

## CHAPTER-II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

**Bezbaroa. L. (1911). *Śaṅkardev*:**

Lakshminath Bezbarua wrote the very first biography in Assamese language on Śaṅkaradeva which was published in 1911. The writer says each and everything about Śaṅkaradeva's life in this book. The base of this book is *Carit puthi* written by Daitāri Thākur. There are sixteen chapters in this book and is divided into two sections. The first section of this book is factual and informative and the second section is analytical where significance of Śaṅkaradeva's Neo-Vaishnavism is clearly discussed. The first section of this book is all about Śaṅkaradeva's forefathers. The history of *Bārabhūñā* is projected in this section also. The second section of this book is about Śaṅkaradeva's life and important incidents that took place in his life till his death.

**Das. H.(1945). *Sankardeva -A Study***

In this book '*Sankardeva -A study*', the writer Hara Mohan Das has discussed Śaṅkaradeva and his great contributions. This book is consisting of eleven chapters. The author has given an elaborate description of ancient Kamarūpa and its rulers, literary side of the court of king Nara Nārāyaṇa, biographical account of Śaṅkaradeva from his ancestors to his last day of life, his precious teachings, philosophy, and ideologies, *Satra* culture in Assam with reference to its impact in Assamese society, Śaṅkaradeva's great literary contributions such as -his poems, dramatic works, his *Bargiīts* and *Bhaṭimās* and his prose's, his contributions towards arts and crafts,

universalism, brotherhood and moral and religious teachings and Mādhavadeva's literacy works also.

In this book the writer has also provided illustration of *Bhāgavatapurāṇa* installed in a pedestal tray and a throne and scenes of *kāliyadaman*.

### **Neog, M. (1949). *Sri Sankardeva***

*Sri Sankardeva* is a very informative and important book written in Assamese language by Maheswar Neog. This book is a milestone regarding the tradition of studying about the great saint Śaṅkardeva and his contributions in diverse fields. This book has six parts. 'Preface' is the first part here, which gives description of sources wherefrom the elements of this biography are collected by the writer. Along with Genealogy of Sri Śaṅkardeva, the writer also describes the background of Neo-Vaishnavism in India with special reference to Assam. The second part is titled as '*Bārabhūṇā Rājyat Śrīmanta Śaṅkar*', gives a detailed account of Śaṅkardeva's birth and schooling, political condition of Assam, fight between the *Kachāris* and the saint of *Bhūṇā*, his first marriage, death of his wife Sūryavati and birth of his daughter 'Manu', his pilgrimage, creation of his first devotional song (*Bargūt*), his second marriage, preaching of Neo-Vaishnavism and creation of *Bhakti-Pradīpa*, *Harīścandra Upākhyāna*, *Rukmiṇī Harāṇa*, *Cihnayātrā*, *Kīrtana* and *Guṇamālā*. In the third part of this book the writer includes facts of *Āhom* Kingdom, Śaṅkardeva's first son Rāmāndanda's birth, *Maṇikāncana saṁyoga*, imprisonment of Mādhavadeva and creation of a few parts of *Kīrtana*. The fourth part is titled as *Koc Rājyat Śrīmanta Śaṅkardeva*. In this part basically incidents relating to king Naranārāyaṇa

and Cilārāiṃya's times are included. The fifth part of the book gives a clear picture of literature, culture and philosophy of Śaṅkaradeva. *Bhakti* movement, classification of Śaṅkaradeva's literary creations, Śaṅkaradeva's impact on culture and literature of Assam, *Vedānta* philosophy -these topics are also discussed in this part. The last as well as the sixth part of this book deals with the spread of Śaṅkarī culture, history of *Satras*, *Moāmariā* revolt, four *Samhatis*, Brahmanism and Bhaktism in Assam. In fact the first four parts of the book are related to Śaṅkaradeva's life and last two parts are about his literary, linguistic, social, political, cultural and philosophical contributions. The first four parts are narrative and last two parts are analytical.

**Bhuyan, N.C. (1949). *Mahapurush Sri Manta Sankar-Madhav***

Nabin Ch. Bhuyan's *Mahapurush Srīmantā Sankar-Madhav*, published in 1949, is a book based on the life and philosophy of Srī Śaṅkaradeva and Srī Mādhavdeva. In this book the writer provides eight articles written on both of the great saints of Assam. The writer portraits here about Śaṅkaradeva's life and greatness. The Second article describes the cult preached and propagated by Śaṅkaradeva and it is titled as 'Mahapurusiya'. The third article is named as *Mahāpuruṣar Ādyagīt*. This article is a broad description of Śaṅkaradeva's first poem *karatala kamala kamaladala nayana*. The fourth article of this book is about '*Gītā* and *Bhāgavata*'. In this article it is tried to prove why these books are the best among all holy books. This article is titled '*Śastara Uttama Gītā Bhāgvata*'. The fifth article gives an account of those foods which are not to be eaten by the people and how they affect on own body. It is titled as '*Anna Bicāra*'. The sixth article is named as '*Rasamayī Māgoho Bhakati*' and it is a useful discussion of significance and appearance of *bhakti*. The seventh article is all

about ‘*Bhāonā*’ culture in Assam and it is titled as ‘*Bhāonā svarūp*’. The eighth article is titled as ‘*Badhaipo: Mādha Bāndhab*’. This article discusses why Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavadeva were interrelated persons. The book relates Mādhavadeva’s life also.

**Barua, B.K.(1951). *A Cultural History of Assam Early Period***

*A Cultural History of Assam (Early Period)*: This unique book is based on history of Assam’s early period. This book is written in English by Birinchi Kumar Barua. He attempts to make the readers know about various unknown facts about history of early period of Assam. There are eight chapters in this book and some of the chapters are divided into sub sections. The first chapter is titled as ‘Introduction’. It is divided into two sub-sections viz. ‘Physical Background’ and ‘Early geography: Literary Tradition’. In the first chapter, the writer discusses on location and origin of Assam with reference to its people. Besides these he has provided information on ancient ‘*Prāgjyotiṣa*’ and ‘*Kāmarūpa*’. The second chapter is titled ‘A Sketch of Political History’. This chapter is all about traditional kings of Assam in early period and different families of kings such as kings of *Puṣyavarman* and *Śālāstambha* family. The third chapter is titled ‘Administration’. As the title suggests, this chapter discusses on administration system of Assam in early period. This chapter is also divided into two sub-sections and they are- ‘General Administration’ and ‘Military Organization’. The fourth chapter draws a clear picture of economic condition of Assam during early period. The land system, ownership of land, types of land revenue system, measurement of land etc. are discussed clearly in this chapter. This chapter also gives important information about agriculture, local industries, different crafts and medium

of exchange in business. The fifth chapter is a detailed account of different caste systems existed in early period of Assam. Besides, dressing style and various ornament, food habits, social institution such as '*Nāmaghar*' and '*Satra*' of Assam are discussed in this chapter. This chapter also provides information about the 'Education and Learning System of Assam'. The system of education, curriculum of educational institutions, material used to write by people of Assam and the language used as the medium of instruction are explained by the writer. The sixth chapter is titled 'Religion'. This chapter is all about different religious systems prevailed in Assam of the early period such as Śaktism, Śaivism, Vaishnavism and Buddhism. Different rituals and rites that existed in Assam are also explained by the writer. The seventh chapter is titled 'Fine Arts' and it gives an elaborate description about architecture, sculpture and iconography in three sub-sections. The book helps the researcher in writing the religious scenario of pre Śāṅkarite period.

**Neog, M. (1965). *Śāṅkaradeva and His Times Early History of Vaishnava Faith and Movement in Assam*:**

Maheswar Neog submitted this research book for his Doctor of Philosophy. *Śāṅkaradeva and His Times: Early History of Vaiṣṇava Faith and Movement in Assam* is a comprehensive reference work relevant to the detailed study of Śāṅkaradeva with his complete biographical account and appraisal of his works and contributions. This book is a detailed survey of early history of the development of *Bhakti* movement and Vaisnava faith in Assam under leadership of Śāṅkaradeva. There are twelve chapters in this book and they are titled as -1.Introduction: Material

for a Study of Śaṅkaradeva and his Times, 2. The Political Condition of the Country Anterior to and During Śaṅkaradeva's Times: His Ancestry, 3. Social and Economic Background, 4. Early History of the Vaishnava Movement, 5. Literary Works of Śaṅkaradeva, 6. The Doctrines of the Faith: the *Bhakti*- Ratnākara, 7. Śaṅkaradeva's Philosophical Views, 8. Śaṅkaradeva's Dramatic Art and Technique, 9. Vaisnava Music and Dances, 10. The Art of Manuscript Preparation and Illumination 11. Neo-Vaisnava Institutions and Practices 12. Social Implication of Śaṅkaradeva's *Bhakti* Movement.

This book clearly depicts the life and works of Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavdeva. Besides, works and role of other followers of Neo-Vaishnavism movement such as- Dāmodardeva, Vanśigopāla, Gopāladeva are also incorporated in this book. The writer has also elaborately discussed different important areas of study relating to Śaṅkaradeva and his times, such as- *Satra* Culture of Assam, historical background of Vaishnavism in Assam during Śaṅkaradeva's times. A detailed account of religious condition of the Assamese society, economic condition of Assam, cultural development in Assam, historical aspects of *Bhakti* movement in Assam- all these are treated by the author in detail. Śaṅkaradeva's contributions relating to literary, cultural, social and moral development are also explained along with his *Ek Śaraṇa Nāma Dharma* cult. Apart from these, facts about paintings and music of medieval Assam are also presented in the work.

**Sarma, S.N. (1966). *The Neo Vaishnavite Movement And The Satra Institution Of Assam* .**

*The Neo- Vaisnavite Movement and the Satra Institution of Assam*, is a thesis written by Satyendra Nath Sarma for his D.Phil degree from Gauhati University in 1955 and it was published in book form in 1966. This research work was based on *Satra* institutions and their various functions and impact in Assam. In the first chapter the author discusses about *Bhakti* movement in Assam with reference to religious, political and social condition of Assam during Śaṅkaradeva's times. Besides this, a detailed account of Śaivism, Śaktism, Tāntricism and Vaiṣṇavism is given by the author. The biography of Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavadeva is given along with the precious activities and contributions to lead the *Bhakti* movement throughout Assam. The history of *satra* and sub sections of *satra* institutions and their expansion, origin and development of *satra* institutions and their various aspects such as structure, management and location, different religious rites, rituals and practices, customs and manners existed in *satras*, dress code, food, maintenance, manners, entertainment- all these things are discussed in this chapter. *Satra's* contributions toward cultural development, educational upliftment, literary development, art and craft are also discussed in the book. The scholar has made an effort to assess contributions of *satras* in various fields of Assam such as religious, social, cultural, educational, art and craft, music etc.

**Neog, D. (1967). *Yuganāyak Śaṅkaredeva***

This book was written by Dimbeswar Neog in Assamese language. It is a scientific study of *Mahāpuruṣīyā* religion and culture. This book is the reflection of

the writer's deep research on Śaṅkaradeva's unique philosophy and religion. This book has six sections such as- *Prācyā Jagatat Dharmar Kramavikāśa*, *Uttar Bhāratat Nava Jībanar Spandan*, *Śaṅkaradevar Pracārita Dharma Nīti*, *Samāj Saṅgathanat Śaṅkaradev*, *Mahāpuruṣiyā Dharmar Bisvajānīnata*, and *Upacani*. The very first section of this book is all about comparative analysis of the greatest religions of the world including Vaiṣṇavism. The second section deals in Bhaktism propagated by Rāmānuj, Rāmānanda, and Kabīr etc. in North India along with Śaṅkaradeva's religious activities and his great creations. The third section discusses Śaṅkaradeva's Bhakti-cult, analysis of Vaisnavism in the light of *Guru Carit*, Śaṅkaradeva's *Ek Śaraṇa Nīti* and Bhaktism. The fourth section of this book tries to show Śaṅkaradeva as a social reformer. The fifth section of this book is a comparative analysis of universal characteristics in Śaṅkaradeva's Bhaktism and philosophy. The last section is the composite study of all the above subject-matters or brief description of Śaṅkaradeva and Vaiṣṇavism. Through this book the writer tries to portrait Śaṅkaradeva's leadership and contribution of the plinth of Assamese literature, society, culture, philosophy etc. So he entitled this book as *Yuganāyak Śaṅkaradeva*.

**Mahanta, C. (1973). *Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradevar Dharma Aru Paramparā*.**

*Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradevar Dharma Aru Paramparā* is a very unique book written by Chakradhar Mahanta through which he tries heartily to show how the Bhakti-cult was spread or propagated by Śaṅkaradeva which is still flowing through religious institutions in Assam. This book was written in Assamese in a very simple and lucid manner. There are seventeen chapters in this book such as-*Bhāgavat Dharmar Paramparā*, *Nārada Pūrba Janmakathan*, *Mahāpuruṣa Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva*,



*Śaraṇar Āvaśyakatā, Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradevar Śaraṇ Dān, Gurur Āvaśyakatā, Bhakti Āru Bhakta, Nām Māhātmya, Guru Paramparā, Mahāpuruṣar Dharmat Bigrahar Sthān, Śrī Mādhavdevar Divasate Matānakyar Sūtrapāt, Dharma Saṁskārar Abhijān, Saṁhati Vibhed, Dharmaguru Kulabīcār and Mahāpuruṣiā Dṛṣṭit Rāshutsava tattva.*

Through this book the writer tries to discuss each and every aspect of Śaṅkaradeva's *Mahāpuruṣiā Dharma* and its tradition. The main theme of this book is basically Bhaktism in Assam. This book is very informative for its readers regarding customs and religion of Sri Śaṅkaradeva. In this book, the writer tries to show similarities among various religions that existed- in this world. This book clearly shows the writer's potentialities, great intellectual capacity, and scientific attitude. The readers of this book no doubt will be benefitted by knowing Śaṅkaradeva's exceptional talents, qualities in different fields. His greatness makes him the greatest religious, social, cultural and spiritual leader. It is a very handy book for its readers.

**Dutta, A. (1989). *Assam Vaishnavism*:**

*Assam Vaishnavism* is actually a thesis submitted by Anima Dutta to Gauhati University for her doctoral degree in 1985. Through this book, the writer tries to give a detailed account of Lakshminath Bezbaroa's great contribution, basically to the study of Neo Vaishnavism faith of Assam propagated by Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva and his followers. Lakshminath Bezbaroa was the first person who explored Sri Śaṅkaradeva's profound contribution to the culture of Assam. The writer presents various facts as to how the glorious *Bhakti* movement of India gradually grew in Assam under the shadow of saint Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva. Śaṅkaradeva's unique religious path of his

*Nāma dharma*, his precious teachings and reformatory activities are brought to light by Lakshminath Bezbaroa for the very first time. The writer focuses on revealing Śaṅkaradeva's great contribution through Lakshminath Bezbaroa's literary contribution.

**Sarmah, K.C. (1997). *Vaiṣṇava Bhaktivāḍ –Śaṅkardev Āru Mādhavdevar Sāhitya Ālocanā*:**

*Vaiṣṇava Bhaktivāḍ –Śaṅkardeva Āru Mādhavdevar Sāhitya Ālocanā* is a critical study of Vaisnava Bhaktisim. This book is written by writer Kumud Chandra Sarmah. It is written in Assamese in a very simple manner. This book is divided into three parts according to the subject matters of study. The very first part is about historical background of Indian *Bhakti* movement, vaisnavite bhaktism and plot and general characteristics of vaisnavite literature in Assam. The second part of this book deals in literature of Śaṅkaradev including his *Bhakti-Ratnākar*, *Kīrttan-Ghoṣa*, *Borgiūt* (Devotional songs), *Bhaktipradīpa*, *Kurukṣetra*, *Nimi-Navasiddha-Sāmbād*, *Balichalana*, *Aṅkīya-Nāṭ*, *Uttarākāṇḍa* of *Rāmāyaṇa*, *Rukmiṇī Haraṇa* and *Hariścandra Upākhyāna* etc. This part of the book also discusses the impact of *Vedānta Darśana* (philosophy) in Śaṅkaradeva's writings, beauty of his literature, indigenous society, and woman characters etc. The third part of this book gives a fine explanation of Mādhavadeva's *Nāmghoṣā*, *Ratnāvalī*, *Bargīt*, *Rājasūya kāvya*, *Ādikāṇḍa* of *Rāmāyaṇa* and his *Aṅkīyā* dramas. Through this book the writer tries to explain how the great creations of saint Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavadeva became popular among all the members of Assamese society irrespective to educated and non educated people. This book also tries to bring to light about how bhaktism spread in

Assam. The writer has also discussed and analyzed about Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavadeva's creation that each and every reader can easily understand. No doubt this book is very helpful for the readers who actually want to know about Sankerdeva and Mādhavadeva's great contributions.

**Goswāmī, B.K. (1998). *Śaṅkaradevar Sandarśan*.**

This unique book was edited by Basanta Kumar Goswami and published by the Asom Sahitya Sabha. This book is based on discussion of Śaṅkaradeva's great contributions towards literature, culture, spirituality, social value and so on. A total of ten articles are there in this book. The articles in this book with their writers are as follows-*Nāṭyśāstra and Śrī Hastamuktāvalir Ādhārat Śaṅkarī Nrtyar Sthiti* of Narayan Ch. Goswami, *Śaṅkaradevar Nāt Bhāonā Pravartan āru Bibartan* of keshabananda Goswami, *Śaṅkaradevar Nāṭar Āngik āru Tāttvik Vāiśiṣṭa* of Dimbeswar Sarma, *Śaṅkaradevar Sāhityat Rasa Bichār* of Keshada Mahanta, *Bhakti Ratnākara: Eti Samikhātmak Paricaya* of Ashok Kumar Bhāgavati, *Chinhayātrār parā chitra Bhāgavatalai Abhās* of Naren Kalita, *Borgiūtār Sāṅgītik Māryadā* of Pabitraran Goswami, *Śaṅkaradevar Nisarga Chitran* of Malinee Mahanta, *Śaṅkari Gāyan Padhatir Sāstriya Baiśistya* of Baap Chandra Mahanta, *Śaṅkaradevar Sāhityat Alaṅkāra* of Prakāsh Bhāgavati, *Śaṅkaradevar Saṁskṛiti Bhāvanā* of Prodeepjyoti Mahanta, *Śaṅkaradevar Sāhityar Bhāsā* of Leelawati Saikia, *Śaṅkaradevar Sāhityat Byabohāritā Kṛyā āru Carjya gīt* of Deepti Phukan Pātgi, *Sankari Darshan : Eti Sādharan Ruprekha* of Girish Baruah *Śaṅkaradevar Carit Adhyan* of Anjali Sarma and *Channda guru Sankardev* of Mahen Bora. The writers of these articles are trying

to assess or evaluate Śaṅkaradeva's role in various fields of Assamese culture and tradition.

**Barman, S. (1999). *An Unsung Colossus: An Introduction to the Life and Works of Śaṅkaradeva***

Śaṅkaradeva was the main source behind the renaissance of *Bhakti* movement in north eastern part of India during the medieval period. His life and works are beyond imagination for everyone. But he did not get such reorganization attention outside of this part of India. Sivnath Barman, one prominent literature of Assam, has attempted sincerely to explore the life and works of the saint through his book. This book was written in English but its lucidity of words makes it easily comprehensible for general readers. This book is divided into two parts. The first part is about Śaṅkaradeva life and the second part has given a detailed account of his achievements. A total of ten chapters are there in this book. The first part has five chapters such as-i) Ancestry and the Adolescent years. ii) First steps to saintliness. iii) The preacher. iv) In the prime of life and v) Last years. The second part of this book is also consisting of five chapters, such as- i) The Ideologist of social synthesis. ii) The Dreamer of Egalitarian Utopia. Iii) The founder of new Jatue system. iv) The Luminary of Literature and culture and v) In conclusion. The writer of this book has highlighted the valuable and immense contribution of the Great saint. The writer has depicted clearly how Śaṅkaradeva tried to develop and reform each and every area of Assamese society as well as his life from his birth to death. This book is a handy one for its readers as well as for those who have extreme eagerness regarding propagation of his ideology and

philosophy. This book is a worthy one for the researchers and scholars of Śaṅkaradeva studies.

**Goswami, K.D. (2001). *Bhāratīya Paṭabhūmit ŚaṅkarīSāhitya āru Satriyā Saṅgīt*:**

This book is written by K.D. Goswami. The book is written in Assamese and the subject matter of the book is based on Śaṅkaradeva's multifaceted talents and his great contributions for the Assamese society. This book has two parts. The writer has included the following areas of discussion in the first part of the book, such as Indian national unity and cultural, literary contribution of Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavadeva, Śaṅkaradeva's *Brajāvlī* language in establishment of national unity, Śaṅkaradeva's literature, ideals of Śaṅkaradeva in Assam's social structure etc. In this part the writer thoroughly discussed how Śaṅkaradeva tried to unite the people of Assam through religion, literature and culture.

The second part is all about Śaṅkari Music. In this part the writer again gives a valuable account of Satriyā Sangīta and *Satriyā* dance, and classical background of *Satriyā* dance form and music, various moments of *Satriyā* dance, different aspects of *Bargīt*, role and contribution of Mādhavadeva regarding *Satriyā Saṅgīt* (music), Plays of Śaṅkaradeva, folk culture of Assam etc. The main theme of second part is *Satriyā* Nritya (Dance) and songs. In the last chapter of this book the writer tries to give two concepts relating Śaṅkaradeva's place of birth. This book is very important and informative regarding Śaṅkaradeva studies. The readers of this book will be very much benefitted by knowing various things about Śaṅkaradeva's contribution.

**Pathak, D. and Rajbangshi B. (2000). *Bhakti Movement and Srimanta Śaṅkaradeva***

This book is very important piece of literary work edited by Dr. Dayananda Pathak and Baikuntha Rajbangshi relating to the Bhakti Movement in Assam and the propagator Śaṅkaradeva. This book is a collection of various articles of famous writers of Assam as well as England based on Śaṅkaradeva studies. Preface of this book entitled of ‘Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva: The great master’ gives a clear picture about the contents or subject matters of the book. The first chapter of this book was written by a foreigner Capt. E.T.Dalton. The other writers of the articles are Maheswar Neog, Hari Prasad Chaliha, Dhruvananda Das, Amalendu Chakraborty, Bishnu Charan Das etc. These articles are mainly based on philosophical aspects of Neo Vaiṣṇavism propagated by Śrī Śaṅkaradeva in Assam. This book provides a deep analysis of Śaṅkaradeva’s great role and contribution regarding Bhakti movement in Assam and propagation of his new *bhakti* cult ‘Neo Vaiṣṇavism’. Ashok Kumar Goswami, Bhaba Prasad Chaliha, Ram Charan Thakuria, Jogen Bayan, Malinee Goswami, Pranati Sarma Goswami, Dinkar Vithal Katre, Abha Ayengar, Prabhat Chandra Das and Dayananda Pathak have also added some important subjects related to bhaktimovement in Assam. Dr. Dayananda Pathak and Baikuntha Rajbangshi have tried to give the readers valuable analytical information through this book collecting and compiling various topics of the scholar mentioned above. This book is also informative for the readers of Śaṅkaradeva studies.

**Borkakoti, S.K. (2008). *Saint Srimanta Śaṅkaradeva***

*Saint Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva* is a work in English written by Dr. Sanjib Borkakoti. This book is based on life (biography) of the saint. The writer has made

painstaking effort to write this book with a noble mission to introduce *Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva* to the large community of the world. This book portrays Śaṅkaradeva's life in a very simple and lucid manner for those who indeed want to know about the saint and his contributions towards the Assamese society. This book consists of thirteen chapters. The very first chapter is all about Śaṅkaradeva's birth and childhood. The second chapter describes how Śaṅkaradeva became a preceptor of a new bhakti cult i.e. Neo- Vaiṣṇavism. The third chapter deals with the historic meeting between Śaṅkaradeva and Jagdish Mishra. Again the fourth chapter gives a detailed account of meeting of Śaṅkaradeva and Mādhavadeva which is known as *Manikānchan Samjyog*. Thereafter, various incidents relating to the great saint such as his pilgrimages, how he spent his days in Pābāusī, his prominent disciples and the way they carried forward his legacy, the very hard times of his life and the way he overcame them and his last day of his life. It was a very challenging task for the writer to provide factual details about the saint but the writer sincerely maintains that dignity and created this book. This book is very informative for the readers and it will definitely motivate the young as well as all the other readers to know more about the greatest saint of Assam.

**Pathak, D.(2009).*Srimanta Śaṅkaradeva The Great Master***

It is a very important and unique book on Śaṅkaradeva studies inscribed by Dayananda Pathak. This book is written in English language to make it available for all kinds of readers. Simplicity and lucidity in writing the book and exploring about Śaṅkaradeva, the great master, are the basic characteristics of this book. The history of medieval Assam cannot be imagined without Śaṅkaradeva's contributions. Śaṅkaradeva reformed the Assamese society and developed socio-religious condition

from its worse state and gave a new direction and dimension to it. Through this book the writer tries his best to provide information about Sankaadeva's life and family background, social, political, religious and cultural condition of Assam. This book gives a detailed account of Śāṅkaradeva's literary contribution to the Assamese culture and his great creation 'Devotional Songs'. There are nine chapters including the 'Introduction' in this book. The very first chapter is the introduction of the book. This chapter is a vast one that by reading which one can understand the basic subject matters of which this book. The second chapter describes the political situation of Assam of that time and its impact on the people and Śāṅkaradeva. This chapter is titled as 'The political Perspective'. The third chapter titled as 'The religious Scenario' is about religious condition of Assam of Śāṅkaradeva's time. This chapter gives the actual picture of religion of Assam of that time and how Śāṅkaradeva tried to reform it. The fourth chapter titled as 'The Genealogy of Śāṅkaradeva' is all about record of Śāṅkaradeva's family tree. The fifth chapter gives a clear account of Śāṅkaradeva's life from his birth to manhood. It is titled as 'Birth to Childhood to manhood'. The sixth chapter is about how Śāṅkaradeva propagated his new religious philosophy *Ek Śaraṇa Nāma Dharma* through his theatrical plays. The seventh chapter of this book describes Śāṅkaradeva's great literary works. His literary creations and contribution are discussed clearly by the writer in this chapter which is titled as 'Literary Masterstrokes'. The eighth chapter titled as *Bargīt*, the Devotional Songs' is about noble songs created and composed by the great saint to worship God. The beauty of these songs, significance and elements of these devotional songs are clearly treated by the writer. The last chapter is titled as 'The concluding Remarks' deals with the



significance and role of Śaṅkaradeva. It is clear that the writer makes a careful effort to introduce Śaṅkaradeva and to bring his great contributions to the light of readers. This book is very important and informative for all who have deep desire to carry forward Śaṅkaradeva studies.

**Das. P.(2009): *Śaṅkari Saṁskṛtir Darśan***

It is a very important book relating to Śaṅkaradeva studies. This book was written by Phanibhushan Das in Assamese language. The main purpose of this book is to assess Śaṅkaradeva's contribution in different fields from various angles. There are twenty chapters in this book. Discussion on philosophy is the Main theme in many chapters. There are nine chapters on such varied topics as *Bhakti*, Mokṣa, Kurma, Avatār (Devotion, salvation, Duty, Incarnation), three chapters are on literature and four chapters are on society and unity. Through this book the writer tries to explain the impact of religion on the process of culture and life of human as element of culture. This book has clearly depicted Śaṅkaradeva's attitude towards women, dignity of works, religious role of *Satras* and *Nāmaghars* in social contract and development, democratic philosophy of Śaṅkaradeva, life and beyond life of human being, background of neo Vaishnavism, Śaṅkaradeva and nationalism, Bhaktism according to Śaṅkaradeva, creation of Śaṅkaradeva and so on. This book is a very helpful and informative for the readers of Śaṅkaradeva studies. A very critical analysis relating to Śaṅkaradeva's works and contribution is found in this book. This book also gives a very important discussion on Śaṅkaradeva as a master of culture and the discussion is

based on Jyotiprasad Agarwala's point of view. Indeed it is a very worthy book without any doubt.

**Chambers Of Commerce. (2010).*Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva: Jātīya Saṁhatir Bāhak***

The 'Chambers of Commerce' has published the book *Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva: Jātīya Saṁhatir Bāhak* is a book edited by Jayanta Kumar Deka. Multifaceted contribution of Śaṅkaradeva has been discussed in this book. There are twenty nine numbers of English articles and eighteen numbers of Assamese articles of various great writers. This book gives a clear account of *Śaṅkarī Sāhitya* (literature), religion and culture. This edition would help the readers and researchers to know about Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva and his contributions, role, greatness and Neo -Vaishnavism.

**Phukon.B.(2010). *Srīmanta Śaṅkaradeva: Vaishnava Saint of Assam:***

This book has been written by Dr. Bimal Phukan. It is like a milestone in the field of Śaṅkaradeva studies. The writer has written this book very systematically and in an organized way to provide analytical knowledge relating to Śaṅkaradeva. This book is divided into three sections viz. – Life and times, His legacy and The Curtain Comes Down. The chapters of the book are titled as-Birth, Ancestors, Assam on its over His times, First pilgrimage, Return home, Fruit in full flower, Homeless, Homeless once more, Migration to Koch Kingdom, literary works, Religious institutions, *Nāmghar*, *Satra*, *Bargīt*, *Aṅkīyā Nāṭ* or *Bhāonā*, *Satriyā* dance, *Bṛndāvani Bastra* etc. Contributions and impact of Śaṅkaradeva in various fields including *Nāmghar*, *Manikut*, Silk of Assam, Musical instrument, his literary works,

*Nāmprasaṅga*, *Prasād* distribution, *Thāponā*, old manuscripts on *Sanchipāt* and many more subjects are discussed here.

**Das P.C. (2011) *Dr. W.L. Smith on Śaṅkaradeva***

*Dr. W.L. Smith on Śaṅkaradeva* is a collection of different research papers. It is done by Dr. W.L. Smith. Dr. W.L. Smith was a Professor of Indology, University Stockholm, Sweden. This book is consisting of two research papers of Dr. W.L. Smith on *Śaṅkaradeva*. One is ‘A look at the vocabulary of Śaṅkaradeva’s plays’ and other is ‘Borgit Glossary’. After coming to Assam for his research in 1978, the writer came to know about the great saint Śaṅkaradeva. He was attracted and motivated by Śaṅkaradeva’s outstanding contributions. This book of W.L. Smith gives a clear account of Śaṅkaradeva’s unique literary and linguistic contribution for Assamese society. After reading this book readers can acquire deep knowledge about the *Vrajāvali* language used by Śaṅkaradeva in his plays. Moreover, this book also gives a detailed account of devotional (noble) songs.

**Mahanta, N. (2011). *Śaṅkaradeva Cintā āru Anyānya***

In *Śaṅkaradev Cintā āru Anyānya*, Dr. Nirupama Mahanta depicts Saint Śaṅkaradeva’s multifaceted talents, his great contributions to the masses, significance and importance of his great contributions etc. There are eighteen articles in this book. The first article is titled as *Sarbabhārātīya Paṭabhūmit Śaṅkaradevar Bhakti Āndolanar Nandanik Svarūp* and it is all about how Śaṅkaradeva has made human life significant.

The second chapter named *Jātīya Sampṛti Sāadhan āru Mānavatā Uttaranat Śrī Manta Śaṅkardev* has discussed the failure of *Bhakti* movement. The third article is an explanation about *Mahāpuruṣiā Nāmdharma* and its significance. This article is named as *Bolaho Rām Nānese Mukuti Nidāna*. In the fourth article, *Śaṅkaradevar Nāṭar Nārī Caritra*, the writer explains the importance of woman characters in his drama (Nāt) from *Patnī Prasād* to *Rāmvijaya*. The fifth chapter of this book is a clear account of social institution before Śaṅkaradeva and the institutions created by Śaṅkaradeva. This article is titled as *Ādarśa Bhittik Dharma, Sāmājīk āru Saṁskṛtik Anusthān*. The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth articles in this book have given a detailed discussion about *Ankīyā Nāṭ* and its various elements as well as its significances. These articles are respectively titled as- *Śaṅkaradevar Nāṭya cintār Samparīkṣya Chinchayātra*, *Bhāonār Gāyan Bāyan*, *Asamar Paramporāgata Nāṭyanusthan*, *Ankīyā Nāṭ: Gīt, Nṛitya, Bādyā, Bhāonār paribēśan Rīti*. The eleventh article discusses about the role and responsibilities of socio- cultural organizations and it is titled as *Saṁskṛtik sansthā samuhar dāyitva āru kartavya*. Again the twelfth and thirteenth articles have given information about Śaṅkaradeva's drāmas (Nāt). These articles are named as *Bhāonār ādarśa: Chu Mukha, Rupsajjā* and *Satriyā Nṛtya and Sastriyā Svarup*. *Nava Prajanmar Naitik uttaranat ādhyāmik sikṣā'* -this article has emphasized on reformation of youth through spiritual education. The following articles are titled as: *Buranjī Bibek Ratnar Drishtire Satra paramporā* is a detailed explanation about 'Satra' culture in Assam. The next articles named as *Āhomyugar Dharmīya Sanghat āru Rājtantrat iyār prabhāb* is about religious activities of *Āhoms*, entry of Hindu

religion in *Āhom* culture and fight against Vaishnavite tradition. This book is very informative and worthy relating to Śaṅkaradeva studies.

**Pathak, D. (2012). *Beautiful Mind of Srīmanta Sankaradeva*:**

Dr. Dayananda Pathak in his book *Beautiful Mind of Srīmanta Sankaradeva* discusses about the life and works of saint Śaṅkaradeva. The very first chapter of this book is its introduction which describes growth and development of *Bhakti* cult under blessing of Śaṅkaradeva in Assam. The book also discusses about various writings on Śaṅkaradeva's life including 'Charitputhis'. Moreover the childhood period of Śaṅkaradeva, his difficult times, and his great contributions for well being of Assamese society, his painful periods, his great and immortal composition or literary works, *Satra* culture etc. are also discussed thoroughly.

**Nath, D. Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva: Sāhitya, Kala āru Darśan**

Historical and factual evaluation of Śrīmanta Śaṅkaradeva's creations is a very challenging task. This book is an example of such endeavour of Dr. Dhrubajyoti Nath. This book is edited by Dr. Dhrubajyoti Nath and it is book is a collection of fifty four seminar papers presented on a seminar organized by Department the of Śaṅkaradeva Studies at Swahid Pioli Phukan College, Assam. This book is divided into six sections such as- *Bhāṣā āru Sāhitya*, *Dharma āru Darśan*, *Sukumār kalā āru Parivesh kalā*, *Tulonāmulak Adhayan*, *Samāj āru Saṁskṛti Biśayak* and *Sāhityat Śaṅkaradeva*.

There are twenty three numbers of seminar papers in the very first section of this book named as *Bhāṣā āru Sāhitya*. The seminar papers included in this section have tried to explore Śaṅkaradeva's great contribution in the field of Assamese

language and literature. Here the presenters have discussed about the unique folk language used by Śāṅkaradeva in his writings, along with various elements of that language. Beside it they have also discussed about various *Nāts* (dramas) written by Śāṅkaradeva. The second section of this book titled as *Dharma āru Darśan*. Eight numbers of seminar papers are there in this section. Philosophical principles and ideology of Śāṅkaradeva are discussed by the presenters here. Significance of *Nāmghar* and humanism of his religious philosophy and other aspects are also analyzed.

The third section of this book in this book is titled as ‘Sukumār kalā and Parivesh Kalā’. This section in this book has discussed Śāṅkaradeva’s creation of art and craft. The fourth section is named as *Tulanāmulak Adhyan*. The fifth section is titled *Samāj āru Saṁskṛti*. As the title suggests, the presenter has discussed here Śāṅkaradeva’s contribution towards Assamese society and culture. Besides these, various elements of society and culture of Assam are also discussed here.

The sixth and last section of this book is titled ‘Sahityat Śāṅkaradeva’. This section has given a detailed account of Śāṅkaradeva’s literary creation. This book is indeed a very informative book relating to Śāṅkaradeva studies. This book is a great source of knowledge on Śāṅkaradeva, the greatest saint of Assam.

From the above discussion, it can be stated that various prominent author have already discussed on Śāṅkaradeva and his different works on various disciplines. Sankaradeva and his literary and cultural productions, his philosophy are been extensively discussed in the books either in vernacular language or in others. But significantly no detail discussion is found focusing Śāṅkaradeva as a proper mass

communicator. Moreover, no book has discussed his literary and cultural productions as effective media of mass communication during the contemporary society. The researcher has not found anywhere how has Śāṅkaradeva created a systematic process to communicate with the masses for transmission of his socio religious messages and teachings.