



BANDITA PHUKAN

An Ignited Mind

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Vibrant, alive and extremely active— these are a few words which aptly describe Bandita Phukan, engineer by profession, writer by choice. Born in Dhekiajuli on 16th of February, 1948, to Bipin Ch. Phukan and Hiranmoyee Debi, she was the eldest of three daughters. Her father was in the Education Department while her mother was a writer.

Bandita's desire to be financially independent had its roots in her childhood when she realized that she would look after her parents, there being no sons in the family. She did her early schooling in Tezu in NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh). After her father was posted back in Assam, she finished schooling and studied in Nowgaon College, after which she joined AEC in 1966. She passed out in 1971, got married to engineer Syamanta Phukan in 1972. She has a son and a daughter who are well settled in life.

Bandita joined the Oil India Ltd. and then held prestigious posts in Assam Conductors and Tubes Ltd. and Assam Industrial Development Corporation. Finally she opted for voluntary

retirement in quest of another dream. She took up an assignment in the USA (2001) for Petrotech International as a sales engineer and worked there for two years.

Bandita Phukan is however more famous as a writer than as an engineer. She is best known as a children's writer. She went on to diversify to translation, science fiction, technical books on automobiles, short stories etc. Till date, 76 books including 16 children novels written by her have been published. She has translated works of Ruskin Bond (assigned by Sahitya Academi), Mark Twain, George Orwell, John Steinback etc. She has a number of 'firsts' to her credit. She is the first Assamese woman to become Mechanical Engineer and science fiction writer in the entire North East.

She has won awards from the Assam Publication Board, Assam Lekhika Sontha and Dibrugarh Jila Sahitya Porixod. Needless to say, her entire family has been extremely supportive in whatever endeavour she has made. □□