



MANJU CHAUDHURI

A Social Activist

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Manju Chaudhuri belonged to the illustrious Majinder Barua family, and is the daughter of late Girin Chowdhury who was the Health Minister of Assam in the erstwhile Sarat Sinha Ministry. She was brought up by late Nirmala Medhi (her father's elder sister and wife of late Bisnu Ram Medhi, former Chief Minister of Assam and Governor of Tamilnadu). She completed Senior Cambridge from Pine Mount School, Shillong in 1956 and thereafter graduated from Gauhati University. She is married to Dr.P.K.Chaudhuri, former Senior Executive, Assam Oil Company and Oil India Ltd, and presently Advisor to the Chief Minister, Assam (Petroleum Sector). Mrs Chaudhuri, while in Delhi alongwith Begum Abida Ahmed, wife of former President of India, Late Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, embarked upon the field of Social work. They focused on uplift of underprivileged and deprived women and children. She was entrusted with the responsibility of managing the activities of Mahila Imdad Committee as the secretary. With the untiring effort and guidance

from Srimati Ahmed, they were successful in opening branches of the same in other States of India. An orphanage, Balika Chaman, was established in Delhi by them. Along with the social work, Mrs Chaudhuri was drawn to politics for a while and she joined the AICC (New Delhi) Foreign Relations Department as a Joint Secretary and in 1971 was selected as a delegate to the First International Women's Conference in Berlin. On her return to Assam in the early eighties she also became Joint Secretary of APCC.

Mrs Chaudhuri had a dream to set up a school for the tiny tots and in 1987. It turned into a reality, when Blue Bell's Nursery School was established with just three children in its roll and today with over 300 children it has found its pride of place as one of the good pre-primary schools in Guwahati, situated in the Bisnu Nirmala Trust premises with a branch in Rajgarh Road. The school almost heading for a silver jubilee has many of its alumni now settled in various Colleges and other professions in India and abroad. Her success with the School is due to the devotion and sheer hard work, she tries to work with perfection and sincerity. □□