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Sahitya Akademi

# meet the author

Mangal Singh Hazowary





**M**angal Singh Hazowary, an educationist, social activist, writer was born on 2 March, 1954 at village Silbari under Bijni Police station of then Goalpara district, now Chirang of Assam, India in a middle class family. He passed Matriculation in 1970 and completed PhD on the topic "Traditional Bodo Festival: A Critical study" in 1999 from the Gauhati University. He is the first ever Sahitya Akademi award winner (2005) in Bodo, after the inclusion of the Bodo language in the eighth schedule of Constitution of India for his book of poems *Jiuni Mughang Bisombi Arw Aroj* which reflects the spiritual side of life, embedded in the original religious teachings in the Bodo society, and it exhorts the readers to eschew violence. It also recorded the rites, rituals and other culture-specific areas of Bodo-life. The work is considered as an exceptionally rich contribution of Indian poetry in the Bodo language. He has many valuable works in the Bodo and other languages.

After receiving the Sahitya Akademi award he said in an interview: "I remember writing poems and short articles when I was in class VII. It has been a long odyssey ever since. As I grow up I continued writing poems and short stories and play. Gradually literature became an essential part

of my life". He further commented, "My poetry, essentially reflects my feelings and experiences in life. It is quite personal. My first poetry collection *Jiuni Khonthai Methai* (Jiban Sangeet) reflects my poetic style and aesthetic expressions. My plays centre around the historical characters like Sambindhan Kachari, Jolia Dewan, Jwhelao Dwimaleu -- people who had asserted their will and voice. It is not that these historical plays are bereft of any social content. I try to give a glimpse of the social conditions through language, characters and plot of both modern and earlier times. I try to focus on the contemporary issues in Bodo society and also to give a message to the next generation. I think writers and intellectuals have a great responsibility in sustaining the peace that has now transpired. They have to play a constructive role in creating proper environment and good feelings among the people and enlighten the mass through their works. Bodo literature has come a long way but I believe that the best is yet to come. I believe that modern literature has taken shape from folk literature. The roots of Bodo literature is also in its folk form."

Hazowary has published his collection of critical essays and reviews entitled *Raithai Arw Sansri*, 2002 (Essays and Thought). This collection contains critical essays on Rupnath Brahma and his poetry, Satish Chandra Basumatary and his poetry, "Sijou Garemsa" of Samar Barhma Choudhury, Rupnath Brahma, the essayist, literary efflorescence of the Bihar era and so on. Many essays included in this collection deal with social issues, religion, education and culture. Interestingly the author has included critical

essays on Robert Browning, Shelley and Keats.

Hazowary, a playwright of the modern period has contributed many social and historical plays to Bodo dramatic literature. In 1984, he published his first historical play *Swmdwn* (Sambudhon, the hero), where Hazowary has presented the heroic deeds of Sambudhon, who fought against the British and sacrificed his life. Through Sambudhon, the playwright has presented the sheer patriotism and nationalism that inspire the common men in our country. The drama became alive and appealing because of the short, witty dialogue, sparkling scenes and the fusion of historical and imaginative characters and action in the play. Two more historical plays have come out from his pen. These are *Jwhulao Daimalu* and *Jaolia Dewan*.

Hazowary started his career as a Teacher of primary education at Silbari J.P. School from 1971 to 1978. In the year 1978 he served as the Teacher of secondary education at Boro Bazar H.E School as Assistant Teacher up to 2

July 1984. He joined as a Lecturer of Teacher Training College at Govt. College of Teacher Education, Kokrajhar on 5 July 1984 and subsequently he was appointed as the Principal of the Govt. College of Teacher Education, Kokrajhar and rendered his service to that post from 19 February 2000 till his retirement on 31 March 2015.

In addition to his serving as the Lecturer of Govt. College of Teacher Education, Kokrajhar, he was deputed as the part timer lecturer of the Gauhati University, Guwahati, Commerce College, Kokrajhar, Girls' College, Kokrajhar and Gauhati University, Kokrajhar campus.

He held key positions in various national institutions, organizations and public organizations as follow:

Chairman of Advisory Committee for Gauhati University, Kokrajhar Campus Establishment Committee, Kokrajhar in 1998; General Secretary of Boro Bazar Primary Bodo Sahitya Sabha from 1975 to 1984; Executive Member of Central Working Committee, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, a national



*Mangal Singh Hazowary and family members*



*Mangal Singh Hazowary and Ms. Hazowary with colleagues*

literary organization of Bodo community; Life Member of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha; Convenor of Terminology Sub-Committee of Bodo Sahitya Sabha from 1990 to 1996; Convenor of Award Selection Sub-Committee, Bodo Sahitya Sabha from 1996 to 1999; Convenor of Bodo Legendary Hero Selection Sub-Committee of Bodo Sahitya Sabha from 1999 onwards; Convenor of Bodo Good Will Mission, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, from 1990 to 1993; Life Member and Advisor to Bodo Writers' Academy; Founder Member and first ever Editor of Bodo Writers' Academy; Adviser of Kokrajhar District All Bathou Religion Union 1999 onwards; Chief Organizing Secretary of All Bathou Religious Union; Member of the Gauhati University Court; Member of Course and Syllabus Committee, Gauhati University; Acting Member of Peace Committee,

Kokrajhar District; Member of Citizen Forum under Deputy Commissioner, Kokrajhar; Chairman of Advisory Committee, All India Radio, Kokrajhar; Life Member, All Bathou Religious Union; President, Rupnath Brahma Foundation for Culture, Museum and Science Centre, Kokrajhar; Adviser, M.M. Brahma Eco-Park Centre and Tourism, Kokrajhar; Adviser, Sikri Sikla Co-Operative Society, Kokrajhar; Vice-President, Bodoland Peace and Integration Committee, Kokrajhar; General Secretary, Bathou Thansali Construction Committee, Kokrajhar; Member, UPSC, CIIL, Mysore, Language and Development Committee, New Delhi; Member of Executive Council, Gauhati University; Member, HRD, Language Development Cell, New Delhi etc.

He has participated in many national and



*Mangal Singh Hazowary in an award receiving programme*

international seminars as well as workshops including the Training Course of Teacher Education of Secondary Teacher training Institution, located in Tribal Area at National Institute of Education, National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi 110016 on 20-24 October 1986; workshop for orientation of State Level Resource Person on Gender Bias in the Text Books and Curriculum Transaction with special focus on SC/ST (Elementary) from 1 October 1992 to 5 December 1992 at SCERT, Assam, Guwahati under Regional College of Education, Bhubaneswar; U.G.C. sponsored seminar on "Degradation of Education Environment in the State of Assam, Its Causes and Remedies" at Gossaigaon College, Gossaigaon, Assam; seminar on Bodo terminologies at District Institute of Education and Training, Kokrajhar, Assam, held on 15 -30 November 1996; U.G.C. sponsored seminar on "Tribal Life and Their Problems in Assamese and Bodo Literature" organised by the Deptt. of Assamese and Bodo, Gauhati University, Kokrajhar campus, Assam, with the

presentation of a paper entitled "Tribal Life and Their Problems in Bodo Drama" held on 15 September 2000.

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#### **Awards and Laurels:**

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- 2002: The Jewel of India
- 2002: The Mother Teresa International Award for Individual Excellence
- 2004: The Assam Ratna Award
- 2005: The Sahitya Akademi Award
- 2011: The International Intellectual Achievement Award for Education Excellence

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#### **A Selected Bibliography:**

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##### **Prose & Essay:**

*Harimu Ar Swdumsri, Jothai Bidang, Raithai Bidang*

##### **Poems:**

*Jiuni Khonthai Methai, Bathou Aroj, Thwijung Lirnai Dwngse Khonthai, Jiuni Mwkthang Bisombi Arw Aroj*

##### **Short Story:**

*Phwisali Andwni Solo*

### Drama:

*Swmdwn, Jaolia Dewan, Juhwlaow Dwimalu and Siman* (a collection of one-act plays)

### Biography:

*Padmashri Modaram Brahma*

### Edited Books, Text Books and Compilations:

*Silinkhar, Jujaini Or, Guthal, Bodo Harimuni Mohor Mushri, Mwdwi, Sandw Baodia, Bathou Aroj, Srimati Durlai, Bandwba Bathou, Sonani Maibong, Thunlai Bijirmai, Siman, Thwijung Lirnai Roman Hangkhwni Jarimin, Thunlai Bijirmai, Kherai Musanaini Santhou, Abwi Abouni Solo, Ha Phisa Houwa, Gwswni Barhungkha, Sonani Mala, Jaikhong, Boro Harimu, Okhrang Gongse Nangou, Phungkha, Onnai, Dourilai, Serja-Sifung, Balabganwi Boroni Khonthai, Fwifin, Mengnrwngwi Juhwlaow Satish Chandra Basumatary, Bibar, Gwdan Fwisali, Dwimani Fisa Dimasa, Radab, Boro Kochari Solo, Buisagu Arw Harimu, Sanaki Bijab, Raithaimala, Hatorki Hala, Boro Thunlaini Jarimin Arw Thunlai Bijirmai, Gwdan Bithorai*

(in two volumes), *Khonsai Bidang* (in two volumes), *Khonthaimala* (collections in two volumes) and *Sungdo Soloni Jothai Mala*

### Edited Magazines:

*Laithun* (in two volumes)

### Edited Souvenirs:

*Bisombi* (several volumes) and *Bisombi: Jananeta Rupnath Brahma*

### A Chronology:

- 1954: Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Silbari, Bijni, Chirang, Assam
- 1970: Passed Matriculation
- 1971: Joined Silbari J.P. School as a teacher
- 1975: Completed Graduation
- 1981: Passed MA
- 1984: Joined Teacher Training School, Kokrajhar as a lecturer
- 1999: Awarded PhD from Gauhati University
- 2005: Received Sahitya Akademi Award for *Juni Mughang Bisombi Arw Aroj*
- 2015: Retired from Govt. service



*Mangal Singh Hazowary in a religious programme*