

**Call for Papers: *Siddhanta: The Conclusions*: Volume IV**

*Siddhanta: The Conclusions* is a research based biennial book with ISBN No. published by the Dept of English, J B College (Autonomous). Since its inception in 2017, the book has been providing a platform for scholars, academicians and students in disseminating knowledge on various issues related to literature, language, folklore, culture etc. Till now, three volumes have been published on the issues of ‘Diaspora: Dislocation and Assimilation’ (Vol I), Volume II dealt with the themes of ‘Gender: Concept and Context.’ while Vol III dealt with ‘Myths: Revisited and Retold’. The present issue, Vol. IV proposes to focus on Disability Studies, the varied dimensions of which are included in the concept note. The present issue will be bilingual and contributors can write either in English or Assamese. The joint editors of the present volume are Dr. Nandini Choudhury and Dr. Saba Anish.

Scholarly, original and research-based articles on the given topic are invited and authors may follow the given guidelines-

- (a) Word limit - Within 4000 (four thousand words)
- (b) Font size - Title 14 pt, body 12 pt
- (c) Font – Times New Roman
- (d) Line spacing - 1.5
- (e) Authors are strictly asked to follow the guidelines of MLA Handbook, 9th Edition for in text citation and Works Cited.
- (f) The papers are to be accompanied by a short bio note of the author/s
- (g) The contributed article should not have been published elsewhere or submitted for consideration.

For write ups in Assamese, contributors should stick to Geetanjali font backed by Ramdhenu software in Pagemaker file. Else they can also use Unicode lipi in mobile typing mode.

Authors are requested to submit their write ups latest by 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. They are to mail a soft copy of their write ups either in one of the following mail ids

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A minimum processing fee will be collected from the contributors at the time of publication.

Submission of the articles does not imply automatic acceptance. Papers will go through a rigorous screening process by an editorial board and the editors will have discretionary powers to select and finalize the papers meant for publication. The authors will be intimated about the selection or rejection of their papers within a month of their submission. The book will be jointly published by Dept of English and J B College Publication Cell and is likely to be published in mid 2024.

For further queries or assistance, authors may contact the editors at their contact nos. given below

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### **Concept Note**

In most socio-cultural contexts, throughout history, disability has been viewed as a non-normative category which has been accorded an extraordinary, negative and exclusive status . This exclusivity identifies the group of disabled people as a minoritized group and categorically and oppressively excludes them in social worlds, discussions, debates and events from the normate group. The idea of the normate may be understood as stated by critic Rosemary Garland – Thomson as a ‘constructed identity’ of all who by means of bodily configurations and cultural capital step into positions of power and authority and wields the power it grants them. The normate’s engagement with the non- normative or the disabled are associated with the categories of ‘extraordinary’, ‘special’ or ‘abnormal’

As an academic discipline, Disability Studies seek to examine the meaning, nature and consequences of disability in the context of culture, society and politics rather than through the

lens of medicine. Researchers consider disability as a social construction and examine the intersection between race, culture, gender and identity. It is an interdisciplinary area of study based on humanities and social sciences, and such an approach challenges the binaries of the normate/ non-normative and suggests that a range of human variations is normal (Encyclopedia Britannica).

With the shift in disability focus from medicine/ healthcare domain to institutional or academic domain, the conventional binary of the normate/ non-normate reaches a new epistemological paradigm. The body-mind ableism needs to be looked at through lenses that defies the very predominance of the discourse of normalcy. Although a shift in perception is noticeable when it comes to popular representation, policy making, academic discourse of disability, yet the question persists if these are enough towards a broader inclusiveness. For instance, the greater visibility of disabled in popular representation like cinema and advertising today needs to be questioned - is it a step towards inclusivity or just another technique to trigger saleability? The present volume seeks to re-look and re-think the conceptualization/ re-conceptualizations in the epistemology of disability.

Some of the approaches include narratives of disabilities, analysis of representations of disability in literature, the arts, the law and the media. It also seeks to study the writing and rewriting of histories of disability, visual art, performance and poetry that highlights the experiences of disabled people living in a world for the non-disabled. Disability studies also attempts to read the experiences of living with a disability and how that intersects with race, class and gender. It may also be read as a sort of activism that speaks directly to the interests of the disabled and attempts to contribute to social change.

Interested scholars, academicians, researchers and students are invited to throw more light into the topic with their valuable insights. Some of the subthemes on which papers are invited are:

- Disability and lifewritings
- The politics of medical sciences and disability
- Disability and mass media

- Disabled representation in literature
- Queer and Disability
- Disability in popular representation
- Theology and disability
- Popular beliefs and disability
- Changing episteme in disability
- Disability and Legal Provisions
- Deconstructing abled/ disabled binary
- The Disabled Female Body
- Disability in Translation
- Any other topic relevant to the main theme