



SANGEETA TAMULI

Creating Alternative Narrative

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One can not but get overwhelmed with feelings of great appreciation for Sangeeta Tamuli who has been investing herself for so long in the serious act of creating an alternative narrative through the cinematic idiom for the marginalized section of the society, particularly women.

Sangeeta Tamuli, a renowned film maker of the state, aged 44yrs, is a graduate from Handique Girls' College with Major in Education. She is married to Dr. Utpal Tamuly, a noted Orthopaedic surgeon. After graduation Sangeeta had decided to do mass communication, to pursue her dream of doing something for the society, particularly for women through films and documentaries. Accordingly, after the completion of her post graduation in Broadcast Arts in 1992 she came back to Guwahati from Delhi and started her dream venture, a firm of her own in the name of Chitraa Communications in 1993. Since then she has made more than a hundred documentary films on various socio-economic, educational and technical subjects of the North-East India. However, her main

focus has always been on women, on issues related to women empowerment, education and gender disparities.

Her feature film *Aakashitoraar Kothare*, which received Rajat Kamal Award from the Directorate of film festival, Govt. of India, as the best regional film in 2004 and the "Viewers Best Film" award at the 8th Dhaka International Film Festival in 2005, shows how the womenfolk of our society are deprived of their due honour and acknowledgement even in affluent communities. In her new docu-feature film (title not yet fixed), she has tried to show the inner strength and beauty lying dormant in every woman and how these qualities can be positively utilized for the all round betterment of our society.

Her works are her brainchild and they give her immense pleasure if they get recognition from people. Her activities have been widely appreciated by the Directorate of film festivals of India and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. She was also nominated as a Jury member for the National Film Festival at New Delhi in 2006 by the Govt. of India and for the Goa International Film Festival in 2008. Her firm is an empanelled organization of Dooradarshan Kendra, Directorate of Adult Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and an empanelled producer of Doordarshan Kendras of Guwahati, PPC, Tura, Itanagar and Dibrugarh.

Sangeeta's concern and involvement with the marginalized people of the society as explored through the medium of cinema show her unflinching commitment to the cause of the society, combined with an unquestionable skill. She considers social service as a part of her association with the cine world. She is thankful to the Almighty for having given her the opportunity to help twelve students to pursue their studies in the undergraduate curriculum, and provide funds for the health Insurance policies to hundred families from below the poverty line through the National Insurance Company in 2009. As the Secretary of "Swasti", an NGO, she is deeply involved with the developmental activities for the benefit of the mother and the child. On being asked the reason for having started her own business, she replied that she had always wanted to do something positive for the society and to give something to the society within her reach. She said that she had realized the importance of financial independence for a woman. She acknowledged that her entire family had always been very supportive and a great source of inspiration for her. The road towards her goal was not very smooth as she had to face a lot of challenges in her professional as well as social life. It was in fact because of these challenges that she could make films to motivate the society and make the society realize that the women are not so weak and dependent objects as they are stereotyped in our conventional social setup.

She has plans to give a new dimension to the technical education of women by upgrading newer courses like film editing, painting and other innovative techniques like bell metal and terracotta. By this, she wants to promote participation of women in training themselves in unconventional courses. □□