

CERTIFICATE

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This is to certify that the M. Phil thesis entitled “Political Participation of women in Urban local Self government-A Case study” embodies the results of research work carried out by Sonatan Paul under my supervision and in accordance with the M. Phil Regulations of Bodoland University. The contents of the thesis is genuine , or part of thereof, not submitted for any other degree either by the candidate or to the best of my knowledge by anyone else.

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DECLARATION

I Sri Sonatan Paul, declare that the thesis entitle **“Political Participation of women in Urban Local self government – A Case study”** submitted to the Bodoland University, Kokrajhar (Assam) in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy in Political Science under the supervision of Dr. Jyotiraj Pathak. The material and data incorporated in the study is genuine and the work has been carried out by the candidate himself. The thesis has not previously formed the basis for the award of any other degree, diploma, associate ship, fellowship or other title.

Place –

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I am very grateful to my supervisor and guide Dr. Jyotiraj Pathak. Associate Prof. of Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam, for giving needful and right guidance for undertaking the research activities and preparation of my thesis. I am grateful to all the respondents and office bearers of the selected for extending their sincere cooperation without which the present study could never have been concluded. I must thank the teaching staff of Department of Political Science of Bodoland University for their encouraging and right direction of during the time of course work. Secondly, I express my utmost gratitude to official authority, staff of library of Bodoland University for kind cooperation. Thirdly, I express my gratitude to my colleagues for providing so many helps in my research activities. Along with I must thank Akshay Jyoti Sarma research scholar friends for their positive encouragement in materialization of my research thesis. I also very thankful to my family members and relatives for their moral support and kind cooperation in completion of research task.

I also express my gratitude to officials of Librarian of Gauhati University , OKDISCD (Omeo Kumar Das institute of Social change and development) , Women Studies centre Gauhati university, ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research) library etc. Last but not the least, I am also thankful to Mr. Mohibul Ahmed, General Book binding Works, for completion the typing work within the stipulated timeframe.

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PREFACE

The research work undertaken by Sonatan paul is “**Political Participation of women in urban local self government: A case study**” The Indian Constitution provides equal status and opportunities to women in every sphere of life. Despite this, women in general have not been able to attain their due share in the social, economic, political and administrative system of the country. Women are far behind the men folk. The 74th Amendment to the Constitution has taken a lead and provides reservation for women to the tune of one-third in urban local bodies. Such a historical move is a good beginning in right earnest but the experiences of about a decade have not shown the desired result.

The International Community celebrated 1976-1985 as the Decade for Women. 8th March every year is Women’s Day. The Government of India declared the year 2001 as the Year for Women Empowerment. A good number of national and international conferences have been devoted to the cause of women, but the impact, a disappointment. Women in urban areas have a complex characteristic. Their misery is added by complex urban character and socio-economic cultural-religious situations. They are the victims of role conflict, social disharmony, religious and social traditions, occupational hazards, familial tension, abuses, harassment etc.

In the context the study of “Political participation of women in urban local self government: A case study” is significant socially as well as academically. The present study is a modest attempt in this direction. This is an empirical study of women elected

representatives of Bilasipara and Chapar town Committee under the Dhubri district of Assam. The study has been purported to provide an empirical base for intensive insight into the socio-economic basis of these women leaders, their knowledge ability awareness and value orientations. The data collected on these issues from the Municipal Bodies have been organized and presented into five chapters.

The first chapter deals with an introductory note on the conceptual framework of the local self government and participation of women leaders, a review of the relevant literature and the methodological procedure of the study. The second chapter includes the participation of women in historical perspective to modern perspective. The third chapter deals with the origin and evolution of Local self government. The fourth chapter deals with the political background, knowledge ability and awareness of women elected representatives of Biasipara and Chapar town Committee under the Dhubri district .The last chapter, deals with the conclusion and recommendations of the research study.

Date:

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LIST OF ABBRIAVATIONS

AIUDF.....	All India United Democratic Front
BJP.....	Bharatiya Janata Party
INC.....	Indian National Congress
MB.....	Municipal Board
MP.....	Member of Parliament
MLA.....	Member of Legislative Assembly
MSC.....	Maharashtra social conference
M.Corp.....	Municipal Corporation
MOBC.....	More Other Backward Classes
NCWI.....	National council of women in India
NA	Notified Area
NTA	Notified Town Area
NSC.....	National social conference
OBC.....	Other Backward Classes
ULG.....	Urban local government
SC.....	Schedule Cast
ST.....	Schedule Tribe
TC.....	Town Committee
UN.....	United Nations

GLOSSARY

Ahom - Ahom kingdom was a kingdom in the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam, India. It is well-known for maintaining its sovereignty for nearly 600 years and successfully resisting Mughal expansion in Northeast India.

Borgohain – Borgohain was the second of the two original counselors in the Ahom kingdom. He was selected by the Ahom king from members of the Ahom nobility (*Satgharia Ahom*), who was not eligible for the position of Ahom kingship.

Brahmaputra - Brahmaputra River (named as the Son of the Creator of the Cosmos, in Hindu mythology) is one of the holiest rivers of the World.

Chutiya- Chutiya community, are recognised as schedule tribe in Assam.

Gaonburha- Head of Village) who is the elected representative of the village.

Hasti-Vidyarnava - Hasti-Vidyarnava or Hastividarnav is an ancient Assamese treatise on elephants or elephantology. It was composed by Sukumar Barkath in 1734 AD. Written under the orders of Ahom King Siba Singha, Hastividarynava deals with classes or types of elephants, their management and care. Copied and illustrated on the bark of Agar tree, Hastividarynava is an unique book on elephants.

Jaintia - A sub tribe of 'Khasi', are the inhabitants of Meghalaya. They have been residing in Jaintia hills and belong to the Proto Australoid Monkhmer race.

Kachari - Kachari is a generic term applied to a number of ethnic groups, predominantly in Assam, speaking Tibeto-Burman languages or claiming a common ancestry.

Koch – Koch is community is an indigenous community of Koch Bihar origin found in parts of present-day Nepal; the Indian states of Assam, West Bengal, and Meghalaya; and Kishanganj in the state of Bihar and certain parts of Bhutan.

Moamoria - Moamoria rebellion (1769–1805) was the 18th century conflict between the Morans, adherents of the Moamara Sattra, and the Ahom kings.

Morans- A tribal group of Mongol origin who live in the Northeastern districts of Assam.

Muhtasib - Muhtasib has primarily been used to designate a person who has been appointed by the political power (sultan or imam) to police the enforcement of Islamic law in a Mujahidin particular area.

Namghars - Namghar is literally *Name House* are places for congregational worship associated with the Ekasarana religion of Assam. In the Assamese language, ‘Naam’ means prayer and ‘Ghar’ means house. Hence, it is called Naamghar.

Purdah - Purdah is a custom practised in some Muslim and Hindu societies, in which women either remain in a special part of the house or cover their faces and bodies to avoid being seen by men who are not related to them. If a woman is in purdah, she lives according to this custom.

Sankaradev - Srimanta Sankaradev was a great Assamese saint, scholar, poet, playwright, social reformer and founder of Vaishnavism in Assam. He inspired the Bhakti movement in Assam and united people through his neo-vaishnavite movement – Ekasaran Naam Dharma. Sankardev enriched Assamese language and literature through his poetry, dramas (Ankia Naat) and songs (borgeet & bhatima). He was also the father of Assamese classical dance – Sattriya Dance.