



DR. B.K.B. COLLEGE, PURANIGUDAM

Nagaon, Assam: 782141

BEST PRACTICE: I

1. Title of the Practice:

Dr. B.K. Barua Memorial Lecture

2. Objective of the Practice:

Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua is one of the luminaries of Assam after whom the college has been named and who explored in critical dimensions the socio-cultural connections that Assam had with *Bharatabarsha* since time immemorial and its distinctive contribution to Indian identity. The series of Dr. B.K. Barua Memorial Lectures organized by the college since 2006 constitute one of the core areas of academic activities which have widely impacted the prevailing notions of culture, literature, performing arts and historical perspectives in Assam. Thus, the college fraternity tries to introduce our academic fraternity, especially the students' community to the most dynamic minds of Assam in the above mentioned fields through this memorial lectures.

3. The Context:

The B.K.B. College can claim the major share of introducing academic investigation and research oriented activities on Dr. B.K. Barua's overall contribution to Assamese literature, culture, society and history. Though not the only forte the memorial lectures instituted in an academic institution sometimes become the benchmark to judge its quality. But, after a series of such lectures already delivered by different academicians, scholars, historians, literary critics and environmentalists establish the fact that this has been a healthy practice within the college premises, which brings the institution closer to the intellectual society of Assam. Our students and other stakeholders too have been familiar with the critical perspective created out of the practice. Every institution seeks to promote through its scholastic activities certain values, a genuine concern for its language, literature, culture and identity. This is the prime rationale behind instituting this series of lectures.

4. The Practice:

Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua stands among the pioneers of Assamese intelligentsia and litterateurs who had created the most vibrant space for flourishing Assamese identity with its distinct regional features in a pan Indian context. The college instituted a lecture programme in admiration and memory to the contributions of Dr. B.K. Barua in 2006 and the college through IQAC and different departments, and recently through Dr. B.K.B. Study Centre has been organizing the biennial and annual lectures on different aspects of Assamese life, society, culture, economy and environment since 2006. With participation of some of the leading academicians, litterateurs and research scholars, each time with a fresh area for deliberation, the lecture series have introduced some fresh ideas and insight into the emerging areas of humanities besides evaluating the immense contributions of Dr. B.K. Barua. Details of the latest lecture programmes are as follows:

10th November, 2014 - the fifth biennial Dr. B.K.B. Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Mallika Kandali, the noted academician of performing arts and a performer of the Sattriya Dance form. She deliberated on the theme “**Classical and folk-cultural Elements in the Sattriya Dance Form of Assam**” with demonstration to illustrate the way how different movements and rhythms got appropriated into the texture of the Sattriya dance form.

7th November, 2015 - Dr. B.K.B. Memorial Lecture on “**Birinchi Kumar Barua’s Literature, Language, Culture and Practice of History**” was organized to have a concentrated focus on the four specific areas of Dr. Barua’s scholarship. Four distinguished scholars from the respective domains were invited to deliberate on issues related to literature, culture, language and history. Prof. Madan Sarma and Prof. Sunil Kumar Baruah from Tezpur Central University deliberated on the literary, linguistic and cultural aspects while Laxminath Tamuly, the noted historical researcher and former IAS Officer focused on the sustained historical practices by Dr. B.K. Barua in his works.

22nd October, 2016 - the sixth biennial Dr. B.K.B. Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Anil Saikia, an academician, researcher in folklore and archivist. Dr. Saikia is widely acclaimed as the pioneer in the study of folk and modern Assamese song. He spoke on the subject of “**Sociology and Aesthetics in the Folk Songs of Assam**” focusing on the historical ballads that amply reveal the creative energy and concerns of the folk mind.

26th October, 2017 - on the closing ceremony of the year long Golden Jubilee celebration of Dr. B.K.B College several luminaries of the state attended the function and Mr. Ajit Bhuyan, a social activist and senior journalist among others delivered the memorial lecture on “**Burning Issues of Assam: Insurgency and the Role of Legal and Civil Societies**”. Prof Gayatri Bhattacharya and Mr. Pranab Swaroop Neog also participated in an interaction with the resource person.

6th October, 2018 - the 7th biennial Dr. B.K.B. Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. Mayur Bora, an Indian writer on socio-political issues and a public speaker from Assam who has authored 16 books to his credit and translated selected short stories of Dilip Bora into English. The noted author delivered the memorial lecture on the subject “**Formation of Modern Assamese Self and the Young Generation**”. Mr Barua had drawn reference from the Bhakti Movement initiated by the Saint-scholar Sankardeva to situate his arguments and mostly referred to the 19th century Assamese intelligentsia for the modernist trajectory widely discernible in the first half of the 20th century.

6th November, 2019 - Dr. B.K. Barua Study Centre of the college organized the annual memorial lecture for the first time in the premises of the college and invited Prof. Prodig Khataniar, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Cotton College and a renowned bibliophile of Assam whose personal library has been enriched with more than twenty five thousand rare books to deliver the memorial lecture on “**Philosophy and Literature: an Interdisciplinary approach**”. It was an extremely refreshing and insightful session deliberating on areas of cross fertilization. Beyond the traditional boundary of analytical philosophy, questions of being and power of imaginative representation situate a common space for literature and philosophy. Drawing critical reference from Plato down to modern philosophical premises Prof. Khataniar made certain insightful enquiry into the literary creations with reference to Assamese novels and other genres. Prof. Prabhat Bora, a renowned literary critic added his perception on the subject while making his critical observation on the lecture.

22nd December, 2021 - the 8th biennial Dr. B.K.B. Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. Soumyadeep Datta, the noted environmentalist of national and international repute and a prolific author of nature writing and Buddhist culture. Mr. Dutta has been involved for decades in conservation of wildlife and biodiversity particularly in the North East region besides writing more than fifty books on nature. He spoke on “**Needs of Biodiversity and its**

Impact on the Assamese Life”, in the course of his speech he explained the basic concept and philosophy of biodiversity and regretted that the growth of industrialization and rampant consumerism has been a constant threat to the natural balance without which the very existence of man and other creatures would exterminate in near future.

5. Evidence of Success:

The college fraternity tries to introduce our academic fraternity, especially the students’ community to the most dynamic minds of Assam, who are expertise in different fields of study through this memorial lectures. These lectures being related mainly to literature, culture, historical investigations, economy, philosophy and environmental issues, have been a source of resource material and highly beneficial to the students who practically learn a good deal of things on oratory, argumentative articulation and find a scope for interaction. These lecture programmes also help the management of the college in initiating different plans on teaching, learning, research and curricular aspects of the college and also in executing these initiatives. For an example: Dr. Mallika Kandali deliberated on the theme **“Classical and Folk-Cultural Elements in the Sattriya Dance Form of Assam”**, with demonstration to illustrate the way how different movements and rhythms got appropriated into the texture of the Sattriya dance form at the 5th biennial lecture programme in 2014. Sattriya form of dance had its origin in the evolution of the Bhakti cult initiated by the medieval saint-poet and social reformer Sri *Sankardeva* and interestingly the pluralistic ethos of Indian society and culture can be explored even in the composition and evolution of its cultural heritage. As a result of this programme, the management of the college had initiated a plan immediately to introduce Sattriya Dance (under the Performing Arts Department) as a subject under the undergraduate level and introduced the subject as General/Generic and Regular Courses for the 1st time under Gauhati University in the academic session: 2015-2016, which amalgamate the Assamese culture heritage with skill components from the area of Sattriya Dance.

The college fraternity is also planning to publish an Edited Book with ISBN merging all the previous lectures delivered by different renowned and dynamic minds of Assam and thereby become accessible to all.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The lecture program annually involves an approximate amount of Rs. 50,000.00. So far this has been manageable for the institution.

BEST PRACTICE: II

1. Title of the Practice:

Dr. B.K.B. College Award

2. Objective of the Practice:

Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua stands among the pioneers of Assamese intelligentsia and litterateurs who had created the most vibrant space for flourishing Assamese identity with its distinct regional features in a pan Indian context and he hailed from the historically famous *Kharangi Barua* family of Puranigudam, Nagaon, Assam. He was a leading academician, folklorist, a renowned novelist, cultural historian and a research scholar and the people of the local society paid a tribute to this towering personality while christening the college in his name. The college fraternity has instituted an Award in the name of Dr. B.K. Barua College to provide tribute to the scholastic contributions of Dr. Baruah in the year 2016 and also to shoulder a social responsibility towards promotion of creative inspiration for those working in different areas of study, especially in the field of socio-cultural and historical studies, inculcation of values through fine arts and folk culture, economic affairs, environment and wildlife conservation, etc. The college fraternity also tries to introduce our academic fraternity, especially the students' community to the most dynamic and silent workers of Assam in the above mentioned fields through this college award.

3. The Context:

Dr. B.K.B. College Award instituted in 2016 has been a part of the institutional best practice and the highest academic honour offered by the college. Though it was intended to be a continuous annual practice, a decision was adopted in 2018 with procedural amendment to make the conferring of the award a biennial activity together with the biennial Dr. B.K. Barua Memorial Lecture.

The rationale for conferring this Dr. B.K.B. College Award to a committed and silent workers/researchers/academician in recognition of his/her contribution in diverse fields of study, like - Assamese culture, economy, literature, historical enquiries, environmental awareness and wildlife conservation, to encourage his/her dedication. Besides being an institutional tribute to the great departed soul of Assam, such practices remind our students and

stakeholders of the great tradition of critical and creative practices of our nation. It is expected that such practices inspire the new generation to contribute in the above mentioned fields.

Initially the central focus of the award was on the unsung heroes, authors and artists who have not been recognized by the academics in an attempt to evaluate and honour their contributions. A good number of such unrecognized creative minds have been engaged in such literary, cultural and historical practices that deserve attention. In the year 2021 the selection committee decided to shift the focus from the conventional areas to the issues of environmental crises and conservation of nature.

4. The Practice:

The college has been organizing a lecture programme annually in admiration and memory to the contributions of Dr. B.K. Barua since 2006 and also celebrated the hundred years of birth anniversary of Dr. Barua in the year 2008. Besides these initiatives, the college has introduced the Dr. B.K. Barua College Award in the year 2016. The College award merits its importance not for its content but for its keeping alive the memory of Dr. B.K. Barua and the objectives set for promotion of arts, culture, craft, economy and sustainable development far beyond the canon. The award carries a cash of Rs. 20,000.00, a citation, pieces of traditional attire and a collection of books. Though not the only forte these initiatives instituted in an academic institution sometimes become the benchmark to judge its quality. But, after a series of such initiatives to interact with different academicians, scholars, historians, literary critics and environmentalists establishes the fact that this has been a healthy practice within the college premises, which brings the institution closer to the intellectual society of Assam. Every institution seeks to promote through its scholastic activities certain values, a genuine concern for its language, literature, culture and identity. This is the prime rationale behind instituting the college award. Details of the awardees are as follows:

Dr. B.K. Barua College Award, 2016 - Dr. B.K. Barua College award was offered for the first time to Chao Lokeswar Gogoi, a renowned folklorist of Assam in 2016. Mr. Gogoi has dedicated almost his entire life time and energy to the collection, documentation, analysis of materials collected from diverse ethnic communities. He believes that without participation in the community life and visiting the fields no work on folklore can be authentically carried out. Hence, he tried to understand diverse cultural resources of the folk being a part of their community life rich in beliefs, rituals and material artifice. Thus, Mr. Gogoi

to his credit has authored several volumes of the folk culture of Assam, all being based on his first hand data collected from the field. His comprehensive volumes on folk culture of Assam are the monumental records of socio-cultural life of the Assamese people. His book on Architecture of the *Ahom* Period is another significant work.

Dr. B.K. Barua College Award, 2017 - Dr. B.K. Barua College award was offered to Mr. Murulidhar Das for the second time in recognition and honour of his commitment and dedication to the primary field of folk life and culture. Mr. Ajit Bhuyan, the renowned journalist and social activist presented the award to him. An agriculturist turned folklorist with no formal academic degree Mr. Das's passion for folk life and agricultural occupation helped him to focus on the cultural and literary practices of the *Karbi* and *Tiwa* communities of Assam. Truly a man of the soil Mr. Das lives a very simple life with agriculture as his only means of livelihood and devotes his creative power and organizational capacity to the studies of folklore and social activities. His contribution in the establishment of Dimaria College, other socio-cultural organizations has been well appreciated by the people of the locality and the academics for which he has been honoured with awards and literary pension. *Bhoiam Karbir lokaparampora aru geet-pad* and *Tiwa aru Karbi – Lokasanskritir Lecheri Butali* are the major works of Mr. Murulidhar das.

Dr. B.K. Barua College Award, 2018 - Mr. Sushil Bora was the 3rd recipient of the Dr. B.K. Barua College award in 2018 which was presented to him at the Dr. B.K.B. Memorial Lecture programme by Mr. Mayur Bora, a noted public intellectual and author. Mr. Das had received a senior fellowship from the Cultural Department of the Central Govt. to do research on the Independence Movement of India in the undivided Nagaon district of Assam. Some of his major works of Mr. Das include *Swadhinata Sangramot Brihattar Hatichung*, *Sonai Parar Sabhuota*, *Kalongar Pare Pare*, etc.

Dr. B. K. Barua College Award, 2021 - After choosing persons from the field of literature, culture and history the selection committee shifted its focus to issues related to environment and biodiversity conservation. Mr. Soumyadeep Datta is the recipient of the college award in the year 2021 in honour of his huge contribution in this area particularly habitat conservation for some of the rare endangered species, like Golden Langur and his substantial nature writings. Mr. Datta has been in the forefront of nature-movements in the entire North Eastern part of India and written more than fifty books on wildlife conservation, travel, tribal life

and culture, Buddhist culture and religion. He received higher trainings from Smithsonian Institute of the USA in environmental education in 1989 and also trained in bird studies and wildlife conservation from the Zoological Survey of India. He is presently a member of the Wild Life Advisory Board of Assam.

5. Evidence of Success:

The college fraternity tries to introduce our academic fraternity, especially the students' community to the most dynamic minds of Assam, who are experts in different fields of study through this college award and also to bring such academicians and authors to light for wider public attention.

The practice of conferring the college award is expected to have positive impact upon all the scholars/academicians/authors/activists of Assam and it will help to bridge a way to introduce these silent workers among the young generations of the state. On the day of conferring the award there is a huge gathering of students, teachers and people from the local society and there has been encouraging coverage in the newspapers appreciating the efforts of the college towards inculcation of values.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The award program annually involves an approximate amount of Rs. 55,000.00. At the initial stage it has been manageable for the institution. But, along with the Memorial Lecture programme this College Award is not manageable for every year due to financial constraints and therefore this annual practice is transformed to a biennial activity with procedural amendment together with the biennial Dr. B. K. Barua Memorial Lecture in 2018 and practice will remain sustainable event in future at its own strength.




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