

# **DIMAPUR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE**

**Dimapur - 797112: Nagaland**

**NAAC Accredited Grade B+**

## **Department of History**

### **Report on 12<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series**

The Department of History, Dimapur Government College organised the 12<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series on September 5, 2025 at the Seminar Hall, DGC with renowned Anthropologist Dolly Kikon, Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Director of the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz. Professor Kikon's writings and engagement cover resource extraction, militarisation, justice, migration, gender and political economy and in the last decade she has developed new research initiatives grounded in indigenous ecology, food sovereignty as sustainable practices.

The Programme was chaired by Dr Vivi Swu, Associate Professor. The programme started with a welcome note by the Chairperson. This was followed by the Introductory remarks by Dr Meripeni Ngully, HOD, History who mentioned that Professor Dolly Kikon was her former student and how it was a privilege and a pride to have her as the resource person for the 12<sup>th</sup> Lecture series which would probably be her last as she would be retiring in the coming year. She highlighted the works and achievements of Professor Kikon and gave a brief introduction to the documentary 'Abundance: Living With A Forest' which was selected for the Asian Film Festival and how her documentaries serves as advocates for the voiceless.

This was followed by a short speech by the Resource person Professor Dolly Kikon who while reminiscing about the past acknowledged Dr Meripeni Ngully as a wonderful Teacher and how it was a wonderful privilege to meet together on Teachers' Day. She also shared about her academic journey and how she started making documentaries and her inspiration from her former Teacher Dr Uma who after retirement joined film school and on meeting Professor Dolly challenged her to make films and to see beyond the text. In 2019, along the foothills of Assam and Nagaland, she made an 11 minutes film called 'Seasons of Life'. Professor Dolly spoke about how she became interested in her own dialect – Lotha and started trying to understand the root language and develop theories in one's language.

The programme then moved on to the screening of her documentary 'Abundance: Living With A Forest' was screened which is a biography of foraging, forest and jhum cultivation following Zareno, a Lotha forager in the forest of Khumtsu, tracing the foraged edible plants as they make their way to the market in Wokha Town.

The film gestures towards an impending loss that indigenous communities are encountering across the world. Professor Kikon enunciated on the significance of being connected with one's roots and encouraged the students to go back and think about the names of the rivers, mountains,

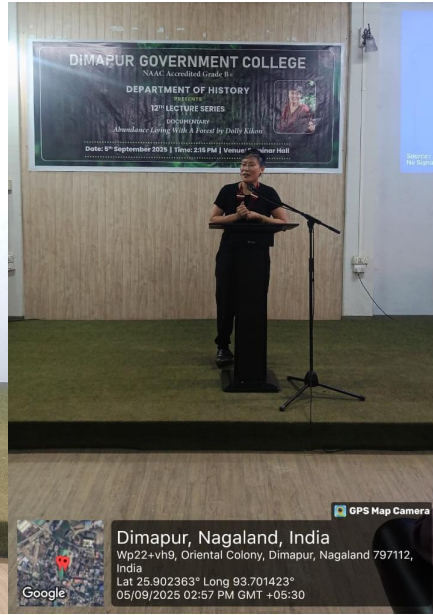
plants, trees in their villages. She highlighted that if forests are lost, then one's language will also go extinct because for Nagas these are deeply connected. The lecture ended with a discussion where the students actively participated. Some of the questions posed by the students were:

1. Why Wokha is called the 'Land of Plenty'?
2. Being a member of RRaD, some were initially opposing the bringing back of the human remains, how far is the talk progressing? Where will the remains be kept?
3. Her journey as a member of RRaD.

The talk concluded with a vote of thanks by Supong Jamir, Associate Professor.

The lecture was attended by the students and Faculty of Department of History and other Departments of DGC.





**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
PRESENTS  
**12<sup>TH</sup> LECTURE SERIES**  
DOCUMENTARY  
*Abundance Living With A Forest*

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025 | Time: 2:15 PM | Venue: Seminar Hall

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**PROFILE OF THE GUEST SPEAKER**

Dolly Kikon is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is also the director of the Center for South Asian Studies at UCSC. Her writings and engagement cover resource extraction, militarisation, justice, migration, gender, and political economy. In the last decade, she has developed new research initiatives grounded in Indigenous ecology, food sovereignty as sustainable practices. She is a member of Return, Recover and Decolonize (RRaD), a Naga initiative constituted by the Forum for Naga Reconciliation to open up dialogues and processes of repatriating Naga ancestral human remains from the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

Abundance: Living with a Forest is a biography of foraging, forest and jhum cultivation. It follows Zareno, a Lotha forager in the forest of Khumiso, and traces the foraged edible plants as they make their way to the market in Wokha town. The film gestures to an impending loss that Indigenous communities encounter across the world. The film highlights indigenous foraging practice in the Eastern Himalayan region and the commitment of foragers and community members to work towards renewal of Indigenous values, courage, and sustainable practice.

**ORDER OF THE PROGRAMME**

**Chairperson**  
*Dr. Vivi Swu*  
Associate professor

**Introductory remarks**  
*Dr. Meripeni Ngully*  
HoD Dept. of History

**Documentary**  
ABUNDANCE LIVING WITH A FOREST

**Resource Person**  
Dolly Kikon, Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, also the Director of the Center for South Asian Studies at UCSC

**Discussion**

**Vote of Thanks**  
*Sipong Jamir*  
Associate professor

**Rapporteur**  
*Dr. Ngutoli Y Swu*  
Assistant professor

*Refreshment*

Recorded by:

Dr Ngutoli Y. Swu  
Assistant Professor  
Dept of History, DGC