

Education of women and Entrepreneurship development with special reference to Kokrajhar district

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Abstract: Education is regarded as an important instrument to bring about social change. It is essential for the mental, physical, emotional and intellectual development of the human beings. It is a weapon for boosting the social and economic development of the nation. Education helps us to have better opportunity for development. Women education is very important for giving them the rights and privileges for uplifting them self from the traditional bondage of the society. Both men and women are the two wheels of the society. Economic development of a country depends primarily on both the shoulders of human beings. Women were the major producers of food, clothing, crafts and many different tools through most of the human history. Women participate in innumerable activities for the survival of their families. Entrepreneurship is the dynamic process of creating incremental wealth. Entrepreneurship happens to be one of the best ways towards self sufficiency and poverty alleviation for women. The involvement of women in entrepreneurial activities would ensure effective utilization of labour, generation of income and hence improvement in quality of life. Economic empowerment of women by entrepreneurial activities led to the empowerment of women in many things such as socio-economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal right, family development, community development and at last the nation development. In this paper an attempt has been made to study how education of women led to the women entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar district.

Keynotes: Entrepreneurship, Socio-Economic development, Empowerment, Women, Community development.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Education is regarded as an important instrument to bring about social change. It is essential for the mental, physical, emotional and intellectual development of the human beings. It is a weapon for boosting the social and economic development of the nation. Education helps us to have better opportunity for development. Women education is very important for giving them the rights and privileges for uplifting them self from the traditional bondage of the society. In order to provide equal rights to women the provision has been made in Indian constitution under Article 15(3) the special provision for women education. Through 86th amendment of the Indian Constitution 2002, free and compulsory education to children up to 14 years of age has been made a fundamental right. Then in 2009, the Right to Education Act has been passed and become a law. The different schemes for women education is like- Mahila Samakhya Programme, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, National education empowers women by equipping them with skills and avail better opportunities.

Economic development of a country depends primarily on both the shoulders of human beings. Women were the major producers of food, clothing, crafts and many different tools through most of the human history. Women participate in innumerable activities for the survival of their families. Entrepreneurship is the dynamic process of creating incremental wealth. Entrepreneurship happens to be one of the best ways towards self sufficiency and poverty alleviation for women. The involvement of women in entrepreneurial activities would ensure effective utilization of labour, generation of income and hence improvement in quality of life. Economic empowerment of women by entrepreneurial activities led to the empowerment of women in many things such as socio-economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal right, family development, community development and at last the nation development.

According to J.B Say, "An entrepreneur is an important agent of production who gets together other factors of production. He is the economic agent who unites all means of production i.e. the labour, the capital and he finds the value of products which result from their employment, reconstitution of the capital that he utilises, the interest and the rent which he pays as well as profits belonging to himself."

Women entrepreneur may be termed as women or group who initiate, organise and run a business enterprise. According to the Government of India women entrepreneur is defined as "an enterprise of 51 percent of the capital and giving at least 51 percent of the employment generated in the enterprise to women. Women entrepreneurs have been making a significant impact in all segments of the economy all- over country. The third All India Census of Small Scale Industries 2001-2002 revealed that 10.11 percent of the SMEs are owned by women entrepreneurs. This report further highlighted that 9.5 percent of the total units are managed by women. In this paper an attempt has been made to study women entrepreneur in relation to education in Kokrajhar district.

II. OBJECTIVES:

1. To study about the rate of women education in Kokrajhar district.
2. To find out about the women entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar district.
3. To understand about the role of women in economic development of Kokrajhar.

III. METHODOLOGY: The study is both explanatory as well as descriptive in nature. The data has been collected from secondary sources. The secondary sources used like journals, research papers, books, website, census, institution, etc.

IV. EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN:

4.1 Literacy rate 1951-2011

Year	Persons		Male		Female	
	India	Assam	India	Assam	India	Assam
1951	18.33	18.53	27.16	28.01	8.86	7.58
1961	28.30	32.95	40.40	44.28	15.35	18.62
1971	34.45	33.94	45.96	43.72	21.97	22.76
1981	43.57	-	56.38	-	29.76	-
1991	52.21	52.89	64.13	61.87	39.29	43.03
2001	64.84	63.25	75.26	71.87	53.67	54.61
2011	72.99	72.19	80.89	78.81	64.64	67.27

Sources: Statistical handbook of Assam 2014, Census Report 2011

The figure 4.1 shows that in India, since 1947, literacy rate have shown a substantial improvement. The total literacy rate which was only 18.33% in 1951, rose to 52.21% in 1991 in India. In Assam it was 18.53% to 52.89%. It further increased to 72.99% in Assam to 72.19%. In 2001, the literacy rate of male is 75.26% and female is 53.67%. in India. 71.87% male in Assam and female is 54.61%. According to 2011 Census, the literacy rate of men is 80.89% and female is 64.64%. 78.81% male and that of women is 67.27% in Assam but it is seen that women are now pursuing higher education and holding prestigious posts in government offices and private organizations. During the last two decades, there has been a significant rise in the involvement in the field of education.

4.2 Literacy rate of male and female in Assam of 2001-2011

	2011	2001
Literacy	72.19%	63.25%
Male Literacy	77.85%	71.28%
Female	66.27%	54.61%
Total Literate	19,177,977	14,015,354
Male	10,568,639	8,188,697
Female	8,609,338	5,826,657

4.3 Literacy rate of Kokrajhar, 2011 census.

Town	Male	Female	Total
Gossaigaon (TC)	93.94	86.01	90.21
Padmabil(CT)	86.95	76.08	81.60
Kokrajhar(MB)	93.59	86.11	89.96
Salakati(CT)	83.77	68.87	76.93
Kokrajhar	91.97	83.44	87.86

The literacy rate of male in Kokrajhar district is 91.97% and female is 83.44%. The total literacy rate in Kokrajhar district is 87.86%. The female literacy rate is not so much less than the male literacy rate in Kokrajhar district. It is seen that women are increasing in the literacy rate in Kokrajhar district.

Education plays a vital role in the entrepreneurship development in Kokrajhar district of B.T.A.D. Women entrepreneur is raising in number and it is one of the encouraging performances made by women in the field of economy. The motives behind the women entrepreneurship development is due to the education but also economic needs of the women, utilization of own experience, the desire to become independent, unemployment, etc.

4.4 Main and Marginal workers in Kokrajhar district

District	Main worker			Marginal worker			Total worker		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
Kokrajhar	253110	198804	54306	88021	37518	50503	341131	236322	104809

Sources: www.censusindia.govt.in

According to 2011 Census in Kokrajhar district among the total worker of 341131, 253110 are main workers and 88021 are marginal workers. Among the 253110 main workers 198804 are males and 54306 are females; and among 88021 marginal workers 37518 are males and 50503 are females. Thus among the total workers including both main and marginal 236322 are males and 104809 are females. It indicates that that the number of female main workers is less than the male main workers but the number of female marginal workers is higher than the male workers. Although the number of female marginal worker is higher

than male workers but in case of total worker the number of male workers is higher than the female. But there is an increase in the marginal workers which tells us that women are participating in the economy of the state.

4.5 Statistics of MSME India 2018

Assam	No. Of enterprise managed by women	No. Of women enterprise	Percentage of female employment in the total employment of the state
Total	11189	11757	6.08%

According to the statistics of MSME of India the number of women who are engaged in different MSME in Assam are 11189 and number of women enterprise are 11757. The percentage of female employment in the total employment of the state is 6.08%.

4.6 List of MSME units under District and Industries and Commerce Centre, Kokrajhar.

Year	Weaving	Handloom	Tailoring	Beauty Parlour	Rice Mill	Others
2008-2009	3	2	2	2	1	1
2009-2010	1	2	-	2	1	1
2010-2011	-	1	-	-	-	-
2011-2012			1			2
2012-2013	1			1		
2013-2014			1	1		1
2014-2015	1		1	2		1
2015-2016	1		1	1		1
2016-2017	1	3		1		3
2017-2018	1		1	1		5
Total	9	8	7	11	2	15

The table shows the participation of women in different Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSME) in the Kokrajhar district of rural Assam. It can be inferred from the table that women are employed in different MSME in Kokrajhar. There is increase in the number of women enterprise since 2008 to 2018. It shows that women are not only engaged in the household activities. They have taken themselves to develop as an entrepreneur by adopting the skills of weaving, tailoring, handloom and handicraft products, beauty parlour, knitting, readymade garments, etc. It is due to the education of women that has helped them to engage themselves in various works. Thus, it is seen that women participation in the workforce in Kokrajhar district is quite significant which contribute to the state economy.

V. CONCLUSION: Women are equal partners of development with the male counterpart's. The contribution for the economic development goes to both male and female. Women are working hard to empower themselves economically. It is with the help of education that they are able to take themselves as entrepreneur. The emergence of women entrepreneur and their contribution to the state economy as well as the women empowerment is quite visible in recent years. The problems which are faced by women in developing entrepreneur should be taken into account. Along with that they should be given the opportunities to do large scale business to develop themselves wholly.

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