

# **North Eastern Social Research Centre Guwahati**

## **Annual Report April 2016 to March 2017**

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**North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati**  
**Annual Report**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

We are glad to present to you the Annual Report of North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati, for 2016-17. During the year, NESRC organised two national level seminars, three state level interfaces, two peace activists' meeting and a state level youth convention. The seminars and workshops brought together scholars, students, activists, government officials and civil society leaders on a common platform to engage with issues especially concerning those sections of society who are at the margins. Most seminars and workshops were held in collaboration with academic institutions or civil society organisations.

NESRC published eleven books, three booklets and one monograph. Three books were published on the theme of gender implications of tribal customary law in Northeast India; two books were on development-induced-displacement; two on the role of the media in conflict zones; another book on conflict resolution systems in Northeast India; one book on the concepts of autonomy, sovereignty and self-determination as understood in Northeast India; one on the impact assessment of ICDS and one on the Heraka movement. A monograph titled *Enduring Loss* captures inspiring stories of how individuals who lost their loved ones to conflicts rebuild their lives. Two booklets containing the findings of the study on budget for children in Assam and Meghalaya were published. Another booklet shared the finding of the study on the impact assessment of ICDS in Meghalaya.

Two national seminars deserve a special mention: the first on *Rethinking Autonomy, Self-Determination and Sovereignty as Tools for Peace* and the second on *Changes and Continuities in the Religious Landscape of Northeast India*. While the former strove to better understand the crucial concepts on which political struggles and autonomy movements are mobilised in Northeast India, the latter reflected on the changing landscape of religion in the context of the dominant presence of mainstream religions in the region.

Three studies dealt with the rights of children to live with dignity. The first study, *Children and Governance*, looked at the state budgets of Assam and Meghalaya from the point of view of children to assess the allotment of financial resources. The second study examined the impact of Integrated Child Development Scheme on the children in Meghalaya. A third study, *Tracking of Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) and Provision of Handholding Support in Selected Tea Gardens of Upper Assam*, was an effort to evaluate the impact of WIFS on tackling anaemia in three districts of Upper Assam.

The pages below provide more information on the various activities organised by NESRC during 2016-17. It is with great joy that we present this Annual Report for your perusal. We want to assure you that NESRC remains committed to the building of an inclusive society where everyone feels counted, included, and wanted, and provided with a voice in shaping their own destiny.

## 1. STUDIES

### A. STUDIES COMPLETED

1. **Melvil Pereira, Madhusmita Chowdhury, Meenal Tula and Farhana Yashmin:** Financial Tracking and Implementation Status of the Integrated Child Development Scheme, Meghalaya. *This study is jointly done by NESRC and HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, Delhi.*
2. **Walter Fernandes and Bhaswati Borgohain:** Understanding Autonomy, Self-Determination and Sovereignty as Tools for Peace. *This study was done in collaboration with DSSS-Imphal, JUST-Agartala and Peace Channel, Dimapur.*
3. **Melvil Pereira and Angshuman Sarma:** Causes and Extent of Health Vulnerability: A Study of Health Status of Women and Children in Tea Gardens of Assam. *This study was commissioned by National Foundation of India, New Delhi.*
4. **Walter Fernandes, Chishi Mughavi, Medonuo Pienyu, Alibo Achumi, Mhonthung Yanthan and Thejanuo Flavia:** *Development-Induced Displacement in Nagaland 1947-2010.*
5. **Melvil Pereira and Bhaskar Athparia:** Tracking of WIFS Implementation and provision of handholding support in selected Tea Gardens of Upper Assam. *This study was commissioned by UNICEF, Assam.*
6. **Melvil Pereira, Enakshi Ganguly Thukral, R. P. Athparia and Farhana Yashmin:** Children and Governance: Monitoring State Budget Performance. *This study was commissioned by UNICEF, Assam and done in collaboration with HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi.*
7. **Walter Fernandes, Savio Abreu, Niraj Naik and Simon Fernandes:** *Development-Induced Displacement in Goa 1965-2010.*
8. **Walter Fernandes, Nafisa Goga D'Souza, Palla Trinadh Rao, Arundhuti Roy Chaudhury, M. Gopinath Reddy and Mohammed Asif:** *Displacement and Marginalisation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana 1947-2010.*

### B. ONGOING STUDIES

1. **Melvil Pereira, R P Athparia and Sunumi Changmi:** The Impact of the Customary Tribal Law and Its Modernisation on Women in North Eastern India: A Comparative Study of Fourteen Tribes in Seven States.
2. **Walter Fernandes and Gita Bharali:** *Development-Induced Displacement in Mizoram, 1947-2010.*
3. **Walter Fernandes and Bitopi Dutta:** *Development-Induced Displacement in Arunachal Pradesh 1947-2010.*

4. **Walter Fernandes, Asojiini Rachel Kashena and Anindita Datta:** *The Processes of Peace and Conflicts.*
5. **Walter Fernandes and Anindita Dutta:** *Development-Induced Displacement in Tripura 1947-2010.*

## 2. SEMINARS, INTERFACES AND CONVENTIONS

1. **Manipur-Nagaland Peace Activists' Meet:** It was held on 13-14 June 2016 at Life Spring Corner, Khermahal, Dimapur organised by North Eastern Social Research Centre and Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) in Collaboration with Peace Channel. Over 50 people from Manipur and Nagaland participated in the Meet. They discussed the three contentious bills passed by the Manipur State Assembly and their impact on civil society in Manipur. It is the first time that some Naga and Meitei participants from Manipur met each other. They realised that more than the issues involved, they had to deal with the total lack of communication between the communities and that it made dialogue impossible between them. As a step towards such a dialogue, the participants formed a small group made up of people from the three main communities of Manipur in order to create an atmosphere for dialogue between them.
2. **Interface and Release of Budget for Children Handout in Kohima:** The interface was organised by NESRC in collaboration with HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, Delhi, and Nagaland State Resource Centre for Women, Kohima, on 22 July 2016 at the Conference Hall of Nagaland State Secretariat. Mr Kiyanielie Peseyie, the then Honourable Minister for Social Welfare, Government of Nagaland, was the chief guest. Over 70 participants – government servants, heads of schools and members from civil society organisations took part in the interface.
3. **Youth Convention in Manipur:** NESRC in collaboration with DSSS, Imphal organised a youth convention on the occasion of International Peace Day on 21 September 2016. Five young persons from different communities from the nine districts of Manipur participated in the Convention. It was a follow up of the group formed in Dimapur during the peace activists meeting of 13-14 May 2016 and was an attempt to help some young persons from different communities to know each other. They spent two nights and a day together, listening to each other and also to some talks on peace by elders. The most important part was to know about the problems that each community faced, and their aspirations for the future of Manipur. At the end of the day the young persons from each community made plans for follow up in their own district.
4. **National Seminar on “Rethinking Autonomy, Self-Determination and Sovereignty as Tools for Peace”:** was held at Inspiration, Joypur, Guwahati on 16-17 December 2016. The seminar was organised by NESRC with the objective to create new knowledge on the concepts of autonomy, self-determination and sovereignty suited for the people of the region and to assist civil society groups who are trying to influence the peace process. Over 60 people from all over the Northeast as well outside of the NE region participated in the seminar.

5. **Peace Activist Meet:** North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati, organised a Peace Activists' Meet on 9 January 2017 at Jagriti, as a follow up of the convention of September 21, 2016. Also some other organisations from Assam and Nagaland joined them and interacted with each other. The objective of this meet was to bring individuals and organisations involved in peacemaking to listen to each other's stories and also look back on what had happened since the September 21 meeting. It provided a platform for peace activists of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam to share the success stories as well as challenges in peacemaking. Ten students and two professors from the Centre for Peacemaking, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, who happened to be at Guwahati at that time joined this Meet as observers.
6. **National Seminar on *Changes and Continuities in the Religious Landscape of Northeast India*:** It was organised by NESRC in collaboration with the Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, and Asian Centre, University of Tartu, Estonia, on 19-21 January 2017 at Don Bosco Institute, Joypur, Guwahati. The seminar explored the rapidly changing religious landscape in Northeast India, an area of significant ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity, and also one with a high incidence of inter-communal conflict and growing inter-religious tensions. The seminar was inter-disciplinary, bringing together scholars from radically different backgrounds (historians, folklorists, sociologists, musicologists, a geographer or two, and a sprinkling of linguists). This was important in order to allow the participants to appreciate the topic from different standpoints. The papers discussed recent aspects of religious reorientation and reformulation among ethnic groups living in Northeast India, explored new religious expressions across communities, and analysed new religious constellations within ethnic groups.
7. **Interface and release of handout on *An Impact Assessment of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Meghalaya*:** The interface was organised by NESRC in collaboration with HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi and TUR, Shillong at Bethany Society, Laitumkhrah, Shillong on 27 January 2017. The interface was meant to share the findings of the study on the budget for children in Meghalaya. The study highlighted the different schemes from various departments which are divided into four sectors that is education, development, health and protection and the funds allotted for each of the sectors.
8. **Interface and release of Handout Budget for Children in Assam 2012-13 to 2016-17:** The interface was organised by NESRC in collaboration with HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi at the Conference Hall, Jagriti, Christian Basti, Guwahati on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The interface was meant to share the findings of the study on the budget for children in Assam. Mr. Prabir Kumar Chakroborty, Deputy Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Guwahati released the handout that contained the findings of the study. The handouts were given to the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and to the various departments of the Government of Assam that formulated and implemented schemes related to children.

### 3. PUBLICATION: BOOKS

For effective advocacy in support of the marginalized, the findings of the studies and deliberations of the seminars/workshops must be circulated and made available in the form of professional and popular publications. NESRC published the following books/booklets during the year:

1. **Melvil Pereira and Bhaswati Borgohain (Ed). 2016:** *Penning For Peace: Media, Conflict and the Northeast*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-81-89762-58-2
2. **Arkotong Longkumer.2016:** *The Poetry of Resistance: The Heraka Movement of Northeast India*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-81-89762-60-5
3. **Walter Fernandes and Bhaswati Borgohain. 2017:** *Rethinking Autonomy, Self-Determination and Sovereignty: Search for Peace in North East India*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-81-89762-57-5.
4. **Madhusmita Chowdhury and Meenal Tula. 2017:** *An Impact Assessment of ICDS in Meghalaya: Strengths and Scope for Growth*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi and Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-81-89762-61-2
5. **Meenal Tula and Madhusmita Chowdhury. 2017:** *An Impact Assessment of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Meghalaya: A Summary of our findings*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi. (Handout)
6. **Enakshi Ganguly Thukral and Melvil Pereira. 2017:** *Budget for Children in Assam 2012-13 to 2016-17*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi.(Handout)
7. **Enakshi Ganguly Thukral and Farhana Yasmin. 2017:** *Budget for children in Meghalaya 2012-13 to 2016-17*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi.(Handout)
8. **Walter Fernandes, Anindita Datta and Hardik Avasia. 2017.** *The Seven Sisters of Northeast India: Identity, Resources and Conflicts*. ActionAid India, Guwahati.
9. **Asojiini Rachel Kashena. 2017.** *Enduring Loss: Stories from the Kuki-Naga Conflict in Manipur*. North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati. ISBN: 978-81-93376-10-2



10. **Walter Fernandes and Bhaswati Borgohain.** 2017. *Journals of Dispute: Media Coverage of Conflict in the Northeast.* North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati. ISBN: 978-81-93376-11-9
11. **Melvil Pereira, R. P. Athparia, Sunumi Changmi and Jyotikona Chetia (Ed).** 2017. *Gender Implications of Tribal Customary Law.* Rawat Publishers, Jaipur and North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati. ISBN: 978-81-31608-73-9
12. **Melvil Pereira, Bitopi Dutta and Binita Kakati.** 2017. *Legal Pluralism and Indian Democracy: Tribal Conflict Resolution Systems in Northeast India.* Routledge Publishers, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-11-38230-78-9
13. **Melvil Pereira, Sunumi Changmi, Tame Ramya and Taw Azu.** 2017. *Contesting Voices, Changing Perceptions: The Nyishi of Arunachal Pradesh.* North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati.
14. **Melvil Pereira, Dharam Singh Teron and Jyotikona Chetia.** 2017. *Exploring Differences, Recording Change: The Karbis of Assam.* North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati.
15. **Walter Fernandes, Bokali Chishi Mughavi, Medonuo Pienyu, K. Alibo Achumi, Mhonthung Yanthan and Thejanuo Flavia.** 2017. *The Challenge of Development: Displacement in Nagaland 1947-2010* Published jointly with St Joseph's College, Jakhama.

#### **4. PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES**

Apart from our own publications, the faculty of NESRC share their findings also through professional journals, edited books and newspapers. They published the following articles this year:

##### **Melvil Pereira**

“Researches in Sociology: Trends, Challenges and Pathways”, in K. Jose SVD and Bhaskar Das (eds.). *Social Science Researches in North East India: Challenges and Pathways* (pp.76-93). Guwahati: DVS Publishers. (2016)

“Pastoral Leadership in Northeast India: Some Sociological Insights”, *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, 7: 86-108. (2016)

### **Melvil Pereira and Angshuman Sarma**

“Fragile Peace and Travesty of Justice: The Case of the BTAD in Assam”, in Sarthak Sengupta (Ed). *Contemporary Anthropological Research in Eastern and North Eastern India*. (pp. 139-152). New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House. (2016)

### **Walter Fernandes**

“Customary Law and Women’s status in Nagaland”, in *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, 58(4) :119-126. (2016)

“Dr B. R. Ambedkar: The Man with a Vision of Inclusive Development”, in Sukumar Pal, Prajalankar Bikkhu, Prashant Meshram, Simal Chand Saha, Bikash Majhi and Neelani Jayswal (ed) *Relevance of Dr B. R. Ambedkar for Inclusive Development in India: Inclusive Development, Women’s Empowerment and Social Justice*. New Delhi: New Delhi Publishers, pp. 1-17.

“Regionalism, Globalisation and Constraints to Research in the North-East”, in L.S. Gassah and C. Joshua Thomas (eds). *Constraints and Challenges to Social Science Research in North-East India* (pp. 33-48). New Delhi: Regency Publications. (2017)

“India's Half-Century Search for a Resettlement Policy and the Right to Livelihood”, in Renu Modi (ed) *Beyond Relocation: The Imperative of Sustainable Resettlement*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 102-126.

### **Rajendra Prasad Athparia**

“Religion and customary law interface: A case study of Khamptis of Arunachal Pradesh”, in Tiluttoma Baruah (ed) *Spectrum of Northeast India: Dimension of Life and Culture* (pp.121-144). Guwahati: Dibya Publications. (2016)

“A Study of Folklore and Folk Culture of North East India”, in Dr. Ranga Ranjan Das-*Folklore in North East India: Continuity and Change* (pp.1-28). New Delhi: Lakshi Publishers & Distributors. (2017)

“Anthropological Research on the Indigenous People of North East India”, in K. Jose SVD and Bhaskar Das (Ed) *Social Science Researches in North East India: Challenges and Pathways* (pp.94-120).Guwahati: DVS Publishers. (2016)

### **Angshuman Sarma**

“Financial Services for Urban Informal Workers”, in Vanlalchhawna and Lalhriatpuii (Eds) *Inclusive Finance in North East India: Challenges and Prospects* (pp.191-203). New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company Pvt. LTD.

### **Asojiini Rachel Kashena**

"Prayers from the Kuki-Naga Conflict: Living through Violence in Manipur", in *The South Asianist, Journal of South Asian Studies*, 5(1):46-65. (2017)



## 5. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

### **Melvil Pereira**

- “A Manifesto for the children of Assam”, in *The Assam Tribune* on 20 April 2016.
- “Child Welfare: What More Can Nagaland Do?”, in *The Morung Express* on 25 July 2016
- “Children in Conflict Zones: Their Plight and Our Responsibilities”, in *The Imphal Free Press* on 8 August 2016.
- “Children in a Post Conflict Society: What is at Stake? ”, in *Tripurainfo* on 22 August 2016.
- “Venom and Vitriol versus Virtue and Vitality: In defence of St Teresa of Calcutta”, in *The Sentinel* on 11 September 2016.
- “Britishers, Bombs, Baptists and a Book: A Review of Evangelising the Nation by John Thomas”, in *The Morung Express* on 19 October 2016.
- “Bread, Butter, Protection: Do Our Children Get the Best?” in *The Shillong Times* on 18 February 2017.

### **Walter Fernandes:**

- “Myanmar in Transition and India”, *The Nagaland Post* on 8 June 2016.
- “Elections, Migration and Identity in Assam”, *The Sentinel* on 11 June 2016.
- “AFSPA, the Supreme Court and Human Rights”, *The Morung Express* on 12 July 2016.
- “Draft Forest Policy and Possible Consequences”, *The Assam Tribune* on 27 July 2016.
- “Caste or racial discrimination? ”, *The Sentinel* on 2 August 2016.
- “An Education Policy for Inclusive Education?” *The Shilling Times*, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.
- “The Jesuit Parliament,” *The Shillong Times*, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016.
- “The Nagaland Agitation,” Interview in *Scroll.in*, February 4, 2017.

### **Meenal Tula**

- “Tackling Malnutrition of Meghalaya’s Children” in *The Shillong Times* on 2 February, 2017.
- “Tiny Steps in the Right Direction” in *The Shillong Times* on 3 February, 2017.

### **Angshuman Sarma:**

- “The Bitter Chai”, in the magazine *Raiot* on 1 May 2016.
- “Post-Modernism: 21 Century Socialism”, *Muktosinta*, 10 May, 2016.
- “Politicians Want Their Votes, But Provide no Relief for Assam’s Tea Garden Workers”, *The Wire*, 27 June 2016
- “Know the Story Behind Your Cup of Saah”, *Eclectic North East*, June 2016. (Cover Story)

### **Anindita Dutta**

- “Uprooted Bru's in Tripura” in *Tripurainfo* on 10 December 2016.

## 6. PRESENTED PAPERS

### Melvil Pereira

“The Potential Political Bargaining Capacity of the Adivasis of Assam” paper presented during the conference on *Socio-Economic Situation of Adivasis of Assam* in Dibrugarh on 27 September 2016.

“Re-imagining Social Science Research: Global Context, National Perspectives and Regional Priorities”, paper presented at the Decennial Conference of Sanskriti, NEICR, held on 19-20 November 2016.

“Climate Change and its Impact on Livelihood: A Case of Brahmaputra Basin in Assam”, paper presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics held on 23-26 November 2016 at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.

“Demographic shifts, gender equality, livelihood issues and creation of jobs maintaining sustainability”, paper presented in a Regional Consultation on SDGs for Human Settlements in Himalayan Region on 14-15 December, 2016 at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati organized by NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

“Budget for Children and Vision 2030”, paper presented in a workshop *From Vision 2030 to Planning and Implementation for North Eastern States* organised by NITI Aayog and United Nations India at Hotel Pineridge, in Shillong on 19-20 December 2016 (paper co-authored with Enakshi Ganguli Tukul).

‘Reducing vulnerability and Securing land rights for women: The Scenario of Tribal Customary Law’, paper presented in a North Eastern Regional Consultation on *Securing Rights of Women Farmers: Developing A Roadmap for Action* organized by North East Network and UN Women on 15th- 16th March, Guwahati at Boso Reach Out, Guwahati.

‘Negotiating Land Rights for Women? The Politics of Identity and Denial’, presented a paper in a seminar entitled *Land Questions in Northeast India* organised by the Department of Sociology, Tezpur University, on 30 March 2017 at Tezpur.

### Walter Fernandes

“Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Inclusive Development,” Keynote Address: *Seminar on 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar*. Shanti Niketan, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

“The New Context of Indo-Myanmar Relations” *Conference on Indo-Myanmar Relations in Democratic Myanmar*. Shillong: Burma Centre, Delhi. April 20-21, 2016.

“Rural Crisis and Rural Development in Northeast India” *National Conference on Rethinking Rural Development*, Shimla: National Institute of Advanced Study, September 26-28, 2016.

“Asian Tribes and the Search for an Indigenous Identity,” Paper presented at the *International Seminar on "Understanding the Tribes of Asia"* Synod College, Shillong, November 3-4, 2016.

“The Northeast in Transition,” *Renewal Course for college teachers*, Gauhati University, November 16, 2016.

“Land and Indian Tribes Towards 2017” Paper presented at the *Decennial Conference of Sanskriti, North Eastern Institute of Cultural Research*. Guwahati,, November 18-10, 2016.

“Development-Induced Displacement in Northeast India” *Winter Course for college teachers*, Gauhati University, February 4, 2017.

“Possibilities of Peace in Bodoland,” Golden Jubilee Seminar, All Bodo Students’ Union, Kokrajar, February 13, 2017.

“Land Issues in Northeast India,” Guwahati: *Paul Hamlyn Foundation*, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017.

“The Role of Education in Social Change,” *Foundation Day Lecture, North Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus*, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017.

“Forced Displacement in Northeast India,” Lecture at the *National Conference on Migration, Conflicts and Forced Displacement in Northeast India*. Santirbazar, Tripura: March 4-5, 2017.

### **Rajendra Prasad Athparia**

“Anthropological Research on Indigenous Peoples of North East India”, paper presented at the seminar on *Re-imagining Social Science Researches: Global Context, National Perspectives and Regional Priorities* organized by Sanskriti, NEICR, held on 18-20 November 2016.

### **Meenal Tula**

"Impact Assessment of ICDS in Meghalaya", paper presented at State Level Consultation on *Human Rights in Meghalaya* organised by Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) in collaboration with Shillong Law College on 25 February 2017 at Shillong Law College, Malki, Shillong.

### **Angshuman Sarma**

“Social Protection as Productive Factor for Tea Garden Workers of Assam" at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics held on 23-26 November 2016 at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.

### **Jyotikona Chetia**

“The Resilience of Karbi Customary Law: Reasons Behind its Persisting and Continuing Influence” paper presented during the Seminar on *Unexplored History of the Karbis in Northeast India Past and Present Perspective* , organized by Department of History Assam University and Centre for Karbi Studies, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam on 6-7 September 2016.

## **Asojiini Rachel Kashena**

“Prayers from the Kuki-Naga Conflict-Living through violence in Manipur”, a paper presented at the International Conference on *Changes and Continuities of Religious Landscape in Northeast India* held on 19-21 January 2017 at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. It was organised by the North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati in collaboration with Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, and the Asian Centre, University of Tartu, Estonia on 19-21 January 2017, at DBI, Kharghuli, Guwahati.

“Prayers from the Kuki-Naga Conflict-Living through violence in Manipur”, a paper presented at the ICPR sponsored National Seminar on *The Tribes of Northeast India: Exploring Identities, Culture, Politics and Philosophy* held on 9-11 March 2017 at Janki Devi Memorial College Delhi University.

## **7. RESOURCE PERSON**

### **Melvil Pereira**

One credit course on *Social Analysis* to students of B.Th Programme at Oriens College, Shillong.

Resource person for the Refresher Course for Lecturers, Administrative Staff College, Gauhati University, on 9 September 2016 and lectured on the topic *Displacement and Women in North East India*.

Discussant of a book titled *Evangelising the Nation* by John Thomas on three different occasions on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016: (1) At the Conference Hall of Ao Baptist Church, Dimapur, organised by The Morung Express, The Heritage Publishers and Orient Theological College, Dimapur – on 18 October 2016; (2) At Japfii Christian College, Kigwema – on 19 October 2016; (3) At the Japfii Hotel, Kohima, organised by the Kohima Institute - on 19 October 2016.

Examiner for a PhD proposal titled *Community work with women in Assam: Struggles, Transitions and Transformations* at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, on 22 December 2016.

### **Walter Fernandes**

CASA Consultation on Development and the Civil Society. Guwahati, November 1-2, 2016.

Delegate for the International Consultation on Development-Induced Displacement. Geneva: Internal Displacement Monitoring Committee, December 5-7, 2016.

Consultation on *Solidarity for Sustainable North East* organised by ActionAid India, Guwahati, in February 16-17, 2017.

Consultation on *Land Rights, Land Acquisition and Inclusive Development in India* in New Delhi: Centre for Policy Research, March 2-3, 2017.

### **Melvil Pereira & Walter Fernandes**

Two credit course on Forced Migration and Internal Displacement to students of M.A Programme, Peace and Conflict Studies at Tata Institute of Social Science Research, Guwahati

## 8. PARTICIPATED IN SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

### **Melvil Pereira**

Consultation on *the role and importance of Autonomous Councils under the provision of the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the scope and relevance of its extension for the 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule Areas of the Constitution* organized by the Action-Aid and TISS at TISS Seminar Hall, Guwahati.

*Ashoka as a Universal Indian*, Third Foundation Lecture of Cotton College State University by Prof. Nayanjoti Lahiri, Professor of History, Ashoka University on 9 September 2016 at Pragjyotish ITA Machkhowa, Guwahati.

Regional Consultation on *Draft National Policy for Women*. It was organised by Government of Assam and Assam State Commission for Women in collaboration with National Commission for Women on 27 June 2016 at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.

Consultation on *Investing in Action: Campaign to ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions* organised by Citizens Collective, Guwahati, on 14 November 2016, in Hotel Blue Moon, Guwahati.

National level Conference on *Protection of Child Rights in Tea Plantations of India*, organized by ASCPCR, Guwahati in collaboration with NCPCR, Delhi, and UNICEF, Assam held at The Lily Hotel, Khanapara, Guwahati on 4-5 November 2016.

### **Rajendra Prasad Athparia**

Consultation on *Policy Dialogue with the CSOs and Academics situational Analysis of Children and women in Assam* on May 3-4, 2016 at OKDISCD, Guwahati.

Symposium on *Hrusso (Aka) Script* in Bhalukpeng, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh on 14 May 2016.

State level Consultative meeting on *Universal Periodic Review-3 of CSO-Stakeholder Report on Human Rights* held on 23 July 2016 at DBI, Kharguli, Guwahati.

Review meeting on *Child Rights in Assam* organised by the Department of Social Welfare and National Commission for Child Rights, New Delhi at Administrative Staff College, Khanapara on 4 October 2016.

Third Round Conference on *North Eastern States and Sikkim on Effective Implementation of Children Act, 2015: Focus on Rehabilitation Services and Linkages with the POCSO Act, 2012* on 26 and 27 November 2016 at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati. It was organised by Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee and hosted by the Gauhati High Court.

### **Melvil Pereira, Meenal and R. P. Athparia**

Workshop on *Choosing Identities, Gender Just & Violence Free Society* held at Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Guwahati, on 10-12 November 2016.

### **Angshuman Sarma**

Workshop by ACTED on *development of its strategic framework for its intervention in India with special focus to North East India* at Greenwood Resort, Khanapara, Guwahati on 16 November 2016.

Dissemination workshop on *Child Right Situational Analysis in tea Gardens of Assam* organised by Save the Children on 21 December 2016 at Rajdhani Resort, Guwahati.

### **Jyotikona, Sunumi and Thomas Small**

Movie Screening-Rambuai: Mizoram's Trouble Years at Royal Group of Institutions, Betkuchi, Guwahati on 20 October 2016.

### **Meenal Tula**

An Interaction on *Towards Equality: A Discussion Paper on Priority Issues of Concern for Women in Policing in Assam* on 14 December 2016 at The Guwahati Address, Zoo Road, Guwahati.

### **Anindita Datta**

Dissemination Workshop on *Mapping of Children Affected by Violence in Assam* organised by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati in partnership with UNICEF, Guwahati at DBI, Joypur on 23 January 2017.

Talk on *Women and Migration* by Neha Wadhwa organized by TISS, Guwahati on 11 March 2017.

## **CONCLUSION**

As can be seen from the annual report, the year 2016-17 has been eventful with many studies, programmes and publications. It has been possible because of the support and encouragement of many organisations and individuals. Among those who have supported us financially and with solidarity are DKA/KFO - Austria, Jesuitenmission - Switzerland, Misereor – Germany, Missio Aachen and Missio Munich – Germany, Jesuitenmission-Germany, UNICEF-Assam, National Foundation of India – Delhi, Anthropological Survey of India (NERC)-Shillong and Indian Council of Social Science Research (NERC) - Shillong. We also would like place on record our gratitude to those with whom we have jointly undertaken various studies and organised seminars: HAQ - New Delhi, NED Social Forum - Guwahati, Peace Channel – Dimapur, JUST - Agartala, DSSS – Imphal, Nagaland State Resource Centre for Women - Kohima, Oriental Theological Seminary - Dimapur, TUR – Shillong and University of Tartu –Estonia. I also wish to appreciate the generosity of individual donors who have helped build the corpus fund of NESRC. We place on record our immense gratitude to all of them.

**Guwahati**  
**31 July 2017**

**Melvil Pereira**  
**Director**