

Bhanita Boro

Current Organisation:
Associate Researcher, CivicDataLab

Role at CEGIS:
Program Associate

Duration of time at CEGIS:
1 year 8 months





What **inspired** you to **join** CEGIS? What **drew** you to its **mission**?

During my master's studies, I frequently envisioned the possibility of working at the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). The Program Associate position at BTC offered the experiences I sought, including conducting research, collaborating with government officials, and most importantly, working at the BTC Secretariat. Thus, in 2022, I joined CEGIS as a Program Associate, making this my first professional role.

The mission of CEGIS—to improve lives by supporting state governments in achieving better development outcomes—strongly resonated with my values. As a Program Associate, I had the opportunity to engage in thorough research, work hand-in-hand with government stakeholders, and contribute to policy implementation at the BTC Secretariat. This experience allowed me to translate policy insights into actionable strategies that made a tangible difference in local development.



How did your **experience** at CEGIS **contribute** to your professional and personal **journey**?

Working at CEGIS provided me with invaluable exposure to the intricacies of public policy and governance. Engaging with stakeholders at various levels taught me how to navigate complex administrative systems. The collaborative nature of the job enhanced my communication skills, especially when leading initiatives or facilitating workshops for capacity building within government departments. These experiences were instrumental in building my confidence as a professional capable of driving development projects with measurable impact.

On a personal level, my time at CEGIS reinforced my commitment to making a difference in underrepresented communities. It deepened my understanding of the systemic barriers regions like BTC face and strengthened my resolve to contribute solutions that prioritize equity and sustainable growth. The role allowed me to connect my background with my work, ensuring that my career remained rooted in advocating for social progress and community development.

Was there a project/intervention/ experience at CEGIS that made a **lasting impression** on you?

At CEGIS, one of my most impactful experiences was leading a pilot program within the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) to streamline Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) registers. This initiative involved collaborating with government officials, Anganwadi workers, and community members to identify challenges and implement effective solutions. I trained around 1,500 Anganwadi workers and 75 supervisors, strengthening their service delivery skills, and mentored a team of five BTR block fellows, enhancing my leadership and mentoring abilities. This project highlighted the power of data-driven policy and collaborative efforts in achieving meaningful outcomes, solidifying my passion for evidence-based development.



*In front of the Secretariat.
My very first office space*

What are you most **proud** of regarding your **time** at CEGIS?

I am most proud of my contribution to the pilot program within the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) that aimed to streamline the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) registers. This project not only allowed me to work directly on improving essential public services but also allowed me to train and empower over 1,500 Anganwadi workers and 75 supervisors. The impact of this initiative, particularly in terms of enhancing service delivery and capacity building, was incredibly rewarding. Leading this project also helped me grow as a leader and mentor, as I guided a team of BTR block fellows through data collection processes and stakeholder engagement.



Entire team outing at Raimona Sanctuary