



RENU DEVI

An Enterprising Mind

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Amongst the handful of graduates during the fifties, who graduated from Handique Girls' College, Mrs. Renu Devi's name deserves special mention. It was the time when Mrs. Rajabala Das was the Principal of the college, whose able guidance earned wide acclaim for the college.

Mrs. Renu Devi was born at Nagoan. She was the daughter of Mr. Rajani Sarma Barua and Mrs. Bimala Devi. Wife of noted Assamese writer late Nirmaleswar Sarma, Renu Devi symbolized rare virtues of womanhood not very much in evidence in our present day society. She was married at the age of ten under stiff resistance because child marriage was banned at that time due to the famous Sarada Act. Even after shouldering the responsibilities of a large household, she simultaneously pursued her studies which ultimately earned her a Bachelor of Arts degree.

As time passed she lost her husband, but gracefully accepted her widowhood and started a weaving industry at her own residence in Bamunimaidam, Guwahati. The

exquisite *pat-muga* Mekhala Sador sets of her loom were very much in demand, at home and abroad. In the process of setting up the weaving industry, Mrs. Renu Devi provided employment to many artisans and thereby opened up a path for their livelihood.

The curtain came down on the eventful life of Renu Devi on March 7th, 1999, at the age of 71 years. □□