I have the pleasure and privilege of studying Bhāsa’s drama Svapnavāsavadattam in my B.A. class during the period 1991-92. At that time, a keen interest in me was developed for studying the Svapnavāsavadatta more seriously. Hence as a result, I came to take up this special study in respect of the “Female characters in the dramas of Bhāsa”.

Bhāsa wrote thirteen plays. Among them Dūttavākya, Karṇabhāra and Pañcarātra have no female characters. Every character in his dramas is strongly marked its own individual peculiarity and made to help the development of the drama in its way. The delineation of the female characters show the genius, skill and scholarship of the dramatist to attract the eyes of the audience and the readers as well. The portrayal of the female characters shows the extra ordinary power of Bhāsa as an expert painter.

In view of this, in the present work entitled “FEMALE CHARACTERS IN THE DRAMAS OF BHĀSA : A STUDY” and divided into five chapters, a study on the contents of Bhāsa’s drama is made in different perspective, in a critical way.
In preparing this dissertation, I have based on Bhāsanātakacakram edited by C.R. Devadhar which is published by Motilal Banarasidass, Delhi, 1987 and Bhāsar Nāṭaka Samagra translated by Dr. Thaneswar Sharma which is published by Bani Mandir, Guwahati, 2005. It may be added that the references made in my work female characters, pertain to the edition of C.R. Devadhar and translation of Dr. Thaneswar Sharma.

The dissertation has discussed the use of different types of females such Queen, Princess, Naṭī, Tāpasī and the different types of heroine viz. Svīyā, Kulajā, Veśyā etc. Bhāsa has been ably successful in delineating the female characters.

It is needless to say that the present work is the result of my academic pursuit for last five years under the able guidance of my revered teacher professor Dr. Naliniranjan Sharma. I shall be amply rewarded if the work comes to be of some interest the scholarly world.

With these prefatory words, a very humbly present this work for assessment. I can not be sure of its merits so long as it is not endorsed by the authorities.