The photo essays are a series of self-reflexive pieces that have been written as a reply to the trolls I face as a Tribal Woman who is an ethnic and racial minority in this country. I had faced numerous trolls for speaking out as a tribal woman asserting herself in the online spaces. The constant dilemma of whether or not to engage with the trolls would censor my thoughts and expression. But here I attempt to draw an auto-ethnographic account of my experience that I endure as I engage with the online space.

The first poem explores the relationship between merit and reservation. I reply with my selection in the general category for my post graduation degree. Would I be called meritorious now? Merit is a myth I ask.

Mainland Indian’s see tribals from the North Eastern region as second-class citizens living on government subsidies. Whereas in reality, we tribals have been the victims of waves of colonialism. Our resources are being misused, our land being exploited. Yet, the oppressor wonders why the government pays the subsidy. It is also where the ideas of race, merit and nationality intersect. The poems engage with the trolls that question the above.

Being a woman from the periphery, it becomes my primary duty to constantly prove my nationality as we are considered less Indian. In the last poem I engage with those who question my nationality, my indianness. In doing so, I remember and take courage from my ancestors to fight against all forces of colonialism and oppression.
THE QUESTION OF MERIT

What is Merit?
Why was I questioned on my merits?
Can I be considered meritorious?
Or it is restricted to the unreserved section.
My abilities were considered in parts.
And my existence was denied as a whole.
Will I ever be a complete individual

Replying to @HChrips and @SurajKrBauddh
u guys don't have guts to qualify competitive exams under UR category 😂😂😂
Is Social capital a Myth?
Is Cultural capital a Myth?
Is Educational capital a Myth?
Is Agency a Myth?
Your capital lies in your Inheritance
My Capital lies in my Experience

MERIT IS A MYTH.
TRIBAL AND SUBSIDY

Why are we seen as the synonym for subsidies?
The subsidies are not even a reparation, for the exploitation of our Jal Jungle Jameen.
Subsidized Education is better anyday rather than Subsidized lived experiences in every way!
I'M INDIAN

One says I belong to the Indian Race
Another says I'm not an Indian.
Why label us?
My ancestors fought the Anglo-Abor war.
We don’t accept your exonym.
I'm the descendant of freedom fighters
Firstly and lastly, I'm an Indian.