

An Eminent Academician Dr Bhaben Ch Kalita (24 June 1954 to 13 July 2023): A Tribute

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Abstract

This necrology focuses on the geographical contributions of Dr Bhaben Chandra Kalita, an eminent teacher and geographer from North East India, to mark tribute on his untimely demise on 13 July 2023.

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Introduction

Dr Bhaben Kalita was a geographer who contributed to the field of Geography, especially in geopolitics, tribal studies, urban geography (including tourism and disaster management) and music geography, for nearly 40 years, from 1982 to 2023. He was born on 24 June 1954 in Tatimara village at Chandrapur, Guwahati, in Assam. He pursued his school education at a local school in Chandrapur in 1972. Then, he completed Pre-University in 1973 and Graduated with Geography Honours from Arjya Vidyapith College, Guwahati in 1976. Dr. Kalita accomplished his Masters in Geography in 1978. Afterwards, Dr. Kalita pursued his M.Phil from Gauhati University in 1984. Dr. Kalita earned his Doctor of Philosophy in 1994 under the Supervision of the late Professor Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya. The title of the PhD thesis was *Administrative Systems of Karbi Anglong District, Assam and its Socio-Political Relevance from Karbi Perspective: A Politico Geographical Analysis* (Kar, 2023a; b).

Immediately after completing his MA in Geography, Dr. Kalita joined Darrang College as a Faculty of Geography Department. However, he had to leave Darrang College as he obtained a job at Diphu Government College as a regular Faculty after completing his M.Phil degree. Dr. Kalita was so fascinated by the tribal

administrative system of Karbi communities that he chose to research this subject and considered it as his PhD topic. In 1984, Dr. Kalita joined the Geography department of Cotton College (now Cotton University) as a Faculty and served there till his retirement in 2013 as the Head of the Department. After retirement, Dr. Kalita was invited to join the Earth Science Department of the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya in 2014 as a Professor. Dr. Kalita served there till his last days in 2023.

Besides Academics, Dr. Kalita was also associated with Assam Administrative Staff College as a Trainer of State Civil Service training programmes. Dr. Kalita was also associated with the Secondary Education Council and State Education Board of Assam and co-authored a number of school books on geography.

Dr. Kalita was also a lifelong North-East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) member.

His Geographical Contributions

Many of Dr. Kalita's works with his research scholars are considered pioneering works in the North Eastern region. During his lifetime, he supervised a number of research scholars both at Gauhati University and the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya. The following table highlights some of his supervision and publications:

A few theses which were completed under the supervision of Dr Bhaben Chandra Kalita are as follows:

- Pupils' achievements in government and private secondary schools in Kamrup and Darrang districts Assam with reference to seventh standard a spatial analysis by Deva Kumar Dutta, completed in 2010, Gauhati University, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/69618>
- Urbanization in the hill districts of Assam with special reference to growth of Diphu town by Raju Gogoi, completed in 2010, Gauhati University, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/115347>
- Flood in Kamrup Metropolitan district Assam vulnerability patterns and management strategies by Satyendra Hazarika, completed in 2015, Gauhati University, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/114338>
- Tourism and associated development in and around Nilachal Kamakhya: A Geographical Analysis by Juthika Mahanta, completed in 2017, Gauhati University, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/184533>

- Problems and prospects of tourism development in Sonitpur district of Assam with special reference to Tezpur: A geographical analysis by Kankana Bora, completed in 2018, Gauhati University, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/210112>
- Modern Music in Guwahati GMA Assam A Study of Cultural Fusion and Diffusion by Palme Borthakur, completed in 2019, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/272454>

The following are the book chapters and journal articles contributed by Dr. Kalita.

- Kalita, B.C. (n.d.). Swadesh Adhyayan: A textbook for study of the geography and history in English medium for class XII. *Assam Higher Secondary Education Council*. Effective from 2019-2020 Academic Session.
- Borthakur, Palme and Kalita, B.C. (2019). Modern Music in Assam: A Mosaic of Cultural Fusion & Diffusion. *Musical History of North East India*. ISBN: 978-81-927066-6-5
- Hazarika, Satyendra and Kalita, B. C. (2014). Rainfall trend and flood hazard vulnerability: A community based case study of Kamrup Metro District, Assam. *NeJCR*, 1(2), 15-29. ISSN 2349-3089
- Hazarika, Satyendra and Kalita, B. C. (2014). Flood Hazard Vulnerability of Kamrup Metro District: A Case Study of Chandrapur Revenue Circle. *Research Journal of Contemporary Concerns*.9(A), 112-130.
- Borthakur, Palme and Kalita, B.C. (2018). Development of Modern Music in Assam: Guwahati (GMC): A Mosaic of Cultural Fusion and Diffusion. *International Journal of Advance Research, Ideas and Innovations in Technology*. 4(6), 530-533. ISSN:2454-132X.
- Borthakur, Palme and Kalita, B. C. (2019). Female Participation in Folk Music of Assam- A study on Bihugeet in Guwahati (GMA), Assam. *International Journal of Science and Research*. 8(3), 653-657. ISSN: 2319-7064.

Final Words

Dr Bhaben Ch Kalita was a person with a positive attitude. He was indeed a dreamer—an excellent teacher who always acted as a support system for his scholars and students. Dr Kalita leaves behind his wife, Mrs Bharati Das Kalita (retired as an Assistant Teacher from TC School, Guwahati), daughter Padmaja Kashyap, son Hrishikesh Kalita, son-in-law Manas Kalita, daughter-in-law Bhupali Talukdar and a grandson Nidhish Kalita(Prince).

The untimely demise of Dr Bhaben Ch Kalita on 13 July 2023 at the age of 69 is a great loss to his family and region's Geography fraternity. We offer our reverence to the departed soul.

References

Kar, Bimal K. (2023a). Professor Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya (21 January 1936 - 29 January 2023): His Academic Career and Contributions.

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Kar, Bimal K. (2023b). Chapter 2: Professor Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya: A brief profile of his life, academic career and contributions. In Anand Subhash, Das Madhushree, Bhattacharyya Rituparna & Singh RB (eds.). *Sustainable development goals in North East India: Challenges and achievements (advances in geographical and environmental sciences)*. 21-31. Singapore, Springer Nature.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-6478-7_2

Acknowledgements

This tribute has been compiled with my personal conversation with Mrs Bharati Das Kalita, Dr Abani Bhagawati, Former Head of the

Department and Professor (retired), Department of Geography Gauhati University and Dr Raju Gogoi, Associate Professor; Geography Department; Diphu Government College; Karbi Anglong.