



Report of Academic Activities

April 2024 to March 2025

Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development

(An Autonomous Research Institute of ICSSR, New Delhi and Government of Assam)



VIP Road, Upper Hengrabari
Guwahati – 781036
Assam, India

Foundation Day Lecture

On April 3rd, 2024, the Institute organized its Foundation Day Lecture. The lecture was delivered by the renowned scholar Professor Pulin B. Nayak, former professor of economics at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. The theme of this year's Foundation Day lecture was "Current Crisis in Capitalism: A Brief Outline and a Way Forward." The lecture has been published by the Institute in the Foundation Day Lecture Series. Additionally, the lecture was also published by Economic and Political Weekly in Vol. 59, No. 17, April 27, 2024.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/perspectives/current-crisis-capitalism.html>



OKD Lecture Series

1. On May 9, 2024, a lecture was organized at the Institute under the banner of OKD Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Kuladhar Saikia, IPS (Retd.), former DGP, Assam, and former President, Asom Sahitya Sabha. The theme of the lecture was **“Changing Dynamics of Social Sciences: The Challenges Ahead.”** Throughout the lecture Dr. Saikia brought to light the emerging issues in social science research and discussed various philosophical, methodological and epistemological issues related to social science research in present time.



2. On November 21, 2024, a lecture was organized at the Institute under the banner of OKD Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Meenakshi Rajiv, Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu, on the theme **“Financial Inclusion in the Presence of Grassroot Institutions.”** In her lecture, Prof. Rajiv discussed the whole debate of financial inclusion and offered us ways to look at the implementation issues of financial inclusion in grassroots institutions. The lecture also brought together challenges and possible solutions of the issue.



3. On October 22, 2024, a lecture was organized at the Institute under the banner of OKD Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Simashree Bora, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Cotton University, Guwahati, on the theme **“Cultural and Political Ecology of Majuli River Island in Assam.”** The talk elucidated the cultural ways of life of riverine communities in Majuli and highlighted how the changing dynamics of the political ecology interact with these cultural ways of life, bringing to light the emerging challenges faced by these communities in present-day Majuli.



Workshops

1. A Three-Day workshop on ***Writing Research Proposals*** was organized at the Institute between May 29 – 31, 2024. The objective of the workshop was to provide an opportunity to young scholars to engage with philosophical, theoretical and empirical aspects of interdisciplinarity in preparing and writing research proposals in Social Sciences, with a focus on critical evaluation and analytical rigor in dissemination of ideas. The workshop has focused on diverse styles, conventions, protocols and ways of enhancing proficiency in writing an impactful research proposal.



2. A three-day workshop on ***Writing Research Proposals*** was conducted at the Institute from 7 to 9 August, 2024. The workshop aimed to provide early-career scholars with the opportunity to engage with the philosophical, theoretical, and empirical dimensions of interdisciplinarity in developing and writing research proposals within the Social Sciences. The sessions emphasized critical evaluation, analytical rigor, and the articulation of impactful research ideas, focusing on diverse writing styles, conventions, and methodologies to enhance the effectiveness of research proposals.



3. A two-day workshop titled *Child Labour in the Tea Gardens of Assam: Past, Present, and Future* was held at the Institute from August 20 to 21, 2024, in collaboration with the North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati. The workshop commenced with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Saswati Choudhury, Director, OKDISCD, followed by an introduction to the workshop's theme by Dr. Walter Fernandes, Director, NESRC. The event featured the active participation of scholars, representatives from civil society and NGOs, Adivasi leaders, and members of tea associations and management, fostering a multidisciplinary dialogue on the issue.



4. Two-Day Workshop on the theme *Challenges of NEP for Teachers and Researchers in Higher Educational Institutions in the NE Region* was organized in collaboration with the Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University and North Eastern Economic Association during 17 – 18 December 2024 at KKHSOU City Centre. Throughout the workshop, the invited experts discussed the crucial issues and challenges of implementing the NEP in the NE region and explored possible solutions for its effective implementation.



OKD Dialogue

On June 7th, 2024, a Panel Discussion was organized under the banner of OKD Dialogue at the Institute on the theme **“General Elections in India 2024: Decoding the Verdict.”** Professor Akhil Ranjan Dutta from Gauhati University, Dr. Saswati Choudhury from OKDISCD, Shri Sushanta Talukdar, Senior Journalist, and Dr. Vikas Tripathi, Assistant Professor, graced the panel with their insightful analysis of the general elections in India, 2024.



Panel Discussion

On March 25, 2025, the Institute organized a panel discussion on **“Emerging Global Order and the Context for India and Its Northeastern Region.”** The event commenced with a

welcome address by Saswati Choudhury, Acting Director of OKDISCD. The panel was chaired by Sri Subhas Chandra Das, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson of OKDISCD and Vice Chancellor of Assam Skill University, Mangaldai. Mr. Wasbir Hussain, an eminent journalist, author, academician, and governing body member of the OKDISCD, moderated the session. The distinguished panellists included: Dr. Rajdeep Singha, Associate Professor at OKDISCD; Shri Rana Pratap Kalita, Retired Lieutenant General and former GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, Indian Army; Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, IPS (Retd.), Chief Information Commissioner of Assam and former DGP, Government of Assam; Sri Mrinal Talukder, distinguished writer and eminent journalist; Shri Himanshu Sekhar Das, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Information Commissioner and former Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Assam. The discussion provided fresh insights into the evolving global landscape and its implications for India, with a particular emphasis on the Northeast.



Seminars/Conferences/Symposiums

1. During June 24–25, a Two-Day National Seminar was organized at the Institute on the theme **“200 Years of Tea Plantation Economy in Assam Problems & Prospects.”** The seminar was supported by the ICSSR. The objective of the seminar was to re-examine the 200 years of tea industry in Assam and aimed to bring different stakeholders into one platform and deliberate the issues.



2. On the occasion of 25 years of North Eastern Economic Association, the Institute organized *Two Day Symposium* during October 3–4, 2024, on the theme “**Economy of Northeast India: The Road Ahead.**” The two-day symposium commemorated 25 years of the North Eastern Economic Association (NEEA) and featured distinguished experts, academics, and policymakers who gathered to deliberate on the economic development and challenges facing the Northeast region of India. The event commenced with a welcome address, followed by the felicitation of past presidents and secretaries of NEEA. A special highlight was the release of the 24th NEEA Conference Proceedings by Prof. Homeswar Goswami. Esteemed faculty members shared remarks, including Prof. Atul Sarma, who chaired the session. As a part of the event, a total of 6 plenary sessions were organized on various themes related to the region. The event provided a vital platform for insightful discussions on the economic landscape of the Northeast. Participants emphasized the importance of continued research, collaboration, and policy interventions to drive sustainable development in the region.



3. Two Day National Seminar on **“Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and Inclusive Development”** was organized in collaboration with CSSEIP, Manipur University and ICSSR-NERC, Shillong, during 4-5, April 2024.



4. A Two-Day National Seminar was organized in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the Department of Sociology at Birangana Sati Sadhani Rajyik Vishwavidyalaya, Assam, from August 28 to 29, 2024. The seminar's theme, ***Ethnicity, Peace, and Conflict Resolution in Northeast India***, was introduced by Dr. Partha Pratim Borah, Head in charge of the Department of Sociology. The Honourable Vice Chancellor of BSSRV, Prof. G. Singaiah, inaugurated the seminar. The keynote address was delivered by renowned scholar Prof. Samir Kumar Das on the theme *From Peace to Security of Life: Emerging Solidarities in India's Northeast*. Dr. Saswati Choudhury, Director, OKDISCD, served as the Chief Guest and underscored the contemporary relevance of the seminar within the socio-historical landscape.



5. The Institute, in collaboration with the Centre for South East Asian Studies at Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University (KBVSASU), Nalbari, organized a Two-Day Seminar for doctoral scholars from September 12 to 13, 2024. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Pralhad R. Joshi, Vice Chancellor of KBVSASU, and followed by a keynote address delivered by Dr. Saswati Choudhury, Director, OKDISCD. Over the course of the seminar, 24 research papers were presented by doctoral scholars representing various universities and institutions across the country. The valedictory lecture of the seminar was delivered by Prof. Yeshe Choedon, Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



6. The **8th Young Social Scientists' Conference** was organized by the Institute in Guwahati on the 21st and 22nd of January 2025. The Young Social Scientists' Conference (YSSC) is an annual event that encourages and facilitates young scholars working on diverse issues of Northeast India to present and discuss their research work. The event also aims to promote critical thinking, interdisciplinary dialogue, and academic networking among early-career researchers working on issues significant to Northeast India. Considering this objective, YSSC 2025 invited submissions on the following themes: Socio political Dynamics of the Region; Economic Development and Livelihood; Cultural Identity and Heritage; Migration and Development; Environment and Ecological Challenges; Public Health and Well-being; and Gender Issues. This year, the Institute received around 143 applications from scholars and early-career researchers across the country. After careful reviews, a total of 52 applicants were shortlisted and invited to present and discuss their work. The conference commenced with an inaugural session presided over by Sri Subhas Chandra Das, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson of OKDISCD and Vice-Chancellor of Assam Skill University, Mangaldai. Prof. TCA Anant, Adjunct Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad Off Campus, delivered the inaugural lecture, emphasizing the importance of integrating academic insights with policy-making. The conference concluded with a valedictory lecture delivered by Dr. Bhaswati Das on the theme Ethical Issues in Social Science Research, followed by participant feedback and the distribution of certificates. The 8th Young Social Scientists' Conference was a resounding success, fostering an enriching environment for academic exchange and collaboration. The event reinforced OKDISCD's commitment to nurturing young scholars and promoting research that addresses the socio economic and cultural dynamics of India's regions.



7. On March 11 – 12, 2025, **INET–YSI Doctoral Scholars' Conference** was organized at the Institute in collaboration with Institute for New Economic Thinking, Young Scholars Initiative. The theme of the conference was “Understanding India’s Northeast from Emerging Perspectives.”The conference aimed to bring doctoral research scholars across different universities and institutions located in Northeast India onto one platform to understand the emerging research dynamics of the region. The conference provided an opportunity for research scholars in Social Sciences to present their work, interact with peers and experts, and deliberate on issues concerning the region.



Capacity Building Programme

A *Two-Week Capacity Building Programme* for Faculty in Social Sciences was held from July 15 to 28, 2024, at the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati. The inaugural address was delivered by the distinguished Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. The programme was graced by the eminent scholars such as Prof. Sobhanlal Dattagupta, Former Professor at Calcutta University; Prof. Satish Deshpande from the Delhi School of Economics; Prof. Badri Narayan and Dr. Archana Singh from GBPSSI; Prof. Surajit Mazumdar from Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. Jagannath Ambagudia from TISS Guwahati; and Prof. Vibhuti Patel, Former Professor at SNDT University, among others. The valedictory lecture was delivered by Prof. Udyon Misra, Former Professor at Dibrugarh University.



Training Programs

1. A Five-Day training program on “Evaluation Methods” was organized at the Institute for the faculties of the Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan during January 27–31, 2025. The program aimed to equip participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in evaluation methodologies used in social and development research. The training program provided participants with valuable insights into evaluation

methodologies, fostering practical and theoretical knowledge. The hands-on sessions and expert-led discussions greatly contributed to enhancing the participants' skills in conducting comprehensive evaluations for policy and research development.



10th International Yoga Day Celebration, 21st June 2024



78th Independence Day Celebration, 2024



76th Republic Day Celebration



Research Projects: Completed

(a) Social Impact Assessment of Jal Jeevan Mission

Sponsored Agency: Public Health Engineering Department, Govt. of Assam.

Coordinator: Saswati Choudhury (OKDISCD)

Co-coordinator: Krishna Surjya Das (OKDISCD).

Date of Starting: July, 2023

Expected date of completion: *The Report has been submitted to the funding agency.*

Amount: ₹ 32,88,230

About the Project:

The study aimed to evaluate the impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on rural communities in Assam by focusing on three primary objectives. First, it assessed whether JJM has significantly reduced the incidence of waterborne illnesses, which are prevalent due to the lack of safe drinking water. Second, the study evaluated the out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, determining if access to clean water has lessened the financial burden on households. Third, it explored how JJM is improving rural livelihoods by enhancing daily life, economic opportunities, and overall well-being. Using a three-stage sampling method, the study surveyed households in fully covered and not-covered villages under JJM in Assam. This comprehensive evaluation aimed to provide insights into the effectiveness of JJM and inform future policy interventions for better water accessibility and public health.

(b) Life and Livelihood of Slum Dwellers in Guwahati

Sponsoring Agency: Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development.

Coordinators: Arunima Deka and Nitish Gogoi, (OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: November, 2023

Expected date of completion: September 2024

Amount: ₹ 3,50,000/-

About the Project:

The project examined the accessibility to healthcare facilities, education, and sanitation conditions among the slum dwellers in Guwahati city and examined the co-relation between income, education and standard of living among the slum dwellers in Guwahati city. This project also assessed the coverage of slum dwellers in various government-initiated schemes and their vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c) Social Audit for Assam Transport Workers Social Security Scheme, 2022.

Sponsored Agency: Labour Commissioner, Government of Assam.

Coordinators: Rajdeep Singha and Krishna Surjya Das (OKDISCD).

Date of Starting: March, 2024

Expected date of completion: *Final report of the project has been submitted to the funding agency*

Amount: ₹14,09,540/-

About the Project:

The Assam Transport Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2022, was introduced by the Government of Assam on February 13, 2023, to address the deprivation and vulnerability of transport workers. This scheme targets workers aged 18–60, including those employed in commercial and private vehicles, mechanised boats, and various roles within the transport sector. It aims to provide death benefits, disability benefits, and assistance for critical illness treatment. This study evaluates the scheme's effectiveness through a comprehensive survey of the targeted beneficiaries. The primary objectives are to assess its anticipated impact on transportation workers' well-being and explore opportunities to integrate it with existing central and state welfare programs to maximise social benefits. The study employs a mixed-method approach, incorporating quantitative and qualitative tools, with data collected from a field survey of 560 transport workers across 11 districts of Assam. The report highlights that the transport sector in Assam is largely male-dominated. It identifies significant wage disparities, with transport workers earning an average monthly income of less than ₹14,000, while cleaners earn as little as ₹7,000. Nearly 25% of transport workers' families have a household income below ₹10,450, indicating economic vulnerability. Additionally, housing, medical expenses, and vehicle-related costs burden 44.82% of households with debt. Workplace conditions are often poor, with limited access to clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, and first-aid support, particularly at bus stations. The report includes a comparative analysis of social security schemes for transport workers in other Indian states (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka) and international models (Germany, Canada, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, and Zambia). Based on this analysis, the study recommends expanding health coverage, ensuring pension benefits, offering skill development programs, strengthening social protections, and increasing financial assistance for vehicle maintenance and insurance. It highlights the need for policy integration, awareness campaigns, and sustained government intervention to make social security measures more accessible and effective for transport workers.

Research Projects: Ongoing

(a) Documenting, Monitoring and Evaluation of CSR Interventions of NEEPCO Ltd, 2021 – 22.

Sponsoring Agency: North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd, Shillong.

Coordinator: Akshay Jyoti Sarma (OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: September 2022

Expected date of completion: July 2025

Amount: ₹24,20,000/-

About the Project:

The Institute has pioneered the evaluation of CSR interventions implemented by many of the public sector enterprises operating in the region. The Institute prepared the baseline survey and formulation of CSR projects for North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited during 2012-13. Since then, the Institute has been undertaking the responsibility of

documentation, monitoring and evaluation of CSR interventions implemented by the NEEPCO Limited. The present evaluation is being done for the initiatives undertaken during the year 2021-22. There are 85 CSR initiatives under five different thrust areas i.e. Promoting Education, Preventive Healthcare, Entrepreneurship Development, Social Development and Swatch Bharat Abhiyan. An amount of Rs. 5,45,98,219.00 (Rupees five crore forty-five lakh ninety-eight thousand two hundred and nineteen) only was earmarked for expenditure on CSR initiatives for the year. The field work has been completed and the report is under preparation. The report is expected to be completed by July, 2024.

(b) Oneness among the Tribes of Assam: A Study on the Aspects of Culture and Hinduism in Assam.

Sponsored Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi through OKDISCD.

Coordinator: Jogesh Kakati (Registrar, Pragjyotishpur University, Guwahati)

Date of Starting: December 20, 2023

Expected date of completion: December 31, 2025

Amount: ₹7,50,000 /-

About the Project:

Despite an immense diversity of language, culture, social and religious customs and rituals, there is a unity, not uniformity among intra-tribal communities and between the tribal and non-tribal people of Assam. Against the natural principle of Oneness in the tribes of Assam, the British provoked an Isolationist disposition in the north-east India. Given these contexts, this project aims to express Oneness in the diversity in every kind like language, flora and fauna, human appearances and dresses, foods and seasons or like God and Goddesses, festivals, dresses, customs and rituals etc. This study also aims to understand the underlying deeper unity and “Indian-ness” in the tribes along with all people of the northeast India. Moreover, this study will explore the truth between the national identity nurtured by the Indian culture and regional identity promoted by the separatist and secessionists and to investigate the cause of the attitude of self-denial of some of the people in the northeast India.

(c) Understanding the Problems of Ethnic Minority Communities in Northeast India for Working out the Possible Solutions.

Sponsoring Agency: North Eastern Council, Govt. of India.

Coordinator: Akshay Jyoti Sarma (OKDISCD)

Co-coordinators: Saswati Choudhury and Arunima Deka (OKDISCD)

Date of Starting: October 27, 2020

Expected date of completion: June, 2025

Amount: ₹ 32,80,000/-

About the Project:

Northeast India is the home to hundreds of ethnic communities existing with myriad diversities of race, culture, language, religious beliefs, and others. The co-existence of 7 numerous ethnic groups provides significant impetus to the identity and the ethno-cultural milieu of the region. However, ethnic communities and particularly the minority groups

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

(d) Study/Survey/Assessment of Tea Tribes and Adivasi Community to Access the Demography

Sponsored Agency: Tea Tribes and Adivasi Welfare Department, Government of Assam.

Coordinators: Rajdeep Singha and Krishna Surjya Das (OKDISCD).

Co-coordinators: Akshay Jyoti Sarma, Arunima Deka, Nitish Gogoi, and Saswati Choudhury (OKDISCD).

Date of Starting: July 5, 2024

Expected date of completion: July, 2025

Amount: ₹45,00000

About the Project:

The study aims to conduct a comprehensive socio-economic profiling of Assam's Tea Tribes and Adivasis (ex-tea garden population) community that remains one of the most marginalised community despite being one of the largest organised section employees in the state. Therefore, the study intended to examine employment pattern, income levels, occupational mobility, living standard, health and sanitation, educational attainment, and the access to government welfare policies. focusing on housing, access to basic amenities, education, occupation, health, and the efficacy of welfare policies. By conducting surveys, interviews, and data analysis, the study aims to identify gaps in development and policy implementation that hinder the well-being of this community. The findings will provide data-driven insights to improve living conditions, health outcomes, and educational opportunities, enabling policymakers and stakeholders to design better-targeted interventions for this vulnerable population. Through this research, the project aims to provide evidence-based recommendations for improving the socio-economic conditions of Assam's tea tribes. The findings will help policymakers design better-targeted interventions to enhance education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, ensuring a more inclusive and sustainable development for this vulnerable population. Ultimately, the project seeks to empower the tea tribe community and bridge the existing socio-economic disparities.

New Initiatives

Internship Program

During June the Institute initiated Internship Programme. The programme is open for young scholars from diverse Social Science disciplines. The aim of the programme is to provide an opportunity to scholars to improve their research and analytical skills and get an out-of-classroom exposure to the nuances of doing Social Science and policy research.

As part of this effort, the Institute invited applications through an announcement on its website. Approximately 20 applications were received and reviewed by faculty members. After a thorough evaluation and online interviews, 10 candidates were shortlisted, and 6 were ultimately selected for the inaugural round of the internship program.

New Projects Initiatives

1. Villages and Its Communities in Assam: A multidimensional Study.
2. Work and Wellbeing in Rural Assam.

Publications and Other Academic Engagement of Faculties of the Institute

Dr. Saswati Choudhury

- a. Working paper titled An Array of Push and Pull Factors of Migration – Published in the Institute's Working Paper Series (No. 13) in December 2024.

Dr. Rajdeep Singha

Book

- a. "*Child Labour in the Tea Plantations of Assam*", published by NESRC, ISBN: 978-81-960850-6-3, with Kallol Deka
- b. Sathis kumar, Abinaya; Singha, Rajdeep; Agide, Zeleke; Peña, G.; Ruiz-Bastidas, R. C.; Taron, Avinandan; Mateo-Sagasta, Javier. 2024. Resource recovery from livestock waste: a compilation of business cases from the Global South. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute (IWMI). CGIAR Initiative on One Health.

Book Chapter

- a. Singha, R. (2024). Economics of Borderland and Lives: Empirical Understanding from Northeast India. In *Indigeneity, Development and Sustainability: Perspectives from Northeast India* (pp. 107-127). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.

Journal Article

- a. 'Rural Employment, Public Policy and COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study of Least Developed Districts of India', *Social Change and Development*, Volume XXI, No.1; January 2024

Conference and Invited Talks

- a. TISS Guwahati: Guest Speaker, caste and ethnicity in the tea plantation industry, 31 Jan 2025
- b. Dibrugarh University: National Conference titled "Empowering the Health of Women Tea Labourers: Fostering Well-Being on the Path Towards Viksit Bharat" on January 6, 2025.
- c. Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University: Resource person, two-day workshop on "Challenges of NEP 2020 for Teachers and Researchers in Higher Educational Institutions in the NE Region" on 17th and 18th of December 2024
- d. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD): Panellist, "Paving the Road to the Second World Summit for Social Development: Asian Perspectives". 6 December 2024
- e. International Water Management Institute – India: Resource Person, National-level Workshop on "Business Models for Resource Recovery from Livestock Waste in India" 28-29 November, 2024, Dehradun
- f. Department of Sociology, Cotton University: Resource person for Workshop on 'Research Methodology in Social Sciences', 26 Oct 2024
- g. Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, (KBVSASU): Chaired a session titled "Work and Employment" on *Doctoral Scholars' Meet* organised by the Institute in collaboration with KBVSAS University, Nalbari during September 12-13, 2024.
- h. NESRC: Moderate a Technical Session, Regional seminar on Oil Palm Plantations in the Northeast, September 6-7, 2024
- i. Aaranyak: Resource Person, "Refresher Training on Applied Environment Education" 11th and 12th, July 2024 in Khanapara, Guwahati, the session on "Measuring the Impact of Environmental Education Interventions" and the "Use of Kobo to ease data collection and analysis."

Other Academic Activity at the Institute

- a. Organised a National Seminar on '200 Years of Tea Plantation Economy in Assam: Problems and Prospects', Funded by ICSSR, 24-25 June 2024
- b. Organised a workshop, 'Child Labour in the Tea Gardens of Assam: Past, Present and Future' on 20th and 21st August 2024 in collaboration with the North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC)
- c. Resource Person, 8th Young Social Scientists' Conference, 2025.
- d. Resource Person, Research Proposals writing, May 29 to 31, 2024
- e. Resource Person, Research Proposals writing, August 7 - 9, 2024

Dr. Arunima Deka

- a. Received a research study grant of Rs. 4,31,000/ from JPN Centre IIT-Indore, for a study titled 'Making Themselves Visible: Women, Market and Ecofeminism in Rural Assam' (Co PI Akshay Jyoti Sarma).
- b. Attended workshop 'Right to Health and Access to Medicines and Treatments, 20th September, 2024, Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli, Guwahati.
- c. Completed a project on “Life and Livelihood of Slum Dwellers in Guwahati City,” supported by the Institute with Nitish Gogoi.

Dr. Akshay Jyoti Sarma

- a. Received a research study grant of Rs. 4,31,000/ from JPN Centre IIT-Indore, for a study titled 'Making Themselves Visible: Women, Market and Ecofeminism in Rural Assam' (PI - Arunima Deka).
- a. Participated in the National Seminar on *Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and Inclusive Development* and presented paper “The Act East Policy and Agenda for Development of Northeast India” organised by Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Manipur University, Imphal, April 4-5, 2024.
- b. Participated as External Evaluator of PG Dissertations of Department of Political Science, Cotton University on June 21, 2024.
- c. Coordinated the National Seminar on *Rethinking Ethnicity, Peace and Conflict Resolution in Northeast India* organised by the Institute in collaboration with BSSR Vishwavidyalaya, Golaghat during August 28-29, 2024 and chaired a technical session on August 29, 2024.
- d. Coordinated the *Doctoral Scholars' Meet* organised by the Institute in collaboration with KBVSAS University, Nalbari during September 12-13, 2024 and acted as Discussant in a session ‘Contemporary Politics and Governance’.
- e. Participated in the Meghalaya Dialogue of US Inso-Pacific Strategy- North Eastern Dialogue (USIPS_NED) organised by Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata in partnership with US Consulate General Kolkata held in Shillong, November 26, 2024.
- f. Participated in the 8th Young Social Scientists’ Conference, 2025 organised by the Institute during January 21-22, 2025 and Chaired a Technical Session *Cultural Identity and Heritage*.
- g. Participated in the 7th *India Think Tank Forum* on the theme *Shaping a Resilient Global Order* organised by Observer Research Foundation, Delhi during February 5-6, 2025.

Dr. Krishna Surjya Das

Publications

- a. Published a joint paper titled “Educational Attainment and Socially Marginalised Women’s Access to Antenatal Care in India: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Demographic Health Survey,” in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 59, No. 17, (2024). (Co- author – Nitish Gogoi)
- b. Published a paper titled “Youth unemployment and associated factors in India” in *Children and Youth Services Review*, Vol. 169, February, 2025, 108081
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.108081>

Other Academic Activity

- b. Coordinated the 8th *Youth Social Scientists' Conference* organised by the Institute during January 21 – 22, 2025.
- c. Working paper titled *An Array of Push and Pull Factors of Migration* – Published in the Institute's Working Paper Series (No. 13) in December 2024.
- d. Co-conveyed an ICSSR-sponsored national workshop on “Challenges of NEP 2020 for Teachers and Researchers in Higher Educational Institutions in the NE Region” organized on the 17th and 18th December, 2024, in collaboration with Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University.
- e. Participate as a discussant in a session titled “Work and Employment” on *Doctoral Scholars' Meet* organised by the Institute in collaboration with KBVSAS University, Nalbari during September 12-13, 2024.
- f. Participate at a Research and Analysis for Scientific Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) workshop organised by Population Council Offices in New Delhi, during 26th - 28th August, 2024.
- g. Co-ordinated a panel discussion on “Emerging Global Order and the Context for India and Its Northeastern Region,” held on March 25, 2025.

Mr. Nitish Gogoi

Publications

- a. Educational Attainment and Socially Marginalised Women's Access to Antenatal Care in India: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Demographic Health Survey. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 59(17), 49–56. (2024). (Co- author – Krishna Surjya Das). **(Indexed in Scopus)**. <https://www.epw.in/journal/2024/17/special-articles/educational-attainment-and-socially-marginalised.html>
- b. ‘We Suffer, They don't Bother’: Narratives of Primary Healthcare Vulnerabilities during Floods in Assam, India. *Social Change and Development*, 21(2), 41 – 60. (2024). (Co-author Sumesh S. S.) **(UGC-Care listed journal)**. <https://www.socialchangeanddevelopment.in/downloads/july2024/paper-4.pdf>
- c. In search of decolonial spaces! A former Bodo woman rebel's ‘intimate testimonies’ of death, desires, and romance in times of ethnonationalist armed struggle in Assam, India. *Asian Ethnicity*, 0(0), 1–29. **(Indexed in Scopus & Web of Science)** <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14631369.2025.2468655>

Reviewers/Editorial Experiences

Acted as Reviewer for the following reputed publication houses:

- a. **Oxford University Press Journals:** Family Practice, IJQHC Communications.
- b. **SAGE Journals:** International Journal of Social Determinants of Health and Health Services, International Journal of Qualitative Methods.
- c. **Routledge Journals:** Labor History, International Journal of Social Research Methodology.
- d. **Spinger Journals:** Discover Water, International Journal for Equity in Health, Discover Public Health, Discover Global Society.

Other Academic Activity

- a. Completed a project on “Life and Livelihood of Slum Dwellers in Guwahati City,” supported by the Institute with Arunima Deka.
- a. Coordinated the 8th *Youth Social Scientists’ Conference* organised by the Institute during January 21 – 22, 2025.
- b. Selected as Returnee Fellow of Association for Asian Studies and received grants to participate in the ‘Research Capacity Development Workshop: ‘Researching Marginalities’, organised by Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) in association with Association for Asian Studies (AAS), sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) during November 25th – 29th, 2024.
- c. Served as a discussant in a session on *gender and society* at the two-day seminar for doctoral scholars from September 12 to 13, 2024, organized by the Centre for South East Asian Studies at Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University (KBVSASU), Nalbari.
- d. Participated in ‘Research Capacity Development Workshop: ‘Researching Marginalities’, organised by Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) in association with Association for Asian Studies (AAS), sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) from May 16th – 20th, 2024.
- e. Co-ordinated a lecture at the Institute on May 9, 2024, under the banner of the OKD Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Kuladhar Saikia, IPS (Retd.), former DGP, Assam, and former President, Asom Sahitya Sabha. The theme of the lecture was “Changing Dynamics of Social Sciences: The Challenges Ahead.”
- f. Co-ordinated a lecture at the Institute on October 22, 2024, under the banner of the OKD Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Simashree Bora, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Cotton University, Guwahati, on the theme “Cultural and Political Ecology of Majuli River Island in Assam.”
- g. Coordinated the three-day workshop on Writing Research Proposals at the Institute during May 29–31, 2024.
- h. Co-ordinated the Three-Day workshop on Writing Research Proposals at the Institute during August 7–9, 2024.
- i. Co-ordinated a panel discussion on “Emerging Global Order and the Context for India and Its Northeastern Region,” held on March 25, 2025.