



Women
in the
changing
world

WOMEN'S CELL, TEACHERS' UNIT
LAKHIMPUR GIRLS' COLLEGE

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH
PUBLICATION CELL, LAKHIMPUR GIRLS' COLLEGE

Women in the Changing World:

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Preface

The great French feminist, Simone De Beauvoir has once remarked, "One is not born a woman, but rather becomes one". This famous statement can be conceded as one of the most pertinent statements on female embodiment in the societies across the world. Women, since ages have been perceived as objects of various forms of domination and oppression. It is always the society, mostly patriarchal, that determines the role to be played by a woman. Right after her birth, a girl enters into a world of rigid societal norms and rituals, wherein she becomes the 'other'. The roles and duties are fixed for her and she is expected to carry on the same without any word of protest. Apart from the rigid societal conventions, there were various social evils like Sati, Purdah system, child marriage, female infanticide, rape, domestic violence some of which have been abolished long ago, while some are still prevalent. However, the ancient period, especially during the early Vedic age in India, women were privileged and men and women were treated equally. Yet, in the contemporary world, women are suppressed and dominated by patriarchy in various spheres of life. Although, with the emergence of feminism during in the 19th and 20th century, there were certain changes in the lives and position of women but majority of them continued to suffer from various torments and injustices. However, one of the most significant achievements of the feminist movements was women's education which immensely helped women to break free from the shackles of patriarchy. With the spread of education among the women across the nations, there arrived a consciousness in women regarding their rights leading to their emancipation. Today, women have achieved success in almost every field like science and technology, politics, finance, sports and cultural activities and attained their positions at par with men in every field thereby overcoming the dominating and oppressive conventions. Yet, underneath this picture of empowered women, there still lie violence and abuses. In recent times, cases of rape, sexual abuses in workplace, domestic violence are often heard. Menstrual taboos and stigmas are also very much prevalent in our societies even today. Even though, movements like #metoo, #YesAllWomen, Pinjra Tod, PERIOD, No More Page 3 and many more in recent years have come up and created a stir in the society against gender inequality, the goal of gender equality in every sphere is not achieved yet. There still prevail various regressive social systems against which women are fighting. The book titled *Women in the Changing World* is an attempt to throw light on various nuances of feminist issues and the enduring fight against patriarchy.

Dedicated to all
who have bestowed their lives for
the improvement of the status of
women.

From the Desk of the Principal

Women, since time immemorial have been subjected to numerous oppressive apparatuses implemented by the societies across the world. Irrespective of race and geographical location, every woman suffers from the regressive social-cultural practices and imposition inflicted upon them. Women as a whole have been considered as the carriers of traditional and cultural values thereby limiting their freedom and individual identity. However, with the emergence of the feminist movements there has been a shift in the social paradigm leading to the improvement in the condition of women. This change, however is not enough and there is a long way to go for the gender equality that every feminist dreams of.

The book titled *Women in the Changing World* is a small attempt on the part of Lakhimpur Girls' College in this journey towards gender equality. Being an epitome of women's education and empowerment, our institution has been constantly thriving for a healthy society with empowered women who are instrumental in the formation of an ideal society.

I am pleased to be a part of this noble work and offer my sincere appreciation especially to the members of the editorial board as well as each and everyone who has contributed in making this project a successful one. I wish them a bright and successful future.

শুভেচ্ছা বার্তা

নাৰীৰ মাজত সপ্তশক্তি বিৰাজমান বুলি পৰমপুৰুষ শ্ৰীকৃষ্ণই তেওঁৰ প্ৰিয় সখা অৰ্জুনৰ আগত ব্যক্ত কৰি গৈছে। সপ্তশক্তিৰ অধিকাৰী নাৰীৰ অসাধ্য একো নাই। লাগে মাথো ধৈৰ্য আৰু আত্মবিশ্বাস। মহামানৱ মহাত্মা গান্ধীয়ে “তিৰোতা ত্যাগৰ প্ৰতিমূৰ্তি, শুদ্ধ অন্তৰেৰে কাম কৰিলে তেওঁলোকে অসাধ্য সাধন কৰিব পাৰে” বুলি এনেয়ে কৈ যোৱা নাই।

লক্ষীমপুৰ বালিকা মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ শিক্ষক গোটৰ মহিলা কোষে এখনি প্ৰবন্ধ সংকলন প্ৰকাশৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে বুলি জানি মই সঁচাকৈ আনন্দিত হৈছোঁ। মহিলা কোষে সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতাৰ পৰিচয় দাঙি ধৰিছে। তেওঁলোকে গ্ৰন্থখনৰ নাম ৰাখিছে *Women in the Changing World*। নামকৰণ অতি অৰ্থবহু হৈছে। কাৰণ নাৰী জাতিৰ সামূহিক প্ৰচেষ্টাই পৃথিৱীখনৰে পৰিৱৰ্তন আনিব পাৰে।

মহিলা কোষে প্ৰকাশন কোষৰ সহযোগত মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ সোণালী জয়ন্তীৰ লগত সংগতি ৰাখি প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ লোৱা গ্ৰন্থখন বহুকেইজন পণ্ডিত ব্যক্তিৰ ৰচনা সম্ভাৰেৰে সমৃদ্ধ হৈছে বুলি জানিব পাৰিছোঁ। কৰ্মকৰ্তাসকলৰ এই প্ৰচেষ্টা প্ৰশংসনীয় আৰু আদৰণীয়। এই গ্ৰন্থখনে অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ জগতখনো যে শক্তিশালী আৰু সমৃদ্ধিশালী কৰিব তাত সন্দেহ নাই।

লেখকসকলৰ চিন্তাপ্ৰসূত ৰচনাৰাজিয়ে সমাজ জীৱনৰ উত্তৰণৰ পথত ইতিবাচক প্ৰভাৱ পেলাব বুলি আশা ৰাখি কৰ্মকৰ্তাসকলৰ সজ প্ৰচেষ্টা ফলৱতী হোৱাৰ কামনাৰে শুভেচ্ছা জ্ঞাপন কৰিলোঁ।

দীপাঞ্জলি দত্ত
প্ৰাক্তন ভাৰপ্ৰাপ্ত অধ্যক্ষ
লক্ষীমপুৰ বালিকা মহাবিদ্যালয়

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Women in Social Development: Women's Studies Centre in Manipur during COVID Pandemic

L. Muhindro

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Coordinator, Human Resource and Research Innovative Centre;
Research Officer, Women's Studies Centre, SKWC

Abstract:

During the COVID pandemic of the first wave 2020, University Grants Commission gave a directive to all the Women's Studies Centres in India with a proposed Suggestive Activities. This study is to examine the benevolent act of a women group that has done for the social development during Lockdown. The method of analysis is totally based on primary sources and interviewed with the persons involved. Beyond academic exercise we need to perform skill activities for helping needy persons for the social development. As such Women's Studies Centre, of the S. Kula Women's College, Nambol had done very benevolent service in the adopted villages of the contiguous area of the college. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the life of every section of the society and especially the

Women's Cell, Lakhimpur Girls' College: The Lakhimpur Girls' College is a pioneer institute of Assam providing higher education to women since 1972. On 14th December 2006, 'The Women Cell' of this college has been formed as per the guideline of Assam College Teachers Association. Dr. Musfick Ara Tayab was the founder President of the Cell while Mrs. Jobin Jerin Akhtar Boruah and Mrs. Malobika Chaliha were Vice President and Secretary respectively. In the year 2017, the Women Cell of Lakhimpur Girls' College was reconstituted according to the new guideline of ACTA. The Women Cell performed different activities for the welfare of the society and students studying in this institution since its formation. Successful programmes organized by Women Cell include-

- Face to face interaction of female teachers with the students studying in the institution in 2007.
- Awareness program entitled 'Early Marriage, Legal and Societal Issues'.
- Two 'Rural Awareness' programmes in collaboration with the department of Home Science in 2012.
- Extension activity entitled 'Students Attitude Towards Society' in 2012.
- Awareness program at Anganwadi Centre on the occasion of National Girl Child Day on 24th January 2015.
- A 'Cancer Awareness Programme' in 2016.
- Conference entitled 'Role of Women in Socio-Economic Development' in collaboration with the 'Khaga Biswajyoti Mahila Samiti' at Khaga Shankari Kala Kristi Sangha in 2017.
- A community-oriented programme entitled 'Maa' where 62 local elderly male and females were felicitated including students with remarkable achievements in different examinations in 2017.
- Awareness program on two distinct areas-'Breast Cancer' and 'Flori Culture' in 2021.

In 2021, a resolution was taken by the members of Women Cell, Lakhimpur Girls' College to publish a series of books with ISBN. The glorious journey of Women Cell, Lakhimpur Girls' College is rooted in our book entitled 'Women in the Changing world'.

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