

CHAPTER: 2

LIFE AND WORKS OF MADHU RAM BARO

2.1 Madu Ram Baro as a Multidisciplinary Personality:

Madhu Ram Baro was born on 1st November 1938 in Kamrup District in the city of Assam and Passed away on 24 March 2014. He survived 76 years in his journey of life. Generally, Madhu Ram Baro is known as a teacher, a linguist, and a famous writer. He was not only a teacher, linguist, and famous writer but also a journalist, editor, academician, and the first linguist (M.A.) from Northeast India. He was a Bhasa Samman Awardee, Literary Pension Receiver from the Assam Government, Dr. Ambedkar Literary Awardee, Artist (Vocal Music), Guide, Expert, and a good social worker. In this chapter, the study summarizes the life and works of Madhu Ram Baro from his birth to death.

Some critics, academicians, and scholars write extra name to Madhu Ram Baro with various names like- “সুবাসিত সাধনা মধুরাম বড়ো: জীবন আৰু কৃতি, meaning is “*Knowledge Worshipper Madhu Ram Baro*, published a book felicitation volume with this name. “প্ৰজ্ঞাৰ সাধক মধুরাম বৰো”, “গিয়ান সিৰিথাৰগ্না মধুরাম বৰ”. Published a book with this name, the meaning is “*Knowledge worshipper Madhu Ram Baro*.

“অস্ৰাং আলারি মধুরাম বার” (Okhrang Alari Madhu Ram Baro), the meaning is “*The Sky Light Madhu Ram Baro*” Kamalakanta Muchahary, who was General Secretary of Bodo Sahitya Sabha. He called to Madhu Ram Baro, “অস্ৰাং আলারি: মধুরাম বড়ো”¹ and writes an article on the excellency working of Madhu Ram Baro in Assamese language. Again, he writes “অস্ৰাং আলারি:

¹ Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p.49

रुंसारि मधुराम बर”² in Bodo language and published in प्रज्जाब साधक मधुबाम बरो गियान सिबिथाबग्रा मधुराम बर’. Jatindra Nath Swargiary also said “अस्त्रां आलारि”³ and writes a poem on Madhu Ram Baro. Rwirub Brahma also said that “अस्त्रां आलारि: सार मधुराम बर”⁴ and writes an article on his worked. Ranjoy Swrang Boro also said “अस्त्रां आलारि: मधुराम बर”⁵.

Along with the name “अस्त्रां आलारि: सार मधुराम बर” some are said with different names these are-

“समायनासिन सुबुं” meaning is “The Most Beautiful Person” said by Rangina Dwimary and he writes an article on Madhu Ram Baro. “गोजों अलंबार मधुराम बर” meaning is “Lightening Polestar Madhu Ram Baro” and writes an article “आंनि नोजोराव गोजों अलंबार मधुराम बर” on Madhu Ram Baro. “मेंनोरोडै प्र. मधुराम बर” meaning is “Tireless Madhu Ram Baro” Said by Kanun and writes मेंनोरोडै प्र. मधुराम बर’ सारनिसिम a poem on Madhu Ram Baro. “थरसे हाथरखि” meaning is “A Star” by Ganesh Basumatary, “अलंबार नों मधुराम बर” meaning is “Polestar Madhu Ram Baro”. “थरसे हाथरखि गोमाबावबाय” meaning is “Lost a Star”. by Binod Basumatary.

As per his excellent works the “अस्त्रां आलारि मधुराम बर” (Okhrang Alari Madhu Ram Baro), the meaning is “The Sky Light Madhu Ram Baro” is the best and meaningful for Madhu Ram Baro.

² Swargiary, Shri Kabaram, Dr. Bhupen Narzaree. et al. प्रज्जाब साधक मधुबाम बरो गियान सिबिथाबग्रा मधुराम बर’. Late Madhu Ram Baro Adyashraddha Parichalana Samiti, 4th April, 2014. p.132

³ ibid. p.60

⁴ ibid. p.105

⁵ ibid p.132

2.1.1 Birth:

Madhu Ram Baro was born on 1st November 1938 in Kolutakuchi (Khwinadiya) village, Post office Kolutakuchi, District Kamrup in the city of Assam Guwahati, India. He was born into a Bodo family; His father's name was Tatrām Baro and his mother's name was Tatili Bala Baro. His father and mother were good farmers. His father Tatrām Baro was an educated person but his mother was uneducated. But, very unfortunately his father Tatrām Baro died during the time of his childhood and after this, his mother Tatili Bala Baro also went with another husband leaving her son Madhu Ram Baro. After losing his parents he was growing very patiently in the care of his grandfather and grandmother.

2.1.2 Education:

Madhu Ram Baro started his education at Gosaikhat L.P. (Lower Primary) school, and he did his M.E. (Middle English) school and High School Level education at Hajo Higher Secondary School, Hajo, Guwahati. He passed his Matriculation in 1955 from Hajo Higher Secondary School and he completed his I.A. (Intermediate of Arts) in 1957 and his B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) Degree from B. Borooah College, Guwahati, in 1959 under Gauhati University. After completing their bachelor's degree, he couldn't be admitted into the P.G. (Postgraduate) degree in the same academic year due to financial problems. But after one year back he had taken admission into M.A. (Master of Arts) degree at Gauhati University in the year 1961. He completed his M.A. degree in Sanskrit from Gauhati University in 1962. After completing their M.A. in Sanskrit from Gauhati University, he went to Pune University to study M.A. in the Linguistics Department. Finally, after two years he completed his M.A. in Linguistics from Deccan College, under Puna University in 1965. For that, he was recorded as the first master's degree holder in Linguistics, not only among the Bodos but the Assamese as a whole in the Northeast region of India. He also took a Diploma, in "Cultural Anthropology" and did Certificate courses in French and German Languages. He acquired the requisite knowledge of linguistics at Deccan College during his postgraduate studies. He took up his research on "*Descriptive Analysis*

of Mizo Language” under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Kelkar of Deccan University, but he could not complete his Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) degree due to the problem in fieldwork. At that time, he could not go to Mizoram state for his fieldwork due to the Mizoram Movement. During this short period, Baro has taken another two degrees, a Diploma in Cultural Anthropology from Pune University and a Certificate in French and German Language from Pune University.

“Madhu Ram Baro was very interested in education from childhood. He was the best and deep minded student at his school level. Especially he has very interested in Sanskrit subject and he was getting 100 marks out of 100 marks at his school level. Finally, he got 80 percent (Letter mark) in Sanskrit in his Matriculation.”⁶

2.1.3 Madhu Ram Baro as a Teacher:

Madhu Ram Baro’s Profession was a teacher. He taught in various institutions before joining as an Assistant Professor at Gauhati University. Teaching and writing were his passions. He taught in various educational institutions from the High School level to the University level. The names of the institutions where Madhu Ram Baro worked as a teacher are as follows:

1. Assistant Teacher in Saniadi High Madrassa School

After completing the I.A. (Intermediate Arts) final examination Madhu Ram Baro was teaching as an Assistant teacher at Saniadi High Madrassa School, Hajo, District Kamrup, Guwahati, Assam, due to the demand of local intellectuals and the public. He was teaching in this school for six months.

2. Headmaster, Kachari Mahal High School

After completing the B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) final examination he worked as a headmaster in Kachari Mahal High School, Chepti Bihdia Road, Madhukuchi, Rangia, Kamrup-Rural District of Assam.

⁶ Basumatary, Roma Kanta. *Jio Arw Swrji*. Onsumoi library, Kokrajhar, 2002. p.13

3. Assistant Teacher in A. K. Institution

During his time as an M.A. student in Sanskrit at Gauhati University, Madhu Ram Baro also worked for one year as an assistant teacher at A.K. Institution, North Guwahati, District Kamrup, Assam.

4. Assistant Teacher at Ramdia Higher Secondary School

Madhu Ram Baro worked as an assistant teacher at Ramdia Higher Secondary School, Hajo, District, Kamrup, Assam.

5. Assistant Teacher at Hajo Higher Secondary School

Madhu Ram Baro worked as an Assistant Teacher at Hajo Higher Secondary School, Hajo, Kamrup, Assam.

6. Assistant Professor at Deccan College

When Madhu Ram Baro was pursuing his M.A. in Linguistics at Deccan College, in Pune, under Pune University, he was facing a financial problem. He sent a letter to Dr. S.M. Katra starting about his financial problems, who was the Director of Deccan College. He explained his financial problems and informed Dr. S.M. Katra of his wish to complete his M.A. Degree in Linguistics. And he asked Dr. S.M. Katra for a job, and as a result of the request, Dr. S.M. Katra also offered him the chance to join as a part-time teacher in the Sanskrit Department at Deccan College, from 1963 to 1965.

7. Assistant Professor at Gauhati University

After completing his education and having lots of teaching experience at various educational institutions Madhu Ram Baro was allowed to teach at the Department of Linguistics of Gauhati University, Assam.

“After completing his all-degrees Madhu Ram Baro joined As an Assistant Professor in 1975 in Linguistics Department, Gauhati University, and he retired from service in 1998, 31st October.”⁷

⁷ Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p.133

2.1.4 Marital Status:

Madhu Ram Baro was married to Ms. Priyadini Brahma in January 1976. Priyadini Brahma is the daughter of Trwilokh Brahma and Sawmesori Brahma of village Patakata, Subdivision Gossaigaon, Kokrajhar, Assam. His life partner Ms. Priyadini Brahma is also an M.A. in Linguistics, and she is also a Bodo writer. His marriage was done by the connection of Modaram Brahma (A famous and renowned Bodo writer). Modaram Brahma was called Madhau Ram Baro a relative son. When he was working as a faculty of Gauhati University in the Linguistics Department, he got married to Priyadini Brahma at 38 years of age.

2.1.5 Madhu Ram Baro as a Journalist and Editor:

Madhu Ram Boro was not only a teacher but also a journalist. He worked as a Journalist and Editor in various Newspapers. The names of the newspapers are given below:

1. **Sambad Saptahik:**

A multilingual newspaper, published weekly includes Assamese, English, Bodo, and other tribal languages of Northeast India.

2. **Asomar Janajati:**

Multilingual Magazine published in Assamese and leading tribal languages including Bodo of Northeast India.

3. **Asomiya Janamat:**

Assamese News Weekly.

4. **Natun Din:**

*“Assamese news daily first editor and chief editor.”*⁸

⁸ Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al.
Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti. N.L.
Publication, November, 2011. p.136

2.1.6 Madhu Ram Baro as a Social and Academic Activist:

Madhu Ram Baro as a writer and journalist was also the best and strong Social Worker as well as an Academician. Some social and academic activities of Madhu Ram Baro are given below:

1. Once a member of Local Self Government (Panchayat).
2. Prohibition Council.
3. Tribal Development Board.
4. Member Consultant with station Director A.I.R. Guwahati.
5. Member of C.W.C. (Central Working Committee), Bodo Sahitya Sabha.
6. Member and then adviser to the State Language Implementation Committee, Assam.
7. Vice-Chairman and then Chairman, Administrative Terminology Committee, Assam Government.
8. General Member and then executive member, Assam publication board (for two terms).
9. Member Director of Assam State Text-book Production and Publication Corporation (for two terms).
10. Guide and preparation and compilation of Bodo-English-Hindi Trilingual Dictionary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha in collaboration with C.I.I.L. (Central Institute of Indian Languages) Mysore.
11. Guide, Anglo-Bodo Dictionary, Nilima bookstall.
12. Editor, Multilingual Dictionary, C.I.I.L. Mysore.
13. Editor, Multilingual Dictionary, Natun Sahitya Parishad, Assam.
14. Editor, Boro-Boro-English Dictionary, N.L. Publication, Guwahati.
15. (a) Editor, Anglo-Boro-English Dictionary, N.L. Publication, Guwahati.
16. Resource person, Language Expert, and Editor, Scientific and Technical Terms Human Resource Development, New Delhi.
17. Resource Person and Editor, Textbook Production, S.C.E.R.T. (State Council of Educational Research and Training), Assam.
18. Resource Person and Editor, Textbook Production, D.P.E.P. (District Primary Education Program), Assam.
19. Chairman, Textbook Committee, Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

20. Member, Language Expert Committee, Secondary Board of Education, Assam.
21. Member, Language Expert Committee in Assam Higher Secondary Council.
22. Member, Committee of Course in M.I.L. for the undergraduate and postgraduate level of Education at Gauhati University.
23. Member, of the Committee of Courses for the undergraduate and postgraduate level of Education in linguistics at Gauhati University.
24. Member, Governing Body of Suren Das College, Hajo, and Baksa College under Gauhati University for two terms.
25. Attendant as Resource Person/ Participant in more than 20 U.G.C. (University Grand Commission), National and State level seminars/ Workshops.
26. Member, State Resource Group, Sarva Siksha Abhijan.
27. Member Drafting Committee, Executive Member, A.B.I.L.A.C. (Anundoram Barooah Institute of Language, Art & Culture), Assam.
28. Chairman, Hajo Block Development Circle, Sarva Siksha Abhijan.
29. Member, All India Tribal Writers' Forum, New Delhi.
30. Member, Advisory Board, Education Department, Assam Government.

2.1.7 Seminar Attended:

Madhu Ram Baro also attended some seminars. The study found three lists of his seminar participation. These are given below:

1. U.G.C. Seminar attended in Barama College on Assamese and Boro Culture.
2. A seminar on "Influence of Tribal Language on Assamese" at Nowgaon Girls' College.

“Various Seminars and Workshops on Language, Conducted by Asom Sahitya Sabha, ABILAC (Anundoram Barooah Institute of Language, Art & Culture), and the Assam Government.”⁹

2.1.8 Felicitations and Awards of Madhu Ram Baro:

As a result of his hard work, Madhu Ram Baro has been felicitated and awarded by different Government and Non-Government Organizations. The list of felicitations and awards received are given below:

1. Felicitated as Ideal Teacher/ Literature/ Artist (Vocal Music) by Dadara/ Damdama Anchalik/ Hajo Sahitya Sabha and many college festivals and social organizations, Kamrup.
2. Centenary Literature/ Educationist by Hajo Anchalik Journalists Association in 2000 under the sponsorship of Hajor Batari.
3. Received Felicitations in Golden Jubilee Celebration, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, Basugaon, Kokrajhar in 2002.
4. Received Literary Pension from Assam Government in 2002.
5. Received Bhasa Samman Award in 2002 from Sahitya Akademi.
6. Dr. Ambedkar Literary Award from Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademi, Assam State Branch.

Along with these felicitations and Awards, M. R. Baro was the first M.A. in linguistics from entire North-East India not only from the Bodo Community and Assam.

*“Prof. Madhu Ram Baro is the 1st Master Degree Holder in Linguistics not only among the Boros but the Assamese as a whole in the N.E. region”.*¹⁰

⁹ Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p.137

¹⁰ Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p. 139

It is also noted that he is the first Bodo to be appointed as well as the tribal teacher at Gauhati University.

*“Boro Language was first introduced as M.I.L. subject in postgraduate Certificate Course under his teaching as a part-timer.”*¹¹

2.1.9 Death:

Madhu Ram Baro died at (GMCH) Gauhati Medical College and Hospital at 9.15 am on 23 March in the year 2014. He was 76 years old, and he survived with his wife Ms. Priyadini Brahma, and two daughters Ms. Chery Baro and Ms. Daisy Baro.

Gauhati Medical College and Hospital superintendent Ramen Talukdar said:

*“Baro was suffering from lungs and cardiac problems. He was admitted to the GMCH on March 19 and passed away at 9.15 am today. Before getting admitted to the GMCH he was undergoing treatment in a private hospital in the city. Baro’s body was taken to JB Hagjer Bhawan at Ganeshguri where Bodo Sahitya Sabha paid him tribute. Then the body was taken to the office of Aji (a vernacular daily where he worked as the editor) at Ulubari, Guwahati Press Club, NL Publication and the Bodo department of Gauhati University. He was cremated at Bhootnath crematorium. The general secretary of Bodo Sahitya Sabha, Kamala Kanta Mushahary, said the Sabha had announced a three-day mourning during which its flag will fly half-mast in all its offices.”*¹²

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² Internet source: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/north-east/assam-loses-a-cultural-icon/cid/205275> (Access date: 15-09-2021)

2.2 Finding:

In this chapter, the study has found about Madhu Ram Baro's life and works from his birth to death. Madhu Ram Baro had done some historic works for the Bodo community and the Assam state as well as northeast India. the findings of this chapter are as follows:

1. As per his excellency's works the name “अस्त्रां आलारि मधुराम बर” is acceptable for him.
2. Madhu Ram Baro was born on 1st November 1938 in Kolutakuchi (Khwinadiya) village, Post Office Kolutakuchi, District Kamrup.
3. He was an orphan, he lost his father in his childhood and after that, his mother also left with another husband by leaving him and Madhu Ram Baro grew up in the care of his grandfather and grandmother.
4. He is the 1st master's degree Holder in Linguistics not only among the Bodos but the Assamese as a whole in the Northeast region of India.
5. He was the 1st Bhasa Samman Awardee among the Bodos in 2002 from Sahitya Akademi. He received a total of 6th felicitations and awards for his work and contributions.
6. He was working as a teacher in the 7th educational institution.
7. He was a social and academic activist.
8. Madhu Ram Baro has participated in a total of 30th state-level, national-level, and central-level seminars. Which are Government and non-government organizations and institutions and presented various Seminars and workshops on Language.
9. Madhu Ram Baro died at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital at 9.15 am on 23 March in the year 2014. He was 76 years old, and he was survived by his wife Ms. Priyadini Brahma and two daughters Ms. Chery Baro and Ms. Daisy Baro.

