



Govt. of Assam

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya

Dalgaon :: Darrang :: Assam

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Report

ICSSR–NERC SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR

***“Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Development:
Tradition, Innovation and Policy Making”***

Organised by

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya (PDUAM), Dalgaon, Darrang, Assam

Dates: 16th–17th October, 2025

Sponsored by: ICSSR–North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Shillong

Supported by: RAHI Foundation & Others.

1. Introduction

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya (PDUAM), Dalgaon, organized a two-day National Seminar on “*Integrating Indigenous Knowledge for Sustainable Development: Tradition, Innovation and Policymaking*” on 16–17 October 2025. The seminar was sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research – North Eastern Regional Centre (ICSSR–NERC), Shillong, and supported by the RAHI Foundation and other dignitaries.

The event aimed to provide a platform for academicians, researchers, and policymakers to deliberate on the relevance of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in promoting sustainability, bridging traditional wisdom with modern innovation, and influencing policy processes for inclusive development.

2. Objectives of the Seminar

1. To explore the role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in promoting sustainable development.
2. To understand the integration of traditional practices with modern innovation and technology.
3. To identify policy measures that can institutionalize Indigenous Knowledge in governance.
4. To create awareness among young researchers and students about the preservation and documentation of IKS.
5. To encourage collaborative research across disciplines linking tradition, innovation, and sustainability.

3. Inaugural Session (16 October 2025, 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM)

The seminar commenced with registration followed by the inaugural session held at the Central Library Hall, PDUAM, Dalgaon from 10.00AM

Dr. Riju Devi welcomed the dignitaries and participants, followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a prayer song led by the Governing Body President. The seminar overview was presented by Dr. Kumar Chandan Jyoti, Convener of the Seminar.

Dr. L.P. Hazarika, Principal and Chief Patron, delivered the inaugural address highlighting the importance of knowledge preservation in the age of globalization. The Book of Abstracts with ISBN-978-81-97-100833 was released during the programme.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Dinesh Baishya, Director, Centre for Indian and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Assam Don Bosco University, delivered an inspiring keynote address on the interface between traditional knowledge and policy planning.

Vote of thanks was offered by Dr. Sufian Ahmed Tapadar, Joint Convener.

Inaugural session was live streamed publicly by YouTube live-
<https://youtube.com/@pduamdalgaon3994?si=ANWMIK6IoRjURmrq>

High Tea was served from 11.15 AM for all participants.

4. Plenary Session (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Chairperson: Prof. Dinesh Baishya

Anchoring: Dr. Riju Devi

Speakers:

- Prof. Shyama Prasad Biswas, Former Professor, Dibrugarh University – *“Traditional Knowledge in the Fisheries Sector of Assam”*
- Prof. Hirendra Nath Sarma, Professor of Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh – *“Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Practices of North East India: Prospects for Research and Development.”*
- Mr. Ashok Kumar Barman, IAS (Retd.) – *“Indian Knowledge System and Policymaking in Assam.”*

The plenary session highlighted the rich diversity of indigenous wisdom and its potential in environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

Lunch was served for all participants at 1.00 PM. Plenary session was live streamed publicly by YouTube live-<https://youtube.com/@pduamdalgaon3994?si=ANWMIK6IoRjURmrq>

5. Technical Sessions (16–17 October 2025)

Day 1: Offline Sessions

Technical Session–1 (1:30 PM – 3:30 PM)

Chairperson: Dr. Budhin Hazarika (Former Principal, Kharupetia College, Darrang, Assam)

Anchoring: Dr. Rimjim Dutta

Select Paper Presentations included:

- *Role of Pottery Industry in Sustainable Development and Its Commercial Prospects in India* – Biraj Saha et al.
- *Indigenous Water Management Systems in India* – Bidisha Hazarika.

- *Additional Water Harvesting Practices in Darrang District* – Goutam Deka.
- *A Study on Environmental Awareness among Students of Secondary Schools of Darrang District, Assam.* – Manoj Kumar Sarma
- *Harnessing Indigenous Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Pivotal Role of Women in Higher Education and Research*– Nasrin Ahmed
- *Ethnomedicine and Herbal Healing Among the Bodo Community: Tradition, Practice, and Change*– Ranchai Gwra Brahma and Dr.Hemanta Mochahary.

Technical session was live streamed publicly by YouTube live-
<https://youtube.com/@pduamdalgaon3994?si=ANWMIK6IoRjURmrq>

The session concluded with remarks from the Chairperson and a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Jinti Kalita. Certificates were distributed and a group photograph marked the closing of Day 1. Evening tea was served for all at 4.00 PM.

Day 2: Online Sessions (17 October 2025)

The second day was conducted from 10.00AM in virtual mode, featuring six technical sessions with over 100 paper presentations from scholars across India.

Each session was chaired by eminent academicians and covered diverse themes such as Indigenous Pedagogies, Sustainable Agriculture, Traditional Medicine, Gender and Knowledge, Climate Resilience, and Policy Frameworks.

Notable Chairpersons and Speakers included:

- Dr. Indrani Kalita (KKHSOU) – *Integrating IKS in Modern Education*
- Dr. Tarali Pathak (Cotton University) – *IKS and Educational Transformation*
- Dr. Afrida Hussain (Cotton University) – *Resurgence of Insect Pests and Indigenous Pest Management*
- Dr. S. I. Bhuyan (PDUAM, Behali) – *Traditional Shifting Cultivation and Environmental Impact*
- Dr. Sabu P. J. (St. Thomas College, Kerala) – *Economic Dimensions of Indigenous Knowledge*
- Dr. Jayanta Kumar Nath (S.B. Deorah College, Guwahati)- *Science and Indigenous knowledge system.*

Discussions during these sessions emphasized different practices of community, environmental sustainability, indigenous livelihoods, and the integration of IKS into the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 framework.

6. Valedictory Session (17 October 2025, 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM)

The valedictory session summarized the two-day deliberations. Dr. Lakhi Prasad Hazarika, Principal and Chief Patron, presented the seminar report and thanked ICSSR–NERC, Shillong, for sponsoring the event. The participants appreciated the hybrid mode, time management, organizational skill etc. in feedback session

7. Outcomes of the Seminar

1. The seminar fostered an interdisciplinary dialogue on Indigenous Knowledge and sustainable development.
2. It emphasized integrating IKS within academic curricula and public policy.
3. Researchers proposed documentation and digital preservation of regional indigenous practices.
4. The event inspired collaborations between institutions, NGOs, and government bodies for community-based research.
5. Participants reaffirmed the importance of North-East India as a living repository of traditional wisdom.

8. Recommendations

- Establishment of Indigenous Knowledge Resource Cells in higher educational institutions.
- Integration of IKS components in the NEP 2020 framework for education and research.
- Policy-level encouragement for local innovation and traditional crafts.
- Funding for interdisciplinary projects.
- Encouragement of time-bound publications and edited volumes from selected papers emerging from seminar deliberations.

9. Acknowledgements

The Organising Committee extends heartfelt gratitude to ICSSR–NERC, Shillong for sponsoring the seminar and to the RAHI Foundation and Kokong Tamuk, Branch Manager of Canara Bank, Mangaldai Branch for institutional support. Special thanks to the distinguished resource persons, session chairs, paper presenters, and participants for enriching the discussions. The cooperation of students, faculty, and the technical team of PDUAM, Dalgaon, was instrumental in ensuring the success of this two-day national event.

10. Conclusion

The ICSSR–NERC Sponsored National Seminar at PDUAM, Dalgaon, proved to be a significant academic initiative, fostering critical reflections on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and sustainable development. The seminar achieved its objectives of promoting dialogue between traditional wisdom and modern innovation while underlining the role of academia in preserving cultural heritage and guiding public policy

With regards,



Dr. Lakhi Prasad Hazarika
Principal
PDUAM, Dalgaon

Principal
P.D.U.A. Mahavidyalaya
Dalgaon, Darrang



Dr. Kumar Chandan Jyoti
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