PREFACE

It is found that Ambikagiri Roy Chowdhury is quite well known as a literary figure to be precise poet, but some very important aspect of his life remained neglected till date, for instance his political engagement. The present work has been intended to high light lesser known aspect of his life placing him in the contemporary socio-economic and political milieu. It is also attempted to project political Ambikagiri, unmistakenly thought provoking and elegant spectre of human experience that has provided space for dialogue, argument and dispute in an era marked by frequent political crisis, mutual hatred, distrust and confusion. In such a scenario understanding the relevance of the ideas and principles of a man fully committed to the interest of Assam becomes an imperative with an idea of promoting and projecting the interest of Assam as the fundamentals and philosophy of his very intensely engaged role in a transitional phase of the history of Assam. As is well known that transited from Barpeta origin at an early age to Guwahati. Ambikagiri quickly got involvement in anti partition activities with a youthful vigour and enthusiasm, In this phase formation of the Anarchist party in Guwahati with a selected group of his friends constitutes an early anti British political formation wherein Ambikagiri is seen as leading the party and organizing activities simultaneously with Sevā Sangha, another organization led by him.

Involvement in anarchist activities landed him in trouble leading to his internment in Barpeta. His Barpeta days are highly significant as may be considered the genesis of his future political and socio-economic activities a period of germination Multifarious activities marked his years in Barpeta and more significantly a shift in his political philosophy, a realization of the futility of anarchism prompted by government’s repressive measures, living under police scanner.

His subsequent years in Dibrugarh in search of a livelihood offered him an window to acquire working knowledge of press and operating a journal. In Dibrugarh also his engagement in the cultural sphere is varied and evidently a prelude to his journalistic career.
Launching of *Chetana* in Guwahati, a fascinating saga of human endeavour followed by his association and active involvement in Congress is another interesting phase where he is seen as an active Congress organizer as well as a responsible editor, handling an important task of popularizing Congress propaganda. An ardent follower of Gandhi, Ambikagiri whole heartedly believed in Gandhian political philosophy. Disillusioned by prevailing politico-economic condition of Assam Ambikagiri went on to form *Asom Sangrakshini Sabha* followed by *Asom Jatiya Mahab Sabha*, In the progression of the ideas that prompted him to form these organizations emerging Indian nationalism and the subsequent movement for freedom provided him with a ground to carry forward the ideas i.e. promoting Assamese national interest which were at the core of objectives of the organization that he shaped and guided with enormous effort.

The intensity of his engagement in contemporary happenings and his unflinching interest is an aspect of absorbing interest both academically and otherwise as it constitutes a critical phase of the history of Assam as well as in the larger Indian context.

Ambikagiri’s response to the unfolding events with his perception of the issues is highlighted in this research project. These lesser known and unknown facets of Ambikagiri’s personality through his long political career extending up to the post-independence periods have been discussed here with an attempt to rediscover him within a matrix defined by the time and space where he worked.

The primary sources of the study consists of archival records, personal correspondence, private papers, journals edited by Ambikagiri Roy Chowdhury, his literary works and interviews with family members. These sources have been scrutinized to after a scientific treatment to the research subject. The works of scholars on Ambikagiri have been consulted as secondary sources. Field work have also been done whenever required to classify and verify the facts and information thus gathered. Thus both historical method and analytical approaches have been followed to complete our study.

*(Jyotshna Baruah)*