

GLOSSARY OF NON- ENGLISH WORDS

Athporia –generally are the keepers of security and supervisors inside the temple.

Bhandar – are mainly the titles given to the supplier of the raw materials in the temple.

Bharali - are the store-keeper or the supplier of fruits and flowers as mentioned in the holy scriptures.

Bhog – food items associated with the worship in the temple.

Bidht – scriptures which guide the priests of the temple for the observances of the rules in the temple.

Bidhipathaks – another name of pujaris of the temple.

Bolikata – are the titles given to persons involved in the sacrifice of the offered animals in the temple.

Chandi – book of chants related to the worship.

Chandipathaks – priests who are mainly referred as those who recite the book of chants.

Charitra – a sanskrit word meaning character.

Duari – are mainly referred to as the door keepers as written in the scriptures.

Gayan-Bayan- are the titles mainly assigned the singers and musicians.

Gyana – sanskrit word meaning knowledge.

Homa – rites associated with the fire alter.

Hotas – persons associated with performances in the fire-alter as mentioned in the hindu scriptures.

Kamakshya – name of the temple now known as Kamakhya.

Kalikapurana – hindu scripture mainly said to be composed in 9th century A.D.

Kshetrasamskara – rite of consecration of the field.

Lauhitya – other name of the river Brahmaputra.

Linga – symbol in Hinduism.

Mahamudra – other name of Yoni.

Matrkhetra – Sanskrit word signifying spiritual inspiration.

Malakar – are mainly given the title to the makers of the garlands in the temple.

Nritya- meaning regular.

Paneri – are mainly the title given to persons who are assigned the task of water supply in the temple.

Pitha – places of worship represented with the Shakti-cult.

Pragjyotishpur - name of the district now presently known as Kamrup in Assam.

Satha – a form of observance of penance.

Supakars – Brahmin families who are given the duty of preparing the food items of the temple.

Tamuli – are the persons who make arrangements of the offerings in the temple as given in the scriptures.

Tantriks – mainly referred to as practioners of tantra or black- magic.

Viveka – a Sanskrit word which means conscience.

Yoni - is the creative power of nature and is often represented with the Shakti-cult.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER-1	1 - 3
1.1. Introduction.	
1.2. Objectives of the study.	
1.2a. Broad Objective.	
1.2b. Specific Objectives.	
1.3. Methods of data collection.	
1.3. Universe of Study.	
1.3b. Techniques of Data Collection.	
CHAPTER-2	4 - 8
2. 1. Survey of literature.	
2.1a. Purity and pollution.	
2.1b. Ritual purity and pollution in South Asia.	
2.1c. Woman, nature, pollution beliefs.	
2.1d. Pollution and gender relations.	
2.1e. Concept of pollution in religion.	
2.1f. Prevalence of Shakti-cult in Assam and its association with the Kamakhya temple.	
CHAPTER- 3	9 - 14
3.1. Introduction to the field	
3.1a. Geographical features	
3.1b. Legends associated with the Nilachala Hill	
3.1c. A place of pilgrimage	
3.2. Description of the temple	
3.2a. Demographic details of the temple	

3.2b. Oral legends of the construction of the temple

CHAPTER-4

15 - 22

4. Findings from the field and its analysis

4.1. Organisation of the rituals performed in the temple

4.2. Administrative structure of the temple

4.3. Worship rituals of the temple

4.4. Animal sacrifice within the temple

4.5. Worship rituals at the household level

4.6. Worship rituals during Ambabuchi Mela and its relation to women's fertility

4.6a. Origin of the mela

4.6b. Disciplines associated with the mela

4.6c. Ambabuchi at the household level

4.7. Women as polluting in nature.

4.8. Gender visualisations and female education by the Dolois

CHAPTER-5

23 - 24

5. Conclusion

Bibliography