



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
SHORT ABSTRACT OF THESIS

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Name of Thesis Supervisor(s) : Prof. Utpal Barua

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SHORT ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the dynamics of cultural diffusion within the Bodo community of Northeast India, focusing on the traditional art of handloom weaving. As a vital expression of Bodo identity, weaving encapsulates symbolic motifs, patterns, and colours that carry intergenerational cultural knowledge. Through ethnographic fieldwork, interviews with artisans, and semiotic analysis, the study examines how external influences—from neighbouring cultures to global trends—interact with longstanding traditions.

The research highlights how Bodo artisans negotiate cultural continuity and change, revealing adaptive strategies that preserve cultural integrity while subtly incorporating new elements. Beyond textiles, these influences extend to broader social, economic, and artistic realms. By documenting these processes, the study contributes to cultural anthropology, visual culture, and heritage preservation, offering insights into the resilience and transformation of indigenous practices in an increasingly globalized world.

Ultimately, this work celebrates the enduring creativity and agency of the Bodo people, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage amid ongoing change.