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A Study On Societal Status Of Women: A Case Study On Garoimari Development Block Of Kamrup, Assam

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ABSTRACT:

Men and women both are integral part of a society. We cannot think about development of a society without improvement of the societal status of women. For the improving societal status of women, it needs economic empowerment. The economic empowerment of women ensure- provision of better training, employment and income generation activities with the ultimate objective of making all women economically independent and self reliant, which depends on proper education. This is not only true that education is an entry point of various opportunities but also educational achievement of women helps her being self-confident in all spheres of activities of a society, including full participation on the basis of equality in the decision-making process to access power of social and economic aspects of society. Thus, a proper educational achievement makes a woman economically empowered woman with full potential.

After independence of India, several legislations are in force for empowering women with better education. In spite of those legislations, educational status of women has challenged for many reasons. Gender inequalities are still prevailing in education, nutrition etc. These challenges prevent socio-economic empowerment of women in India.

This paper is an attempt to study the present societal status of women in the study area and find out key factors which will be focused to bring out economically empowered women and their solutions.

Key words: Societal status, Women education, Economic Empowerment, Challenge, Gender inequality, Decision-making.

1. Introduction:

Men and women both are integral part of a society. We cannot think about development of a society without improvement of the societal status of women. For the improving societal status of women, it needs economic empowerment. The economic empowerment of women ensure- provision of better training, employment and income generation activities with the ultimate objective of making all women economically independent and self reliant, which is depend on proper education. Education is considered as a potent instrument through which processes of modernization, social change and exposes people to new thoughts with necessary skills. This is not only true that education is an entry point of various opportunities but also educational achievement of women helps her being self-confident in all spheres of activities of a society, including full participation on the basis of equality in the decision-making process to access power of social and economic aspects of society. Thus, without development of woman education economic empowerment of women is meaningless. Men and women all together should be well educated for the development of a society. Thus, a proper educational achievement makes a woman economically empowered woman with full potential.

Human development and women empowerment, both are mutually reinforcing. In fact, empowered women can contribute to human development through household and community activity and at the same time progress in human development is expected to promote women empowerment through improved health, nutrition, education, social security, political freedom, availability of employment and a decent standard of living female education is an important input of the production function.

After independence of India, several legislations are in force for development of status of women with better education. In spite of those legislations, societal status of women has challenged for many reasons. Gender inequalities are still prevailing in education, nutrition etc. These challenges prevent socio-economic empowerment of women in India. This paper is an attempt to study the present societal status of women in the study area and find out key factors which have challenged on better societal status of women and their solutions.

2. Importance of the study:

The government of Assam has introduced various measures to upliftment of societal status of women in studied area. But all these measures have no yield proper result due to various short comings related to their implementation. So, a depth study is urgently needed for upliftment of women in this area. The proposed study would attempt to obtain the present educational and economic conditions of women in studied area. It also investigates various measures of government for improving socio-economic conditions of women and find out the short comings to make their solutions. So, this study would be beneficial for future research workers and policy makers.

3. Introduction to the study area:

Assam is the gate way of North Eastern Region (NER) of India; occupying an area of 78438 Sq. Km. As per population Census of Assam total population is 31169272 which are 2.8% of total population of India. The district Kamrup (R) is one of the popular districts of Assam. The population of Kamrup district is 1517202 as per population census 2011 compared 1308862 of 2001. It has 15 development blocks with 1079 revenue village. The Garoimari block is situated in Chaygoan constituency near the bank of Brahmaputra River and lies at a distance of about 70 km. away from Guwahati. It has 71 revenue villages. The population of Garoimari block is 122987 while male 62633 and female 60354 as per population census 2011. As per population census 2011, literacy rate of Garoimari block is 38.65% while male literacy rate is 44.53% and female is 32.55% compared to Kamrup district is 72.81% male literacy is 77.64% while female literacy is 67.69%. In Literacy rate in Assam is 73.18% as per 2011 population census of that male literacy stands at 78.81% while female literacy is at 67.27%. Thus, it shows a vast difference of literacy rate between Garoimari block and Kamrup district as well as Assam, which caused backwardness of women in all respect compare to men in the study area.

4. Objectives of the study:

1. To examine the educational status of women belonging to study area
2. To examine the economic status of women belonging to study area.

5. Methodology of Study:

The propose study depends on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data have been collected through conducting schedule and personal interviews with general people, village headman etc. The secondary data has been collected from different sources like government publications, economic survey of state government, various journals and books, etc.

Households are regarded as the unit of the sample. Since, population of the study is quite large, therefore multi-stage random sampling technique has been used to select the sample sizes. The sampling process undergoes through certain stages.

The proposed study is conducted under Goroimari development block of Kamrup (R) district. In first stage, 6 of the total villages (71) of the block are selected as sample village. In the second stage, 20 of the total households from each of the sample villages are selected as sample households. Thus, total number of sample size is 120 (6x20).

6. Presentation and Analysis:

To know the societal status of women through of the respected block, it should be study on sex wise demographical pattern, literacy rate, occupational pattern, income generation, attitude of men towards women etc. Hence primary as well as secondary data from the selected villages relating to women education has been collected to make study meaningful. The main features of the field survey have presented and analyzed in the followings.

6. 1 Sex-wise distribution of population of surveyed area:

Total population of selected household of 5 selected villages have been presented among male and female in table-I.

Table-I (Sex-wise distribution of population of surveyed area)

Sl. No.	Village	Household	Male	Female	Total
1	Tukrapara	20	74	71	145
2	Mohimari	20	51	52	103
3	Bhauri Bhatta	20	56	55	111
4	Goraimari Satra	20	36	44	80
5	Monjuri Bill	20	54	42	96
6	Singimari Habi	20	49	44	93
Total:		120	320	308	628

Male and female ratio 1000: 908

Source: Field study, 2023, March.

The table-I shows, total population of surveyed area is 628 where female is 308 against 320 males. So, male and female ratio 1000: 908 is imbalance due to the high death rate of girl child for negligence of parents towards girl child's health care.

6. 2 Sex-wise educational status of surveyed area:

The educational status of the people and their literacy rate depend on age group of people between age 5 and above. It means education of people start from the age of 5. Table-II shows there is 299 male and 283 female in surveyed area. The table-III shows literacy rate of women compared to men and table-IV shows educational level of women compared to men from HSLC to PG in surveyed area.

Table-II

Age wise Population in Surveyed Area:

Sl. No	Sex	Age Below 5	Age 5 and above	Total
1	Male	21	299	320
2	Female	25	283	308
Total:		46	582	628

Table-III

Literacy rate among male and female of surveyed area:

Sl. No	Sex	Population	Literate %	Illiterate %	Total
1	Male	320	245(82)	54(18)	299(100)
2	Female	308	218(77)	65(23)	283(100)
Total:		628	463(79)	119(21)	582(100)

Table-IV

Educational ratio from HSLC to PG among male and female of surveyed area:

Sl. No	Sex	HSLC	HS	DEGREE	PG	Total
1	Male	21	22	27	09	79
2	Female	12	17	16	00	45
Total:		33	39	43	09	124

Higher educational ratio among male and female- 100:57

Source: Field study, 2023, March

The table-II shows 218 female are literate from 283 compare to 245 males from 299 of the age group 5 and above. It shows literacy rate of female is 77% compare to male literacy rate 82% of the surveyed area. It has proved that educational status of female is lower than men in surveyed area. The table-IV shows out of 124 educated persons from HSLC to PG, 79 are male and 45 are female. So, educational ratio from HSLC to PG among male and female 100:57 is unsatisfactory for the sake of society.

6. 3 Sex-wise Occupational distribution and their income level:

The occupational distribution of population and Income distribution in surveyed area among male and female are depending on people of the age group between 15-60 which are supplied labor force for the economy has shown in table-V and their occupational distribution has shown in table-VI. The table-V has shown there are 214 females compare to 219 males out of 433 labor forces under age group 15-60 in surveyed area which are willing to work in various economic activities. It shows labor force ratio among male and female is 100:98, indicates marginal difference.

Table-V
Age wise Population in Surveyed Area:

SL No	Sex	Age 0-14	Age 15-60	Age 60 above	Total
1	Male	78	219	23	320
2	Female	87	214	07	308
	Total	165	433	30	628

Labor force ratio among male and female 100:98

Table-VI
Occupational distribution of population of surveyed area:

Sl. No.	Occupation	Male	Female	Total	Ratio
1	Agriculture	62	05	67	100:08
2	Business	55	01	56	100:02
3	Service	22	08	30	100:36
4	Others	56	57	113	100:102
5	Total (Employed)	195(73)	71(27)	266(100)	100:36
6	Total (Unemployed)	24(14)	143(86)	167(100)	
	Total	219(51)	214(49)	433(100)	

Employment ratio among male and female-100:36

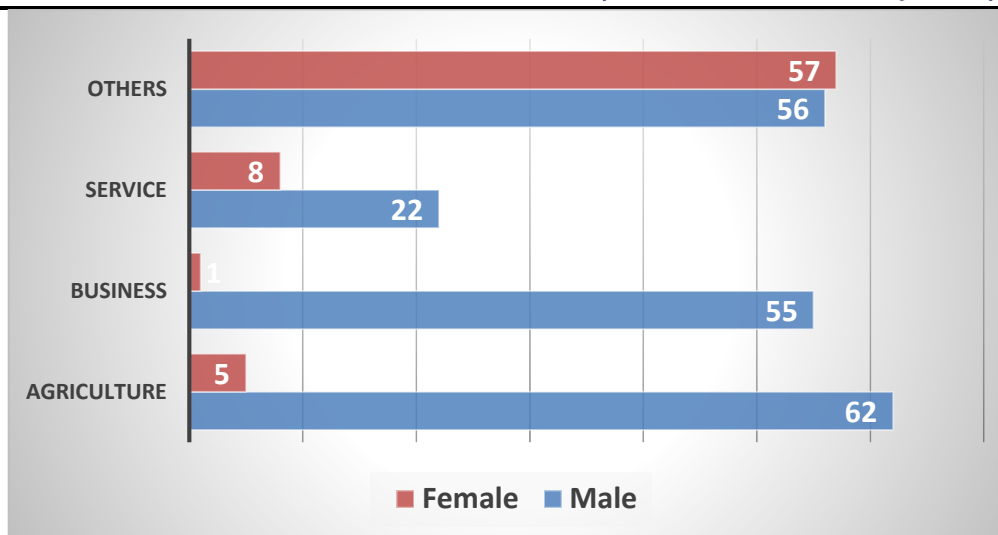
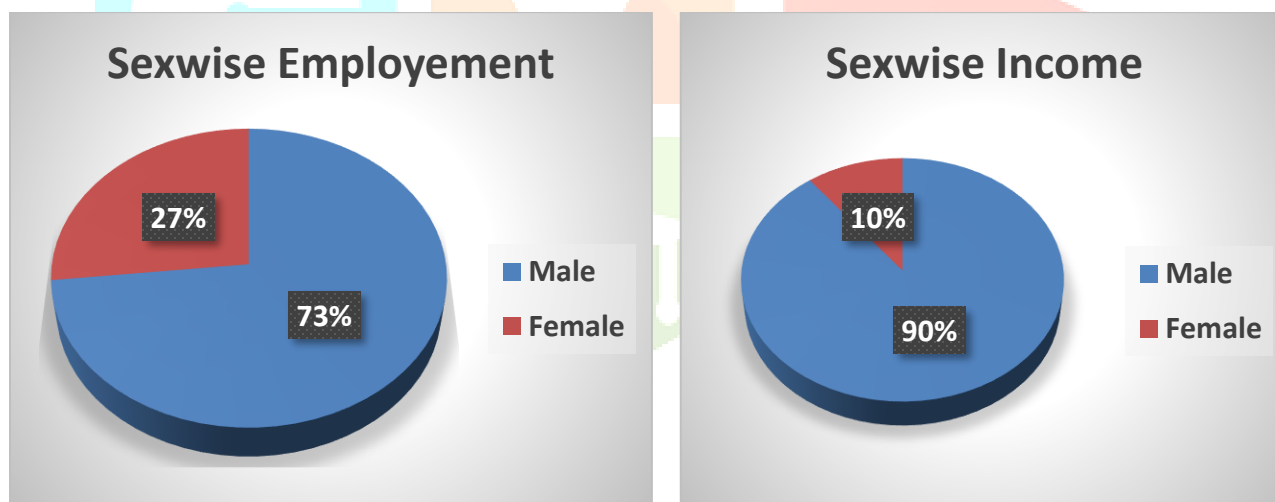


Table-VII

Income distribution ratio among male and female of surveyed area:

Sl. No	Sex	Population	Total annual income in (Rs)	Per-capita income in (Rs)
1	Male	320	1,98,12,000(90)	61,913
2	Female	308	23,16,000(10)	7,519
	Total	628	2,21,28,000(100)	35,236

Income ratio among male and female-100:11



Source: Field study, March 2023.

The table-VI shows there are 266 persons engaged in various economic activities, where male employment is 195 against 71 females. It indicates employment ratio 100:36 among male and female is highly imbalance due to lack of participation of women in economic activity for the lack of formal and technical education. This imbalance employment ratio creates income inequality among men and women in surveyed area. On the other hand, table-VII shows per-capita income in surveyed area of the people is Rs 35,236, where male per-capita income is Rs 61,913 as against female only Rs 7,519 in surveyed area. It indicates per-capita income ratio 100:11 among male and female is highly imbalance. Another characteristic of the data (which has shown by pie chart) is that there is 27% female are engaged in economic activities out of total labor force employed and they contribute only 10% of total gross income compare to 73% of male

engagement and 90% of their income. This imbalance employment and income generation among male and female creates higher economic inequality among men and women in surveyed area.

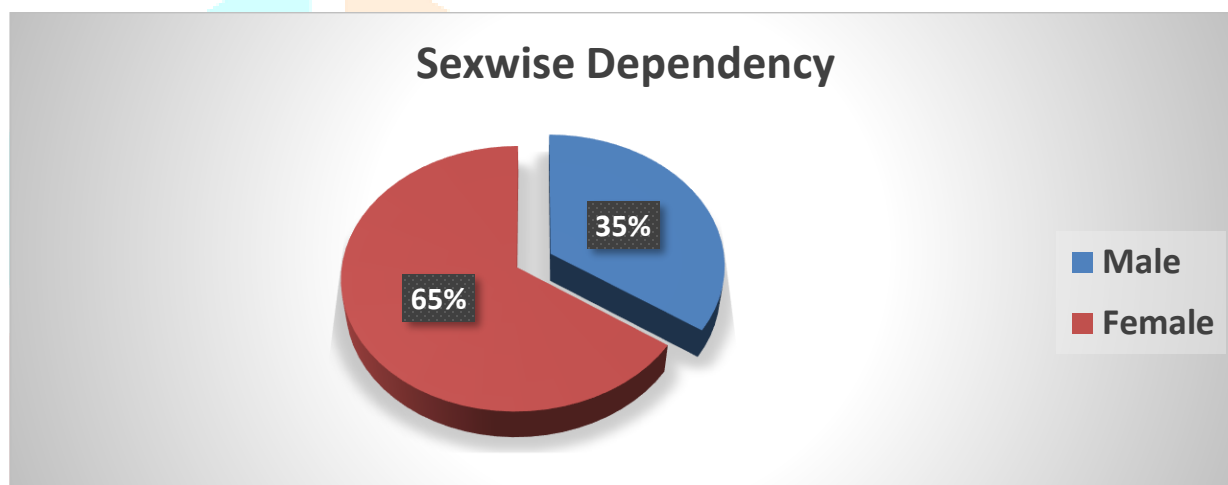
6.4 Sex wise Dependency ratio among men and women in surveyed area:

The economic dependency of an economy depends on number of people are living under childhood, old aged and unemployed labor forces. The following table-VIII shows sex wise economic dependency ratio among male and female of surveyed area.

Table-VIII

Dependency ratio among male and female of surveyed area:

Sl. No	Sex	Population	Age group 0-14 yr	Age group above 60 yr	Labor force unemployed	Total
1	Male	320	78	23	24	125 (36)
2	Female	308	87	07	143	237 (64)
	Total	628	165	30	167	362 (100)



Source: Field study, March 2023.

The table-VIII shows out of total dependent 362, female is 237 which is 55% compares to male 125 of 35% of surveyed area. This can be happened for large number of female labor forces (143) are unemployed compared to male (24). It means, dependency ratio of female is more than male in surveyed area.

7. Main findings of the study:

- ❖ Sex-ratio is found to be 1000:963 in the surveyed area is highly imbalance.
- ❖ The female literacy rate is 77% against 82% of men in surveyed area.
- ❖ Educational ratio among men and of women in higher education PG is found be 100:57 is unsatisfactory for the studied area.
- ❖ The employment ratio among male and female is 100:36 is highly imbalance.
- ❖ Employment ratio among men and women in service sector is 100:36 is Not satisfactory.
- ❖ The per-capita income ratio 100:11 among male and female is highly imbalance.
- ❖ Production of women is low for the lack of formal and technical education.

- ❖ The dependency ratio among male and female is 100:190 is Not satisfactory.

8. Suggestions:

- Positive attitude of parents should be made towards education of girl child, not only elementary level but also higher level for the development of this area.
- Technical and vocational education should be made available for women for specializing their capacity in work field.
- Number of educational institutions need to extent up to all villages of the community.
- Government and community should work for development of women education.
- Knowledge and information on Global changing business activities should be provided to educated women for creating entrepreneurship among women.
- Participation of women in the high-income generating activities like fashion designing, tailoring, food processing beautician are needs to increase income level of women.
- Government should take a necessary step to create an environment where all men and women will work together to remove economic inequality among men and women

9. Conclusions:

To conclude, it is noted that status of women is highly backward compare to men in all respect as studied in various indicators of socio-economic empowerment of women in studied area. We the people of the community should realize in its appropriate sense that a society cannot develop without proper empowerment of women especially in the rural sector. For this great purpose, the mindset of the people should deeply concentrate that man and women cannot be differentiated in the reconstruction of our society with new dimension. A nation or region can only be developed if its women are given ample opportunities. Developing entrepreneurship among women will be the right approach to improve societal status of women by minimizing economic inequality among men and women. The government along with voluntary organizations should take up concrete steps, to uplift the women with safe, secure and peace of life.

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