CHAPTER FOUR
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4.00 Role of journals, news bulletins and associations in giving exposure to the Rabha litterateurs:

In regard to the gradual development and nourishment of the literature of a particular language group role of journals, souvenirs and newspapers published in that particular language is quite significant. These souvenirs and newspapers give scope to the writers of that particular language group opportunity to display their creativity. Assamese literature is an ideal example of this particular phenomena. When we examine the various phases of development of modern Assamese literature, then we see that literary journals such as Jonaki, Banhi, Awahon, Ramdhenu etc. have been responsible for bringing out many gifted writers from obscurity.

While studying different aspects of modern Rabha literature it will come to our notice that similar to modern Assamese literature Rabha literature too, is much indebted to some literary journals, souvenirs and newspapers for giving exposure to many Rabha litterateurs. In this concern role of some Rabha educational institutions and socio-cultural organisations cannot be denied. It is also worth to be noted that different languages have been playing important role in the nourishment of Rabha literature. This is the reason that we have to separately discuss role of journals, magazines and newspapers under separate headings such as those journals or magazines published either in Assamese or in Rabha language, bilingual (Assamese-Rabha) / (Assamese-English) / (Rabha-English) and multi-lingual (Rabha-Assamese-English) / (Rabha-Assamese-English-Bengali) / (Rabha-Assamese-English-Hindi-Bodo). In the following paragraphs we have made an effort to evaluate the role of these journals, newspapers and also the role of different socio-cultural and educational institutions and organisations which have been contributing and giving scope to talented Rabha writers to showcase their creativity.
It is quite an interesting fact that Rabha writers came to focus through Assamese journals as far as the contribution of literary journals, magazines etc. are concerned. Dwarikanath Rabha’s presidential speech in Assamese of Bodo Chatra Sammilan, published in Bibar the mouthpiece of the organisation (2nd issue, 1924) is the earliest known contribution in this regard. Hakim Chandra Rabha’s essay based on social issue Amar Samaj published in the quarterly Assamese monolingual magazine Udayan (1st year/1st issue/1956) edited by Rajendra Nath Rabha (Rajen Rabha) is a critical view of the essayist who wishes for changes in some outdated impractical practices and superstitious beliefs still prevalent in society. The essayist has maintained a certain standard in his prose writing. This has added to the value of the contents of the essay. The same writer contributed another essay titled Chatra Aru Rajniti in the magazine Udayan (1st year/3rd-4th issue/1956). Here he discusses about the role of politics in a student’s life. But he has made it clear in his essay that studying politics and taking part in political activities are two different aspects. Moreover politics has relation with the other social sciences at different levels. Apart from Hakim Chandra Rabha, Devendra Narayan Rabha contributed the mythological tale of king Dodan Dodan Rojar Kahini and Suresh Chandra Rongkho contributed a few facts related to general knowledge. It is interesting to note that like many other literary journals and magazines of that period Udayan was also short-lived. But under the able direction of the editor Rajendra Nath Rabha, Udayan upheld the tradition of being a standard magazine of those times. Moreover it offered opportunities to all including the budding Rabha writers to express their thoughts through Udayan.

After Udayan we can cite the name of the magazine Nabadoot edited by Mukul Rabha and published by Marukhetri Prakashan Samiti (1st year/2nd issue/Feb-Mar-Apr/1983). This magazine covered all topics from poetry to travelogue. Some aspiring Rabha writers made their contributions in this particular issue of Nabadoot. Hara Govinda Rabha, Suchitra Rabha, Junu Rabha and Niranjan Rabha were the Rabha writers whose writings
were published in this particular magazine. Hara Govinda Rabha's *Victoria Memorial Mor Pratham Darshan* is a short travelogue on his visit to the Victoria Memorial situated in Kolkata. The travelogue writer has maintained lucidity of narration in writing. Suchitra Rabha and Niranjan Rabha has contributed a poem each – *Ahban* and *Songlap*. Both the poets are concerned for the society. They wish for the ills of society to end so that the society can continue its march towards progress. Junu Rabha has made her debut in Nabadoot as a short story writer. Her short story *Basanta Bilap* speaks of troubled times and its impact in the sensitive mind of an individual. Apart from lucidity of narration the writer has been able to project her matured thoughts through *Basanta Bilap*. In fact for promising young writers like Sumitra Rabha, Niranjan Rabha and Junu Rabha, Nabadoot became the medium of their exposure as creative writers.

In the last part of the eighth decade of the 20th century Rajen Rabha made his debut as a creative writer in the quarterly Assamese magazine *Doot* edited by Matiur Rahman. In the 3rd issue of the 4th year (June-July-Aug) 1987 of *Doot* Rajen Rabha wrote a creative piece titled *Gherao: Ek Bibah Chhukti* based on social reform in the Rabha society. It highlighted on an outdated form of marriage by force in Rabha society. The message of this creative narrative was to stop this custom for good and safeguard the self-dignity of the young girls of the Rabha community. The 1st issue of the 5th year (Jan-Feb-Mar) 1988 of *Doot* carried another narrative piece of Rajen Rabha titled *Bibah: Niza Momayekor Jiye*. This was a sensitive issue of Rabha society raised by Rajen Rabha with the attitude of a reformist. In the same magazine Birinchi Kumar Rabha contributed a poem titled *Biplab Manei*. In the 3rd issue (July-Aug-Sept) of the same year *Doot* published the creative piece of Rajen Rabha titled *Bhojon Somonwoy*. It gives the reader an insight into the feasting organised in a Rabha family during marriage. The 4th issue (Oct-Nov-Dec) of the same year of *Doot* published Rajen Rabha's *Mati Jār Bostu Tar*. This narrative piece of Rajen Rabha
has the elements of a short story. It speaks of the greed and autocracy of the landlords in Rabha society who stop at nothing even to grab the only gold ring of a maid who works under him in his fields. The writer hasn’t forgotten to give a human touch to this particular creative piece. The prestigious Assamese journal *Prakash* dedicated to literature and culture edited by Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya published a creative piece of Rajen Rabha titled *Suryoday : Bibah Chhuktir Shimarekha*. This is also based on marriage reforms in Rabha society and highlights some realities related to this inhuman custom.

In the year 1989 the magazine *Doot* was renamed as *Ajir Doot*. The second issue of the first year (April-May-June) 1989 of *Ajir Doot* edited by Matiur Rahman published Rajen Rabha’s creative piece *Chondo Aru Dwondo*. This piece has a story line which speaks about the unhappy separation of two lovers due to social pressure on flimsy grounds. Like his earlier creative writings, this piece too, revolves round the Rabha society. The 4th issue of the same year of *Ajir Doot* (Oct-Nov-Dec) published one more piece related to social reform in the Rabha society. *Anutapor Porinoti* by Rabha revalues round the ideological conflict between a father and his son, the isolation of the father and his reunion with the son and daughter-in-law at his death-bed. Upen Rabha Hakacham has also contributed an article based on the socio-cultural life of the Tiwas titled *Tiwasakalar Kheti Samora Porbot Ebhumuki*. In this article the essayist has tried to highlight on some social aspects of Tiwa life and some traditional customs and beliefs related to their agrarian culture. The minute details observed by the writer is not void of academic value.

Apart from his creative writings Rajen Rabha has contributed some substantial articles related to other socio-cultural aspects as well as language. Many Assamese monolingual journals and magazines published his articles related to diversified topics. Among these articles one of his earliest work is *Kachari Prabandhar Bisoye* written under the pseudonym Rajat Rabha in *Ramdhenu* (11th year, 1st issue, 1958-59) edited by Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.
Goalporia Upobhasar Swarup was published in the Asom Sahitya Sabha Patrika (33rd year, 4th issue, March, 1977) edited by Jatin Goswami. In the same year his article Goalparaloi Jurupiyo Sodagor was published in the mouthpiece Uttaran of Goalpara Sahitya Sabha. Ostrik Aru Dravidor Proti Aryor Monobhab was published in Sahitya Somonwoy (6th part, 1st publication, 1979) edited by Prithish Narayan Goswami. His article Rabha Bir Parsuram was published in the souvenir of Nikhil Rabha Chhatra Sangstha in 1981. Shiksha Aru Aru Monusyotto is one essay bearing educative value written by Rajen Rabha and published in Nabadoot (1st year, 1st issue, March, 1982). Rabha sakalar Lokoogeet was published in Chipung Gunggang (1986) edited by Dr. Birendra Nath Dutta. Boidik Jugor Shiksha was an article based on the education system of the Vedic age. This article of Rajen Rabha was published in Prakash (12th year, 11th issue, September, 1987) edited by Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. Rabha sakalar Loko Biswas was another article published in Prakash, February, 1988. Rabha Bhasar Boiyakoronik Swarup was published in the souvenir of Nikhil Rabha Jatiya Parishad in 1995. The same article was previously published in Bhasa Bitan, Guwahati Sahitya Sabha, 1989 and edited by Jatin Goswami. Bir Marukhetri was published in Rabha Adhyoyon (1990) edited by Shobharam Rabha. Magho Krita Shishupal Bodh was published in the special Autumn issue of Prakash (17th year, 12th issue, October, 1992). His Baikho Trokkai was published in Posek the same year (2nd year, 12th issue, 1-15 November). Dodan Mela was published in the souvenir of Dodan Mela (silver Jubilee year, 1995) edited by Duryodhan Rabha. Rajen Rabha had knowledge of diversified subjects. The above mentioned Assamese monolingual journals and magazines gave him the platform to express his thoughts and ideas related to various issues and subjects. The essayist in Rajen Rabha utilised this opportunity well. His thought provoking essays related to social as well as cultural issues received good response from the readers. Some of his essays have educational value and others of scientific research value. Among all the prominent Rabha essayists who have been getting exposure through Assamese journals and magazines, Rajen Rabha is the
most talked about writer who has made a niche for himself as an accomplished essayist.

Besides the prominent Rabha essayist Rajen Rabha, there are some other important writers who have got the opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas through Assamese journals and souvenirs. Kola Guru Bishnu Prasad Rabha wrote a few substantial essays in the Assamese journal *Nayak* edited by Bhimbar Deori in the Post Independence era. The socio-cultural and literary journal *Manideep* gave full exposure to Mani Rabha. The social thinker and activist Mani Rabha published many of his selected pieces in *Manideep*. Needless to say his essays based on socio-cultural issues received good response from the readers. The *Asom Sahitya Sabha Patrika* has been yet another medium through which many Rabha essayists received recognition. Rajen Rabha, Hari Mohan Sarkar, Dhirendra Narayan Rabha, Samar Sing Rabha, Robin Rabha, Rajen Pam, Upen Rabha Hakacham and Jibeswar Koch are the writers whose writings have been published in the *Asom Sahitya Sabha Patrika*. Most of their articles are essays based on socio-cultural and literary issues. Some of the Rabha writers such as Rajen Pam, Prasanna Kumar Pam, Prakash Rabha, Suranjib Baksok and Upen Rabha Hakacham has contributed creative literature viz., songs and poems also. It needs mention that among these writers Upen Rabha Hakacham is also a translator apart from being an essayist. The *Asom Sahitya Sabha Patrika* (53rd year, 2nd issue, August, 1997) edited by Dr. Basanta Kumar Goswami showcases the work of the above mentioned Rabha lyricists, poets and translation works of Upen Rabha Hakacham. By promoting these Rabha writers' creative work the *Asom Sahitya Sabha Patrika* has done a recommendable job of introducing talented writers of the tribal communities of Assam before the greater Assamese society and the readers.

The Government run agencies have also a role to play in giving exposure to a selected few writers of the Rabha community. The Magazine *Janashiksha* published by the Social Welfare Department of the Government of Assam published numerous articles of Listi
Rabha Rongkh and Charu Mohan Rabha. Another Government organisation *Asom Prakashan Parishad* published a lot of works of Rajen Rabha and Upen Rabha Hakacham in the various issues of *Prakash* a literary magazine the same Government organisation.

Apart from these efforts other contemporary newspapers, journals, souvenirs and magazines took the initiative of publishing works of Rabha writers. Prominent among these are *Asom Bani, Ajir Asom, Dainik Asom, Amar Asom, Dainik Batori, Jono Sadharon, Protidin, Aji, Sutraddhar, Prantik, Rangghar, Gariyoshi* etc. These newspapers and journals have given scope to upcoming Rabha writers to showcase their talent. Apart from the senior writers like Rajen Rabha, Rajen Pam, Mani Rabha, Hari Mohan Sarkar, Listi Rabha Rongkho, Upen Rabha Hakacham, Malina Devi Rabha and others, promising writers like Birinchi Rabha, Lalit Chandra Rabha, Pranita Rabha, Sumitra Hato, Washington Rabha, Rohit Rabha, Biswanath Rabha Tara, Utpal Rabha, Rupak Kumar Rabha, Lohit Rabha, Danish Rabha, Saswati Rabha, (child writer), Arnabmoni Rabha (child writer) etc. have been able to get assistance from the above mentioned newspapers and journals to showcase their creativity. Assamese vernaculars such as *Dainik Asom, Protidin, Ajir Asom, Amar Asom* and *Aji* have been providing space for upcoming Rabha writers like Birinchi Rabha, Lalit Chandra Rabha, Rohit Rabha, Utpal Rabha, Rupak Kumar Rabha, Lohit Rabha, Danish Rabha, and Biswanath Rabha Tara. Whereas Saswati Rabha and Arnabmoni Rabha’s creations are limited to children literature, the others have been contributing a good number of essays to these newspapers. Among these Birinchi Rabha, Washington Rabha Hatto, Pranita Rabha and Danish Rabha have evolved as promising poets. Writers like Lalit Chandra Rabha, Rohit Rabha, Rupak Kumar Rabha and Lohit Rabha has written numerous articles based on Rabha socio-cultural life. Some of their articles deal with comparative aspects covering both Rabha and Assamese socio-cultural life.

Fortnightly and monthly Assamese magazines and literary journals such as *Prantik,*
Sreemoyee, Pubali, Barta Pokhili, Ranghar, Nam Nai, Gariyoshi, etc. have always been encouraging new talents. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Rajen Pam was also a creative writer. The occasional magazine brought out by Ajir Asom and the fortnightly magazine Sreemoyee published some of his creative writings such as the novel Daidi and short story Rakminir Samadhi. Washington Rabha got the opportunity to evolve as a poet and lyricist through Nam Nai. Monthly magazines like Rangghar have been enthusiastic enough to publish special issues giving importance to various ethnic groups and their culture and literature. Rangghar published in July, 2004 (24th year, 4th issue) showcased Rabha literature and culture. This issue published works of Katiram Rabha, Duryodhan Rabha, Upen Rabha Hakacham, Malina Devi Rabha, Riniki Churchung Pam, Sumitra Hato, Jharna Rabha Chikacham, Hima Rabha, Kalpana Rabha, Lalit Chandra Rabha, Rupak Kumar Rabha, Lohit Rabha, Danish Rabha, Saswati Rabha and Arnabmoni Rabha. Journals like Prantik and Gariyoshi has tried to maintain this trend by considering the qualitative value of some writings of some of the above mentioned writers.

Some occasional souvenirs and mouthpieces brought out by various organisations have also a role to play in promoting the writings of the Rabha writers. The souvenir brought out on the occasion of Dwitiya Nat Samaroh Aru Karmashala and edited by Jeoti Bala Rabha has given opportunity to Rabha writers like Kandarpa Kumar Rabha, Bholanath Rabha and Dhananjai Rabha to express their thoughts. Their essays written in Assamese on diversified topics point out to the fact that the number of Rabha essayists is not less who have been contributing in the Assamese language. The souvenir ‘Rengoni’ brought out on the occasion of Sodou Asom Nobin Lekhok-Lekhika Aru Shilpi Samitir Pancham Barshik Adhibeshan and edited by Basanta Kumar Sharma published articles written by Rajen Rabha, Raheswar Rabha, Saraswati Rabha and Debendra Narayan Rabha. These are only a few notable Assamese magazines and literary journals through which many aspiring Rabha writers have
been able to showcase their talent. Among the seniors Rajen Rabha has made a niche for himself through his writings in these periodicals. There are other Assamese journals and magazines which have inspired many Rabha writers to write and explore new vistas. But from the historical point of view we have to always remember this that the Assamese literary journal *Awahon* edited by Dinanath Sharma and first published in the year 1929 inspired the first writer of Rabha lineage Nagendra Narayan Choudhury to write in Assamese. Needless to say Choudhury rose to be a talented Assamese short story writer of his times. From this point of view the Assamese magazines, journals and newspapers have been playing a pivotal role in promoting as well as showcasing the creative work of Rabha writers.

As far as the role of Rabha monolingual/bilingual magazine in the promotion of Rabha writers is concerned, only a few attempts have been made to publish literary magazines in the Rabha language with this aim in view. The only exceptions are *Badung DUppa* edited by Samar Sing Rabha and published in 1961 (1961-1962), *Jatini Khurang* edited by Prakash Rabha and published in the year 1973 and *Champai* (1978-1982) edited by Listi Rabha Rongkho. These three magazines were responsible for creating an awareness among Rabha writers to express their creativity through writing on different subjects of their choice, *Badung DUppa* edited by Samar Sing Rabha initiated the process of inspiring enthusiastic Rabha writers to pen down their creative thoughts in its pages. *Jatini Khurang* edited by Prakash Rabha covered different aspects of literature, art, culture and science. The notable writers contributing to this magazine who later rose to be prominent figures of Rabha literature are Listi Rabha Rongkho, Laksh Phenan, Heremba Kumar Rabha, Charu Mohan Rabha, Bhaben Chandra Rabha, Jyotish Chandra Rabha, Ganapati Pam, Ramesh Chandra Rabha, Britison Rabha and Prakash Rabha. Apart from the inclusion of articles related to different fields of culture and literature, the inclusion of an informative article related to scientific discovery *Bigyani Katha* by Britison Rabha reflects the far-sighted objective of the editor Prakash
Rabha. Unfortunately his novel objective wasn’t well reciprocated by the society of those times. So this led to the abrupt end of a well-conceived effort. In the late part of the seventh decade of the twentieth century Listi Rabha Rongkho became the editor of a Rabha literary journal named the Champai. The time span of this literary journal was from 1978 till 1982. But within this short time span the Champai itself became an era of the renaissance and standardisation of Rabha literature. These writers who made their appearance felt in the Jatini Khurang, were also responsible for making the Champai popular among the intellectual group in the Rabha society. The Champai may have started its journey as a Rabha literary journal. But in the 1980’s it became a bilingual literary journal with the inclusion of Assamese articles written by Rabha writers. But the literary value of Champai remained the same.

Writers like Narendra Chandra Rabha, Bhupendra Chandra Rabha, Naresh Pam, Someswar Rabha, Suranjib Baksok, Shiv Charan Rabha, Madhuram Rabha, Samar Sing Rabha, Junu Rabha, Gajen Rabha, Benudhar Rabha, Roheswar Rabha and Upen Chandra Rabha (Upen Rabha Hakacham) could make their presence felt in the bilingual issue of the Champai published in October, 1980. Here Upen Chandra Rabha’s To Pichini Gun is a translation of an Assamese article based on the nutritious value of an egg published in Bigyan Jyoti (13th year, 1st issue). The significance of this particular translated work lies in the fact that the Champai not only encouraged creative writings but also encouraged translation works from other languages into Rabha. The editor Listi Rabha Rongkho, a writer himself, was behind the life force of this literary journal. It may have a short life span of four years. But it was successful in introducing a new trend in the history of Rabha literature. The history of Rabha literature is incomplete without the evaluation of the works of the Champai era.

After the Champai there was no such particular effort made for the nourishment of Rabha literature. Except for a few occasional Rabha journals we see no trend setting Rabha literary journal. The occasional journals and magazines were also confined within an area or
group. Many of those magazines remained in obscurity. *Rongjumuk* of Jira-Khardang Rabha Jatiya Centre edited by Maheswar Rabha and published in the year 1987 is the only Rabha monolingual magazine in the late part of the 20th century. Inspite of this shortcoming the beginning of the 21st century came to witness the growing popularity of the Rabha language among the Rabha intellectuals. Occasional souvenirs and journals like the *Morsingsap* came into being. The *Morsingsap* edited by Kumari Rabha and published by the Rabha Khas Jamad in 2003 is an ideal example of such a change. Writers like Maheswar Rabha, Ganapati Pam, Reena Rabha, Pratima Rabha, Milan Chandra Rabha, Sujata Khand, Dhan Rabha, Deepak Pam, Ramen Rabha, Bamuni Khand and Kalpana Rabha’s work has been included in this particular souvenir in the Rabha language. Among the five prose pieces included in this souvenir, four of the pieces are related to Rabha life, culture and literature. These pieces give some general information about Rabha life. Poems of senior as well as upcoming poets have been included in the poetry section of *Morsingsap*. Nature with her unlimited beauty and mystery, patriotism and nationalism are the foremost aspects of the poems. But apart from Kalpana Rabha’s poem *Ang Rabha Dorai* the other poems do not hold much significance. Blend of patriotism and nationalism in *Ang Rabha Dorai* has ushered in a new trend to Rabha poetry literature.

The Bilingual magazines play an important role in the proliferation of Rabha literature. Those magazines including articles written in Assamese & Rabha, Assamese & English and Rabha & English falls under this category. It was during the eighth decade of the twentieth century that some bilingual magazines took the initiative to revive Rabha literature and gave it a dynamic look. Rajen Rabha and Rajen Pam were among those Rabha writers who contributed their most to such bilingual magazines. A bilingual copy of the *Champai* published in October, 1980, has been retrieved. This bilingual issue of *Champai* carried both Rabha and Assamese articles. Concerning the Rabha section it can be said that the editor Listi Rabha Rongkho made all possible efforts to showcase Rabha literature in its full splendor.
Apart from poems, short stories and essays, there were also Rabha folktales, proverbs and idioms and translated works. The Assamese section covered two short stories by Samar Sing Rabha and Junu Rabha, two poems by Benudhar Rabha and Raheswar Rabha and a few Rabha religious verses by Gajen Rabha. Here we see the two short story writers Samar Sing Rabha and Junu Rabha in their formative years. The other section dealing with Rabha writings brought forth some poets such as Bhupen Chandra Rabha, Someswar Rabha, Suranjib Baksok, Dharani Pam and Charu Dabang. Charu Dabang's poem 'Aycr' is the translation of Ananda Chandra Agarwala's Assamese poem Moromor Ai. Another noted prose piece of the Rabha Section is Kolaguru Bishnu Rabha by Naresh Pam.

The Silver Jubilee Souvenir of All Rabha National Council edited by Bhrigumani Kagyung and published in 1980 included Rabha and Assamese articles written by Mani Rabha, Dayaram Uwari, Chandra Rabha, Rajen Pam and Dhirendra Kumar Rabha. Their articles were based on the socio-cultural upliftment of the Rabha community. Bhabit Chandra Rabha's poem in Assamese Ekocha Sonali Chuli can be considered as a fine creation of the poet. San-Nari the mouthpiece of Dudhnoi Pachimanchal Rabha Chhatra Samaj edited by Banikanta Rabha and published in 1984-85 gave scope to a few Rabha poets to write in Assamese. These poets are Dakhina Rabha, Niranjan Rabha, Kabita Baksok and Marukhetri Rabha. Hara Mohan Rabha has contributed a Rabha song and Yashwant Rabha an Assamese song. Whereas Samar Sing Rabha, Robin Pam and Charu Mohan Rabha Dabang has contributed short essays based on Rabha social life. The other noted bilingual souvenirs and magazines of the eighth decade are Smritigrantha of Rabha Khas Jamad Sabha edited by Samar Sing Rabha and published in 1985, Tinay Sarkayo of Mechpara Rabha Chhatro Samaj edited by Nimendra Rabha and first published in the year 1986-87, Smritigrantha of Dudhnoi Pachimanchal Rabha Sanmilan edited by Ganapati Pam and published in the year 1987. Hasongi Khurang of Mechpara Madhyanchal Rabha Samaj edited by Sulochan
Pam and first published in 1987-88, San-Nari of Dudhnoi Pachimanchal Rabha Yuba-Chhatro Samaj edited by Banikanta Rabha and published in the year 1989-90 (second issue) and Hasongi Khurang of Mechpara Madhyanchal Rabha Samaj edited by Sulochan Rabha and published in the year 1990 (second issue). A good number of articles published in these souvenirs and magazines were short essays related to the socio-economic-cultural as well as political awakening among the Rabha people. Of course essays related to political aspects became more prominent in the last decade of the twentieth century. The bilingual magazines of the eighth decade became the platform of several upcoming Rabha poets, lyricists and short story writers to showcase their creativity. Among the poets Bijay Rabha, Anukul Rabha, Nripendra Rabha, Bharat Chandra Rabha, Bishnu Prasad Rabha (junior), Kalidas Rabha, Dhwajendra Rabha, Hima Rabha, Kamal Halo, Kushadhwaj Rabha, Giridhar Rabha, Rajat Rabha, Biraram Rabha, Kali Kumar Rabha, Dharani Pam, Brajen Rabha, Anweswar Rabha, Bistar Chandra Hakacham, Dilip Kumar Rabha, Anita Rabha, Manomohan Rabha, Jamuna Prasad Rabha, Bhaben Santok and Bolai Rabha were some common names in the field of poetry. Compared to poets the emergence of short story writers was negligible. Niranjan Rabha, Tarini Charan Nibari, Milan Chandra Rabha, Indreswar Rabha, Maheswar Rabha, Raj Mohan Rabha, Duryodhan Rabha, Sulochan Rabha and Naresh Chandra Rabha. In this way the eighth decade of the 20th century provided the scope to upcoming Rabha writers to express their creative thoughts through numerous bilingual magazines and souvenirs.

The last decade of the 20th century too, inspired many Rabha writers to produce creative writings. Bilingual souvenirs and magazines published by different socio-cultural organisations and institutions reconstructed the phase in the nourishment of Rabha literature. Rabha essayists were able to maintain their position as like before. In fact there was a rise in the number of essayists who took upon the responsibility to bring out significant aspect of Rabha life and love before the world. Rabha tradition, culture, language, literature and other
Rabha and Sadmadhar Rabha contributed a few short stories in Rabha as well as in Assamese.

With the beginning of the 21st century we see the emergence of more Rabha writers in the field of Rabha literature. These writers who were striving to make a niche for themselves in the last part of the twentieth century, have been able to achieve their goal in the present century (The early five years of the 21st century). One of the major bilingual socio-cultural and literary journal which has provided the platform for these talented writers is *Karhanol* published by the Darrang Zila Rabha Sahitya Sabha. Under the efficient editorship of Surendra Mohan Rabha, from its inaugural issue of 2000 till now, the *Karhanol* has been giving adequate opportunity to the Rabha writers of calibre as well as the upcoming ones to prove their worth. Among the senior writers Mani Rabha, Lakshikanta Phenan, Listi Rabha Rongkho, Charu Mohan Rabha, Shukla Prasad Rabha, Khagen Hato, Purandar Rabha, Suranjib Baksok, Chairman Rabha, Upen Rabha Hakacham, Malina Devi Rabha, Bishwanath Rabha Tara, Jantri Cherenga, Binay Rabha Rungdung, Someswar Rabha, Satish Rabha, Mukul Rabha, Riniki Churchung Pam, Hima Rabha, Akan Rabha, Ram Chandra Rabha etc. have made substantial contribution to *Karhanol*. Writers of the new generation such as Nayan Rabha, Jayanta Rabha, Sarbesh Rabha, Dhirot Tangoi, Ranjita Rabha, Manoranjan Rabha, Lalit Chandra Rabha, Rupak Kumar Rabha, Chandra D. Rabha, Bhabesh Rabha etc. have also been contributing to this journal. From the general point of view the publication of *Karhanol* by the Darrang Zila Rabha Sahitya Sabha is a minimal effort made towards the exposure of Rabha writers and their creativity. But in the long run this effort of the Darrang Zila Rabha Sahitya Sabha, if continued with enthusiasm, can be a giant leap towards giving the scope of exposure to many more talented Rabha writers in the years to come.

The Bebak Rabha Kraurang Runchum published a bilingual magazine *Runchum* in the year 2005. The editor of the first issue of *Runchum* published in April, 2005, was Jantri Cherenga. Writers who have contributed to this issue are Listi Rabha Rongkho, Mani
Rabha, Suranjib Baksaka, Ram Chandra Bandahai, Keshab Cherenga, Jantri Cherenga, Sulochan Rabha, Bishwanath Rabha Tara, Bijayalakshmi Rabha, Upen Rabha Hakacham, Malina Devi Rabha and Jibeswar Koch. Unfortunately this bilingual magazine didn’t survive after the inaugural issue. If it would have survived then it would have helped in the exposure of more emerging Rabha writers.

No doubt the bilingual magazines gave scope to many Rabha writers to express their creative thoughts. But it is a small number of Rabha writers who could make a niche for themselves in their respective fields. When creative writing is considered then the contribution of Listi Rabha Rongkho, Mani Rabha, Lakshikant Phenan, Rajen Pam, Charu Mohan Rabha (Dabang), Bhabit Chandra Rabha, Duryodhan Rabha, Paresh Rabha, Prakash Rabha, Gangadhar Rabha, Upen Rabha Hakacham, Maheswar Rabha, Nitai Rabha, Samar Sing Rabha, Junu Rabha, Ramesh Chandra Rabha, Ukil Chandra Rabha, Niranjan Rabha, Suranjib Baksok, Jharna Chikacham, Riniki Churchung Pam, Jiten Deka, Bhaben Santok, Jamuna Prasad Rabha, Milan Chandra Rabha, Sulochan Rabha, Naresh Chandra Rabha, Jayanta Kumar Rabha, Hima Rabha, Binay Rabha Rungdung, Bhabit Chandra Rabha, Birinchi Rabha, Lalit Chandra Rabha, Pranita Rabha, Dibyajyoti Rabha, Prasen Chandra Rabha and Biswanath Rabha Tara needs mention. It is worth mentioning that maximum of the Rabha writers practise prose writing i.e. most of them are essayists. Starting the list is Dwarikanath Rabha. He is followed by Mani Rabha, Listi Rabha Rongkho, Samar Singh Rabha, Rajen Rabha, Hakim Rabha, Sarat Chandra Rabha (Senior), Harimohan Sarkar, Praneswar Rabha, Rajen Pam, Prakash Rabha, Maheswar Rabha, Charu Mohan Rabha (Dabang), Ramesh Chandra Rabha, Dhananjay Rabha, Kandarpa Kumar Rabha, Jagat Kama, Heremba Kumar Rabha, (Junior), Rajat Rabha, Sarat Chandra Rabha, Mukul Rabha, Jantri Cherenga, Upen Rabha Hakacham, Malina Devi Rabha, Lalit Chandra Rabha, Lohit Rabha, Danish Rabha and Rupak Kumar Rabha. Among these essayists Rajen Rabha was the one who had a few analytical works to
his credit. He was a man of modern ideas and some of his specific works indicate to this renovative attitude of his. Of the younger generation Upen Rabha Hakacham can be considered as the able successor of Rajen Rabha, whose scientific analytical approach to any subject matter makes his work (essay) both informative and relishable.

writings of prominent Rabha essayists, these magazines offered scope to poets and short story writers to express their talent. One of the magazines even took the initiative of publishing a Rabha drama written by Londoni Bala Moujiparan. The creative writers whose writings have enriched these magazines are Monchom P. Mouji, Alaka Rabha, Uttam Kumar Koch, Madan Chandra Rabha, Jeevakanta Rabha, kongres Rongkho, Dhirendra Kumar Pam, Kanti Kumar Rabha, Phulendra Juro, Renuka Baksoka, Sananta Rabha, Jogendra Chandra Rabha, Kirtan Chandra Juro, Bistar Rabha, Bajeswar Rabha, Prithvi Rabha, Bhumidhar Juro, Awani Kumar Rabha, Brihat Kumar Rabha, Rupnath Rabha, Tarinikanta Rabha, Mantu Ram Juro Rabha, Deepak Rabha, Anjali Rabha, Phurpan Rabha, Kameswar Rabha, Madhumita Rabha, Subodh Chandra Rabha, Rita Rabha, Nirmal Rabha, Satyajit Rabha, Ram Chandra Bandahai, Bhishma Rabha, Narayan Rongag, Dandiram Koch, Umakanta Rabha, Bardaloi Rabha, Shephali Rabha, Akshay Rabha, Anil Rabha, Sunil Rabha, Binesh Totla, Manaram Rabha, Pramen Hadu, Neclima Rabha, Nripen Rabha, Hitesh Rabha, Bani Rabha, Durgeswar Rabha, Gautam Rabha, Dalimi Rabha, Barsing Santok, Bhupen Phenan, Victoria Rabha, Bhagyawati Rabha, Dhananjay Rabha, Indrajit Rabha Rungdung, Nabanita Rabha, Sarbajai Churchung, Kameswar Rabha Doynang, Sumitra Hato, Bebak C. Rongag, B.B. Bandhajakai, Tirtha Nath Kencham, Prema N. Koch, Jenet Chapar, Niranjan Pounchibog, Dharmeswar Nogora, Ashalata Koch, Baren Chapar, Christina Chapar, Triptimoyee Rabha, Ram Krishna Koch, Maneswar Rabha, Lakhan Chandra Dwipka, Popila Bala Rabha, Satish Rabha, Mahabir Rabha, Aniruddha Rabha, Alka Rungdung, Kanti Kumar Rabha, Gangadhar Rabha, Mubin Rabha, Prabir Kumar Rabha and Raj Kumar Rabha. Only a few among the numerous magazines and journals mentioned above have been able to make a mark in the history of Rabha literature. But these magazines role in bringing out the talent of many aspiring Rabha writers cannot be denied. This initiative taken by the magazines paved the way for many Rabha writers to shine in the various fields of Rabha literature.
When we talk about newspapers so far only one fortnightly newspaper titled *Chingi Khurang* has been published in Rabha from 15th March, 2005 under the editorship of Nitai Rabha. This Rabha fortnightly newspaper covers all sort of news from politics to literature and culture. The inaugural issue of *Chingi Khurang* included some latest political issues along with a thought provoking article *Rabha Katha Bobaydong Aata Lap Changra* in a column by Upen Rabha Hakacham, a series of articles titled *Phoi Ching Khurang Tryinga* (Let us learn the Rabha Language) – the first article of the series written by Bharat Chandra Rabha, poetry section (Rabha), children column and other miscellaneous. But it is important to note that each of these fortnightly newspaper carried one or two articles on relevant social or political issue in Assamese. Sometimes the newspaper published Assamese poems ever. This shows that the Rabhas inclination towards the Assamese language is overwhelming. The *Chingi Khurang* has a long way to go. If the *Chingi Khurang* survives then it will create a new era in the Rabha Mass media.

Contribution of some particular association towards the upliftment of the Rabha language and literature cannot be overlooked. One of such premier associations is the *Bebak Rabha Krourang Runchum* (BRKR) formed in 1973 under the leadership of prominent Rabha litterateurs and social activists like Baneshwar Koch, Amar Sing Koch, Mani Rabha, Listi Rabha Rongkho and Heremba Kumar Rabha. The mouthpiece of the BRKR have been providing scope to many a talented Rabha writer to showcase his or her talent. In 1980 the Rabha Bhasa Parishad came into being under the presidetship of Naren Rabha. Rajen Rabha the controller of its Examination Board and Rajen Pam the secretary. This Government registered organisation was responsible for the publishing of Rabha textbooks and holding examination on the Rabha language and literature at ten centres of Assam and Meghalaya. The efforts of the Rabha Bhasa Parishad were fruitful. It raised consciousness among the enthusiastic Rabha people. It has been responsible for the publishing of valuable works in
Rabha such as the Rabha short story collection *Gopsani Gangkhoi* compiled by Rabha Adhyayan Chakra (1998), historical drama *Rongglir Parsuram* by Upen Rabha Hakacham (1999), the second edition of Lakshi Phenan’s poetical work *Rondona Chondona* (1998), poetry collection of Khagen Hato titled *Hachuini Khurang* (1998) and poetry collection of Charu Mohan Rabha titled *Khusumbrlp Par* (1998). The publishing of these works have been quite significant as far as the spreadth and nourishment of Rabha literature is concerned.

Works of different languages have been translated into Rabha. This is also a significant asset of Rabha literature. The CIIL, ABILAC and the Sahitya Akademi has been encouraging such efforts. In this process the CIIL has organised a workshop and involved Prakash Rabha, Binay Rabha Rungdung, Jantri Cherenga and Upen Rabha Hakacham as editors of the collection to compose two hundred nursery rhymes for the pre-nursery level. The book on nursery rhymes titled *Momorongi Moyna Khurang* has been published in 1997. The popular Assamese novel *Jibanor Batot* has also been translated into Rabha at the initiative of the CIIL. Under a joint venture the Sahitya Akademi and the ABILAC has selected some folktales from different parts of India to be translated into Rabha. The collection *Song Hasongmi Khircha* edited by Upen Rabha Hakacham has been published in 1999. All these efforts made by the various associations and institutions have been instrumental in creating a constructive atmosphere for the farther development of Rabha language and literature at large. The role of the Rabha Bhasa parishad for upliftment and standardisation of the Rabha language came as a boon to those who were dedicated towards popularising the study of Rabha literature among the Rabha people. At the national level the CIIL and the Sahitya Akademi did the needful for the promotion of Rabha literature. Of these two organisations the CIIL’s contribution is the most. In the state level the ABILAC and SRC has done praiseable work for the development of Rabha literature and language. The All Rabha Students’ Union, Rabha National Council, Sodou Rabha Kristi Sanmilan, Rabha Adhyayan Chakra, Rabha Adhyayan Aru Gabeshana Sangstha, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Rabha Baptist Union of Debitola,
Catholic Church of Damra, St. Michael's Church, the Christian Literature Centre of Guwahati are some associations and institutions which have been assisting in the development and spread of Rabha literature in some way or the other.

From the above discussion it has been seen that journals, newspapers and socio-cultural associations and institutions have a role to play in giving exposure to Rabha writers. Enthusiastic writers have taken this opportunity and have utilised it to the full. Rabha educationists and intellectuals have always been there to laud the efforts of these aspiring writers. Their encouragement and valuable suggestions have always helped the writers in exploring new vistas and make their creative work far more presentable and unique in nature. The occasional Rabha souvenirs, journals and other bilingual and multi-lingual magazines published at different periods of the twentieth century as well as the first few years of the 21st century have been the medium for many Rabha writers to showcase their creative writings. Those Rabha writers who have rose to prominence, had published their initial works in the above mentioned journals and souvenirs. Those magazines may be ordinary in stature; but as far as the contribution of Rabha litterateurs towards modern Rabha literature is concerned, the articles published in the above discussed journals and souvenirs are quite valuable. In addition to this the bilingual (Rabha-Assamese/Assamese English) magazines and journals showcase Rabha writers’ contribution towards Assamese literature. Some of these Assamese works of Rabha writers can be counted among the best literary works in Assamese. Some literary works of Nagendra Narayan Choudhury, Kolaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Rajen Rabha and Rajen Pam fall in this category.

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