

# KUKMU

WEAVING THROUGH THE DREAM

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Quarterly Newsletter  
Akam Foundation

Oct-Dec, 2024



## Queer Xanjug

**Connecting Young Queer\*, Ally for Gender Justice in Assam**

The nine month long Queer Xanjug program has completed with its 3rd phase of residential workshop on understanding social action with various pedagogies on theatre, reading circle and storytelling. The four days workshop aimed to provide the participants a vision and critical thinking lenses on building their own road maps for social actions to be taken in their own fields. It enabled the participants to have a clear goals on what they wanted to do. A total of 22 participants have joined along this journey. Various facilitators were invited from different background such as theatre activists and development sector professionals that best suits for the youth engagement. The workshop was held at Majuli (the cultural hub of Assam) to give the participants an essence of rural Assamese culture to develop a perspective of its own roots.



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Address: Akam Foundation, TV Center, Development Area,  
Mancotta Road, Dibrugarh, Assam-786003

## Library Programs by Akam Foundation

### Chandraprabha Saikia Feminist Library and Resource Centre

Chandraprabha Saikia Feminist Library has provided safe space for youth engagement with the queer community and ally members from Upper Assam. The space has been engaging with feminist discussions as well promoting open interaction session with the youth on social change and movement building in Assam. Growing as a safe space and resource centre, the library has become a hub for discussions on trending topics and essential

Daily Reader- 6-7

Overall Footfall- 112

### Library at Community

#### Location 1: Alubari, Jalan Nagar, Dibrugarh.

The community library at the tea estate has seen a noticeable increase in children's interest and enthusiasm for books. Fostering love for books among readers, with a visible shift from reading one book to two. Our art classes in the library are also thriving, as they engage more readers and contribute to their individual growth.

Read aloud sessions: 12

Story telling: 2

Reading circle: 5

Book circulation: 203

Art Session: 8

Book Reading: 166

Total no. members: 118

Overall footfall: 295

#### Location 2: Kali Bari Road, Koila Patty, Dibrugarh

At Kalibari, readers are actively engaged in a variety of library activities. The library serves as a vibrant community hub where children can explore different genres, take part in interactive storytelling sessions, and develop essential skills through ongoing engagement with books, including read-aloud, book circle sessions and art activities.

Read aloud sessions: 8

Story telling: 2

Reading circle: 5

Book circulation: 87

Book Reading: 72

Total no. members:- 44

Overall footfall:- 182



### Akam at Awareness Program with District Legal Service Authority, Dibrugarh

Akam took part in a sensitization program addressing the legal issues faced by the transgender community, jointly organized with DLSA, Dibrugarh, in partnership with members of the Police Department as well as different stakeholders as well as members from the Queer community. This initiative aimed to raise awareness and promote understanding of transgender rights. It marked an important effort to support the community and tackle the legal challenges they encounter in Dibrugarh.



## Jorhat Pride 2024

The month of December 2024 marked significant progress in advancing inclusivity and awareness within the community through a series of impactful events and initiatives. These activities included a community meet-up, a creative poster-making and open mic session, and a highly visible Pride Walk in Jorhat. These efforts collectively strengthened community bonds, promoted gender equality, and amplified LGBTQ+ visibility in the region.



## Events from Akam

**4th October, 2024:** A **District-level workshop on sustainable livelihood for the transgender community**, organized in collaboration with the **Dibrugarh District Administration** and the **State Transgender Welfare Board, Government of Assam**, at Jagriti Conference Hall, Dibrugarh.

**22nd October, 2024:** Organised **Workshop on Promoting Gender Inclusivity and Diversity in Higher Educational Institutes** at UGC Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh.

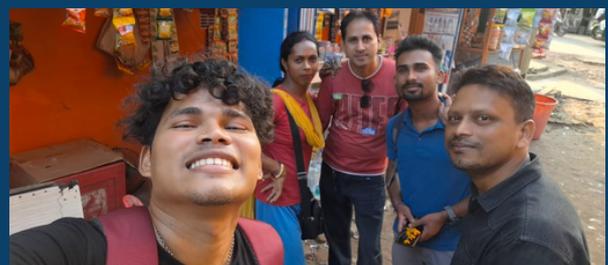
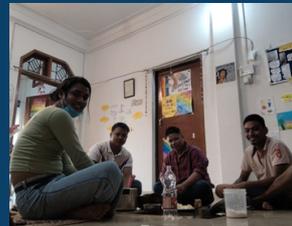
**24th October, 2024:** Organised **Interaction program on Legal Rights of Transgender Community** at Conference Hall, DLSA Dibrugarh.

**05th November, 2025:** Organised a **Residential Capacity Enhancement Workshop on Advocacy on Queer Rights and Movement Building** at Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library and Resource Centre, Mancotta Road, Dibrugarh.

**25th November, 2024:** Organised **Open Discussion Session on Youth Engagement for Social Change** with Dr. Amrita Pritam Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University, at Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library and Resource Centre, Mancotta Road, Dibrugarh.



## Drishti Queer Meetups



Drishti has been independently organising community meetups in various districts from Assam.

- 20th October, 2024: Queer Community Meet-Up at Siva Dol, Sivasagar.
- 10th November, 2024: Queer Community Meet-up at Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library & Resource Centre, Dibrugarh.
- 04th December, 2024: Queer Community Meet-up at Slogan Cafe, Jorhat.

## Glimpses of Swabalamban



### Team Capacity Building

**09th November, 2024 to 11th November, 2024:** Team member, Padma joined **Residential Workshop on Standard Librarianship** by **Free Libraries Network** at Eklavya Foundation at Bhopal.

**13th November, 2024:** Team member, Padma joined a book curation session by Purnima Rao, from **Free Libraries Network** at **The Community Library Project Libraries**, Delhi.

**14th December, 2024 to 18th December, 2024:** Team Member, Lipi and Bhukhan joined **Residential Workshop on Workshop on "Rethinking violence & masculinities perspectives"** organised by **YP foundation** at Delhi.

**20th December, 2024 to 30th December, 2024:** Team Member, Lipi and Bhukhan joined **Residential Workshop on Workshop on "Gender, Human Rights, Just Governance & Sustainable Development"** organised by **Jagori Rural** at Himachal.



#### Bank Account Details:

Account Name:  
Akam Foundation  
A/C No. 41602398933  
State Bank of India  
Kataki Pukhuri, Jorhat  
IFSC: SBIN0009192

## Swabalamban

### Bringing Sustainable Livelihood for Trans\* Queer Community in Assam

Our Livelihood project for the transgender community has witnessed significant progress in its initiative with impact on 8 trans\* queer individuals, through livelihood support. Effective preparations are in process for 8 trans person to ensure sustainable livelihood by fostering resilience, inclusivity, and long-term economic and environmental stability.

#### Exposure Visit with Champions for Trans\* Livelihood 2024

A five-member delegation from the Assam Transgender Community, accompanied by an associate from AKAM Foundation and representatives from SELCO, undertook an exposure visit to Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. The primary objective was to gain practical insights into interventions supporting the transgender community and explore strategies for empowerment and livelihood development.

#### District Level Workshop

We organized an impactful district-level workshop in Dibrugarh in collaboration with Selco Foundation and the Assam State Transgender Welfare Board. These events brought together representatives from the District Legal Services Authority, District Industries Commerce Centre, National Urban Livelihoods Mission, and National Health Mission, and other governmental departments alongside the transgender community. The workshop provided a vital platform for dialogue, with government stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to support the transgender community. Together, we are working towards a more inclusive future.

Participants (Dibrugarh): 15

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