



Women Empowerment and Economic Development of Women in Darrang District of Assam

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Abstract-

To change some social norms and beliefs which going on for a very long time in rural areas against women empowerment of women is very important for current societies. Working and non-working women both has their different status on the society where working women and those who earns get extra treatment than non-earning women. Also in household if a women is earning her decision is matters but when a women is not working her decision is not get asked by other members. In this paper women empowerment of Darrang district will be highlighted. Factor helping women to upgrade in a society and how they find their way of income to economically develop. What are the role of their family, neighbor and society to involve a women in economic upliftment are the major field of discussion. Role of other women in economic development of a woman is also important part of discussion in this paper. Role of Self-help groups in the field of economic development of women living in Darrang district will also include in this paper. How education can be another factor for development of women will discuss in this paper.

Key words-

Women Empowerment, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Economic Development, Higher Education, Darrang District.

I. Introduction-

Darrang district of Assam is located in north bank of Brahmaputra river. Darrang district is very backward in compared to other districts of Assam. By infrastructure, development, industries, roads Darrang district is still backward. In terms of education of women most of them marries before passing hslc examination. Therefore, they have to engage in household works like cooking, childcare, washing cloths and other household works for family members and this is an unpaid labor. They could not the chance to empower themselves because of school dropout, household responsibilities and poor

educational marks. For development of a society or a region both men and women should empower themselves. Most of the women are seen engaging in crop field without getting paid. Women who are associated with SHGs are finding the way of empowering themselves they involve themselves in waving cloths, animal husbandry, farming, fisheries, small shops etc. are mainly noticeable. Now a days, some government registered SHGs are getting loan from banks in a low interest and after getting loans SHG members investing the loan amount to their profitable work they are doing for earning. SRLM and CLF members are sometime helping women to get loan and provide training for emerging new new ideas for starting their entrepreneurship. By making pickle, cloths, traditional snacks women selling in trade fairs and expo which helps in the time of Assamese main festival Bihu. Some government schemes like lakhpati baidew, amrit brikhya, anunudoi asoni etc are for engaging women to doing work for them as they get profit by getting some amount from government for participation. Arunudoi asoni is a scheme where women get monthly 1200 rupee from government. These are some examples how government engaging rural non-working women in the field of earning and changing toward economic development in women. When women involve themselves in earning their children are more likely to get higher education and their family income grows which helps in global economic development index. Rural women's economic participation promotes agricultural productivity, entrepreneurship, small scall businesses. Women invest their income to their family and children while society get benefit by working women because they encourage others by guiding the path for success. Women face some societal barriers in rural areas. In working sector also some women face gender discrimination, molestation, not equally paid for equal work. Despite of all these problems women are working and developing in economic sector globally.



Objectives-

1. To find out factors helping women to economic development.
2. Benefit of economic development among women.

II. Methodology-

Both Primary and secondary methods are applied for this research paper. Primary data are collected from visiting field study of village of Darrang district and selected 20 women as respondents from Bamunpara village under Pachim Mangaldoi Development Block of Darrang District of Assam. While secondary methods of data are collected from reading books, articles, research journals, google Wikipedia, newspapers etc.

Summary and Discussion-

Women empowerment and economically stable can refer to a modern society where men and women are equally participates in earning by letting go of a traditional societal norms like earning is not for women as they had to work on households and men always being the only earning person to running their family. A society will not call an ideal society where women and men all are equally participate in development. As we can see Indian context of women participation North-East reason is way more upgrade than other parts of the country of engagement of women in economic development and empowerment.

Factors helping rural Women for Economically develop are-

Higher Education: Higher education is the solution for removing poverty and economically engagement of people. To empowerment of women higher education is important. Higher education can solve economic problems because highly educated women always get involves in economically stable. Higher education build confidence among women to do outdoor activities and get opportunity to proof themselves as a responsible citizen of the society. Getting higher education means overcoming shyness. In decision making higher educated women get chance to present their point of view while uneducated women could not get a chance to talk about something. In public as well as household educated women's decision matters.

Earning: When a woman engage herself in earning she gets the higher status. Economic development can lead from the thing when regular earning comes. When women stated earning people's mindset towards her changes and in society she get respect as working women. Involvement in earning by doing

government or private sector job or business earning makes a women stronger in her own eyes too. She can buy herself whatever she wants by her own without asking anyone. Can also helps her family members economically and contributes in their children's education.

Self-Empowered: I recent time where internet and connectivity are very strong also in remote areas some women involved themselves in online product selling like cloths, cosmetics, bags, earnings, food items etc. being popular among women to getting in process of economic development and self-empowered. Some women make cakes for birthday, anniversary and other events and sells in rural areas by getting order online. Internet helping women to get self-empowered and earning which leading a society to economically develop.

SHGs: Self-help groups are helping women to empower by associating rural non-working women and get a platform to earn and knowing about the scheme government introduced for women. By involving in SHGs women getting loans from banks and micro finance banks by which they can involve themselves in economically profitable activities by doing waving, animal husbandry, farming either as a group or individually. Sometimes they get some free training by government and non-government organizations for improving their works and getting new ideas for economic development.

Saturday Women Market (Mahila Bazar): In Mangaldoi town of Darrang district every Saturday a women market sits when Saturday is weekly holiday for Mangaldoi town area. Women can sell their items like cloths, mode made food items like pickles, snacks, sweets, vegetables, and other essential things. This is a opportunity for women to get profit that day while the main market is close that day. Everyone shops from them and this a very great step taking by Mangaldoi town committee to taking steps towards women to get empowered. In this market women vendors from rural areas can mostly come. This is helping women from Darrang district economically uplift.

Socio-economic analysis of women in Darrang-

For conducting this research work researcher has visited a village called Bamunpara under Darrang district to analysis of economic condition of 20 women collected some information. Women are active economically by waving cloths like mekhela-sador, gamusa, hankey and they sell them in market and gets some orders by online. Animal husbandry and farming are also income source for them and get profit by small scale



EDUCATION	NO OF WOMEN	EARNING BY	NO OF WOMEN	YEARLY INCOME	NO OF WOMEN	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	NO OF WOMEN
BA	1	WAVING	11	1,00,000	0	RURAL	20
HS	2	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	5	80,000	2	URBAN	0
HSLC	7	FARMING	4	50,000	4		
HIGH SCHOOL	7	FISHERY	0	30,000	13		
ILLITERATE	3	SHOP	0	20,000	1		
TOTAL	20	TOTAL	20	TOTAL	20	TOTAL	20

Source- Data collection during field study

After the field survey among 20 women respondents from Bamunpara village of Darrang district basic education qualification among women are categories while 17 women are educated but 3 illiterates found but they are also earning by being a SHG member. While yearly income differs from each other but they are earning. Geographical location is rural. They earning from waving cloths and sells them in market and use by herself, animal husbandry for cow milk, egg, duck etc. for sells, growing vegetables and sells them in the market. This is the scenario of village women from Darrang district and this is how they involves in economic development process.

Benefit of economic development of women-

Decision making- Being self-indecient of women helps decision making process easier and others respects their opinion.

Gaining self-confidence- When a woman being involved in economic development or earning her confidence gains as she feels proud of earning for her own and for her family.

Helping family economically- By involvement of economic activities a woman helps her family by contributing some amount as monthly expanses as well as for their children's education.

Social development- Economic development of women also contributes in social development process by proving herself. When in a society both man and woman are involved in earning therefore and society will also economically develop.

Encourage others- Empowered women always tries to empower other women by finding ways for them involve in economic activities.

Status gaining- When we compare working and non-working women then working women's status in always get upper position than non-working women who only does household works and not participate in other social activities.

Entrepreneurship- Village women promotes entrepreneurship by engaging themselves in small scale businesses. By starting business like waving, pickle making, sweets making, jam making, cake making, animal husbandry village women sets role model for new generation to start entrepreneurship by engaging themselves from small scale businesses.

III. Findings

After the discussion of women and their involvement in economic development some major findings are as follows-

1. Women who involve themselves in economic activities live more prestigious life in society than other who only do household unpaid jobs.
2. When economic development of women will emerge in a society the social development will be possible.
3. Economic development of women will also economically develop a nation.
4. Higher education is important among women for their empowerment.
5. When a woman earns her status in socially as well as in household make changes.
6. Empowered women encourage other women to get in empowered by starting small step towards economic activity.
7. It does not matter when a women start earning what amount they are earning. Its just the fact they are earning which makes her empowered women.
8. Government launching schemes for empowering women by giving low interest loans by which they can start their own small business
9. SHGs helping women to get empowered and involve in economic development.
10. Internet also helping women to starting some online businesses like selling products.



11. Waving, farming and animal husbandry are main source of income of women in rural areas.
12. Out of 20 women from the survey 17 literate and 3 illiterate women found but they all are economically active.
13. They found changes in themselves after started earning.
14. Women build self-confidence after started earning by small amount.
15. When women earns, their family grows too in financially as well as intellectually.

IV. Conclusion

After the discussion of women and their economic development we can conclude here that when women involves in economic sector and earning they can change how people treat women before. Highly educated women get respect in social field. In household also a women's decision matters when she contributed in monthly expanses of her family. Working women's children don't have to drop out their education because of financial problem. Women contributed in economic index of a country by developing economic sectors not only government jobs but from doing small scale businesses and promote entrepreneurship.

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