

## **Report**

To mark the annual international campaign against Gender-Based Violence, which is 16 Days of Activism that begins on 25 November and ends on 10 December, the Centre for Women Studies, Cotton University organized a two days field trip to Dimapur, Nagaland along with the students. The two days field trip took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November with a number of activities some of which includes a book launch, an interactive session with the proprietress of a cluster, and an evening at the Feminist Publishing House.

### **Book Launch**

The launch of *Once upon the Hills: A handbook of Naga Women's Voices and Visions* amidst academics and students at The White Owl Dimapur, Nagaland on 26 Nov 2022. This work is an output of the Humanities across Borders (HaB) program of IIAS, Leiden University supported by the Mellon Foundation USA and developed by Project Coordinator Dr Rakhee Kalita Moral



as a feminist handbook from the project *Where Women Make Another Tribe*.

Published by the Heritage Publishing House, the book was launched in the presence of an engaged audience by Dr Anungla Aier former Principal Kohima Science College, and Retd Director Higher Education, Government of Nagaland, and Dr Lanusangla Tzudir the founder of the Heritage Publishing House and students from Nagaland University and Cotton University. The book contains a QR Code which will help the readers to decode and further refer to other related topics. The book launch was followed by an interactive session which foresees the book to be an important feminist tool and a forerunning input in the educational institutions. The book's opening was conducted and mediated by Vitono Gugu Haralu Naga peace trainer, Gender worker and consultant.



### **Women in cluster**

Women in Nagaland are in pursuit of becoming independent by involving themselves in craftwork. We met Yangerla

Jamir, the proprietress of **M/s Native Beads**, a manufacturing unit of tribal jewellery and accessories who have transformed a traditionally passed on hand art to a business ameliorating and engaging local women to earn a livelihood. The cluster serves the purpose of perpetuating the dying tribal art based out of Nagaland and proving a space of female engagement for economic independence. She has a group of 300 artisans for developing the products. She has highlighted the difficulty of marketing and also about the lack of platform for promotion of their craft to the outer world. But despite all the hurdles still women are ceaselessly carrying on their pursuit of which Yangerla Jamir is a glaring example.



The sorority and sisterhood is what we see among the women from the beautiful hill state, Nagaland. The main aim of the cluster organization is to sustain livelihood and empower women through entrepreneurship.

### **Feminist Publisher**

Heritage Publishing House was founded by Lanusangla Tzudir in 2008, publisher and Chief Editor, and a PhD holder in Modern History from the Centre of Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi. She is the first women publisher and the only mainstream publisher from Dimapur.

Nagaland in promoting Naga literature and the publishing house is attempt to take the writings and literature of the Naga people to the world outside in the age of fast dying oral tradition. Publishing various forms of writings spanning over the broad spectrum of tradition, culture, folklore, history, politics, religion and society, the publishing house Not only publishing, the entire intellectual spectrum in Nagaland is dominated by women.



The three different areas of analysis bring forth the academic association, economic participation and documentation for the cause of women.