. Manjit Gogoi

Advisors:

Mrs. Mamoni Borgohain

Mr. Jyoti Prasad Gogoi

Mr. Sagidul Hoque Borborah

Editor:

Mr. Indra Sen Baro

Members:

Mrs. Sima Nath

Mr. Rajiv Gogoi

Mr. Upen Chandra Das

Compiled by:

Mr. Indra Sen Baro

Published by:

Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College

Printed at:

Pavoi Printer, Teok, Jorhat

All rights reserved. No part of this souvenir cum abstract volume may be reprinted or reproduced or utilized in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, without written prior permission from the publishers.

By contributing the abstracts the authors have claimed originality of thought and expression; the editorial board is not responsible for opinions expressed by authors.

III

Acknowledgement

We do hereby acknowledge the support and cooperation of

- ❖ Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi
- ❖ ACTA, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College Unit
- ❖ Students' Union, Jhanji HNS College
- ❖ UBI Jhanji
- ❖ Resource Person and Guests
- ❖ Participants
- ❖ Pavoil Printer, Teok

IV Editorial

Witch hunting is a Superstitious evil practice which dates back hundreds of years. Like in many parts of the world, this inhuman activity leads to persecution and even death of hundreds of innocent men and women in India every year. The Morigaon district of Assam is infamously known as the "Indian Capital of Black Magic" and witchcraft in India also is thought to be emanated from this part of Assam which has now been regarded as one of the social stigmas of the region. A witch in most cases is a woman who is supposed to practise black magic and posses of some evil power. She is alleged the cause of death to a person or any calamity of the society where she lives. In reality, it is nothing but superstition of certain people who live amidst poverty, social crises and who lack proper education.

In most cases women become prey to this crime where they are branded as 'Witches', by some 'Ojha' or 'bej' and led to torture and murder of the alleged who is made responsible for a calamity that befalls a village. These incidents of witch hunting are inhuman, shocking, violation of human rights and matters of serious concern for the modern people. In Assam this heinous activity is prevailing among the tribal communities like the Bodos, Rabhas, Adivasis, Mishings, Hajongsa, Karbis and Tea-tribes. The leading causes of Witch hunting include Poverty, Superstition, Illiteracy, Social crises etc. But whatever may be the cause of this social evil, it must be prevented and eradicated with all possible ways.

The stupendous development of science and technology has changed the world a lot. In this time, the social curse like witch hunting is not only a burning problem of Assam, but also a problem of the country as a whole. Some efforts are made by

V

individuals and social and government agencies to evolve some effective measures for its prevention, but no permanent solution has come up till date, A systematic study on this problem is very much necessary so that proper remedies could be found out.

The proposed seminar is expected to give a platform for academicians and Scholars to deliberate on the broad theme as well as the other related topics. Intellectual discussions and debates of the scholars will bring about newer dimensions of research and it will surely help us to find out new ways to eradicate witch hunting from the society.

The social stigmas like witch hunting are deep rooted in some societies which really cannot be wiped out only through intellectual deliberations and debates. The prevalence of patriarchal attitude, opposition to give women the right over property are some other issues which are related to women empowerment also. Women are really 'twice marginalized' in such a social condition. We believe scholars from literature, law and other social sciences would give forward their opinions on this issue. Researches made on field studies, studies on implementation of new laws for eradication of these evil activities, its portrayal in literature are the areas in which the seminar is expected to throw light on. It will highlight all the probable measures to tackle over this social problem.

Indra Ser Baro

Editor

List of Resource Persons

- ❑ Dr. Ramesh Ch. Borpatra Gohain
Advocate General, Govt. of Assam.
- ❑ Dr. Birinchi Kumar Medhi
Retired Professor, Gauhati University.
- ❑ Dr. Mridul Bordoloi, Associate Professor
& HoD, Deptt. of English, Dibrugarh
University.
- ❑ Dr. Bolin Hazarika, Retired Associate
Professor, J.B. College, Jorhat.
- ❑ Dr. Sanjib Borgohain, Principal,
H.C.D.G. College, Nitaipukhuri.
- ❑ Dr. Ajoy Kumar Das, Principal,
Law College, Jorhat.
- ❑ Dr. Manjit Gogoi, Principal, Jhanji
H.N.S.College, Jhanji.

VII Programme of the Seminar

Date: 26/10/2018 (Friday)

8.00 am - 10.00 am : Registration & Breakfast

10.00 am - 11.30 am : Inaugural Session (Venue: Auditorium)

- Welcoming of Dr Manjit Gogoi, Principal, Jhanji H N S College & Chairperson of the National Seminar
- Welcoming of the Invited guests to the dais
- Felicitation of Guests
- Lighting of the Ceremonial Lamp
- Welcome address by the principal
- Inaugural Speech by Dr. Ramesh Chandra Borpatra Gohain, Advocate General, Govt. of Assam
- Speech by the Chief Guest (Mr. Tapan Kr. Gogoi, Hon'ble Minister of Power, Govt. of Assam)
- Keynote address by Dr Birinchi Kr Medhi, Retired Professor, Gauhati University
- Speech by the Guest of Honour
- Vote of Thanks

11.45 am - 2.30 pm : Technical Session I (Auditorium)

11.45 am - 2.30 pm : Technical Session II (Seminar Hall)

11.45 am - 2.30 pm : Technical Session III (Conference Hall)

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm : Lunch

Date : 27/10 2018 (Saturday)

10.00 am - 12.15 pm : Technical Session IV (Auditorium)

10.00 am - 12.15 pm : Technical Session V (Seminar Hall)

10.00 am - 12.15 pm : Technical Session VI (Conference Hall)

12.15 pm - 2.00 pm : Valedictory Session (Auditorium Hall)

2.00 pm onwards : Lunch

VIII

Welcome Address from the Principal

Respected Chief Guest and Key Note Speaker, learned Resource Persons, Guest of Honour, dignitaries, learned participants, retired Principals and teachers of this institution, distinguished citizens of this locality, respected teachers and employees, students and media persons represent at this Inaugural Session of the two day ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on "Witch Hunting : A Curse in Assam" organized by the Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College in collaboration with the ACTA Unit of this college, a very good morning to all of you.

Established on 26th July, 1964, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College is a pioneer institute of higher education in Sivasagar district of Assam. The college has been imparting quality education since its inception. Its mission includes the spread of value based education for creating good citizens of our country. The college has two streams-arts and commerce. It offers H.S., major and non-major courses (B.A. and B.Com) at undergraduate level. It also offers M.A. courses under the Directorate of Distance Education of Dibrugarh University and Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University. It has two UGC Sponsored Study Centres which offer courses on the Philosophy of Sankardeva and Mahatma Gandhi. The college has surpassed its limitations of a rural surrounding and has been able to inscribe its name in every field. It was reaccredited by NAAC last year and was placed in the B grade with a CGPA of 2.5.

In the development of science and technology, the evil practice of witch hunting is not only a burning problem of Assam but also a problem of the country as a whole. There needs a systematic study on this problem though some efforts are made to evolve a measure for its prevention. Therefore, the proposed

IX

seminar will be helpful to find out the basic factors relating to the problem of witch hunting and to find out the remedies to eradicate this type of evil from the society. I extend my congratulation to the organizing committee of this seminar and thanks to ACTA, Jhanji HNS College Unit for collaborating in the same.

Once again, on behalf of our college family I express our sincere thanks, gratitude and a warm welcome you all to this two day national seminar. Please bear with us any shortcoming in our arrangements. Thank you.

Dr. Manjit Gogoi
Principal
Jhanji HNS College

X
Table of Contents

Abstract

- ♦ Witch Hunting in Tribal areas of Assam and its Remedies
 ✍ Aluk Saikia, Karabi Chutia 1
- ♦ Witch Hunting in Assam: Practices , Causes and Governmental
 steps to eradicate it
 ✍ Sultana Khan 2
- ♦ Basic factors of Witch Hunting and its Remedies: An
 Assessment
 ✍ Charjya Kakoty, Ritushmita Gogoi 3
- ♦ Witch Hunting; Social Assumption and Policy Discourse in
 the context of Assam
 ✍ Aranya Jyoti Gayan, Dr. Tridip Kr. Goswami 4
- ♦ Witch-Hunting in Assam: An Analysis
 ✍ Gitamoni Hazarika 5
- ♦ Witch Hunting: A Curse in Assam
 ✍ Hirushima Mipun 6
- ♦ Phenomenon on Witchcraft through Manikuntala
 Bhattacharya's "Ishu"
 ✍ Trinku Bora, Samiron Borgohain 7
- ♦ The Panorama of Witch-branding and the breakdown of
 Governance - the state of melancholy in Assam
 ✍ Bijaya Sarmah 8

XI

- ♦ The State and Its Response Against Witch Hunting: An Overview of Assam
✍ Ankur Saikia 9
- ♦ Role of Education in eradicating witch hunting from Assam : A Sociological analysis
✍ Arpan Jyoti Saikia, Moonmoni Borkoch 10
- ♦ Child Psychology and Witch Hunting : A Study of Manikuntala Bhattacharya's Ishu (2010)
✍ Rashmita Devi, Rajib Goutam 11
- ♦ Witch Hunting : Causes and Challenges - A study of Assam
✍ Dr. Pubali Saikia 12
- ♦ Basic Factors of Witch Hunting in Assam
✍ Indusree Bordoloi 13
- ♦ Witch Hunting : With special reference to Assam
✍ Prarthana Duarah 14
- ♦ Witch Hunting : A Social & Economic Menace of Assam
✍ Parishmita Gogoi 15
- ♦ Basic Factors of Witch Hunting and Its Remedies
✍ Dhiren Saikia 16
- ♦ Woman's Superstitious Beliefs & Role of Education to Eradicate (A Research Based Study)
✍ Dr. Sudipta Chakraborty 17

XII

- ♦ Witch Hunting in Assam: A curse in the Society
✍ Rituparna Dutta 18
- ♦ Role of Education in Eradicating Witch Hunting from Assam
✍ Dr Pallabi Saikia 19
- ♦ Basic Factors of Witch Hunting and its Remedies
✍ Princy Phukon 20
- ♦ Witch-Hunting Issues and Challenges
✍ Dr. Champak Kumar Bharali 21
- ♦ Witch Hunting in a Tribal village of Majuli Island, Assam
✍ Bidyut Pegu 22
- ♦ Witch Hunting in Assam : A Curse in the Society
✍ Dr. Karabi Konch 23
- ♦ Revisiting Witch Hunting in Assam : Assessing the efficacy of the legislative measures in context of Presidential assent to Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015 and Exploring Alternatives
✍ Sangeeta Sarkar 24
- ♦ Socioeconomic Backwardness is the main cause of Witch Hunting: A Study on the Tea Tribe People in West Nalbaria Village of Sepakhati Development Block in Charaideo District.
✍ Pankaj Jyoti Hazarika, Swabry Uallah 25
- ♦ Basic Factors of Witch Hunting and its Remedies
✍ Jolly Chutia 26

XIII

- ♦ Witch Hunting in Assam : Prevention and Action
✍ Rishmita Kumar 27
- ♦ Reflections on the Problem of Witch Hunting in Assam
✍ Yuvaraj Gogoi 28
- ♦ Witch Hunting a Socio- Economic Menace: A Study on Jorhat and Majuli Districts of Assam
✍ Mira Bala Borah 29
- ♦ Role of Organizations and Media in Eradicating Witch Hunting from Assam
✍ Bhagyasree Bora, Himashree Baruah 30
- ♦ Witch-Hunting in Assam : A Small Scale Reflection
✍ Rinti Rani Sarmah, Dr. Pankaj Goswami 31
- ♦ Witch Hunting: A Sociological Viewpoint
✍ Erani Mohan 32
- ♦ Paradoxes of Gender: The Three Witches and the Myth of Femininity in Shakespeare's Macbeth
✍ Sima Nath 33
- ♦ Witch Hunting in North East India : A Study From Gender Perspective with special reference to Assam
✍ Prerana Saha 34
- ♦ Birubala Rabha and her Role in Eradicating Witch Hunting - An Assessment
✍ Moonmi Dutta 35
- ♦ Witch Hunting In Assam: A Curse In The Society
✍ Ashima Baruah 36
- ♦ Witch Hunting and Its Impact : A study of the novel "Ishu" by Manikuntala Bhattacharya
✍ Dibyajyoti Baruah, Bandana Baruah 37
- ♦ Role of education in eradicating witch hunting from Assam
✍ Jadovananda Taye 38

XIV

- ◆ Witch Hunting in Assam : A Burning Issue
 ✍ Girimallika Gogoi 39
- ◆ An Analysis of the Anti-Witch Hunting Movie – "Aei Maatite"
 (2017)
 ✍ Dr. Akashjyoti Saikia 40 ,41
- ◆ Self-fashioning as a Witch: The Search for Liberation in Sylvia
 Plath's poem "Witch Burning"
 ✍ Dr Junti Boruah 42
- ◆ Witch Hunting in Assam: Causes and Legal Issues
 ✍ Basanta Handique 43
- ◆ Witch Crafts Among the Tea Workers: A study with special
 reference to Three Tea Gardens in Sivasagar District of Assam
 ✍ Dr Himanta Borgohain, Dr Birinchi Kr. Borah 44, 45
- ◆ Human Rights & Witch Hunting
 ✍ Bijoy Phukon 46
- ◆ Witch Hunting and Victimization of Witches in Tribal People
 of Assam
 ✍ Bornali Phukon 47
- ◆ Witch Hunting among the Tea Tribe and its Causes in Assam
 - A Study
 ✍ Dr. Himanta Pratim Borgohain 48
- ◆ A Study of Superstitious Behaviour among Undergraduate
 College Students
 ✍ Mr . Rajiv Gogoi, Dr.Prasanta Khanikar 49
- ◆ Witch Hunting and the Role of Education in Assam
 ✍ Dr. Rashmi Rekha Duwarah 50
- ◆ The Role of Education in Eradicating Witch-Hunting
 ✍ Dr. Jewti Boruah 51
- ◆ Witch Hunting: A Curse in Assam
 ✍ Indra Sen Baro 52

- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যা : এক সামাজিক ব্যাধি
 ✎ অমল চন্দ্ৰ দাস ৫৩
- ◆ শিক্ষিত সমাজত অন্ধবিশ্বাসঃ ডাইনী হত্যাৰ প্ৰসংগ
 ✎ হিমাদ্ৰী শইকীয়া ৫৪
- ◆ জয়ন্ত মাধৱ বৰাৰ 'দেওধ্বনি' উপন্যাসত প্ৰতিফলিত ডাইনী বিশ্বাস
 প্ৰসংগ
 ✎ ড° বিজু মৰাণ ৫৫
- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যা বোধত বেচৰকাৰী সংস্থা 'আলোক অভিযান'ৰ ভূমিকা
 ✎ ড° নিভা দাস ৫৬
- ◆ সাহিত্যত ডাইনী হত্যাৰ স্বৰূপ (মিক্‌চিজিলি আৰু চামিয়ানাৰ বিশেষ
 উল্লিখনেৰে)
 ✎ ড° স্মৃতিৰেখা চেতিয়া সন্দিকৈ, ড° পংকজজ্যোতি গগৈ ৫৭
- ◆ জনজাতীয় সমাজত ডাইনী বিশ্বাস
 ✎ উপেন চন্দ্ৰ দাস ৫৮
- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যা আৰু বিজ্ঞান মনস্কতা - এক বিশ্লেষণাত্মক অধ্যয়ন
 ✎ অৰ্চনা নাথ ৫৯
- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যা অসমীয়া সমাজৰ এক অভিশাপ
 ✎ অঞ্জলী বৰা ৬০
- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যা সমাজৰ এক ব্যাধি
 ✎ চন্দ্ৰমা গগৈ, মৌচুমী চেতিয়া ৬১
- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যাৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ আৰু প্ৰতিকাৰ
 ✎ অভিলাষী গগৈ, মৃদুস্মিতা চুতীয়া ৬২
- ◆ অসমৰ জনজাতীয় অঞ্চলত ডাইনী হত্যা আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিৰোধ
 ✎ মুনী গুপ্তা ৬৩
- ◆ ডাইনী হত্যা ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিৰোধ আৰু প্ৰতিকাৰৰ উপায় : এক
 বিশ্লেষণাত্মক অধ্যয়ন
 ✎ মেঘালী মৰাং ৬৪

XVI

- অসমৰ প্ৰেক্ষাপটত ডাইনী বিশ্বাস
 শ্ৰী সুৰজিৎ বুঢ়াগোহাঁই ৬৫
- ডাইনী হত্যা সমাজৰ এক ব্যাধি
 শ্ৰী বিম্পী গগৈ, বিচিপা বৰা ৬৬
- অসমত ডাইনী হত্যা আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিকাবক হিচাপে বৈজ্ঞানিক
 মানসিকতা
 শ্ৰী ববিতা শইকীয়া, ডিম্পীমণি ভূঞা ৬৭
- অসমৰ ডাইনী হত্যা : সমাজৰ এক অভিশাপ
 শ্ৰী মিতালী কলিতা, প্ৰিয়ঙ্কা ৰাজখোৱা ৬৮
- শিশু মনস্তত্ত্ব আৰু ডাইনী হত্যাৰ প্ৰসঙ্গ : ঈশ্বৰ উপন্যাসৰ বিশেষ
 উল্লেখনেৰে
 শ্ৰী দীপা ভাগবতী ৬৯
- ডাইনী হত্যা ৰোধ কৰাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গণ-মাধ্যমৰ ভূমিকা
 শ্ৰী আৰিফা বেগম ৭০, ৭১
- ডাইনী হত্যা আৰু সাহিত্যত ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিফলন (তাৰাশংকৰ
 বন্দোপাধ্যায়ৰ 'ডাইনী' বিশেষ উল্লেখনেৰে)
 শ্ৰী ড° কুসুম্বৰ বৰুৱা, বিজুমণি দত্ত ৭২

