



HIGHER EDUCATION IS A CHALLENGES FOR THE WOMEN ON TEA GARDEN AREAS : A STUDY ON BORHAT TEA STATE IN CHARAIDEO DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Article History:Received: 18.04.2023

Revised:07.05.2023

Accepted: 16.06.2023

Abstract: Education provides every individual with knowledge, skills, and abilities that enable personal growth and development. Education is the vehicle through which one can achieve success in life. Education empowers individuals by expanding their understanding of the world, increasing their confidence, and enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It gives people the ability to question, analyze, and evaluate information, fostering independent and informed decision-making. Education is closely linked to economic prosperity. It equips individuals with the skills and knowledge required to participate in the workforce effectively. In tea garden areas in Assam women education still a concern subject. More than 800 recognized tea estates run all over Assam and it include more than 7 million of total population of the state. Women in these tea garden areas still not capable to get proper education for their individual development. Women in tea garden areas victim socially, politically, economically and they not get the education for their social as well as personal development. Here an attempt to analysis women education in tea garden areas in Assam.

Key words: Education, Women, Tea Garden, Decision making

DOI: 10.48047/ecb/2023.12.si12.165

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary times, education is considered as one of the most important factors all around development for every individual. Education provides skill and knowledge to every individual for increasing their confidences, right, thinking to being success and independent social as well as their personal life. Education is not only important for individual but also the social development as a whole. Nowadays, the value of women's education is growing day by day. It is not only important to educate girls and women, but also it is essential to grant them with basic facilities. In developing countries, the literacy rate of women is low as compared to men. According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate of Indian women was 64.6%. This number is quite low as compared to the literacy rate of men, which is 80.9%. In Assam until December 2022 women literary rate is 66.27 percent as per latest population census.

Women education percentage in tea estate areas is lower than rural areas of Assam. The tea garden workers live in a different habit than ours and they have a very little societal interaction with the outer world. In tea garden areas, women considered the best pluckers and the most productive labour. It is sad that a large section of these women tea plantation workers are illiterate. Women education not given importance by the tea garden society in these areas and since their very early ages girl child recognized as labour for their family as well as tea garden companies. Also the lack of school education and lack of awerness among the tea garden communities cause for women education in tea garden area. According to the 2023 census report, female tertiary education percent in tea garden areas only 1.25 percent.

OBJECTIVE

1. To examine the women education status in tea garden areas of Assam.
2. To highlight the various obstacle for women higher education in tea garden areas.
3. To analysis various government approaches for increasing women education in tea garden areas.

METHODOLOGY

In order to fulfill the objectives of the study data has been collected from the Borhat Tea Estate in Charaideo district. The descriptive and analytical methods also used for understanding the existing higher status in tea garden areas. The secondary data also used to find out social cause for women higher education in tea garden areas. the secondary mainly collected from Books, Journals, Government reports, Census data.

Analysis

Women education is very important for the development of a country. It is necessary to provide girls and women with proper resources so that they can get educated. Girls and women have the potential to contribute to the economic development of their countries. They can also play an important role in the development of their families. Despite education is a fundamental right of every Indian girl as per the 'Right To Education Act 2009' women are not able to get their minimum education in tea garden areas. Among the tea garden communities women are signify as the most potential labour in tea industry. Women face numbers of problem to complete their education in tea garden areas. Among the tea garden parents think that the girl child is like burden for their family. They prefer male child education instead of girl's child education, the number reasons for such mentality among the tea garden workers, one of main cause to prefer male child education is that among the tea garden community they believed in hindu religion. According to the Hinduism salvation which means Mokhsa prapti is the main aim of human life these can only given by male person so that prefer male education instead of women education.

In Borhat Tea Estate areas most the tea garden families women dropout after completing their primary education because of lack of proper number of high school in that areas. In Borhat Tea Estate area 3556 number population from the age of 5 years to 25 years, for these large number of population only three government high school within 5 kilometers. All the families working as daily labour in Borhat Tea Estate, their economic condition is not well to give proper facility to complete their child education. Most of the families live below poverty line, poverty and low economic condition is the main cause of women education in tea garden areas.

Tea garden communities in Assam inhabited in remoteness and scattered areas, Tea tribe communities student travel long distances to attend schools and college. During rainy season roads are submerged with flood, hence it became very difficult for them to attend school and college. According to respondent only one college situated for 52 revenue villages in Borhat. Also the lack of science and commerce education within in their areas the dropout higher as compared to the other areas.

The early marriage is the most prevalent custom in Tea garden areas, which is also considered as obstacle to women's educational achievement. In Borhat tea garden 55 women respondent express that they suffered early marring that the reason that's why women unable to complete their education. Families create pressure over the young lady to marry someone. One of respondent Maini Kujur expresses her opinion about her story, she stated that she got selected to study master degree (MA) in department of English in Dibrugarh University but due to her family pressure and economic condition she can't go for higher study.

The dropout rate in schools is the highest in Assam, at both primary and secondary levels. The dropout rate in Assam at primary level was 10.1% in 2017-18 followed by Arunachal Pradesh(8.1), Mizoram(8), Uttar Pradesh(8) and Tamil Nadu(5.9) At secondary level, Assam's dropout rate was 33.7% followed by Bihar(32), Odisha(28.3), Tripura(27.2) and Karnataka(24.3). At the secondary level too, the dropout rates

were highest in Assam at 33.7% between 2017-18 followed by Bihar, Odisha, Tripura, and Karnataka. Lack of infrastructure and trained teacher government institution has highest number of student dropouts. In Borhat Tea Estate areas the 45 women respondent said they don't get minimum facility like drinking water, irregular of mid day meal, lack of proper number of desk-bench, road transportation etc, which can be also the barrier for women education among the tea garden community.

Government Policy towards increasing women education in Assam

Women higher education play a very important role in the overall development of the society. it not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home as well the society as a whole. Government of India and State government takes numbers of policy and implementing act for increasing women higher education all over country. Assam government provides special facility to the tea garden women. Recently government of Assam announces 219 government model high school only in tea garden areas and government declared that Assam government stated model college contraction in tea garden areas. This will be major steps towards increasing women education in Assam as whole. Assam government also started 11 new women college all over Assam which will create a major steps for women higher education in Assam.

Government of Assam also gives special reservation for tea garden communities in college and universities all over Assam. Government also provides scholarship for tea garden community student during their higher studies. According to the school and college authorities near Borhat Tea garden areas when government provides free education for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in higher education the percentage of women candidates increase specially from tea garden communities candidates admission percentages increases. Also Assam government provides free scooter to girl student who have passed the secondary exams in the first division. All these steps help towards the increasing the women education in Assam. in last couple of years government take serious policy and implementing those policy specially education among the tea garden communities.

Government of India as well as Assam government start establish primary school within 1km and within 3km upper primary which grate step towards increasing women education. Also government provide free tax books and uniform for both boys and girls, such steps great relive for the below poverty line (BPL) families. Besides all these government start skill and technical education only for girls, such new course empower women and independent status in society. In that ways government takes numbers of steps towards increasing women education in higher studies all over Assam. In last couple of years women education in Borhat Tea Garden areas increase which will great for the tea garden communities families as a whole society.

CONCLUSION

Education is the process of forming and strengthening a person's body, mind and character. It is the bringing together of the head, heart, and mind, Allowing a person to develop an all around personality that recognizes the best in him or her. Education is the basic necessity of human life in contemporary world. In the time when women have made an entrance to outer space, it is really a sorry state of affairs for women from tea tribes who parents treaty them as not more than liabilities or as burden, thereby depriving them even with the minimal education. The higher education is not more than dream for themselves. Government and society as a whole should takes steps towards promoting higher education among the tea garden communities. It will defiantly help to develop personal life as well their social life.

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