

**THE (SECOND) ANNUAL REPORT OF**  
**SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI**  
**FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The peculiarities of the North-Eastern states of the Union of India are worth noticing. The sizes of the states are very small, over that each state is inhabited by a number of communities. Among the communities, some of them are of microscopic minority and are at the verge of their extinction. Almost all the communities of the region have their independent heritage, culture, habits, dress and languages. All of them believe to have their own rich traditions. In-fact, it is believed that, if given a chance to study this field of North-East, a treasure of traditional culture may come-up. Bishnupriya Manipuri is one of such microscopic minority community, pacing very rapidly towards its extinction, despite its world famous cultural heritage, due to lack of appropriate representation because of their microscopic population. They have no state, no infrastructure, even no organized body of their own to think act on the betterment of the dying community. The Socio cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM) was formed to assign the noble task, in a General Meeting of the community, held at Bimal Singha Bishnupriya Manipuri Guest House, Agartala on 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012. It is duly registered under Section 3 of the Societies Registration Act 1860 (Act XXI of 1860) on 14 Aug 2012.

**THE AIM OF SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI**

2. **The Aim** of the society is to **Protect, Preserve, Nurture** and **Flourish** the rich socio-cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri, including overall development of this extremely minority and backward community in an organized manner.

**THE OBJECTIVES**

3. The Objectives of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri as it is enumerated in the By-law of the society are:-

- (a) To protect the original history, material evidences and information of heritage and socio-cultural value of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (b) To preserve the socio-cultural heritage of the community including the language of Bishnupriya Manipuri.

- (c) To nurture and develop the socio-cultural activities by regular practice, generating more interest through awareness and motivation.
- (d) To flourish the rich heritage and socio-cultural activities of Bishnupriya Manipuri by organizing programmes at State, National and International level.
- (e) Certification of the existing expert personalities of the community in different disciplines, in recognition to their knowledge in Manipuri dance, song, music and other allied fields, in consultation with the appropriate authorities and their rehabilitation.
- (f) Arrange training and standardization of knowledge in various disciplines of Bishnupriya Manipuri including dance, song, music and other allied activities of the community, in consultation / collaboration with Government / Semi-Government or private institutes of repute nature on the field.
- (g) To organize competitions on issues relating to the heritage and socio-cultural activities of the community.
- (h) To introduce certification along with prizes / incentives for distinction on any field relating to socio-cultural development of the community.
- (i) To make provision for a library to preserve the important documents, and books of Bishnupriya Manipuri along with a reading room.
- (j) Organize Workshop on :-
  - (I) Mridanga Badan(Dakula)
  - (II) Manipuri Song(Ishalpa/ Sutradhari)
  - (III) Making Ceremonial Dresses of Raash/Rakhal Dance etc
  - (IV) Hand Weaving (Lahing/Langw, Matha, Kangtolpi, Fitha/Fita etc)
  - (V) Handloom Weaving (Pahati, Gamsa, inafi, Koyet etc.)
  - (VI) Handicraft (Tapu, chenchaluk etc)
  - (VII) Manipuri Dance for boys and girls.
  - (VIII) Making of Traditional Dolls etc.
- (k) To mediate and liaise with the State and Central Government for extending various schemes to promote the socio-cultural, and literary status of Bishnupriya Manipuri.

- (l) To organize functions of Bishnupriya Manipuri in co-ordination with other communities during various occasions at State and National level.
- (m) Establish electronic Library / Record room for available songs, films, and other activities of important nature etc.
- (n) To set up Dress Bank of Bishnupriya Manipuri and its outlets, to distribute the same to the needy, for cultural activities.
- (o) To procure & establish stocks of Mridanga and other musical instruments of Bishnupriya Manipuri and distribute to the poor and deserving artists.
- (p) To encourage formation of teams voluntarily, for socio-cultural activities of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (q) To raise fund for carrying out the activities through subscriptions and contributions, donations and grants from individuals, Institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies and others.
- (r) To raise loans for carrying out its activities from Individuals, Institutions, Banks, Financial Institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, Corporate, Business Homes, and others on suitable term and condition.
- (s) To purchase, acquire, build, sell, manage, and otherwise deal with any movable and immovable property for earning income for the society in furtherance of the aim and objects of the society.
- (t) To set up other required institutions for carrying out the aim and objects of the society.
- (u) To maintain the Society to be totally non-political social society.
- (v) To seek advise / suggestions / assistance / co-operations from other such societies and vice versa to achieve the aim and objects.
- (w) To undertake any activity incidental to or related to the above.

## **THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

4. The activities carried out by Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri during the Financial Year 2013-14 are as under:-

(a) **Allotment of a Piece of Land for Construction of a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala-** The SCSBM is constantly in touch with the State Government and the District Administration for allotment of a piece of land for construction of a Community Center of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala since its inception. Progress on the issue during the period under report is as under:-

(i) 10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2013, a seven member team called on the DM & Collector, West Tripura District and requested him for early allotment of the land near to the Ginger Hotel.

(ii) 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013. A joint visit to two sites by the members of SCSBM and Tehsildar, Indranagar, along with the surveyor were carried out.

(iii) 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, a fresh application submitted to the DM & Collector, West Tripura District, calling on him at his office chamber by a seven member team of SCSBM, indicating two sites of khash land, found to be suitable and free from any encroachment, after a joint visit to the sites.

(iv) On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the SDM Sadar was called on by the Secretary SCSBM, but satisfactory reply in this regard is still awaited.

(b) **Conduct of Executive Committee Meetings:** - During last one year a total of six meetings of the Executive Committee of SCSBM were held. The issues discussed and progress on them is available in the Minute Book maintained by the society.

(c) **Opening of Bank Account of SCSBM** :- A Savings Bank account to be jointly operated by the Secretary and the Treasurer of SCSBM has been opened at State Bank of India, Kunjavan, Agartala tripura.

(d) **Library of SCSBM** :- Towards establishing a Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri, we are constantly in touch with the concerned authorities. SCSBM has received a total of 507 books from the State Library, during the years 2012-13 and 2013-14. We appeal to all publishers, writers and all

concerned to enrich our library with their valuable contributions in terms of books / publications.

(e) **Liaison with Bamboo Mission** :- The State Bamboo Mission has very kindly accepted to conduct workshops on bamboo based traditional crafts relating to Bishnupriya Manipuri e.g. Tapu/ Fingaruk, Chen-chaluk, interior decoration pieces etc.

(f) **Making of Traditional Dresses and Dolls**: - SCSBM at its own initiative has started making the interior decoration pieces / Gift items of "GOPI" in traditional ceremonial dress of Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is believed that it would become an attractive gift item.

(g) **Membership with NGO Partnership** :- SCSBM is a registered member of NGO Partnership System with effect from 10 Dec 2013.

(h) **Pan Card:-** SCSBM is in possession of its PAN Card No AAKAS2872B dated 14/08/2012.

(i) **Introduction of System of Certification**:- The rich Culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri is surviving on "Guru Porompura" system of teaching. The system is followed till date and does not have the provision of certification. This has adversely affected the rich culture. To generate interest among the coming generations and to bring the culture towards the mainstream, SCSBM intends to introduce the system of certification in all disciplines of the cultural activities of the community.

(j) **Regular Publication of Tripura Che**:- A case has also been taken up by S C S B M with the Government for regular publication of the "Tripura Che" the only news paper of Bishnupriya Manipuri, published by the Government.

(k) **Audit of Account** :- The accounts of SCSBM for the Financial Year 2013-14 has been duly audited by a firm of chartered accountants of repute at Agartala. There is no observation on the account.

(i)	Expenditure	-	Rs. - 18132.00
(ii)	Balance	-	Rs. - 2615.00
(iii)	Grand Total	-	Rs. - 20747.00

## **THE CONCLUSION**

5. It may be appreciated that the people of the microscopic minority community of Bishnupriya Manipuri could carry along with them the rich culture of the community till date, despite all the adversities on their way for last hundreds of years. This might have become possible due to the inherent love and skill they have towards the culture. But now, due to the multi-directional adversities, they are finding it very difficult to profess and practice their rich socio-cultural activities. Gradually they are losing the control over their own rich culture. The community is pacing very rapidly towards its extinction. This extremely minority community needs to be saved and brought to the mainstream. The steps initiated by the Government of Tripura in this regard, by organizing Maha-Raash-Leela at Borolutuma and Mridanga Utshav etc. in Tripura, are highly appreciated. But these are considered to be not adequate to revive the culture of the community; further detail deliberation in this regard is the urgent inescapable requirement of the day. The Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri is totally dedicated to the cause, and would like to put its sincere efforts to revive the socio-cultural heritage of the community. We are not only sure but also confident that with the love and support of all to the cause, the diminishing culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri would flourish all over the world, very soon.

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