

## TREE CONTEXT IN BENGALI PROVERBS OF ASSAM

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**Abstract:** Several states in India are actively engaged in the process of creating new folk sayings and proverbs, which are the fruitful results of the rich diversity of folk life. These proverbs and sayings have been passed down for generations, and they vary in meaning depending on where in India you are. Folklife and folk tradition, as well as its many qualities, are remarkably consistent around the globe. Throughout the beginning of recorded history, people of many racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds have been making their way across the globe in search of better opportunities. The topic content, structure, and mythology or legend surrounding several proverbs and folk sayings have striking similarities. According to the research, these sayings are most common in the Indian states of Assam. As such, this study will use comparative methodology and historical geographical theory to examine these proverbs and other forms of folk wisdom side by side. The stories spoken about them and the ways in which they are alike and different would be compared and contrasted. Trees balance nature. The tree offers nature's gas and people's furnishings and fuel. Trees vary. Like therapeutic plants, certain trees are excellent wood. People employ trees as hedges and as economic stabilisers. Trees prevent landslides. Hence, humans and other animal kingdoms love plants (trees). Literature, culture, and society are intertwined with this natural element. Hence, Assam Bengali proverbs include trees.

**Keywords:** Trees, Assam, Proverbs.

Trees are an important element in maintaining the balance of nature. Just as the tree provides the necessary gas to nature, it also fulfils the needs of people in making various furniture including use as daily fuel. There are many types of trees. Just as some plants have medicinal properties, some trees provide good timber. Again, with the help of some trees, people can achieve economic stability, on the other hand, they also use some trees as hedges. Trees play an important role in preventing landslides. Hence, plants (trees) are friends of humans as well as all animal kingdoms. This natural element is intimately connected with human society, literature, culture. In Bengali proverbs of Assam, therefore, the presence of trees can be noted. A few such sayings about plants are –

- (a) Great religion in trees, great deeds in pavilions.
- (b) Do not sow the trees and plants thickly, the trees will not bear fruit.
- (c) Vine, enemy of trees, enemy of mines.
- (d) Lives under big trees, if the branch is broken, it will be destroyed.

As Bengali proverbs mention the context of plants and trees as a whole, we also see the context of specific trees such as - banyan tree, arhathood, banana tree, sheora tree, palm tree, kadam tree, tulsi tree etc. We are aware that the main power of proverb is in its consonance; And so, by referring to the context or name of these trees, various forms and aspects of society are expressed in proverbs. 'Bot' is a sacred tree in the Bengali-dominated region of Assam. Its leaves are used during the puja-parban. Hindu people have a traditional cultural relationship with this tree. Moreover, the banyan tree is very large in size and lasts for a long time.

Folk songs mention that the shade of this tree is very cool. A few Bengali proverbs mention these species of trees. For example –

- (a) Ashwath's shadow is shadow; mother's illusion is illusion.
- (b) Cut the big horse and sit on it.

The 'banana tree' is a very important tree to the Bengali speaking people of Assam like other societies. This tree is a special part of the social, cultural and religious rituals of Bengali Hindu society. Every element of the tree is necessary and usable. Many Bengali proverbs of this region mention this tree. -

- (a) The girl is a human being; a banana tree is.

(b) Kalavati's wife knows how many bananas I have.

Caller sees Mocha and pulls it as Avatar.

'Shawra' is an important known name in the public life of Bengali Hindus of Assam. It is believed by the people of the Hindu society of this region that a goddess named Rupasi, the auspicious goddess of children, resides in this tree. The day of Sadh Bhakshan is equal. On the day of the monthly vows of the children, before the marriage ceremony and on a special day of Chaitra month, the Hindu women of this region offer worship and enjoyment under this tree with various pujas. On the other hand, there is another belief in the society that this tree is full of evil energy. The topic of this 'Shawra' tree has also come up in the popular Bengali proverb of the region.

(a) Spouse of shewra tree.

(b) The rope is straight but bent at the knots.

(c) The new wife is the consort of NathaliSheora tree.

As 'palm tree', 'suparigach' and 'jackfruit tree' are present in Bengali proverbs of Assam state, the use of this fruit in puja-parban has been going on for a long time. On the other hand, economically, these fruits improve the living conditions of people. For example, palm trees (a) Tal says if pi kaat

Twelve years result in one night.

(b) Babui's nest in a palm tree

Look at the humor of Nera Mami.

(c) My friend was under the palm tree

That friend passed away in the month of Magh.

betel nut tree

(a) Ornamentation of the house Betel nut grower's ornamentation.

The beauty of women is the beauty of gold, silver, and chicks.

'Bamboo' is abundantly available in North East region. Starting from the construction of houses, the use of Jalani, various types of furniture are made of bamboo. Bamboo and some parts of bamboo are used in some stages of certain rituals. We find the context of 'bamboo' in some Bengali proverbs,

(a) Vastu is destroyed when bamboo grows.

(b) Bamboo dies and blooms, people die.

(c) The bamboo of the tree does not fall.

(d) Phalgun fire ground.

Keep the bamboo and cut the bamboo piram.

The name 'fig' is very familiar to all of us. Also, we know the fact that fig flowers appear after a long period of time. It is a soft and sweet fruit. It is edible both dry and ripe. Due to the favorable environment, these fruit trees are found in almost all regions of the state of Assam. The 'fig' tree is also Two sayings about fruits and flowers are: -

(a) Sits on a fig tree dancing with an umbrella.

Black owl will be king, people will die laughing.

(b) Fig flower, snake's feet.

Kale Bhadre met it.

In the nature of our diverse state, as there are various good timber trees, there are also various medicinal plants. Again, Vaishnavism and mythological beliefs are associated with some trees. Some such plants are – neem/nisinda, tulsi tree, kadam tree etc. Leaves and twigs of Neem/Nisinda tree are popular in society as folk medicine. They are considered as a great medicine for various ailments. This topic is mentioned in Bengali proverbs

(a) Nimnisinda where people do not die.

(b) NimTitta, NicindaTitta, and Titta Khar.

More bitter than her, the house of Vine Sateen.

Like Neem/Nicinda, 'Tulsi tree' is also a very useful plant for the society. The juice of Tulsi tree leaves and the use of garlands made from Tulsi tree branches have many benefits in human life, on the other hand, it is believed that the air of Tulsi tree alleviates various skin diseases and respiratory diseases of people. Moreover, in the Hindu society of this region, the 'Tulsi tree' is worshiped with respect every day; With which the Vaishnavism belief is connected. A proverb about 'Tulsigach'

(a) Tulsi outside the house, Tal outside the Vastu

Lakshmi maideindekha, either good.

(b) A dog kills a Tulsi tree, yet it is worshiped in the world.

'Kadam Gach' is a well-known name in almost all societies of the region under discussion.

We find the context of this tree in various Bengali folk songs, wedding songs, modern songs. The context of the said tree is visible in various Vaishnavite texts of the Puranas and the Middle Ages. The flowers of Kadam tree are attractive to look at and are also fragrant. The Bengali community of this region regards the Kadam tree as a form of respect.

(a) Kanu in Kadam tree

There is no day, no night, only Benu plays.

(b) Kanai of Kadam tree

I love him.

Also note the location of some other trees in Bengali proverbs

goes such as

"The saplings of Kapalpura house are also Kapalpura." That is, if the fate is unhappy, that person's misery is everywhere, in all areas.

"Ada churunirbukutdurduri."—means the criminal's mind is constantly in terror. An idiom to denote incongruity

"What's between Kiyo?

Naliashak also ghee."

When a person or thing is trivial and an attempt is made to demonize it by adding more trivial things to it, it manifests as

"No bhagar dengue

The firewood fell on him again."

Somewhere due to lack of qualified people or non-existence of qualified people there are some. Similarly, in areas where there are no developed species of trees, useless plants are called trees. such as

"No country verandah and trees."

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