

KUKMU

WEAVING THROUGH THE DREAM

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Annual Newsletter of Akam Foundation

January-December, 2023



MoU with Akam

Akam Foundation had signed MoU with Dispur College, Tinsukia College, West Guwahati College of Education, Digboi Women's College in order to have a long term work relationship and exchanges of resources.



Inauguration of Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library & Resource Centre and Drishti Queer Safe Space

Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library & Resource Centre and Drishti Queer Safe Space was inaugurated on 19th March, 2023 with the collective efforts of the humans of our community. It was the day when a dream of several people came into existence. The space where everyone is allowed to be the way they are. Around 40+ people and faculty members from different colleges of Dibrugarh have attended the event in accordance with their solidarity to the space. Furthermore, the day went with recitation of poems, storytelling, singing and dancing.



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Programs and Activities of Akam Foundation & Drishti: A Queer Collective

Q-Drishti : Summer School on Gender

A 5 days extensive workshop on gender and sexuality, feminism was organised at the Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library & Resource Centre from **23rd June to 27th June 2023**. The workshop was based on building a diverse perspective on gender, sexuality among the youth of Assam. Participants from different parts of Assam joined the workshop. Sessions were designed on a participatory way on themes of gender, sexuality, patriarchy, masculinity, social exclusion, intersectionality, relevance of feminism and legal rights. Dr. Anita Boruah, Dr. Pranjal Buragohain, Dr. Mayuri Sharma Borua, Indranee Kalita, Dr. Debojanee Borah was invited as the guest resource person for the workshop.



Youth Exchange Programs

We have conducted a 2 days exchange program on leadership development at Dispur College on 12th June, 2023 and Tinsukia College on 2nd and 3rd August 2023. It was facilitated by the leaders of Drishti Collective where sessions were based on identification of issues, community mobilization, stakeholder involvement and advocacy. These programs have been the medium to carry forward gender justice around the educational institutes.

College Outreach Programs

Akam Foundation and Drishti: A Queer Collective together mobilized more than 6000+ youths within the colleges and Universities of Assam on Gender Sensitization. These outreach programs had helped in creating a huge awareness among the educational institutions.

These programs not only helped us to reach to community in general but helped also to build long term relationships with educational institutes in Assam in terms of developing a safety net for queer community in Assam.

Some mentioned name:

Digboi Womens College, Digboi
 West Guwahati College of Education, Guwahati
 Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev University, Nagaon, Sonapur College, Kamrup
 DDR College, Chabua
 Lady Keane College, Shillong
 Dispur College, Guwahati
 Moran College, Moran
 DIET, Chabua, DIET, Golaghat
 Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit University, Nalbari
 Bikali College, Dhupdhara
 Gogamukh College, Dhemaji
 Salt Brook Academy, Dibrugarh
 Kaziranga University, Jorhat
 TISS, Guwahati



Project Kitape Kotha Koi

Project Kitape Katha Koi Community Library located in Ahatguri Gaon of Jorhat District serves around 100+ children from 5 villages of Chenijan area. The library has a collection of 2000+ books and runs regular library programs like book circulation, reading program, storytelling, book talk etc.



Workshops & Events

8th January, 2023 - Conversation on **Building the Free Library Movement: Relationships between Publisher , Authors & Free Libraries** at Assam Book Fair, Guwahati

14th February, 2023 - **One Billion Rising** program in collaboration with Centre for Women's studies, Dibrugarh University

20th April, 2023 - Conversation on Queering Desires: Rongali and Rainbows by **Deepjyoti Bhatta**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Margherita College

22nd April, 2023 - Storytelling Workshop on Queering Desires by **Rituparna**, Founder- Director of Akam Foundation

23rd April, 2023 - Creative writing workshop on Queering Desires by **Bornali Nath Dowerah**, Assistant Professor, MDK Girls College

27th April, 2023 - Conversation on fulbright Scholarship & PhD in US by **Christian Morgan James**

27th April, 2023 - Celebration on **Rainbow Rongali Bihu Festival** at the Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library & Resource Center

7th April, 2023 - Conversation on Equal Marriage Rights Law, Debate, Dialogue by **Rituparna Borah**, Co - founder of Nazariya

30th May, 2023 - Conversation on Practicing Ethics, Care & Solidarity in Research by **Dolly Kikon**, Noted Anthropologist, University of Melbourne

31th May, 2023 - Book Reading Session with **Ratna Bharali Talukdar**, Author, Journalist

19th June, 2023 - Exploring Queer Story through objects by **Rishav Thakur**, PhD Scholar at Columbia University



Drishti: A Queer Collective



Drishti has been independently helping in the mobilization of youth around the state. It has conducted community meetups in Golaghat, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. Also the leaders from the collective have facilitated in the Youth Exchange Programs and at stakeholder programs at district level in the Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Assam. Also it has supported in mobilising people for Jorhat and Dibrugarh Pride Walk.

Gallery of Akam Workshop and Events



Enabling free library & demanding free public library system in India

We are a member of the **Free Libraries Network, India (FLN)**. As a member of FLN we have been contributing to build India's free library movement demanding people's policy for free public library in India.

In 2023 we have enabled 22 community library in Meghalaya as technical support to Chief Minister Youth Centre of Govt. of Meghalaya on behalf of FLN.

We have also enabled setting up of Nagakhelia Gaon Children Library, Dibrugarh in collaboration with MDKG College, Dibrugarh.

Akam At Glance

- Akam had collaborated with **Free Libraries Network, India (FLN)** in conducting two National Level workshops on Library Education.
- One day inception program on Community Library was done by Akam in collaboration with Centre for Social Work, Dibrugarh University
- Akam and Manohari Devi Kanoi College, Dibrugarh jointly inaugurated a community library at Nagakhelia Village, Dibrugarh.
- Youth mobilisations: 6000
- Workshops conducted: 8
- Facilitated Participants: 240
- Meetups Conducted: 12+ around Assam
- Events Conducted: 10+ at Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library and Resource Centre



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