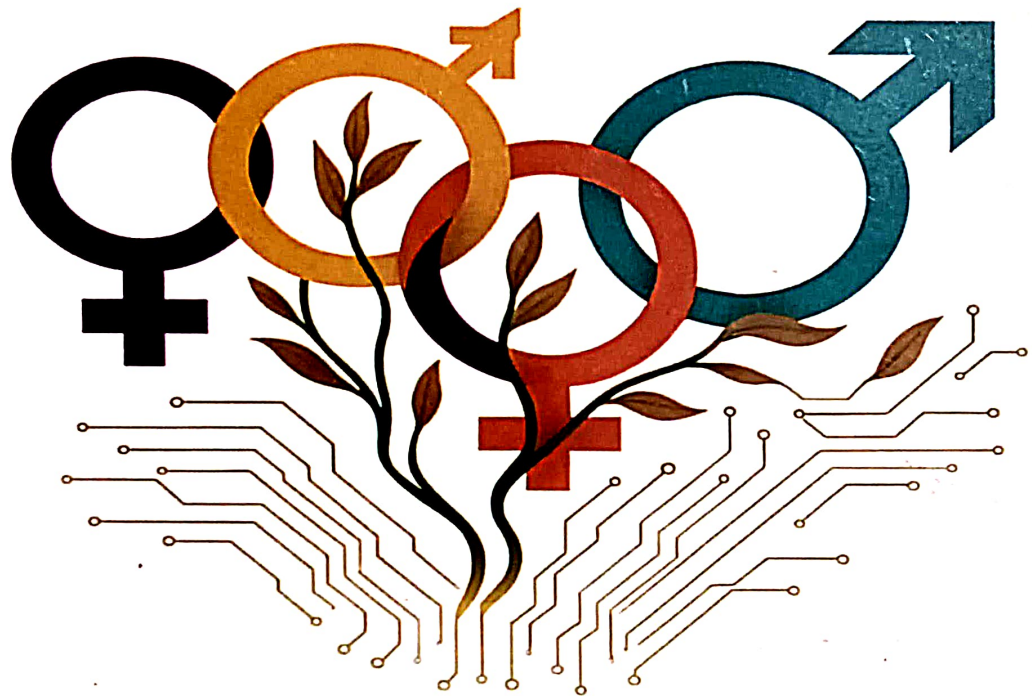


ISSN : 2350-076

QUILL

THE ANNUAL PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL
VOLUME-III, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2025



EDITORS

DR. BITUMANI MALIA

DR. KASTURI NATH



PUBLISHED BY

THE WOMEN'S STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT CELL
MARGHERITA COLLEGE, TINSUKIA, ASSAM

Witch Hunting a Stigma of the Twenty first Century: A Gender Based Violence among the Rabhas with Special References to Kamrup and Goalpara District in Assam

Dr. Mahananda Das¹ Mr. Ansuma Kh. Bodosa²

Abstract

This paper is based on my field work conducted among the Rabhas of kamrup and Goalpara district in Assam. This social evil has evolved into a modern – day stigma, disproportionately targeting women, especially widow, single women, and those who deviate from accepted norms. The practice is rooted in patrilineal beliefs, superstitions, and lack of scientific temper and it often becomes a tool for setting personal scores or grabbing property. Among the Rabhas, the branding of women as witches is not only a manifestation of gender-based violence but also reflects deep-seated inequalities and societal failure to protect venerable individuals. Despite advancements in education and legal reforms in the 21st century, this practice of witch hunting highlights a glaring gap between policy and practice. This paper examines witch hunting among the Rabhas as a gendered violence and a violation of human rights aiming to understand its socio-cultural underpinnings, consequences for women, and the urgent need for community awareness, legal intervention, and gender-sensitive polices to eradicate this stigma from modern society. Human existence is incomplete without women. They constitute half of the world population; contribute more than half of the duties and responsibilities to the family. Existence of the society is completely impossible without the female members. Both male and female members are equally important for effective organization and development of the society. Women are the most precious human resource and creator of the society. They are most victimized category over the world. Right of women is grossly violated in every sphere of life.

Keywords: Gender, Witch, Hunting, Women, Violence,

¹Department of Anthropology, J.N. College

²Department of Bodo, J. N. College, Boko