

# Contributions of Women's To 20<sup>th</sup> Century Assamese Novel

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## **Abstract**

*A healthy society is being formed by the equal efforts of men and women. Contributions of both are important to create a real society. In country like India, women in parallel with man faced difficulties in the old days. But now it is seen to be the opposite. Now a days both men and women are bringing pride to the country by achieving a high level of success. In this way in the context of the North-East India, women's of Assam have significant contributions to Assamese literature along with the various aspects of knowledge, Cultures, Science etc. This study attempts to discuss contributions of women's to the Assamese Novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

**Keyword :** 20<sup>th</sup> century Assamese novel, women's contributions, women's views.

## **0.0 Introduction :**

Women's have been facing difficulties in moving forward in parallel with men in society since ancient times. In this way, the skills that previously Assamese women had shown in the social, cultural field; in addition to the entire responsibility of children and families were not socially recognized. Rather than women were tied up with some religious discipline. But reforms the 19th century, the circulation of female education under the initiative of missionary in Assam changed the previous tradition for women.

In the light of education Assamese women were able to establish their own in all social fields by gradually expanding their family ties. In that case Assamese women also have to enrich the field of literature. This study provides a discussion on how women have contributions to the Assamese literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century novels.

## **0.1 The objective of the study**

The main objective of this study are : –

- To find out the contributions of women's to Assamese literature.
- To determine the nature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century novel.
- Base on the novel of the female novelist to find out their social views.

## 0.2 Methods and scope of the study

Assamese women's have lot of contribute to Assamese novel. This study has been included in the 20<sup>th</sup> century novel only. In this study applies descriptive and analytical method.

### 1.0 Main Discussion :

Assamese novels have been influenced by Western literature specially, English literature. <sup>1</sup> In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Assamese novel was started by missionaries in the ideal of Western literature. Stories like 'Yatrikar Yatra' by Nathan Brown, 'Olokeshi Besyaar Bisai' by A.K Gurney; 'Phulmoni aru Karuna', 'Kaminikantar Charitra' by Mrs. Gurney, 'Sudhormar Upakhyan' by Pabmavati Devi Phukanani etc published in the magazine 'Arunudo' opened the way for Assamese novels to be essayed. Later the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the novel 'Bhanumoti', 'Lahori' by Padmanath Gohain Baruah; 'Padum kunwori' by Lakshminath Bezboroa were really started the trend of Assamese novel.

### 1.1 The 20<sup>th</sup> century Assamese novel

The trend of Assamese novels established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was nourished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rajanikanta Bordoloi's novels enriched the novels of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rajanikanta Bordoloi based on the social thoughts write the novel 'Miri Jiori' and his novels 'Rohdoi Ligiri', 'Rangili', 'Nirmal Bhakat', 'Manumati', 'Dondua Droh' enrich the genre of historical novels. In addition, Dandinath Kalita, Dinanath Sharma, Doibya Chandra Talukdar, Hiteswar Borboruah, Sintaharan Patgiri etc author has written various novels and enriched the Assamese novel of the first period of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

From the 40s period of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the new genre of Assamese novel began. In this way, Bina Borua (Birinchi Kumar Barua) wrote the novel 'Jivanar baatat' at that time. Later on, the people of Syed Abdul Malik, Prafulla Dutta Goswami, Birendra Kumar Bhattyacharya, Jogesh Das, Nabakanta Borua, Bhabendra Nath Saikia, Homen Borgohain, Lakshmi Nandan Bora and other people established the foundation of modern novels by writing novels on the basis of the contemporary incidents, social situations etc.

### 1.2 Contribution of Female Novelist to the Assamese Novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

For the first time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the entry of women in Assamese novel started with the novel 'Sudhormar Upakhyan' by Padmavati Devi Phukanani. The Second female novelist SnehaLota Bhattacharya was debuted in 1926 with the novel 'Bina'. Her novels shows the pictures of domestic life, women education, widow's problems, the village life, the social conscious views.<sup>2</sup> Another female novelist Chandaprabha Saikiani's novel 'Pitribhitha' was published in 1937. This novel reveals a romantic story as well as a variety of women's thoughts. Later on, Assamese novels have been enriched by the novel 'Ba Marali'(1957) by Suchibrata Rai Choudhuri, 'Jiban Sangram' (1956), 'Jugar Jatri', 'Emuthi Abirar Rang'by Hiranyamoyee Devi; 'Siyen Nodir Dhou'(1961) by Uma Boruah, 'Akash Bonti'(1967), 'Sailya Sikhar'(1968), 'Moi aru Ami'(1987), 'Dhumuhar Pisot'(1998) by Nilima Dutta; 'Dhansirir Usuponi', 'Basonar Otit' by Pranita Devi etc.

Another novelist Nirupama Borgohain has enriched the 20<sup>th</sup> century Assamese novel by writing more than 15 novels. Among them are 'Sei Nodi Nirovadh'(1963), 'Ejon Buha Manuh'(1966), 'Dinor Pisot Din'(1968), 'Hridoy Ek Nirjon Dweep'(1970), 'Samanya Asamanya'(1971), 'Iparor Ghar Siparor Ghar'(1978), 'Sinaki Osinaki'(1987), 'Abhiyatri'(1993), 'Iparor Dhou Siparor Dhou'(1993) etc are notable. Her 'Sei Nodi

Nirovadhī, 'Iparor Ghar Siparor ghar' is a river based and regional novel.<sup>3</sup> Her novel 'Iparor ghar Siparor ghar' is a life of unwed, absorbed women in the village area. It may be mentioned that women are more prominent than men in her novels. Her novels depict the mentality of the woman's, the different family problems of women's life, effects on women of new era thinking. Her novels like 'Anyā Jibon', 'Champabati' and 'Mar Proti Morom aru Sradhare' have a wide spread of feminism thoughts. Again, the novel 'Anyā Jibon' also contains Marxism thought.

Another powerful female writer Mamoni Raisom Goswami has written several important novels. They are –'Chinabar Srota', 'Neelakathi Braja', 'Ahiran', 'Mamore Dhora Tarowal', 'Datal Hatir Une Khowa Howda', 'Nangath Sohor' etc. In her novels some important issues have been thoroughly discussed in the form of a visual experience. Sympathy for the neglected classes of society can be seen in her novels. Her novels 'Chinabar Srota', 'Ahiran', 'Mamore Dhora Tarowal' etc expresses sympathy for the misery, deception, and human relations of such a society. Her novels like 'Datal Hatir Une Khowa Howda', 'Neelakanthi Braja' clearly shows the misery of widow's life, the cruel policies of society towards them, superstition, the loss of human values etc. Some of her novels have also revealed the feminism thoughts.

Arupa Patangia Kalita is a female novelist that enriched Assamese novel in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, she has been able to establish in the world of literature more powerfully in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Her novels published in the 20<sup>th</sup> century 'Mriganabhi' and 'Ayananta'. Her novel 'Mriganabhi' show the problems of widows of the Hindu society as well as the emotional under current character of the contemporary society. A popular female novelist Rita Chowdhury also starts writing novel in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her novels published in the 20<sup>th</sup> century –'Abirata Jatra'(1981), 'TirthaBhumi'(1988), 'Popiya Torar Sadhu'(1998) etc. She also writes the novel 'Abirata Jatra' based on the story of the Assam movement and the story of the journalism world write the novel 'Popiya Torar Sadhu'.

Another novelist Tilottoma Mishra wrote the novel 'Swarnalata', based on the story of the daughter of Gunabhiram Barua, one of the important person of the Assamese Romanticism movement. In addition in that novel intellectual and cultural world of Assam and Bengal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century also historically highlighted.

Another women Swarna Boruah's novel 'Diyung Nodir Geet'(1985), 'Simsangor Hahi'(1987), 'Meghor Jomuna', 'Thams' has been a collection of societies and cultures in hills and valleys and their unity. It should be noted that besides these, several woman have also been able to contribute to the creation of one-two novels. But not everyone was able to put a long time in Assamese novel.

In recent times, 21<sup>st</sup> century many women's have been able to create a lot of popularity by writing Assamese novels. In this case the name of writers Rita Chowdhury, Arupa Patangia Kalita, Anuradha Sharma Pujari, Purobi Bormudoi, Juri Bora Borgohain, Monikuntala Bhattacharya, Sarmistha Pritam etc are notable.

## 2.0 Conclusion :

Women's novelist of 20<sup>th</sup> century has attempted to see society and life from a self-contained perspective through their novels. Their novels have beautifully revealed contemporary events, human social status, new theory of literature, writer's philosophy of life. In this way female novelist has contributed significantly to the prosperity and development of Assamese novels.

## End notes

- <sup>1</sup> Lila Gagoi, *Adhunik Asomia Sahityar Parisai*, p.321
- <sup>2</sup> Nogen Thakur, *Axo Basoror Asomia Uponyakh*, p.72
- <sup>3</sup> Hemanta kumar Sarma, *Asamiya Sahityat Dristipat*, p.266

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