National Conference on
Issues in North East India
&
the Role of ODL and OER
in Higher Education

March 19-20, 2019

Organised by
Gauhati University
Institute of Distance and Open Learning
Guwahati – 14

Venue : IDOL Building, Gauhati University
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT

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ABSTRACT

Although India has experienced rapid economic growth over the years, it is still lagging behind in various social fonts. A large number of people are still left behind due to lack of proper social services, employment opportunities and various social securities. Particularly, in the health care sector this gap is significant over the years.

Health and socio-economic developments are very closely related to each other. Government's role is of utmost importance in developing a good health infrastructure and ensuring a good health for all people of the country. However in India due to stagnant budgetary provisions and various management constraints the quality of health care facilities suffered substantially resulting in inequalities in health outcomes across the states in India.

Thus, in this paper an attempt has been made to explore the status of the healthcare sector of Assam and the various steps taken by the Assam Government for its development.
THE IMPORTANCE OF A SEPARATE TIME ZONE FOR NORTH EAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In India, all parts of the country follow time as per the Indian Standard Time, so whether it is Mumbai in the west or Itanagar in the North east, every place is following the same time irrespective of the sunrise and sunset time of that particular place. This has resulted in the fact that people in the Western and Northern parts of the Country are getting more daylight hours at the time of work in comparison to the North east and eastern parts of the Country. As such this paper intends to examine and identify whether a separate time zone for the North eastern region will be beneficial in terms of work and overall growth of the region.

Keywords: Time Zone, North east India, Indian Standard Time, Separate Time Zone
A STUDY ON THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE SLUM AREAS OF GUWAHATI

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ABSTRACT

A woman is considered as the heart and soul of a family. But, it is seen that the soul of a family sometimes become a prey to violence in the hands of the male members of the family and it is most commonly known as 'Domestic Violence'. Generally, it is seen that women in the slums face more domestic violence than the general population as they are usually dependent on their husbands to a large extent. Domestic violence is not a mere personal problem of a household but it is a problem of a vast society with its roots in the attitudes towards women and the institution of marriage. The study centers on the slum areas of Guwahati which focuses on the domestic violence against women, its associated factors and also provides suggestions to minimize the problem.
SPREADING OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION THROUGH OPEN LEARNING MODE TO ADULT LEARNERS—AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

The United Nations has adopted several measures for creating an environment where people from all walks of life can enrich their knowledge in the field of human rights. One of the vital areas of concern identified by the Human Rights Council in 2006 is the spreading of awareness of human rights education to every stratum of the society. The knowledge of core human rights can easily be disseminated through open learning process. In this regard the learning materials pertaining to human rights play pivotal role in enhancing the capabilities of the adult learners through open learning process. In this paper, an attempt has been made to scrutinize various provisions pertaining to human rights education at the international as well as national level. At the end, the author has suggested some measures to be adopted while spreading the awareness of human rights education to the adult learners through open learning process.

Key words: human rights education, adult learners.
ODL, ICT AND LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

In this day and age Open and Distance Learning (ODL) becomes a major element in higher educational system; it transforms the educational system from traditional to open. Transformations of educational systems have brought out incredible changes in educational environment to face the challenges of electronic age. Library is always an integral part of any type of educational system. A library plays a very important role in ODL system and its services are in great demand to the faculty, learners and other users. The nature and prospects of distance learning have made it mandatory to use the information and communication technology (ICT) for quick responses and better performance of the library services. This study aims to explore the extent of adoption of ICT in libraries of Open and Distance Education institutions, and mainly give emphasis on need and importance of ICT in library services of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU) library and Gauhati University Institute of Distance and Open Learning (GUIDOL) Library.

Objectives: The main objectives of this study are presented as follows:
- To find out the role of library in ODL
- To explore different ICT services that can be provided in the libraries of ODL institutions to ease the barriers of ODL learners.
- To find out the different challenges and opportunities faced by libraries in adopting ICT services.
- To explore the adoption of different ICT services in KKHSOU library and GUIDOL library for their ODL learners.

Methodology: While addressing the problem, emphasis will be given to the adoption of appropriate methodology. A survey method has been used for the collection of data. The primary data has been collected by interview method.

Keywords: ODL, Library, ICT, KKHSOU, GUIDOL
EXPLORING THE ROLE OF TOURISM IN NORTH EAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Tourism is said to be one of the world's largest economic sectors accounting for 10.4% of global GDP and 9.9% of total global employment and 9.4% of India's GDP and 5% of total employment in India in 2017. With both direct and indirect or induced impacts of the tourism sector and with the impact only expected to increase in the future, the sector assumes special significance for a developing country like India, and more so for a region like North East India. The North East with its varied landscape including mountains, valleys, wildlife parks, river islands, hill stations, waterfalls, rich biodiversity, conglomeration of different religious faiths and also being a cultural mosaic, is like a 'paradise unexplored', which presents ample opportunities for enhancing tourism in the area. This is also recognized by the government with its thrust on developing infrastructure and improving connectivity in the area and promoting theme-based regional tourism circuits. Given this, this paper attempts to explore the role of tourism as a leading sector of growth and development in the North East.
WITCH HUNTING IN ASSAM AND THE ROLE OF MEDIA: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The irrational attitude toward any supernational objects leads to the birth of superstitions. Superstitions are tools for some people to earn their advantages. Albeit the technological advancement, people get indulge in heinous traditional practices which severely affect the structure of the society. Witch hunting is a common superstition prevail in India or more specifically in Assam. There are some initiatives undertaken by some persons to analyse the cause and effect of these practices like "project prahari" by Kula Saikia and "mission BiruBala" by BiruBala Rabha. Superstitions are more prevailing phenomenon of Asian culture. Our work aims at studying the effects of Witch Hunting prevailing in Assam and their impacts on society. Some cases related to witch hunting in Assam are the case of Shikarigaon, a remote village in Majuli Island, the case of Sapekhati Village of Udalguri District etc. Media plays an important role in influencing people in any social issues now a days. Therefore in this work we have considered various media like news paper, television, e-news paper etc for analyzing how it can be used to curb superstitions like Witch Hunting by creating awareness amongst the people of the society.

Key Words: Witch Hunting, Superstition, Assam, Media
THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF MAJULI, THE LARGEST INHABITED RIVER ISLAND OF THE WORLD:
AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Majuli, the largest inhabited river island of the world is located in the Brahmaputra River of Assam. It was a subdivision of the Jorhat district. Recently, it is declared as the 33rd districts of Assam and it is the first river island district of the country. Agriculture is considered as the backbone of the economy of Majuli where 75% people of the total population depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. The river island has suitable natural conditions for agriculture as the soil, rainfall and climate are suitable for cultivation.

This paper is an attempt to analyse the economic condition of Majuli. The study is based upon primary as well as secondary data. The analysis of the paper found that agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of this place. However, the small scale industries and the cottage industries also play a vital role. On the other hand, tourism sector which includes camping, fishing, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, mass tourism activities etc. are some major attractions which has become very important for the economic welfare of Majuli.

Keywords: Majuli Island, Agriculture, Tourism.
ETHNICITY AND GENDER: AN EXPLORATION

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ABSTRACT

The growing consciousness amongst various groups of their group identities within liberal democracies, has not only given serious fuel to growth of Individual vs group rights debate, but also created the ground for seriously engaging into question of gender equality within the group specific demands for rights. One such category for demand of group specific right has been ethnicity. However, continued emphasis on ethnicity as a basis of group rights has led to the rise of various pertinent questions, such as how should we try to understand women's location in the discourse on group rights and ethnicity? The point of reference may remain to understand the co-existence and conflict of group interest and women's interest. While articulation of ethnic identity is undertaken in the form of collective group action women are also essentially brought into the fold of such identity and its preservation. This paper tries to explore the issues of ethnicity and gender within the existing complexities.
LITERATURE AND SOCIETY: REFLECTION OF CLASS QUESTION IN THE WRITINGS OF BISHNU PRASAD RABHA

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ABSTRACT

Literature in its various forms and modes acts as a powerful instrument to articulate change and mobilization in the society. Literature embraces human concern and experiences and expresses our opinions and ideologies in creative moulds. This paper analyses how class question has been reflected and articulated through the writings of Bishnu Prasad Rabha. Class i.e. the division of people into different groups based on their socio-economic status has been the matter of contestation between rich and poor (bourgeois and proletariat in a capitalist society) and class division, according to Marxists can be abolished through revolution that demands arousal of revolutionary consciousness among the proletariat. Rabha used literature as a tool to reflect the class division of a society and to create revolutionary consciousness among the proletariat. This paper reviews Rabha's aspirations of a socialist society and articulation of class question in his writings.

Keywords: Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Class, Revolutionary Consciousness, Bourgeois, Proletariat
RELATION OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION ON WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

Good mental health is related to mental and psychological well-being. Persons with mental health problems face stigma and discrimination in many ways. Families are frequently unwilling to recognize the presence of illness, even where recognized families, parents and other care givers may sometimes be reluctant or afraid to seek professional help. There is a widespread lack of knowledge on the nature and prevalence of mental health problems including mental illness. The lack of knowledge is often accompanied by fear and even hostility towards those with mental health problems. Therefore, the paper focuses on the vulnerabilities women are exposed to in the course of everyday social interaction and how such distressful events affect their mental health and looks at the issue of women's mental health from a feminist perspective, as gender is a critical determinant of mental health.

Keywords: women, mental-health, gender.
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF FEMALE SINGLE PARENTS

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ABSTRACT

Single parenting is becoming an emerging trend in society but not without challenges. The study has been carried out among the Khasi women of Shillong, Meghalaya.

It aimed at understanding the challenges (economic, social and mental) faced by female single parents and strategies that they use to adjust in life.

The study was carried out among fifty single female parents in Shillong region, Meghalaya.

The study shows that majority of the single parents faced economic, social and mental health problems - livelihoods (85%), children education (70%), family food and nutrition (60%), not able to meet children's needs (90%), housing and daily consumables (95%), social isolation (65%), mental health issues (60%) and child disciplining (90%).

Keywords: Single Parent, Economic Problems, Social Isolation, Child Discipline
A STUDY OF WORK-LIFE BALANCE OF WORKING MOTHERS UNDER BOKO DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF KAMRUP (R), ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Women are recognizing as the second population of world. The women of 21st century empowered herself to find the own destination. Working mothers also easily balance the work-life situation which rarely seen in men's life. The present paper based on some educated mother who are working in various educational institutions(private/ govt.), different offices, companies etc. under 69no.GP(Gaon Panchayat)of Boko Development Block. The investigator collected primary as well as secondary data in this purpose. The investigator found that apart from the job satisfaction, working mothers easily handle the work-life situation due to their economical strengthens. Although we see some gender discrimination in society, yet the mothers of the study area may the ideal person as they smoothly balancing the work and family life. The investigator positively ended her study by saying that today's highly educated empowered mothers economically contributed to society where they live and make themselves an ideal person for children for proper balancing of work-life situation and can also inspire the next generation to feel that gender may not the barriers of your success.

Keywords: Gender, Education and working mothers.
INDIA'S LOOK EAST POLICY: ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

The political and economic developments in the different parts of the world during the early 1990s brought the radical changes in the relation among nations resulting in the emergence of an era of globalization. Globalization brought about an increasing integration of economic and societies an open up opportunities and challenges to both developed and developing countries. The Look East Policy emerged as an important tool for country's foreign policy. It was developed and enacted by the former prime minister of India P.V. Narasimha Rao (1991-1996). India's Look East Policy is an effort to cultivate extensive economic and strategic relations with the nations of Southeast Asia. Further, the present government under the Prime Ministership of Narendra Modi has renamed the Look East Policy as the Act East Policy which mainly focused on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia Pacific regions to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategies through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral level by providing enhanced connectivity to the states of North Eastern Region of India.

The paper will intend to explore the origin and evolution of Look East Policy of India and tried to highlight the recent development from Look East Policy to Act East Policy. The paper will also try to discuss the implication of India's Act East Policy on North East India.

Keywords: LOOK EAST POLICY, ACT EAST POLICY AND NORTH EAST INDIA.
EMANCIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA: A FAR CRY

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ABSTRACT

In a welfare state economylike India groomed under true and successful democracy and armed with the fundamental law guaranteeing equality and justice, it is expected that disempowerment, dis-privilege, discrimination, inequality, asymmetries, marginalization, devalorization and reification would cease to exist and womanhood would soon be acknowledged and valorized in building nation's identity.

However, the ground reality is not as per the expectations. Emancipation and empowerment of women in this oldest civilization are still a far cry in spite of the populist gimmicks of the 'welfarists', jurists and advocates of feminisms and post feminisms.

Against this backdrop an attempt has been made in this paper to probe the obstacles behind the empowerment of women in India. Such an effort will definitely help in making concrete efforts to build a 'gender-just society' in India.

Keywords: Emancipation, Empowerment, Equality, Justice, Welfare State and Democracy.
DISPARITY OF HEALTH CARE IN THE STATES OF NORTHEAST

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ABSTRACT
Health is considered to be the most important component for human development. Healthy population can live a long and better life, can be more productive and contribute more to the society. Tremendous efforts have been made to improve the living conditions of the people of northeast. NRHM was launched in the year 2005, specially designed to improve the health sector. Even though health sector is progressing but it is quiet uneven among the states. NER Vision-2020 mentioned that despite physical expansion of health facilities, access to quality health services remains low.

In this context, attempt is made to find the comparative analysis for the 8 northeastern states to find the changes made by NRHM covering a period of 10 years i.e. between 2005 and 2015 using secondary source of data. For this analysis, the key indicators adopted are health status, health expenditure and health infrastructure in order to obtain complete health scenario as they are considered to be important factors for health sector development.

Keywords: NRHM, Health status, Health expenditure, Health infrastructure, Development.
SOCIETY AND VALUES

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ABSTRACT

Society is a unitization of whole. It is a systematic unit where people live and do together for enrich. There is a close relation between society and individual. Society is nothing without individual and there is no existence of individual without society. Man is a social animal. A normal man cannot live without society. Social nature of man is an inter characteristics of man. Self expression, communication to others and lead the others to right way are most important basis of man's social life. Society is most important for living rightly and morally.

Value stand at the very core of human decision making. When we work in an organization whose culture aligns with our personal value, we feel liberated. Values are good habits that are contagious. Values bind us together. Social values form an important part of the culture of the society. It indicates the general good deemed desirable for organised social life. Social values are most important to remain a member of society in which we live. The important social values are respect, justice, honesty, service, responsibility, family and community.

Keywords: Society, Value, Culture, Respect, Justice, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Family, Community.
MODERN WORLD: A SCENARIO OF CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD LABOUR

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ABSTRACT

Child Abuse is defined as an overarching mismanagement, mishandling. Child abuse is not simply any harm that befalls children. Children throughout the world suffer from a multitude of harms: malnutrition, starvation, infectious disease, congenital defects, abandonment, economic exploitation, the violence of warfare, to name a few. Not all harm that befalls children is child abuse. Child abuse is harm resulting from intentional human action. The most fundamental attribute of child abuse is that it is harmful to the child and detrimental to his/her well-being. Child labour is a problem worldwide, but it particularly affects children in developing countries. This paper analysis the types, various sign, causes, major facts about the child labour and child abuse. To promote the awareness for protecting child and suggestion what we can do for anyone when he/she is a victim child.

Keyword: Well-being, Technology, Suggestion, Awareness.
 IMPORTANCE OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING MODE IN PROMOTION OF GENDER BALANCE: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTHEAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The Open and Distance Learning is an important and flexible mode of education focusing on impartial access to educational opportunities. India has high and growing enrolments in Open and Distance Learning Institutions. Gender disaggregated data on education has revealed that compared to the male counterparts, women have, for the most part, attained only lower levels of formal education. Because of failure to remove gender gap in higher education, a majority of the females cannot access proper employment. The Open and Distance Learning institutions in Northeastern states through its distance learning mode has come forward to break this trend in gender inequality by providing equal educational opportunities to all.

This paper tries to examine the role of Open and Distance Learning mode in fighting against the issues of gender inequality in terms of access and quality and promotion of gender balance in the field of higher education in North East India.
MSMEs: THE ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

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ABSTRACT

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises play a significant role in the Indian Economy. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 has been enacted with the objective to promote and develop MSMEs and also enhance their competitiveness. This act has brought in several changes to this sector. An overview of this act has been presented. The study also analyses the present definition of MSMEs along with the proposed changes in the definition. A sample of 100 MSME units in the Kamrup and Kamrup Metro districts of Assam has been chosen with the objective of studying the problems faced by enterprises in Assam. Some suggestions have also been forwarded.

Keywords: Definition, problems, MSMEs.
FEMALE FOETICIDE: A CURSE UPON THE MODERN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Female foeticide is a heinous act and it is a clear indicator of gender based violence. In earlier time this ghastly act was very much prevalent in different parts of the world including India. But the continuance of this practice still in this modern society is unfortunate. It has become a social hazard which expresses the utmost hatred towards the females in our society. Female foeticide is the most significant and high risk violence against female sex as because it destroys a life even before its entry into the world only because it is a female. Female foeticide is an illegal process or practice whereby a foetus is aborted after it is determined to be a female by using the technique of ultrasound. It is one of the most rampant social evil prevailing like curse upon the society. Through this paper, the author has made an endeavour to give an overall idea about female foeticide along with its causes and consequences particularly in Indian society. The author also has prepared a small sketch on female foeticide issues in the North East region of India. The legal aspect of this sensitive issue is also analyzed and an earnest attempt is made to formulate a few suggestions to root out this violence.

Key words: Foetus, Female foeticide, social hazard, ultrasound.
NORTH EAST'S INSURGENCY A MENACE TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND HINDRANCE TO EXEMPLARY GROWTH POTENTIAL - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DIMAHASAO AND KARBIANGLONG DISTRICTS OF ASSAM.

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ABSTRACT

Insurgency has always been along pending issue in the North East challenging the resolve of growth and normalcy of North East by the Union of India. The objectives behind the study are to understand the core reasons and interests behind evolution of such rebel groups and ways to effectively root out such militant outfits. For this purpose qualitative research method has been adapted and it is an analytical research. Secondary data has been given due importance and investigation has been done through data available in the internet, newspapers and magazines. Failure to effectively eradicate rebellions from the North East and Assam could be attributed to administrative loopholes, unemployment, underdevelopment, foreign intelligence support, sophisticated funding network and improper investigation. The modus operandi is to investigate into various aspects and hit hard the nucleus of the organization so that it would crumble. One such shining example is the dissolution of DHD, militant outfit of DimaHasao by NIA.

Keywords: Insurgency, Internal Security, Qualitative Research, Analytical Research, NIA
EMPOWERING WOMEN: THE ROLE OF DIGITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides an insight on digital financial services (DFS) in Indian context. DFS is emerging as a very important topic in present days. It has several benefits ranging from saving customers' time and physical efforts by providing online financial services which can easily be accessed even from the remotest area at an affordable cost. The technological innovations in banking sector have been able to make banking and financial services available at the customers' fingertips. Despite the Government's several measures towards digital inclusion most of the people are yet to enjoy its benefits, especially the Women, who were found to be largely financially excluded in comparison to men. Studies show that Digital Financial Inclusion is emerging as a promising method of addressing the constraints faced by women in the uptake of financial services. However it is worth studying, how DFS has benefited the women of Assam.
ACT EAST POLICY AND NORTH EAST INDIA:
AN OVERVIEW OF ITS PROSPECTS
AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

India's Act East policy is an effort for cultivating extensive economic and strategic relations with Southeast nations in order to bolster its standing as a regional power. It is an important foreign policy initiative with South East Asian countries under the regime of present Prime Minister Narendra Modi which came to power in 2014. The main motive behind this policy is basically to revive political ties, regional security cooperation and most importantly to develop strong economic linkages. This paper proposes to analyze various dimensions of Look East Policy since 1992 focusing its strength mainly on northeastern region, which is basically gateway of Southeast Asia. It also attempts to discuss about the various challenges that comes its way. The paper will be based on both primary (documents and reports of government), secondary (journals, newspaper, articles etc.).

Keywords : Act east policy, North east India, bolster.
HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTH EAST INDIA: 
A CASE OF CARGO CULT EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Modern education was introduced into colonial Assam by government agencies and Christian missionaries. Driven by motives of colonial needs and religious zeal, it failed to usher in what may be termed as the liberating influence of modern education. This was carried into independence by a collaborative bourgeoisie which had usurped the colonial machinery based on coercion and violence.

A distinguishing characteristic of education that prevails under such circumstances lays emphasis on knowing and not understanding and what is aptly termed as 'cargo cult' education. The proposed paper seeks to investigate the political, social, and economic circumstances and seek a possible explanation.

Keywords: Education, Cargo Cult Science, Knowing, Understanding, Trial and Error
FINANCING TO STREET VENDORS: A STUDY IN A SELECTED TOWN OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Street vendors are integral part of informal sector. Most of the street vendors work hard to survive in their profession. Study revealed that a significant number of street vendors arranged finance from their own source. Study also observed that the banks and other micro-financial institutions are not interested to provide micro credit to this deprived sector on the ground that they are unable to provide collateral security for obtaining micro-credit.

The aim of this study is to highlight the problems of financing to street vendors as well as ways and means to overcome these problems. Study is based on primary and secondary data. Data are collected from field survey and books, journal, websites etc.

Keywords: informal, integral, micro-credit, collateral, vendors.
ENERGY USE IN INDIA: HOW THE RURAL PEOPLE ARE DOING?

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ABSTRACT

Mankind cannot survive without energy. People in poor countries may experience impressive change in their standard of living for a small increase in energy consumption. The demand for energy is increasing rapidly as people have to improve quality of life and fulfill development requirements. But developing countries are energy poor and such poverty is more glaring in rural areas. Rural people are deprived of energy and the energy they use are not efficient.

This paper tries to assess the nature of energy use in rural India. It also tries to examine the extent of energy poverty in rural India. We use secondary data from different published sources. The study finds that the extent of electrification has increased but it is non-reliable. Households are still using traditional energy and that may cause serious health hazard. The extent of renewable energy use is very limited in rural India. We recommend policy for increasing the accessibility and availability of easy and affordable energy.

Keywords: biogas, renewable energy, electricity, firewood
ABSTRACT

A learning management system (LMS) refers to a software application for the purpose of administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs. LMS is widely been used in the D.El.Ed programme specifically designed for in-service untrained teachers working in primary/ upper primary schools of different states of the country. The present paper is an attempt to understand the perceptions of students of D.El.Ed programme in Assam towards the use and effectiveness of Learning Management System in their training. The paper also focuses on the problems faced by the students in the use of LMS. For the purpose of the present paper, the investigators selected a sample of 50 students of D.El.Ed purposefully and administered self- prepared questionnaires to collect the necessary data. The data obtained were treated statistically to interpret the results of the study and deduce the necessary findings.

ODL INTERVENTION FOR SKILLING AGRI-BUSINESS: 
A STRATEGY FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

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ABSTRACT

Education imparts knowledge and skill, on the basis of which an individual can select his/ her livelihood. It necessitates that the individual keep on updating his/ her knowledge and skill throughout the life to stay relevant in his/ her field of work. However, after a particular point of time or due to some other constraints, classroom based education may not be possible for an individual. In this respect, open and distance learning (ODL) bundled with IT is the way out for continuous update of knowledge and to acquire new skill. In this backdrop, the dynamics of ODL may be applied in imparting the skill among the rural youths in the area of agri-business in the North East Region and the State of Assam, in particular. With this objective, this paper tries to make a case for application of ODL in developing skill in the area of agri-business.
DOWRY DEATH-A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO WOMEN IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Dowry death is a burning problem of Indian society. It is a social sin, which is common amongst upper and middle classes of people of India, and is the main reason for abnormal deaths of married women. In fact, dowry is one of the kinds of violence committed against women. The vocabulary connotation of the expression dowry is, the wealth brought by a wife to her husband. Dowry death and bride burning are symptoms of peculiar social problem and are an adverse development of our social system. The evil has taken lives of women from all strata of society be it poor, middle class or the rich. In 1986, a special provision that is section 304-B was inserted in the Indian Penal Code in order to deal with and punish the offence of dowry death. A simultaneous amendment is made in the Indian Evidence Act, in the form of section 113-B. The provisions under section 304-B of Indian Penal Code is more rigorous. The offence under Section 304-B is cognizable, non-bailable, non-compoundable and triable by Court of Session.

The government of India has come up with a plethora of legislations and reforms, not only to eradicate the dowry system, but also to uplift the status of the women. In this paper the author tries to examine the concept and legal provisions of Dowry death. The author also evaluates some of the epoch making judgments delivered by the judiciary in the context of this social sin. At the end an attempt has been made to formulate a few suggestions to root out this evil.

Keywords: Burning problem, Sin, Cognizable, Non-bailable, Non-compoundable, Dowry death, Bride burning.
ASSAM FRBM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Fiscal base and fiscal health of a state are directly related to the development of state. Fiscal base is determined by the size of the economy which can be expanded in the long run. But in the medium term concern should be in the fiscal health of the state so that the government can increase the development expenditure and expand the economic base of the state. Balance from current revenues or non-revenue position is better indicator of the fiscal health of a state. In this paper my focus is to analyze the impact of FRBMA 2005 on the economic development of Assam and the HDI of Assam before and after the AFRBM Act. There has been seen a tremendous fiscal upliftment after the implementation of the AFRBM Act.

Keywords: FRBMA, FISCAL CONSOLIDATION, DEFICIT.
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WORK-LIFE BALANCE OF MARRIED AND UNMARRIED EMPLOYEES

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ABSTRACT

Work-life balance is the division of an individual's time between their professional and personal life. When an employee's professional and personal life complements each other rather than compete with each other; a healthy work-life balance is ensured. The aim of this study is to compare the level of work-life balance enjoyed by married and unmarried employees. The sample size was 40 married and unmarried employees from Guwahati, Bangalore, and Delhi. The tool used to measure work-life balance was originally developed by Fisher (2001) but, later modified by Hayman (2005). The results of the study indicated a significant difference between the work-life balance of married and unmarried employees.

Keywords: work-life balance, married employees, unmarried employees, professional life, personal life.
WOMEN AS POLICE : A STUDY OF WOMEN POLICE IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Women play variety of significant roles in our society from their birth till the end of their life. Women are considered as the goddess in the Indian society from the ancient time. However, it is also true that they are not treated as goddess. Women play a great role in everyone's life. They are highly responsible for the successful continuation of life. Earlier women were limited within the household works and not allowed to go outside to perform works which involves interaction with other people. But things are changing now. Women are increasingly becoming aware of their rights and the dominating nature of men over their whole life. Women are being professional bread-earner for their families and an independent thinking individual of the country even after only being responsible for many responsibilities of the life. Even after playing her roles and jobs timely in efficient manner in modern society, she is weaker because men are still strongest gender in society. In certain occupations, gender domination can also be found due to the boundaries set by the traditional sex-typing of a job. Breaking all stereotypical mindset, now women are entering into the police force which is known as male dominated job. Their number of joining this challenging profession has been increasing year after
year. In India, women were first recruited in police force in around mid 20th century, which is very late compared to western countries. Apart from all these, the Indian society is considered as a patriarchal and male dominated society, where the mindset of the people is conservative, especially in the case of women. It is also shows that, women who are in police force are independent as compared to other women. So, the paper studies the problems and difficulties faced by women police in managing both their household and work. The paper would also try to explore the status and position of women police in their workplace and household. In this paper, Erving Goffman's "Dramatugy", "Impression Management"; and importance of patriarchy with reference to radical feminism shall also apply in the study of women police in Assam. The paper is basically exploratory study which is based on mixed methodology and data are both primary data and secondary data.

**Keywords:** Women, Police, Gender, patriarchy.
INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY AND THE NORTH EAST REGION: PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE

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ABSTRACT

India's Act East Policy was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the year 2014 as an extension to the Look East Policy of 1992 by P. V. Narasimha Rao. This policy aims at strengthening economic, cultural and strategic ties with the Asia-Pacific region through the North-Eastern part of the country. This paper tries to understand the historical basis and objectives of Act East Policy and its significance in the NER. The paper also attempts to make an assessment of accomplishments of the policy in the NER. The paper argues that India needs to improve infrastructure in the border areas of NER to establish connectivity linkages with the countries in the East. The Act East Policy, if implemented properly can help India in strengthening connectivity linkages with South East Asian countries and also in balancing the rise of China in the region.
IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION IN OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

In the context of present scenario, the process of learning has become asynchronous. With the help of resources available in internet anyone can learn anytime and anywhere. It is observed that technology has led to radical developments in many situations. In education sector too, with the adoption and adaptation of technology may lead to many positive developments. Students will have an opportunity for free access to open content, open knowledge and flexible technologies irrespective of traditional or distance mode of learning. Digital technologies will enable this in new and better ways and create possibilities beyond the limits of our current imagination. Online platform such as SWAYAM, edX, Coursera, etc are offering open learning to boost the Open and Distance Learning environment in the world. In future, learning is likely to move out from the schools, colleges or universities to home and workplace.
A CASE STUDY ON THE CHALLENGES OF DISTANCE EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ASSAM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Distance education system enables people to make their education choices for near future. Distance education is considered one of the most important educational innovations professionals of our century. Distance Education is an alternative method to conventional education. It is seen that the professionals of governments, public employees and other stakeholders need to be convinced that the ODL mode institutions are not providing half-baked education. It is fast becoming an accepted and indispensable part of mainstream of educational system in almost all the countries in world. The distance and open learning education is not a new concept. In 1800s, University of Chicago newly launched major correspondence program in United State in which the learners and the teachers were at different location. It is addressed to wide range of potential intergovernmental, partners, non-government and governments organizations, associations, industrial corporations, specialized institutions, and others interested in this field to seek their cooperation in the newly introduced education system and organized need based meeting, training through through the open and distance learning. After development of Radio channels during the 1st World War and after invention of television in 1950s, the mode of instruction to the ODL education system outside of the traditional classroom had suddenly found a new delivery system. In present days we are using audio visual conferencing system which has influenced the delivering of lecture in the higher education institute, public schools and some other industry.

Keywords: Challenges, Higher Education, Distance, Learning.
DREAMS OF HEAVEN: A STUDY ON TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

 Trafficking is the second largest organised crime industry in the world. Every year millions of innocents fall victim to this heinous crime where they suffer various forms of torture and abuse. India’s Northeastern region has started to emerge as a rich source of victims of trafficking. According to United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, Assam is among the top 8 trafficking hubs in India. Common sources of victims are the women and girls from the tea tribes and tribal communities. They are lured with false promises of a better future. The study involves survivors of human trafficking and attempts to understand through their narratives the factors responsible for their trafficking. Through their narratives it can be understood where interventions are needed to stop this heinous crime. The study is conducted in Guwahati, Assam, India.
PERSPECTIVE OF COUNSELLOR TOWARDS COUNSELLING IN ODL- A CASE STUDY OF KKHSOU

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ABSTRACT

Emergence of ODL in a developing country like India helps to promote the higher education system to a great extent by educating people who are in need and especially those who are aspirants and adult learners. The base of Open and Distance learning is the learner support services (LSS) provided by the institutes to their learner. One of such services is the Counselling Service provided to learners of distance institutes through study centres. The distance learning institutes provides Self-Learning materials to their learners. The self-learning materials enable in closing the gap between the learner and the teacher whose role is played by the Counselor in the Study Centres. But to what extent are these counselling services effective to the learners? How are the Counselors providing the counselling services? What are the methods adopted by the Counsellors while providing counselling? These are the questions that need to be addressed for improving the quality of Counselling and changing the perspective of counselling at the present time. This paper is a small-scale study focussed on the perspective of Counselor towards counselling. The sample consists of 200 counsellors of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. It is a mixed method study where both qualitative and quantitative analysis is done by using questionnaires and personal interview made by the researchers. The outcome of the study will reflect the overall perspective of counsellors towards counselling and it will also emphasise on how to improve the techniques of counselling which plays an important role in strengthening the teaching-learning practices in the field of Open and Distance Learning.

Keywords: ODL, Counselling, Counsellor’s perspective, KKHSOU, effective techniques of counselling.
YOGA THROUGH DISTANCE MODE IN ASSAM: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Yoga has been able to prove its vitality in the human world since ancient times till the modern times. It is now internationally acclaimed due to its beneficial impact on various aspects of our life-mental, physical, emotional and social. In this context, many people have expressed their interest to know, understand and practice Yoga in their personal as well as professional lives. In keeping with the growing need for vocational and skill based education in the present educational scenario, various institutions are offering Yoga programme, both in traditional and distance mode. KK Handiqui, being the only State Open University in the entire region of North east, stresses on imparting the Yoga programme to enhance the skills of the learners and promote socio-economic well-being in the society through distance mode. This paper seeks to address the effect of the programme on the society and on the learners who pursued the course.

Keywords: Yoga, Socio-economic, Distance, Skill-development etc.
AUTONOMY MOVEMENT IN NORTH EAST INDIA: A CASE STUDY OF AUTONOMY MOVEMENT OF HILL TRIBES OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Movements for Autonomy have marked the political discourse in Northeast India for the last decades. The aim and purpose of the autonomy movement is not only to bring about change in the existing system but also to augment legitimate expressions of aspirations by the people having a distinct culture, tradition and common pattern of living. In the post colonial period, Assam which is a land of diverse ethnic communities has witnessed a serious of autonomy movements based on the political demands for statehood. The autonomy movement of the Hill Tribals in North East India in general and North Cachar Hills District and Karbi Anglong District of Assam in particular is a continuous effort and struggle of the Hill Tribal to protect and preserve their distinct identity, culture and tradition and to bring about a change in the existing socio-political arrangement. Although the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution has provided for Autonomous Councils in these two districts but much improvement could not be achieved due to limited power of the Autonomous District Council and the State government's apathy. Their demand for an autonomous state is rooted in the long history of similar movements in the north east and has been demanding a separate state for the Dimasas and the Karbis in the name of 'Dimaraji' for Dimasas and 'Hemprek' for Karbis.

Keywords: Autonomy, Sixth Schedule, Hill Tribes, Karbi Anglong, North Cachar Hills District.
KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF ANTENATAL CARE SERVICE AMONG A TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge, attitude and practice are assumed to be positively associated with one another. The present study attempted to understand the nature of relationship among knowledge, attitude and practice on Antenatal Care and was carried out among the Bodo mothers of Chirang, Assam.

A cross-sectional study was carried out among 214 pregnant women between the age groups of 18-45 years in Chirang district of Assam. The study used a constructed Knowledge, Attitude and Practice questionnaire and face to face interview method.

The study showed that creating mass awareness was effective in raising the knowledge level on ANC but gave mixed findings on the different components of the ANC. While consumption of nutrition, reduction of substance use, utilisation of TT Injections and visit to health centers improved with knowledge, the utilisation of full ANC was just 41%. Thus knowledge and attitude do not influence ANC practice among the pregnant women according to this study.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude & Practice; Antenatal Care; Community Health; Tribes.
POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN ASSAM: A STUDY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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ABSTRACT

In most of the societies position and capabilities of women are often undermined. In fact, there always exist inequalities between men and women in every sphere of life. This is due to gender division of our society. Empowerment of women is the most crucial step for establishing equality and eliminating oppression against women. Political empowerment is one of the tools through which position and the status of women can be lifted to a great extent. In India the Constitution has provided a number of provisions which have made significant contribution towards political empowerment of women. But at the same time, in India, political empowerment and participation of women in politics have been hampered by various factors. The proposed work will make an effort to provide a comprehensive idea about political empowerment of women in Assam by focusing on participation of women in the Assam Legislative Assembly.
A STUDY OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE: CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION DURING THE ILL PRACTICE OF WITCH HUNTING IN THE STATE OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

"Justice is itself the great standing policy of civil society; and any eminent departure from it, under any circumstances, lies under the suspicion of being no policy at all." - Edmund Burke. The evolution of society has undergone a humongous process since ancient times and it continues even today. Since time immemorial, the women of the society have been the scapegoat of various ill practices worldwide which need no specific mention. Off late, in the state of Assam, the derogatory practice of witch-hunting was seen to be prevalent in various districts across the state. So much so that, the State Government was compelled to pass the Anti Witch-Hunting Bill as a preventive measure. This study focuses on the Constitutional rights vested upon the women of the Nation against gender violence of any form and the violations of human rights in the process of witch hunting in the state of Assam.

Keywords: Justice, Gender violence, Witch hunting, Assam.
"SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WOMEN WORKERS IN BRICK INDUSTRY:SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GOALPARA DISTRICT"

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ABSTRACT

In the brick industry, work is seasonal, temporary, and casual in nature, the employment relations between the employer and the employees are not permanent and all relationships remain contractual. The bulk of workers come from rural areas as migrant workers and they are illiterate, poor and work under low working conditions. The workers have no security of employment and get low amount of wages. They are not getting any welfare facility.

Significance of the study:
This study focuses on the women employed in the brick industries in Goalpara district. The significance of this study is that it helps to understand the real causes of women's work, their deprivation in the workplace, their role in family and society etc. The absence of any reliable information regarding the socio-economic condition of the women workers in the brick industries prompted me to undertake research in this field.

Objectives:
1. To know about the socio-economic status and working conditions of the women workers in brick industries.
2. To analyse the educational and family background of women workers engaged in these brick industries. The objective is to examine women's experience in employment and its impact on their status at home as well as in society.
Methodology:

This study aims to study socio-economic status of the women workers in informal sectors. As it is not possible to discuss all the units included in the informal sectors, in this study I have chosen the brick industries situated in Goalpara district. For this, various methodological techniques have been used such as sampling, interview, observation and participant observation, administration of questionnaires, and study of existing literature relating to the topic. The method of simple random sampling is followed to interview the women workers. Besides the primary data, important publications including books, journals, and Government reports are reviewed. Thus the study is based on both primary and secondary data. From each brick industry, 100 women workers are selected at random. The collected field data have been arranged in tabular form, followed by analysis and interpretation. APA (American Psychological Association) has been followed.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ASSAM AND ITS DETERMINANTS - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Assam is an agro based economy, with majority of the population living in rural areas and taking up agriculture as their livelihood. The agricultural production plays a major role in determining the NSDP of the state. There are several determinants of agricultural production. These determinants can be either price or non-price factors. The present paper is an attempt to study the trend of agricultural production in the state on one hand and to analyze its determinants on the other. The data will be collected from the published sources of Government of Assam and statistical analysis will be done to identify the chief sources of growth.
FEMINISATION OF POVERTY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NORTH-EAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is one of the main reasons for crucial disparities in many societies including North-East India. However, the gap between women and men caught in the cycle of poverty has continued to widen in the past decade. This phenomenon which is commonly referred to as "the feminization of poverty" is a matter of serious concern since women experience poverty at higher rates. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to find out what the reasons behind this problem are and how it affects women. The data collected in this paper is through secondary sources. Finally, the paper arrives at the conclusion that “feminization of poverty” is a serious problem and necessary step should be taken accordingly.

Keywords: disparity, poverty, feminization of poverty.
IMPLEMENTATION OF RTE ACT AND THE GOVT. POLICIES ON ERADICATING CHILD LABOUR IN STATE OF ASSAM, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KAMRUP METRO

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is a big problem in the entire nation. It is widespread and very harmful for the individual development of the child. Though child labour in the country has been banned by the supreme court of India and launched various programmes and policies to remove child labour from the society, yet it has common sight to see in everywhere younger children as a labour or worker in various places like - in hotels, buses, grocery shops, as a self seller in roads and hidden domestic child labour in a hazardous condition. This paper will try to highlight "implementation of RTE and the Government policies on eradicating child labour in state of Assam with special reference to Kamrup Metro".
FROM LOOK EAST TO ACT EAST: ASSAM AS THE CENTRE FOR INTEGRATION OF THE NORTH EAST TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

No others parts of the country can outperform the north eastern region of India in terms of availability of natural resources and also more than 90% of the regions border forms India's international boundaries. The development of north east India as a priority in India's Act East Policy recognizes the importance of the north eastern region as the gateway to the east countries with the view that it is an extended corridor for growth, progress and prosperity of India. Thus north east India can be promoted as a base for India's growing economic relations to south east and East Asian countries and to the whole Asia. The idea of economic integration and greater connectivity with India's eastern neighbors led the focus of the policy makers to take the development of this region in the heart of the AEP. The government of Assam has opened a new department called 'Act East Department'. Now it has been associated with different projects in collaborations with international organizations entrusted to work with all the north eastern states on AEP. This paper argues Assam as the centre of north east India for regional integration towards development under AEP in terms of three basic concepts as culture, connectivity and commerce.

Keywords: India's Act East, North East, Assam and Development.
GENDER, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT: THE INEQUALITIES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

The achievement of gender equality is not only a human rights issue but is also an essential target for peace and sustainable development. Health as a yardstick of gender equality has long been the focus of feminist research, state policies and the women's movement. The UN Sustainable development Goals (SDG's) in its Agenda 2030 incorporates important cross-cutting issues relating to gender inequality and health. However gender equality in health remains a major challenge, particularly in the developing countries of the world. A large part of the problem originates in the fact that 'women's health' is conceptualized within an 'essentialist' framework and their vulnerability to other serious health conditions is overlooked. The paper seeks to highlight some such conceptual issues while also foregrounding contemporary challenges to gender equality in health in India.
POVERTY AND ITS IMPACT ON EDUCATION-A STUDY
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BORAGAON AREA UNDER
KAMRUP (METRO) DISTRICT, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Poverty has multiple negative effects in every field on a global context. Poverty hampers in the development of education at local, national and global level. Many times Poor economic condition of parents results in discontinuance, withdrawal, stagnation, etc. This study is based on the primary data collected from 100 poor families of Boragaon area. Questionnaire and direct interview were used as tools for collecting data. Descriptive along with empirical method were used in presenting the paper.

Keywords: Poverty, Education, Boragaon.
THEORETICAL AND GEOMETRICAL DECONSTRUCTION
OF 'NORTH-EAST INDIA'

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ABSTRACT

North-East India is a concept that underwent a series of historical, political, economic and cultural processes. Since its inception during the colonial days it has undergone several phases and developed different connotations. However, the colonial disposition continues to overwhelm all the other emerging ideas of North-East. The term 'north-east' was first used in the context of 'north-east frontier of Bengal' in 1869. Bengal then had the Capital of British India. Thus, with geometrical accuracy, the frontier was termed as 'north-east frontier' of Bengal. In 1911 British-India Capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. Delhi became the epicenter of British-India since 1911. And Delhi continues to be the epicentre of free India. However, the 'north-east' of 'north-east frontier of Bengal' coined during the colonial era when Calcutta was the Capital of British-India continues to refer to the part of India that is now, with respect to Delhi and with geometrical precision, the East of India.
INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY AND THE NORTHEAST REGION: OPPORTUNITIES, CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Ever since India transformed its "look east policy" to "act east", India has been strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties with the nation of the indo pacific region as necessitated by the evolving geo-politics and trends in the Asia pacific. India's north eastern region emerged as key strategic spaces for New Delhi to push forward its Act-East policy. It provides and interfaces between north east India and the Asian region. India's relation with ASEAN have become multi-faceted to encompass security, counterterrorism, strategic, defense and political collaboration in addition to economic ties. Some of the major developmental projects include Kaladan Multi-model Transit Transport Project, the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway project, Rhi-Tiddim Rood Project, Border Heats etc. The research paper also analysis the various concerns and challenges that comes in the way. For example illegal trade in drugs, small arms and human trafficking etc.

Keywords: Act East Policy, North Eastern Region, Development Projects.
DEVELOPING GLOBAL COMPETENCIES THROUGH DISTANCE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION -A STUDY IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

The 21st century is the century of fast paced dynamic business environment is today characterized by increasing globalization, convergence of digital technologies, new economic challenges, global workforce and emergence of multi lingual proficiencies. Globalization have made the strategic effort to make the world into a single market to do business. This has created tremendous pressure on organizations and HR leaders to improve business performance through its human resources which today have become the principal source of competitive advantage. Management education, by the nature of its origin, started with the aim to develop globally competent managers, should be sensitive to changes in the surrounding world in terms of globalization which has surfaced as a prime-agent. Management education in India is also making attempts to respond to these changes through various programs and activities to address the issue of imparting global competencies in management graduates. Distance management education in India is also trying to resolve those shortcomings and are gradually focusing on imparting the global business management competencies in its curriculum.

The present study tries to make a modest attempt to investigate the extent to which global competencies development aspect is covered in the Indian distance management education curriculum. The study also tries to make a comparative analysis from the perspective of global competencies development imparted in the management programmes affiliated to various distance education universities in India. The study also further tries to throw light on the status of the present state universities in Assam giving distance management education in the context of global competency development.

Keywords: globalization, competency, management, distance education.
"WHY IS DOCTORAL ATTRITION HAPPENING?"-A REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This paper is a humble effort in reviewing and bringing together the research findings of different researchers and intellectuals with respect to the factors/reasons that have led doctoral students to drop out from the Ph.D. programme (Doctoral attrition). Doctoral attrition is of major concern because for every doctoral candidate, a lot of monetary and non-monetary resources are invested which go wasted. The knowledge, potential and expertise of the candidate, which could have been used to build new knowledge also suffer a big loss.

Approach: This paper uses review of literature from various sources that are relevant to the subject of study. The literature is selected based on the availability, language (English), accessibility, and relevancy to the topic.

Findings: Doctoral attrition is a matter of big concern for higher education. Thus, through literature review, this study has attempted to identify major factors/ reasons responsible for it. During this study, the researcher has also understood that there is a lack of proper record keeping regarding the number of Ph.D. dropouts (Doctoral Attrition) in India, due to which investigative study of the phenomenon too gets influenced.
Research Limitations: The research is limited to certain literature from a limited database. Exhaustive literature review would lead to more concrete idea of the factors/reasons for doctoral attrition. The additional limitation which is actually very crucial is the lack of data in government websites related to number of doctoral candidates' drop-outs.

Practical Implications: This study attempts to highlight some of the major reasons for doctoral attrition. Understanding the "why" could greatly help in finding out "how" this problem could be mitigated and "what" are the measures we could adopt for it.

Originality/Value: The originality of the paper remains in the attempt to draw the attention of research community towards Doctoral attrition and the reasons leading to the same.

Keywords: Doctoral attrition, Drop-outs, Doctoral candidate, Literature Review.
THE CHINA FACTOR IN INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NORTHEAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

With the changing dynamics of contemporary international relations, India's Foreign Policy underwent a significant change since the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government came to power in May 2014. The renewed interest to the East and Southeast Asian Region was one of the prominent policies of PM Modi's administration. With the intention of reconnecting the vibrant economies of Southeast and East Asian countries, the renewed "Look East Policy" known as "Act East Policy" was launched in late 2014 as an integral part of India's ambition to become a regional power in Asia-Pacific region. However, the rise of China in Asia-Pacific with its two ambitious goals "the China Dream" and "One Belt One Road" policy stand as big hindrance on India's ambition.

According to few Indian Foreign Policy experts, the Act East Policy has been driven in part by India's strategy of external balancing against China, but has also been motivated by India's desire for a greater global role and its rise as a trading nation by using its Soft Power. India has started to pursue this policy of internal and external balancing in the 'East' as an attempt to protect its core interests which clash with China's ambition. Being a gateway to the Southeast Asia, the Northeastern region of India, which shares a disputed border with China, also assumes significance in this Policy. With this background, this paper will assess and critically explore "the China factor" in the successful implementation of the "Act East Policy," the challenges ahead and it's implications on India's Northeast.
THE 'YOUTH', MEDIA AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The 'youth' in India has emerged as an important political category more so in the recent times. This trend can be seen not in India but all around the world. This got reflected in almost all the protest movements that the world has witnessed in recent times - Occupy Movement, Arab Spring, Anti-Corruption Agitation, Anti-Rape Agitation, to name a few. The youth has been active in protest movements earlier too but it has exacerbated specially with the emergence of the 'new media'. The forms of protesting have changed as 'online activism' has become the order of the day. However the main focus of the paper is to study the pros and cons of 'online activism' and its usage by the Indian youth and whether it affects their 'offline activism'.

Keywords: Media, Youth, Movement, Mobilisation, Activism, Students, Protest.
RIGHT TO FOOD IN INDIA: A HUMAN RIGHT ISSUE

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ABSTRACT

Human rights are the fundamental inherent rights of all human beings to which people are entitled simply by virtue of being born human. Food is a basic human requirement which everyone needs to survive. This right is often called the most basic human right and it has been acknowledged in different international instruments. The Constitution of India under Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy has recognized this right. A number of legislations have been passed by the government to protect this right. A recent such initiative is the enactment of the National Food Security Act in the year 2013. Yet the incidence of human hunger explicitly illustrates the continuing failure to fulfill the "right to food." In this paper an attempt has been made by the author to analyze the problems in realizing this basic right in India.

Keywords: Human Right, Constitution, fundamental right, food, legislations.
BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES: REVISITING CERTAIN THEORETICAL ISSUES

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ABSTRACT

Until recently, the study of borders and boundaries is primarily concerned with legal, geographical and geopolitical issues. However, from the last decade of the 20th century a marked change in the approach can be discerned and now historians are mainly focusing the historical effects of borders than in the political-legal aspects of their creation. The traditional approach of state-centre view of borders are now been challenged for a more practical understanding of the periphery. Rather than giving emphasis on the hegemonic state-centric discourse on border, now we are for a critical appreciation of the social realities provoked by it. The new historiographical approach of border studies identifies it by two ways. First they revealed the territorial consolidation of states and second, it became markers of the actual powers that states wielded over their own societies. However, according to Seven Tagil, the paradox of border studies is that "boundaries separate people and the separating qualities of boundaries influence interaction between them". In this paper a modest attempt will be made to understand these emerging theoretical issues and try to contextualize it in the border studies of North East India.

Keywords: Border, Boundary, Periphery, Borderland.
VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Vocational training itself is a challenging issue for the New Generation from the Academic point of view. In Assam, there is a Gulf between vocational training and needy visually impaired. However, Open Distance Learning (ODL) has a great scope for community mobilisation and providing resource support to the same.

Objectives:

♦ to study the scope of self employment for economic rehabilitation of visually impaired.
♦ to study the role of ODL regarding Vocational Training for VI.

Methodology:
Field study method is applied for writing this paper.

Keywords:
♦ Vocational Training
♦ Open Distance Learning
♦ Visually Impaired
MOTIVATION TO YOUTH THROUGH OER ON SOCIAL ISSUES FROM VEDIC LITERATURE IN THE NE REGION

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ABSTRACT

Society could be developed with the amalgamation of social issues and components. Technical as well as spiritual ideas are the two prime components which should be equal for a constructive development of a particular society. Humanism, ethics, moral, oneness etc. are the primary social elements which are necessary for conflict less ideal society. In Vedic literature these components are prescribed for better development of the human race. "For the good of the many and for the happiness of the many (bahujanahitaya bahujanasukhaya)" is the basic principle of the Vedic literature. In the North-East region, in its present scenario, these ethical ideas could be provided amongst the youth through the medium of syllabus. The OER on the Vedic ideas may be fruitful to build up a common plate from of positive thinking amongst its learners in the region. Sanskrit literature has an ethical attitude which could develop an ethical and responsible society. In the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, "If I was asked what the greatest treasure which India possesses is and what is her finest heritage, I would answer unhesitatingly - it is the Sanskrit language and literature and all that it contains."

The present paper is a modest attempt for bringing out some ideas on Vedic literature which could meet the social responsibility through OER mode in the North-East region.
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: A POTENTIAL ONLINE LEARNING TOOL FOR BLENDED LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

OER has emerged as one of the most innovative teaching and learning practices as well as cost-effective mechanism to improve the quality of the educational instructions. OER are understood to comprise content for teaching and learning, software-based tools and services, and licenses that allow for open development and re-use of content, tools and services. (OECD) defines OER as: "digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students, and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning, and research. OER includes learning content, software tools to develop, use, and distribute content, and implementation resources such as open licenses". A number of initiatives have been undertaken in different parts of the world to use OER for blended learning. Blended learning is generally perceived as a formal education program that integrates face-to-face learning with technology-based digital instruction. Now-a-days a number of higher education institutions are integrating technology into the course with online, mobile, or classroom environments.

Keywords: Open Educational Resources, Blended learning, Higher education, ICT integration.
A STUDY ON EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation was one of the educational thinkers, social activist, and writer who contributed his valuable thoughts to developour Indian education system. Gandhiji said, "Purity of personal life is the one indispensable condition for building a sound education." In this research paper, the researcher is going discussed educational contributions of Mahatma Gandhi which has relevance in the present day context.

Descriptive, philosophical and historical research methods have been used in preparing this paper. This research paper has been prepared on the basis of secondary sources like books, articles of different writers, research papers of Journal, Seminar, Research thesis, internet etc.

keywords: Educational Thoughts, contribution.
RECORD KEEPING BEHAVIOUR AMONG SMALL TEA GROWERS: A STUDY IN SELECT DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Maintenance of formal accounts by agricultural farms in India is a rare practice except by agro-based joint stock companies like tea companies. Farm accounting provides useful information which may be used in making economic decisions by the farmers. Present study is undertaken to identify the factors affecting record keeping habits in small tea gardens of Assam and to know the association between levels of education of small tea grower's, size of the tea gardens and keeping farm records. It is found that size of the garden has an influence in maintenance of accounting record but educational level of the growers is independent of record keeping practice in small tea gardens of Assam.

Keywords: Small Tea Gardens, Record keeping behaviour, Size of farm.
CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD MARRIAGES IN TEA GARDENS OF ASSAM: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS FROM SOCIO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Child labour and Child marriages play a crucial role in the lives of Tea Tribe children in Assam. Most of the children in tea gardens of Assam attends school to a certain age and subsequently joins tea garden as daily wage earner. The sudden shift from the status of school going children to a daily wage earner status makes them feel more secure and economically empowered. This inevitable feeling of adolescence makes them floating into a world of fantasy and heroism and they marry the person they dreamt of day in and out. The present study aims to determine the extent to which these two factors lead them to an uncertain and insecure future.

Keywords: Child labour, Child Marriages, Adolescence, Social status.
INDIA’S ACT EAST TO NORTHEAST: REFLECTIONS ON THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES ALONG INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER

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ABSTRACT

Northeast India is no more a burdensome peripheral region as it will play the important role of connecting the rest of the India with the booming economies of the Southeast Asian countries. Myanmar is one of the important components for the success of India’s Act East Policy. It shares a common land boundary with India's Northeast states like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland and together with that it also shares a long maritime boundary. The Look(Act) East policy can benefit Northeast India if the region economically integrates with the economies of Southeast East Asia which is crucial for the development of Northeast.

The paper will focus on India's Act East Policy and the engagements with Myanmar together with its implications on Northeast India specially along India-Myanmar Border. It will also look into the opportunities and challenges associated with the vision of connecting Northeast India with the larger geo-economic space.

Keywords: Northeast India, Look(Act) East Policy, India-Myanmar border, Opportunities, challenges.
THE UNSEEN REALITIES: A STUDY OF CHILD TRAFFICKING IN BAKSA DISTRICT, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Human trafficking is a communicable disease that has been spread throughout the world in last few decades. Literatures have been published, news has been broadcasted, cases are still being investigated, a few have been rescued others are still in blur vision. Yet, awareness programmes are not being promoted adequately and efficiently. Real India, that is village India, is being neglected. Most of the cases of human trafficking are from rural India. The Baksa district of Assam is an example of unseen realities where the girl child of poor families are being abducted and sometimes with victim’s consent. The traffickers pick them up with the false hope of great jobs in big and metro cities and eventually forced them for prostitution or for unpaid degraded labour condition. Sometimes, traffickers indulge in trading of body organs of human being, a chain that connects the whole world as it involves no hard labour to earn money. These not only create physical problem to the victims but also disrupt the condition of peaceful mindset. At times, they become mentally sick and sometime hard labour causes them to death. "Virangana" force has been operationalized along with multiple NGO’s and other organizations but unable to reach the remote areas of Baksa. However, the issue is not only legal but it has also socio-cultural-economic and humanitarian baggage and can't be resolved efficiently if not guided by active awareness programmes in remote areas.

Keywords: Trafficking, rural India, unpaid labour, awareness, virangana, socio-economic-cultural, humanitarian.
FROM LOOK EAST POLICY TO ACT EAST POLICY:  
A STUDY OF NORTHEAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The Northeast region of India presents its unique blend of advantages and issues which in today’s environment is crucial for the nation to address the issues and exploit the advantages to their full potential. The region is quite remote compared to many other states but it is also a gateway to the ASEAN countries. The entire region serves as a portal for fostering international relationships. The paper would try to explore probable avenues for further development of the region especially in infrastructure and connectivity of the Northeast to the ASEAN region through trade, culture, people to people contact. Moreover, the study would overview the projects already underway, under the aegis of the policy. Besides, the paper would try to analyze the Act East Policy, a step up from the Look East Policy and its importance to the Northeast region.
STATUS OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN NORTHEAST INDIA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Financial inclusion is the idea of making financial products and services reachable at affordable cost to each section of the economy with special emphasis on the vulnerable ones. The present study attempts to construct a multidimensional index for accessing the extent of financial inclusion in India and the states of North Eastern region. The Index incorporates three dimensions namely availability, accessibility and uses of financial services which comprises of eight indicators. Although India is achieving height of financial inclusion, disparities persist across regions and the North Eastern States are still lagged behind. The empirical results revealed that Tripura is the most financially inclusive state among eight states of North East having an intermediate financial inclusion, followed by Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram and Meghalaya. However, the extent of financial inclusion is very poor in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland as exhibited by lower Financial Inclusion Index (FII).

Keywords: Financial Inclusion Index, Dimensions, North-East, India
APPLICATION OF QR CODE IN OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

For speedy and easy access to information, research is being conducted specially in the field of computer and communication sciences which brings a tsunami like change to the area of information dissemination. Diverse application of different computer tools and techniques in higher education, especially in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) becomes a common facet.

A most universally used output of technology is QR Code where QR stands for Quick Response. The QR Code is a particular type of machine generated code that responses quickly if it is scanned with proper scanning devices. A smart phone can also be used as a QR Code scanning device, therefore it becomes handier and a popular means of information dissemination technology. A QR Code can be printed or can be sent via email and other messenger system. QR Code is being used in the ODL education system through which the learners can access their self learning materials, can get various useful reference web links, authenticate their certificate, etc. as such Code can contain website, multimedia, text, etc.

This paper aims to discuss the innovative way of using QR Codes in various areas of ODL system. Moreover, it shows a simple way of generating QR Code using a freely available QR Code generator and QR Code App using Android smart phone device.

Keywords: QR Code, Distance Education, ODL, Smart phone
DECRIMINALIZING ADULTERY: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GENDER EQUALITY

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ABSTRACT

Sec 497 IPC reads, whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. In such case, under section 497 IPC the wife shall not be punishable even as an abettor. On closer examination, it was found that the provision contained in the section is a kind of romanticizing paternalism which stems from the assumption that women, like chattels, are the property of men. The attempt of this paper is to critically examine that Section 497 IPC is not gender neutral. The married women might have willingly participated in adultery but the clear classification that she will be exempted goes against the facets of equality. Apart from being sexist, sec 497 IPC also dented the individuality of men. The paper will finally conclude with some suggestions.

Keywords: Gender, adultery, women, patriarchy, equality.
A LEGAL STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR AS A FORM OF CHILD ABUSE

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ABSTRACT

If we are ever to have real peace in this world we shall have to begin with the children.
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

Children are the assets and wealth of our nation. They are the future of our nation which should be protected. But the practice of child labour has existed since 19th century. Child labour has been attracting growing attention and has emerged as the single most important source of child exploitation and abuse in the world. India is sadly the home to the largest number of child labour in the world. Among all the states, in Assam overall 4.9% children between the age of 5-14 years are engaged in some form of child labour. This paper aims to analyse the provisions under the Constitution of India against child labour, also studies the role played by the Judiciary in the development and critical analysis of the Child Labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2016.
TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF HOUSEHOLD
CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In the past decade (2000-2010), India's gross domestic product (GDP) has grown at an average rate of 7.27%. GDP growth has been accompanied by a rise in per capita income. Consumption patterns have also undergone a change with the rise in income. Reports state that Indians are now spending much more on high-value foods, and consumption is shifting from plant-based to animal-based protein, thanks to increasing disposable incomes and evolving consumer needs. Against this backdrop, using NSSO data, this paper attempts to examine the trends and patterns in household consumption expenditure in the North-Eastern region of India.
FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND THE INDIAN STATE - SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE SELF-EMPLOYMENT POLICY DISCOURSE IN NEO-LIBERAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The financial inclusion of the poor constitutes a core component of the poverty alleviation discourse in India and the social banking programme of the pre-liberalisation era upholds the responsibility of government to extend the benefits of the banking sector to the rural poor. With the ushering of the neo-liberal-era, other non-state financial actors have shared the Indian State's responsibility of financial inclusion of the poor; nevertheless, the Indian State has not withdrawn the earlier agenda of extending financial services to the poor. The aim of the paper is to understand how the Indian State has reoriented its 'financial inclusion' project in the midst of neo-liberal compulsions and inevitabilities. For this purpose, the paper has focussed on the self-employment policies of neo-liberal era.
ROLE OF SHG AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN ASSAM: 
AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

At present society, empowering of women is one of the most important burning issues. As we know that women population constitutes around half of the world population but unfortunately a large number of women around the world are unemployed which is one of the hindrances for the development of a nation. In this respect, SHG is a nice platform where the women can be empowered and they can have control over the resources i.e. social, economic, political, intellectual and cultural. It can ensure equal-right to women, and makes them confident and enriches their personality, which is most important for the development of a nation. SHG is one of the weapons which enable the women to gain economic benefits out of mutual help, solidarity and social responsibility; it provides the women financial security. This paper tries to focus on the understanding of the concept of women empowerment and the impact of SHG on women empowerment. The research design was descriptive. The archival literature survey method was followed. It was found that SHG is one of the important tools which can empower women economically as well as socially.

Keywords: Descriptive Study, Employment; Financial Security; Poverty; Women Empowerment.
ENSURING QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CTE OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Quality management of Indian Teacher Education is matter of immediate concern. There is a need to enhance the work culture of the Teacher Education Institutions in terms of all parameters of the education system. Quality management deals with mainly to manage is to forecast, to plan and what exactly we want men to do and manages workers and work. The meaning of quality management in education is concerned with to organize, to coordinate and to control the various educational purposes in such a manner as to achieve the goals and objectives set by the education. The main objective of this paper is to make an elaborate, in depth and better understanding of the concept of ensuring quality management in Education with special focus on educational management system in College of Teacher Education (CTE) of Assam. In this study, the researcher trying to know about the quality teaching and its environment in three private Teacher Training Colleges of Kamrup, Assam from among the ten Teacher Training Colleges of Kamrup district as sample of study. Again, descriptive survey method with the use of questionnaire is used for collecting required data for the study.

Keywords: Quality Management, Educational Management, Teacher Training College Management.
NORTHEAST VIS-À-VIS INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

The north east region has been geo politically important for Indian state since the time of Independence. It comprised of eight states i.e. - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The entire northeast region has covered by International border. The region had a socio, cultural and historical connections with the Southeast Asia. The northeast region also shares certain trade corridors with its eastern region as well. The geographical and strategic location of northeast India increases its significance now-a-days in the eyes of the Indian state. For instance, the Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi has declared the region as the Ashtalakshmi of India. But in practice there lots of contested dilemmas which need to be reconfigure and re-examined for the effective implementation of Act East Policy through North East.
A SPATIAL COMPARISON OF DOMESTIC DUTIES 
FOCUSSING ON THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

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ABSTRACT

The invisibility and non-remunerative nature of domestic work makes it a tricky area of study. In India, during 2011-12, 46 percent and 51 percent of women were engaged in domestic work in rural and urban areas respectively. However, the ISNA does not recognise their work as economic activities thereby nullifying the significance of domestic work. Women in the north eastern states are believed to have a better status than their counterparts in the rest of India. Moreover, the north eastern states of India are very often clubbed together making it difficult to see the numerous differences among them. Thus, the primary aim of this paper is to clearly grasp how the various aspects of domestic work differ among these states. Also, the paper focuses on the disparity in domestic work among states that are otherwise comparatively progressive towards women and those that are not.

Keywords: women, work, domestic duties, non-economic activities.
PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS TOWARDS DISTANCE EDUCATION AND OPEN LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

United Nations Organisation has placed education in the number 4 slot for sustainable development goals to be realised by 2030. Contrary to this, a country like India has a gross enrolment ratio of 25.2% in 2016-17. At present India have 827 Universities and 35500 colleges catering the need of higher education. However, in order to reduce the disparity between haves and have-nots, India should look at all possible avenues of educational delivery. Assam being in the lower part of the ladder for educational attainment need much to do in creating opportunities for education for the mass people. Open education and distance education can help in reducing the disparity and achieve the targeted sustainable development goals within time. The purpose of the study is to access the perception of the students towards distance education and open learning. A sample of 100 students has been taken from five study centres of Krishna KantaHandique state open university (KKHSOU). Primary data have been collected through a questionnaire designed for this purpose, which has been further processed using appropriate statistical techniques.

Keywords: Higher education, open education, gross enrolment ratio, students perception
ODL AND ENGLISH LITERARY STUDIES: 
SOME REFLECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

There is probably no doubt about the fact that ODL as a mode of education has facilitated newer and enriched learning experience. On the one hand, access and equity are increasingly being seen as the main reference points of ODL systems, on the other, the need for measurable vocational and professional education is becoming more and more pertinent in the context of the 21st century. However, despite various pitfalls and loopholes, the ODL system may be considered a recovery of valuable educative experiences. For instance, those concerned with linking 'development' with 'education', may project ODL as a powerful answer to the question of upgrading the learning experience among the learners. But, the practical criteria for judging an ODL programme can be related to the learning outcomes it affects. In today's competitive world, 'employability' has been the intended priority of higher education, and subsequently, technical and vocational education have gained a better competitive edge. However, the same may not be the case with a less tangible discipline like English Literary Studies. In certain countries, there has been a tendency to drop humanities departments in their universities because of their failure to cope with the tremendous pressure to submit to the market-forces. In this paper, an attempt has been made to assess how the teachers/educators of a discipline like Eng. Lit. often face a dilemma of measuring the learning outcome, whether this discipline helps the learners to comprehend both skill-training and liberal learning. So, the attempt in this paper has been to address how the ODL contours of literary studies can provide a sustainable learning environment in which the learners can garner ability to appreciate cultural subtlety, literary nuances or analytical balance, which are also the essential pre-conditions for healthy and sustainable living in an integrated society of current times.

Keywords: English Literary Studies, Learning Outcome, Social Integration.
BEING GENDER NEUTRAL: ICC IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

A safe and inclusive workplace will remain a pipedream if we are not gender-neutral and gender-sensitive in our approach. Dignity of female members is of utmost necessity in any organization. In an educational institution also, it is all the more important and relevant to have a gender-friendly environment, which would lead to productivity.

In the present day context when we see physical, mental or psychological abuse of women at workplace as an act of sexual harassment under the purview of ‘Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, we also need to find effective mechanism to counter it. We talk of change in our attitude and mindset, gender equity to practice at home, gender justice, equal job equal pay, women empowerment etc, but as we know, the outcome is far from reality.

In this paper we seek to question whether the educational institutions, especially higher educational institutions in our region, provide an ideal gender-friendly workplace environment to its employees as well as students. Ensuring such a healthy environment full of mutual trust and respect between opposite sexes will surely go a long way in cultivating a gender-sensitive society in future. For this to happen in a systematic and well-informed way, the UGC in 2015 mandated the establishment of Internal Complaint Committees (ICCs) in our higher education institutions in pursuance of the 2013 Act. Apart from preventing and redressing sexual harassment in campuses, the very existence of the ICCs is supposed to sensitize the students about gender related issues. But it is observed that in majority of the higher education institutions in Assam, ICC is not yet formed. And in our survey it was found out that many heads of the institutions are not aware of the ICC, let alone the students.

Keywords: gender-neutral, gender-sensitivity, gender-friendly, ICC
A STUDY ON EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on finding out the employability skills of graduates as these are required by both employers and job searchers. The term employability skills refer to those skills required to acquire and retain a job. The term employability skills are used to describe the preparation or foundation skills upon which a person must build job specific skills. The objective of this study is to find out the skills considered as prerequisites from different documents / literatures available in the websites of various educational institutions.

Keywords: Employability skills.
A STUDY OF EMPOWERMENT AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN RELATION TO LOCALITY

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ABSTRACT

This research is an examination of the study of empowerment among adolescent girls in Muslim community. The main aim of this guide is to identify the position of Empowerment adolescent girls in Muslim community. There have great differences between rural and urban areas girls empowerment. Power is the most important element in the term empowerment. Adolescent girls are very important section of our society as they are our potential mothers and future homemakers. In the present investigation a representative sample of 100 adolescent girls of Muslim community was selected. Out of the 100 adolescent girls 50 are rural, 50 are urban area have been taken from district Sonitpur of Assam. In the present study the Adolescent Girls Empowerment Scale developed and standardized by Dr. D.S. Sisodia and Dr. Alpana Singh (2009) was used. Results revealed there is significant difference in the mean scores of composite empowerment among adolescent girls in Muslim community in relation to rural and urban area. It is concluded that urban adolescent girls have more empowerment in composite level of dimension of empowerment than rural area adolescent girls.

Keywords: Empowerment, Adolescent Girls, Muslim Community, Locality.
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE STUDY CENTRES OF KKHSOU AND IDOL, GAUHATI UNIVERSITY OF GREATER GUWAHATI AREA, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

With the advancement of science and technology today, the whole world is converted to a global village and people from each and every corner of the world come closer to each other. On the other hand, this make possible to increase the distance between students and teachers. Now distance education become more popular among all levels of learners. The people who are intending to have education but not enough time to attend formal education due to some socio-economic problems, always prefer to avail education through distance mode which is different from traditional classroom system.

Postal, module base & net-base e-learning opportunities etc are now became more attractive to the educator who are interested to improve the career and professionally skilful.

In this study, an attempt has been made to show the issues and challenges of higher education through distance education. Here the investigators have selected two open universities of Assam as a sample and descriptive survey method is applied. The collected data are based on both primary and secondary source.
GENDER & EQUALITY-WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Gender equality is a human right which entitles everyone irrespective of their gender to live with dignity and with freedom. It also requires equal access to all the opportunities, resources, socially-valued goods, and rewards by both men and women. Gender equality is also a prerequisite condition for all round development and better economic status. Empowered women can contribute to a great extent in better parenting by being role models for their children, and contribute towards productivity of their families and communities, which in turn lead to improved prospects for the next generation. Women empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. It means increasing a women's sense of self-worth, decision-making power, access to opportunities and resources, power and control over her own life and the ability to effect change. The millennium development goal also put emphasis on gender equality and empowerment of women. It is now widely accepted that gender equality is a fundamental cornerstone for achieving development results. The main aim of this theoretical paper is to focus on the inequalities that had happened in the society in the past and how the women are moving towards empowering themselves in the present contemporary world.

Keywords: gender equality, women empowerment, women.
ROLE OF EDUCATION IN EMPOWERING MISHING WOMEN REGARDING ECONOMIC HEGEMONY AND DECISION MAKING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAJULI

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ABSTRACT

The women tribe of Mishing community is dynamically involved in various agricultural activities but their status is not equal to the male community. They are also engaged in various household and domestic activities. However with the expansion of education, women have changed the role of working in the household affairs. In the present study, the investigator focuses on to find out the education status decision making power of women living in Majuli. The sample of the study was restricted to 100 married mishing women living Sonapara village in Majuli. The findings reflect that educational status of women is not very remarkable among the Mishing women. Yet, Mishing women play a crucial role regarding decision making related to domestic affairs and matters related to their children.

Keywords: Education, Empowerment, Decision making power.
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PEDAGOGIES THROUGH OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Pedagogy is a technique, an approach, a process or a method that help immensely to make teaching learning effective. Due to the explosion of science and technology in the present technology era, we need to look at the up-to-date way of transactional behaviour in pursuing the world class education. The behavioural taxonomy which is designed so systematically suggests that it could guide the teachers or the instructors for using the appropriate pedagogical tools and techniques to receive the mission and goal of educational instruction. In fact, in a learner-centred approach, with the help of pedagogy, learners can reap the benefits or internalise the curriculum or the content in his or her own way of learning.

Besides, today the entire open and distance learning system is based on techno-pedagogy, where the basic value of education depends on providing the experiential learning to the learners that transfer the entire education system into the self-learning or independent learning. Therefore, the relevance and the use of pedagogy should be linked with the changing environment of the teaching learning process, where various digital technologies are used for transmitting and disseminating the knowledge and information to the learners to a great extent. The traditional chalk and talk methodology is replaced by different new devices or techniques like collaborative learning, project based or team work activity, personalized and customized learning that provide plenty of opportunities to the learners for bringing out their quality of creativity and innovative ideas and thoughts. In fact,
the use of these types of techniques in teaching learning process is essential for the teachers, the academicians and the academic practitioners in order to motivate the learners so that they can be able to explore different applications of knowledge and skills in their practical fields and also able to leave as productive citizen in the real sense. Through this paper, an attempt has been made to explore the different types of latest pedagogies that are useful for effective learning in ODL, how does the emergence of new pedagogy has finally enabled the learners to be creative while also being a part of a standardised world class education and also list out the challenges behind ensuring the standardised or internationalised education system in India.

**Keywords:** Pedagogy, ICT, ODL, Experiential Learning.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN WORKERS IN THE TEA GARDENS OF ASSAM

(A Case study of Bakchung and Chinnanara Tea Gardens in the Jorhat district of Assam)

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ABSTRACT

Women workers constitute almost half the work force in the tea gardens of Assam and researchers and human rights activists have attempted to assess their socio economic conditions, violation of their human rights and health issues. But the gap area here is the aspect or the determining factor which controls the lives of women in these tea gardens conditioned by patriarchy primarily. There are primary, secondary and oral sources which elucidate upon the obstacles faced by women in appropriation of amenities and the factors that shape the common psyche for acceptance of contemporary conditions becomes significant. There are government schemes providing stipends for education to the tea laborers taking into consideration the widespread illiteracy, but the useful appropriation of those schemes is not seen and women particular are not enthusiastic about the idea of education. The instances of domestic violence also reflect that women do not raise their voices against any injustice though they equally contribute as bread earners of the family. Despite government efforts to disseminate education in order to create an overall awareness, concepts of gender equality, equal pay, the dark side of child marriage along with degraded health issues like maternal mortality rate, alcohol addiction and its ill effects are not known by the members of the tea community, and women specially are unpretentious of the parallel socio economic developments.
This paper attempts to peep into the possible reasons for the condition of women in the context equitable access to resources in comparison with the mainstream society. Even if one examines the era of industrial revolution in England, the male workers were supposedly traumatized with the dwindling patterns of patriarchy and the increasing participation of women. The case in Assam similarly infuriates the gender equation traditionally driven by the malaise of patriarchy as the employment rate of women workers is almost similar as men.

The paper also attempts to unveil the actual status of women in terms of their socio economic conditions, overall portrayal of their present status otherwise culturally represented as a 'carefree', 'hariya drinking', 'jhumur dancing' group. Is this the reality or a created construct? The oral interviews with the women labourers' would attempt to give an insight into the underlying causes and factors which form the core theme of this research work.

Keywords: women, patriarchy, tea labourers, Assam
VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENDER WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GUWAHATI CITY- AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In societies where people restrict and categorize the term 'gender' to only male and female sex, it becomes important to study about the third gender as well. The terms 'third gender' and 'third sex' describe individuals who are broadly categorized as neither man nor woman and also the special category present in those societies who recognize three or more genders. In this paper, the author primarily focuses on the violence against transgender as well as the denial of the basic rights to them where they are disowned by their families in their childhood, ridiculed and abused by everyone. Detailed analysis has also been made by tracing back to the pitiable state of affairs of the transgender from their inception.

Keywords: Gender, transgender, rights, violence.
SITUATING NORTHEAST IN INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY: 
RATIONAL AND CONCERNS

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ABSTRACT

The imperative of changing political, strategic and economic configurations of the post cold war period pushed India to recast its foreign policy approach. In these changed circumstances India started privileging the neighbours in its foreign policy scheme to secure different strategic and economic interests. Such good neighbourly relation also may help India to address the problems of its Northeast region. The economic backwardness of the region can largely be explained in terms of its land lockedness and geographical peripherality. Economic development of this region therefore demands some kind economic integration with its neighbouring economies. However, realization of such goals requires significant revamping of India's relation with some of its neighbours. It is against this back ground, the present paper intends to examine the India's present neighbourhood policy and whether such policy can accommodate the interest of its border region particularly of Northeast and if so, in what way.
WOMEN TRAFFICKING IN BTAD AREA: PATTERN AND PROBLEMS

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ABSTRACT

Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD) area comprising four districts witnessing several serious ethnic conflicts in recent past comes into the category of highly vulnerable areas for trafficking incidents of women. Based on both primary and secondary data, this study attempts to find out the pattern and the problems behind women trafficking in the study area of four districts. The victims are mainly from rural area falling below poverty line and semi-educated background. The points of demand for trafficked victims are metropolitan areas mainly for the purpose of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation among other purposes. This study also looks inside the police setup through primary survey and finds out deplorable structural problems leading to incompetence in responding to trafficking cases promptly.

Keywords: women trafficking, BTAD, police set up, rural poverty.
WOMEN, WORK AND DEVELOPMENT: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

Understanding work and its gendered implications from feminist perspectives shapes a major debate. Discerning the difference between sexual or natural division of labour and cultural factors moulding a woman into a woman worker through controls on her choices and opportunities represents the patriarchal processes of women's subordination. Much of the work that women do is invisible, undercounted, under-valued and often unpaid or underpaid. Moreover, it is been found that early development initiatives which preoccupied economists and colonial officials in the 1930s largely ignored women. Accordingly, a historical approach to development is important to understand the evolution of development thinking and policies as there has been substantial debate in recent decades on women, work and women's subjugation. This is again essential to situate women's work in the broader social context. This paper seeks to highlight the main strands of theoretical discussions which have contributed to the debate around women, work and feminist development frameworks.

Keywords: Women, Work, Development, Feminist Perspectives.
E-LEARNING TOOLS FOR KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

For an Educational Institution, knowledge dissemination is the most fundamental issue. Now-a-day along with Conventional Face-to-Face Learning Mode, the Open and Distance Learning Mode is equally getting importance in the field of learning and knowledge. For a learner, irrespective of the Learning Modes, learning is the biggest challenge and here comes the term "E-learning" which facilitates education from anywhere at anytime using communications networks mostly the Internet. It is the acquisition of knowledge and skill through electronic technologies. Technically for E-learning, the Development of a learner friendly E-learning platform is very essential with a vast repository of knowledge so that it contributes to the ease of accessing knowledge. For this kind of development there are two kinds of technologies:- Proprietary and Open Source. This paper presents a systematic analysis of different tools and technologies available for the design and development of learning platforms along-with different add-ons.
A HIGHLIGHT ON IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ON THE LIVES OF PEOPLE OF REMOTE AREAS OF ASSAM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HAJO REVENUE CIRCLE

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ABSTRACT

Unemployment and poverty create hindrance and hardship for the people to survive and live a social life. Unemployment is increasing alarmly among educated generations and efficient persons which affects their life and a sense of frustration and deprivation spreads. Likewise, due to poverty lots of families give up their aspirations and hopes for future life. Poverty is one of the most social and economic disease which ruins the lives of people. Appropriate measures and time-oriented approach should be taken to decrease unemployment and eradicate poverty from the world.

In this paper an attempt has been made by the investigator to focus on the impact of unemployment and poverty on the lives of people of remote areas. Descriptive survey method has been applied in this research paper and random sampling technique was used while selecting sample for collecting data. The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data.

Keywords: Unemployment, Poverty, Remote Areas.
A STUDY ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY UNORGANISED CARPENTERS AND MASONs AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THEM IN RENDERING HOME BASED SERVICES IN KAMRUP METRO

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ABSTRACT

"A man is not paid for having a head and hands, but for using them." - Elbert Hubbard

The development of a nation depends on the development of each and every individual living in that nation. The contribution of unorganised labourers towards the development of an economy cannot be neglected. Carpenters and masons are amongst them. Their services are most valuable in building the infrastructure of a society. But in many cases it is seen that these people are exploited in terms of payment of wages, long working hours, insecurity in workplace etc. Though various laws and regulations are introduced by the government to eliminate such issues but not all the rules are applicable in certain cases as it is well said that rules are meant to be broken.

In this paper the Researcher has collected information from two parties to make study unbiased. One of them is the unorganised carpenters and masons and the other party is the commuters of the services of these labourers. In many cases we come across with such situations where many people taking the services of these labourers remain unsatisfied with their work. So the study focuses on the various problems faced by the carpenters and masons along with the problems faced by the commuters of these workers by analysing various issues.

Keywords: Unorganised, Carpenters and masons, unbiased, labour, commuters etc.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is an act of violence or abuse that take place within domestic settings and is mostly witnessed in intimate relationships like marriages and cohabitation. The nature of violence can be physical, emotional, sexual, verbal and economic as directed according to the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005. Mostly women are found to be the victims of domestic violence and the crime is dominantly perpetrated both by the male and female members of the family. In India, millions of women are continually violated and abused but a handful of these cases get reported despite the laws established against it. This mostly happens because of the stigma attached to the topic and also there is a constant fear prevalent amongst women in case the perpetrators retaliate. It is a qualitative study carried out on 5 female respondents who have been victims of domestic violence in Guwahati, Assam. Keeping the present scenario in mind, the study explores the implications of domestic violence.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, women, abuse.
PROSPECTS OF WETLAND PROTECTION UNDER THE URBANISATION PLAN IN GUWAHATI - A SOCIO-LEGAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Wetlands encompass a broad range of ecosystems characterised by bodies of water like lakes, ponds, rivers or marshes, and their surrounding bio-networks. Wetlands are nature’s measures against both droughts and floods, of which Assam has repeatedly been a victim. Despite their vital importance to humans, across India, wetlands are seriously threatened by reclamation and degradation through processes of drainage, land-filling, discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal of solid waste, and over-exploitation of the natural resources that they offer. The Annual Economic Survey of 2017 published by the Ministry of Finance presented data that included the rapid pace of urbanization also indicated that the wetlands in the country are headed for a crisis.

The present study is an attempt to analyse the effect of rapid urbanization process taking over the city of Guwahati at the cost of encroaching upon the wetlands of the region. The author also seeks to analyse the strategy of the State to maintain sustainable development in the process of urbanization.

Keywords: Wetlands, Urbanization, Protection, Preservation, Economic condition, Sustainable Development.
A STUDY ON TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY OF RICE PRODUCTION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

An interstate comparison of technical efficiency of Rice production in India during the period 1995-96 to 2015-16 is made in the present paper by using stochastic frontier analysis. The study comprises six states namely Punjab, Haryana (where green revolution have made a significant progress), Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal (where green revolution technique made a moderate progress) and Assam and Odisha (which have been lagged behind in the adoption of green revolution technique). Cobb-Douglas functional form is used to represent the frontier as it is found to be more appropriate given the data set. Per hac rice yield is taken as output and land, chemical fertilizer, irrigation, machine labour, human labour as well as animal labour is input. Mean technical efficiency shows that there is 16% chance to increase the rice output without using any additional resources. Punjab is found to be the most technically efficient state (0.95) while Odisha is the worst performer (0.61) among the sample state.

Keywords: Stochastic frontier analysis, Cobb-Douglas production function, Technical Efficiency.
'SOFT POWER' STRATEGY FOR INDIA'S 'ACT EAST': ACTIVE & INDISPENSABLE ROLE OF NORTH-EAST

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ABSTRACT

"Historically India has had an enormous influence on Southeast Asia; economically and culturally too. The Ramayana story is present all over Southeast Asia in different versions. …The civilisations in the region were really Indian in origin…"

-- Late Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore, Minister Mentor and Statesman.

India, being world's ancient civilization of Sun-worshippers has always been 'Looking East' but under the visionary & charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 'Neighbourhood First' diplomacy, time has never been so ripe or opportune to act now for India's 'Act East' grand geo-strategy. Utilizing the irresistible and attractive 'Soft Power', as USP holds the 'master key' in unlocking tangible and huge potentials of India's leapfrogging from 'Look East' to 'Act East' vis-a-vis Southeast Asian region via the ASEAN member-States. North-East region, being India's only landborder connecting India with Southeast Asia via Myanmar, can therefore, play the primemost 'pivotal role' which will be indispensably strategic for an active and agile 'Act East' policy of India. Having the closest cultural, geographical, and ethnic affinity with the ASEAN nations, 'Soft Power' role of India's North-East must, therefore, be fully harnessed for mutually profiting from PM Modi’s 'Act East' diplomatic entente.

Keywords: Soft-Power, Look-East, Act-East, North-East, ASEAN, FDI, FTA.
MOBILE LEARNING AS A MODE OF OPEN AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The people in today's world are on the move and most of the time they demand access to information and knowledge anytime and anywhere. To satisfy the growing need of people various devices have been used in distance education to bridge the distance between the teacher and the learners. Amongst them mobile learning popularly known as M-learning provide enormous possibilities and opportunities to bridge the gap between teachers and learners. It also discard the view that distance learning is a secluded form of learning. There is a paradigm shift of book oriented face to face learning to application of wireless and mobile technologies in contemporary learning environment. In the present study an attempt was made to see the use of mobile phone as a means for distance learning in higher education. The main objectives formulated for the study were to see the usage of different types of mobile learning in distance education taking into consideration the teachers and students and its use for various purposes of learning and also to know the merits of mobile learning from students' perspective. For the present study the investigator selected fifty (50) students from different distance learning centers of different colleges of South Kamrup area of district Kamrup, Assam, using purposive sampling technique. The method used here was descriptive survey method and data were collected with the help of a self structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the data. Results have shown that the usage of mobile phone by the teachers and learners for various purposes of learning was not satisfactory. However most of the learners' have realized the merits of mobile learning. It is hoped that this present piece of work will work as an eye opener to the different stakeholders of distance education and help them to take different strategies for maximizing the use of mobile for teaching-learning purposes.

Keywords: distance education, teacher, learner, mobile learning.
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND VISIBILITY: A SOCIAL MEDIA PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Gender based violence (GBV) has been rampant in the society and addressing this issue comes with deep challenges. The victims have been women and children and it cuts across all social sections. Gender based violence has in recent times gained more visibility owing to different factors. Maitrayee Chaudhuri has mentioned in her work how women have become "hyper-visible" in the society owing to the boom in economic policies, worldwide women's movements and internet. Social media has been very effective in bringing into light many cases of violence related to GBV. Social media has become a popular culture and if used for positive changes, it has the potential of providing justice to the aggrieved and victims of GBV.

The paper is qualitative and analytical in its approach. The findings of the paper are based on the Reports from national and International institutions and organisations. Secondary sources mostly articles, reports; books have been consulted for the study.
DROPOUTS IN DEVELOPING MILIEU

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ABSTRACT

Education has become a sine qua non for human growth and development as it facilitates acquisition of knowledge, skills and beliefs. But failing to complete a particular educational course has been widely recognized as a social problem or a sin committed. Through the changing perception of knowledge, education and with the development of options like open education and distance learning students are now left with an open door which can help them flourish in their life, despite the challenges they faced and because of which they were forced to leave the course.

OBJECTIVE:

This paper is a study on dropout students at higher secondary education or who were not able to continue their graduation and their psychological, social and physical state during that period of their life.

METHOD:

Case studies of 11 students selected by convenience sampling were done by using a semi structured interview tool, students who left their education in between their ongoing courses (higher secondary or graduation).
RESULT:
As a result it was observed that though the students forwent their program of study, due to different happenings at different stages of their life, even though the psychological, social and physical problems faced by them are more or less comparable. Also the notion of dropping out is changing with changing circumstances and they feel optimistic about their future.

CONCLUSION:
The research has provided a cognizance about the challenges faced by the dropouts, causes behind and way they anticipate their life in this changing domain. Dropping courses in between is not seen as pessimistically as it was earlier, with the options of Distance learning or open education, students can complete their desirable courses.

Keywords: Dropouts, distance education, future, challenges.
REVISITING OPEN EDUCATION: ITS ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Over the year there has been much talk about 'open education' in higher education. The purpose of open education literally involves opening up education to maximum numbers of people. There are different ways of doing so, through open education resource (OER) like online lectures, materials, blogs, videos, etc. Opening up education also include opening different courses that are not confined to conventional disciplines and curriculum. The point is that open education has revolutionized the system of education. It has launched educations beyond the campus. This new educational system calls into question many issues related to quality, technology, copyrights, other management systems, and the like. That is, it has raised issues like how does it work? How do we test the working of such systems? Can it be compared to the conventional institutional system of education? Addressing some such issue involve revisiting another set of questions like, what "education" actually is, how it should be imparted, to whom, when and for what purpose. The paper seeks to bring forth some discussion on the issues and challenges of open education in the twenty-first century in general and in higher education in particular.
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -
A CASE STUDY IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Research on the association between public expenditure and economic growth started on 19th and 20th centuries (Wagner 1883; Keynes 1936; Peacock and Wiseman 1961; Peacock et al 1967; Gupta 1967, 1969; Musgrave 1969; Michas 1975; Rubinson 1977; Landau 1983). There are much empirical research on the both positive and adverse impacts of public expenditure on economic growth and of economic growth on public expenditure. Public expenditure is considered a positive determinant of economic growth in Barro (1990) and Baffes et al (1993), whereas the negative impact is evident in Sheehey (1993); Vedder and Gallaway (1998); Fölster and Henrekson (2001); Furceri and Ribeiro (2008); and Romer and Romer (2010). Other aspects, such as how the structure and composition of public expenditure has an impact on the growth of the economy, have also been studied by other few economists. In this paper, we will try to find out the justification of public expenditure for Assam.

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OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING SYSTEM AND INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION: CONTEXTUALIZING DISABILITY EDUCATION IN NORTH EAST INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The advent of Open and distance learning (ODL) system has a significant role in facilitating education to all sections of the society particularly to the disadvantageous one. The main aim of ODL system is to provide education at the doorsteps and it transcends barriers like age, place or time. It is noteworthy to mention here that persons with disability can be considered most alienated, disadvantageous group in a given society. Due to their physical or mental impairment, these group of people sometimes cannot involve in the process of regular education system. Now a days efforts have been made both at the national and international level for the promotion of inclusive education and creation of a barrier free environment. However, the concept of inclusive education in the field of higher education is a challenging one. The present paper makes an attempt to explore the role of open and distance learning system in promoting inclusive higher education.

Keywords: Inclusive higher education, disability, opens and distance learning system.
STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN CHAR AREAS OF KAMRUP DISTRICT, ASSAM: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

It is rightly recognised that education is the most important input for the development of an individual, society and a nation. Indian Constitution rightly emphasised that free and compulsory education should be provided to all children up to 14 years without any discrimination. But in real sense, it is not fully implemented till now especially in the remote and backward areas. Char is socio-economically and educationally a backward place of Assam where literacy rate is only 19.31% in the year 2003-04 (present data not found). Hence, it is interesting to investigator the find the status of primary education in Char areas. For that, Batahidia char of Kamrup district will be selected to find out the enrolment status of students in selected primary schools, status of infrastructural facilities in selected primary schools and status of teachers in selected primary schools of char areas. This study will provide an actual picture of education in char areas.

Keywords: Primary Education, Char Area, Status.
CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD ABUSE IN ASSAM-SOME ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

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ABSTRACT

In India, child labour and child abuse is prevalent since years long. Child labour is the practice of having children engaged into economic activity. The practice deprives children of their childhood and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Child abuse can result into physical, emotional or several harm. It is often in the form of an action and prevalent in our social sphere. This study focuses on studying the cause of child labour & abuse and the effectiveness of the initiatives taken up by the Govt., NGOs etc. regarding this issue. According to 2011 National census of India it is found that the total number of child labourers aged (5-14) to be at 10.1 million out of 254.64 million. After analyzing all such facts it may be said that child labour and abuse is a very critical issue which have to be seriously taken care of by our society.
THE AUTONOMY ISSUE OF RABHAS IN ASSAM UNDER RHAC

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ABSTRACT

Rabhas are aboriginal tribes of Assam. They are recognized as plains schedule tribe of Assam as Assam is home of various ethnic communities with distinct culture and way of life. But those small communities faces various problems regarding protection and preservation of their identities. Therefore social movements arises ,Rabha autonomy movement is not exception of it. That is why government of Assam has created six ethnic based satellite councils in Assam including Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) to fulfill their autonomy aspirations. This paper will analyze about rabha the creation of RHAC and will critically discuss about its successfulness.
A STUDY ON FACTORS INFLUENCING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

Gender based violence is collectively violent acts that are primarily or exclusively committed against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls is problem of epidemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her.

Some of the forms of violence perpetrated by individuals are rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, reproductive coercion, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection, obstetric violence and mob violence as well as harmful customary or traditional practices such as honour killings, dowry violence, and female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction and forced marriage.

Some forms of violence are perpetrated or condoned by the state such as war rape, sexual violence and sexual slavery during conflict, forced sterilization, forced abortion, violence by the police and authoritative personnel, stoning and flogging.

The present study deals with certain factors those are having its impact upon gender based violence in present scenario. The study highlights the social, economic, political, education, media etc. factors effecting gender based violence.
PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MATHEMATICS IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Education is the most powerful instrument for overall development of the nation. Only educated people can lead a healthy nation and healthy nation demands high quality of human resources in every field of education. But our Education system especially higher education system has been facing a numbers of problems due to various reasons. This paper is an attempt to identify the problems that are faced by the students in acquisition of higher education in Mathematics. This paper also identifies future prospects and tries to give some remedial measures to enhance the quality of higher education in Assam.

This paper is qualitative in nature and the data collected from secondary sources.

Keywords: Higher Education, Mathematics, Problems, Prospects.