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Orunodoi Scheme: An innovative program for women's empowerment in Assam.

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Abstract

Women's empowerment basically means giving them the ability to reshape the power dynamics between them and males in all areas of life, including social, political, religious, and economic. Any community can be empowered through actively participating in the development process. As everyone knows, without the active involvement of women, no society can advance and meet the sustainable development goals and the Millennium Development Goals. However, as a result of patriarchal subordination, women experience a range of discriminatory practices, inequality, oppression, harassment, and other issues. They have faced discrimination in every sphere of life, including social, political, economic, educational, and health. Aside from that, women have always been placed in a secondary role because of the predominately patriarchal culture. The Assam government also feels that purposeful schemes and policies are necessary to advance the cause of women's empowerment. These should aim to giving them the necessary authority to manage and control their own lives both inside and outside the house. The Assam government introduced several programs for women empowerment, such as the Vistarita Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Yojana and Aideu Sandikoi Mahila Sanman Achani, Divyangjan Atma-Nirvar Achani, Mukhya Mantri, Jivika Sakhis, Orunodoi Scheme, etc. This paper discusses the Orunodoi Scheme and how it has affected women's empowerment in Assam.

Key Words: Orunodoi Scheme, Women empowerment, financial inclusion etc.

Introduction: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's main priority has been the advancement of the underprivileged and disadvantaged groups in society ever since he first assumed leadership of the Union government in 2014. Prime Minister Modi's motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas has actually been the main force behind India's remarkable and inclusive economic progress. Financial inclusion is one of the cornerstones of this inclusive growth, which is driven by the prime minister's ambitious plan. He started the massive Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in 2014 with the goal of bringing financial inclusion to every household, and to far, approximately 50 crore bank accounts have been opened. The influence of this objective extends beyond the mere act of opening a bank account; it has sparked, enabled, and magnified a number of additional initiatives aimed at achieving social and financial inclusion and bringing equity to the social infrastructure. The Orunodoi (The Rising of Sun) project of the Assam government is one such initiative that has become a model for the socioeconomic empowerment of women and the impoverished. "Orunodoi, represented by the rising sun, has actually given our state's women a glimpse of hope. The government Assam has accomplished an unparalleled developmental milestone that has yielded numerous advantages, including

financial literacy, nutritional support expansion, economic empowerment, and, most importantly, bringing development to every home and heart.

Objectives: The following objectives have been set for the present study:

1. To give an idea about the Orunodoi Scheme launched by the government of Assam.
2. To examine the impact of Orunodoi Scheme on Women empowerment in Assam.

Methodology: Because of the nature of the subject, both descriptive and analytical methodologies are used in this article. An analysis of empowerment of women through the Orunodoi Scheme has been attempted in this work; the data used and obtained for it is solely dependent on secondary sources, as required by the study.

Orunodoi Scheme: An Overview

Name of the scheme	Assam Orunodoi Scheme
Launch date	December 1, 2020
Launched by	Government of Assam
Amount of financial assistance provided	Rs 830. raised from Rs 830 to Rs 1,000 in October 2021 and then again to Rs 1,250 in October 2022.
Beneficiaries	Women of poor households
Category	Government schemes
Objective	Provides financial assistance to poor families
Implemented by	The Finance Department of Assam
Application mode	Offline
Official website	https://www.orunodoi.in/orunodoi/login

Eligibility requirements for the Orunodoi Scheme beneficiaries:

1. families that include widows, single women, and women with disabilities.
2. families where a woman has divorced.
3. families who own cards under the National Food Security Scheme.
4. Families without ration cards would be given preference when it comes to free rice.
5. Benefits are available to families who belong to self-help groups and possess two or three-wheelers.

Who Gets Priority Under the Assam Orunodoi Scheme?

1. disabled or disadvantaged women
2. women who were separated
3. Women who have divorced
4. single ladies
5. widow

Orunodoi Scheme: Structure of Implementation

1. The scheme's implementation would be handled by Assam's Finance Department.
2. The commissioner and the secretary of the finance department shall oversee the implementation of the Assam Orunodoi Scheme.
3. With assistance from a district-level monitoring committee, the deputy commissioner will oversee the scheme's implementation at the district level.
4. Every legislative assembly would designate an Orunodoi Sahayak, who will get a monthly salary of Rs 15,000, to assist in implementing the initiative for a period of two months.
5. The Sahayak's educational requirements will be ascertained by the district-level monitoring committee.

6. Following the discussions, the Sahayak will be chosen by the district level monitoring committee, which will be led by the deputy commissioner.

Orunodoi Scheme: The process of selection

The following is a description of the selection process:

1. The monitoring committee at the district level will compile a list of qualified recipients.
2. The gram panchayat or urban local body level would be used for the initial selection of the families covered by the plan.
3. In accordance with the eligibility requirements, the preliminary selection bodies will create a checklist-cum-undertaking.
4. The checklists are gathered and sent for additional processing to the district-level monitoring committee.
5. The recipients are prioritized by the district-level monitoring committee based on a range of benefits.
6. Then, this district-level monitoring committee makes sure that these families' bank account information and other facts are gathered.
7. Subsequently, the details are uploaded, validated, and corrected.
8. Then, the bank account and the finance department receive this information.

Orunodoi Scheme: An Instrument for Women Empowerment

To empower women, the Assam government launched the Assam Orunodoi Scheme. This ground-breaking programme was introduced on October 2nd, 2020, with the aim of giving over 24 lakh economically disadvantaged households in the state vital financial support via Direct Benefit Transfer. The "Orunodoi 2.0" campaign, which has a major emphasis on empowering women, aims to serve 19.10 lakh families and increase the monthly income from Rs. 830 to Rs. 1250. The program's benefits have been available to recipients since October 2020, with transfers taking place on the first of every month. Through ongoing financial help from DBT and monthly cash transfers, the Scheme aims to eradicate poverty and enable financially disadvantaged households in the state to become economically integrated. This ensures that impoverished families have a minimum amount of money coming in each month. The other goal is to reduce the number of different schemes and combine them using the DBT platform to improve delivery and results. At first, the beneficiaries received a monthly payment of Rs. 830 directly deposited into their bank accounts. The entitlement amount was raised from Rs 830 to Rs 1,000 in October 2021 and then again to Rs 1,250 in October 2022. The recipient selection process of Assam's largest state-sponsored Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system is strong. The last mile banking and mobile penetration have been utilized by the digitalized work procedure with minimal human interface to guarantee prompt service delivery on the tenth of each month.

Under the direction of the District Level Monitoring Committee, the Assam Orunodoi Scheme recipients are carefully chosen. This committee is very important. In making certain that the rules are strictly followed when compiling the list of qualified recipients. Motivated by the idea of "One Family, One Scheme," Orunodoi has started a program to assist widows, housewives, people with physical disabilities, single women, and people who identify as third gender. The government has taken action to give economically disadvantaged people social and financial support because it recognizes how important it is to lift them up. Each beneficiary of the plan was initially given 830 rupees each month. Following two revisions, the direct transfer method (DBT) has resulted in an increase in the monthly amount to 1250 rupees for each beneficiary. DBT has played a significant role in ending poverty and fostering economic self-reliance. After the administration examined the list of qualified recipients, the number of beneficiaries dropped from 19 lakhs to 17.07 lakhs. Additionally, plans are under work to broaden the program's reach in Orunodoi 2.0, aiming to serve 27.61 lakh beneficiaries. This includes the 10.57 million participants of the Deendayal Divyang Pension Scheme and the Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension Scheme. The Orunodoi Scheme, an initiative to give economically disadvantaged women in society self-reliance, social status, and good health, is a beacon of hope for women who are economically fragile. Self-reliance can be attained through both individual and group efforts with this plan.

This initiative's personal support can help overcome a number of obstacles. For example, Orunodoi's financial support is priceless for an old widow who has no income. Fruits, vegetables, and other basic necessities can be provided during times of illness. It's important to remember that Orunodoi not only helps people on a personal level but also at the level of society. In every city and hamlet, self-help groups (SHGs) have a noticeable impact. These organizations increase their impact in society by bringing attention to the critical role. The Assam Finance Department launched the system, which permits direct bank transfers of financial aid to the beneficiaries' bank accounts—women from low-income households. The total benefits received by low-income households will be Rs 10,000. The rewards will come in at roughly Rs 830 a month. Rs 2,800 crores in total have been set out for the project. The scheme will provide each of the families covered with around Rs 10,000 annually. The entitlement amount was raised from Rs 830 to Rs 1,000 in October 2021 and then again to Rs 1,250 in October 2022. The funds will be directly deposited into the female members of the program-advantaged households' bank accounts. Under the program, the government will also start giving women access to sanitary napkins.

The Orunodoi Scheme, an initiative to give economically disadvantaged women in society self-reliance, social status, and good health, is a beacon of hope for women who are economically fragile. Self-reliance can be attained through both individual and group efforts with this plan. This initiative's personal support can help overcome a number of obstacles. For example, Orunodoi's financial support is priceless for an old widow who has no income. Fruits, vegetables, and other basic necessities can be provided during times of illness. It's important to remember that Orunodoi not only helps people on a personal level but also at the level of society. In every city and hamlet, self-help groups (SHGs) have a noticeable impact. These organizations increase their impact in society by bringing attention to the critical role that women play in saving collectively. The establishment of women-led small companies, such as those producing food and handicrafts, is improving their economic standing. Furthermore, these women are now eligible for banking services, since access to a bank account is necessary for their financial inclusion. As a result, women are actively participating in the economy and fostering genuine economic integration in society. During the Assam budget 2024–2025, the Assamese government announced the expansion of the Orunodoi 2.0 plan. It's an extension of its earlier yojana, which helped antyodaya women all throughout the state. This initiative is being expanded to cover divyangjan and transgender people, and it will benefit thirty lakh homes in the state. In order to enable the addition of 10.54 lakh additional beneficiaries, the government introduced Orunodoi 2.0 on December 14, 2022, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 27.61 lakh. The following groups of individuals were also part of the plan:

The second phase aimed to accomplish the goal of "One Family—One Scheme" by terminating the overlap of numerous schemes, even though the total annual spending was set at Rs 4,200 crore. To improve delivery and results, a single DBT platform called Digital Infrastructure for DBT schemes (DIDS) was developed to combine several programs. Benefits for the new recipients were paid out starting on April 10, 2023. that women play in saving collectively. The establishment of women-led small companies, such as those producing food and handicrafts, is improving their economic standing. Furthermore, these women are now eligible for banking services, since access to a bank account is necessary for their financial inclusion. As a result, women are actively participating in the economy and fostering genuine economic integration in society. During the Assam budget 2024–2025, the Assamese government announced the expansion of the Orunodoi 2.0 plan. It's an extension of its earlier yojana, which helped antyodaya women all throughout the state. This initiative is being expanded to cover divyangjan and transgender people, and it will benefit thirty lakh homes in the state. In order to enable the addition of 10.54 lakh additional beneficiaries, the government introduced Orunodoi 2.0 on December 14, 2022, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 27.61 lakh. All Deen Dayal Divyangjan Pension Yojana and Indira Miri Widow Pension Scheme participants are now included in Orunodoi 2.0 as of April 2023. Under the Orunodoi plan, transgender people and divyangans are covered. Households having member, who is a dwarf or suffering from conditions such as cerebral palsy, thalassemia, hemophilia, etc. are also included under Orunodoi scheme Prior to this, 2.75 lakh 'Orunodoi' beneficiaries had been taken off the eligible-beneficiary list based on a survey conducted during Orunodoi Month. Among other reasons, some of

the beneficiaries had died away and others had been determined to be ineligible for the program. The state government of Assam has now suggested adding 2.5 lakh extra beneficiaries to the Assam Budget 2024–25, which will take approximately 30 lakh beneficiaries in total.

Conclusion: The Orunodoi Scheme, an initiative to give economically disadvantaged women in society self-reliance, social status, and good health, is a beacon of hope for women who are economically fragile. Self-reliance can be attained through both individual and group efforts with this plan. This initiative's personal support can help overcome a number of obstacles. For example, Orunodoi's financial support is priceless for an old widow who has no income. Fruits, vegetables, and other basic necessities can be provided during times of illness. Furthermore, these women are now eligible for banking services, since access to a bank account is necessary for their financial inclusion. As a result, women are actively participating in the economy and fostering genuine economic integration in society. Orunodoi is an example of a modest endeavor with a commendable long-term goal. Therefore, this campaign for women's empowerment is essential for a more promising future as well as the here and now.

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