

A

DISSERTATION ON

**WOMEN 'S EMPOWERMENT IN RURAL ASSAM: INSIGHTS FROM THE
BARBHAG REGION OF NALBARI, ASSAM**



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I further declare that this dissertation report has not been submitted to any other university/ Institution / Board for award of any degree or diploma.

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PREFACE

Assam is a land of multi – culture and tradition various caste , community and religious grups have been living here since ancient times . The Assam province is merged with India by the British colonial rule in 24th February , 1826 through the Yandaboo treaty . since then this small piece of lad has become parts ad pareel of idia .

During the British colonial rule in India , the concept of democracy, decentralization of power development of women and weaker section of people etc. Came to the forefront . After the independence of India. These objectives got new pace . The successive governments of our country have tried their best to uplift the condition of all people irrespective of caste , creed , sex, religion ,language and region . the government of independent India has undertaken many plans and programmes for the development of all including the women .

women empowerment is a issue that ca e described as the backbone of a country ,s development specially of India because it is Not possible for a country like India make progress without the overall development of woman condition ad their lifestyle . as a matter of facts the question of empowerment of women is give due importance and priority y successive government in recent years .

In this context, it is worth mentioning that we have selected the topic “women empowerment ; A study on Barbhag area in Nalbari district to evaluate the actual position of women in socio- political sphere of the district . our sincere aim is to bring to light the status of women in the light of panchayati raj institutions and highlight the role play by the women representatives in this direction .That is why we have tried to focus on the function of Nalbari zilla parishad and other ingredients of PRI by adopting various study method and by providing data on various issues related to women of the district .To make the study more clear and relavant with the topic we have provide a historical background of the district , it’’s population pattern , culture and tradition of district, objectives of the study, questionnaire , methodology, status of women in socio-political sphere etc . Efforts are Also made to discuss about the plight of women with remedial measures.

The thesis is fundamental work having caste community wise data and information . We will be happy if this little work on women empowerment could provide help to the readers to meet up their needs.

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ABSTRACT

Issue relating to women are very much important in so far as the contemporary political debates are concerned. Women and gender related studies show that there is no way but to empower the women in all respect. If we want a peaceful, progressive and secured society. The word 'Empowerment' means control over material assets. Intellectual resources and ideology etc.

The questions surrounding women's empowerment, the condition and position of women have now become critical to the human rights based approaches to development. The Cairo conference in 1994 organized by UN on population and development called attention to women's empowerment as a central focus and UNDP development the gender empowerment measures which focuses on the three variable that reflect women's participation in society-political power or decision-making, education and health. 1995 UNDP report was devoted to women's empowerment and it declared that if human development is not endangered it is endangered a declaration which almost become a leit motif for further development measuring and policy planning. Equality sustainability and empowerment are emphasize and the stress was, that women's emancipation does not depend on national income but is an engaged political process.

Women empowerment; A study on Barbhag area in Nalbari district is a very fantastic and important topic to study. It is almost unquestionable that progress of women will ultimately lead to the progress of society and the country. For this purpose all social barriers and constraints relate to the way of women progress must be eradicated. For this purpose we have tried to discuss the prevailing social norms on woman like purdah system, superstition, male domination over woman. Dowry related cases, domestic violence and such other evil vis-a vis the opportunities provided for women empowerment etc.

In this regard, it is obviously mentionable that we have divided 'thesis' into six chapters to make our study rational and objectives. During our study period, we collect data and information from both primary and secondary sources. On the basis of those data, we have come to know that the condition of women in barbhag area is on satisfactory. They are backward in almost every aspects of livelihood. There are enormous problems specially in the SC, ST, OBC and minority people. The data and information is verified and hypothesis is tested with utmost care. After proper analysis of those data, it is observed that the women in barbhag area needs socio political and economic help to uplift their status.

Therefore, we searched the way of solution to these problems and offered some suggestion in this regard. One of the major suggestion is to 'Empower in all res. The process should start from the family and to be reached in the highest level of government authority. For this purpose, We must have to set our mind in dynamic way.

Both the 'general' and specific meaning of empowerment can be said the two sides of the same coin as both are dependable to each other and the absence of one may lead to destruct

the other . Hence, women empowerment must have to include the aspects of both the general and specific .

As we have already mentioned that the term 'Women Empowerment is relatively a new phrase, so we can trace it's origin in the 1960's decade. Paul Freire's theory of "Education for critical consciousness" and the afro-American movement for empowering women helped in the establishment of the empowerment issue, world wide.

Since 1980's decade, particularly from 1985 Caribbean and Latin American countries witnessed women empowerment movement with two objects First-to grow feminist movement by breaching old age traditions like prohibiting women from doing or enjoying some works or enjoying freedom, organize the women folk, arrangement of seminars, meeting, publicity for emancipation, end the suppression, and get freedom from female domination. Second, to seize power by development of self esteem and self confidence among the women. For this purpose, the leading feminist activities tried to change gender relations in the economic, political, legal, social and cultural fields of the state. This notion is still continued.

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CHAPTER-I

1.1 Women Empowerment – Meaning and Definition:

In simple words, Empowerment means a declaration which wishes restructure of power along with abolition of patriarchal concept and suppression by men over women. It wants to change re-construction of the social system by abolishing discriminations against women. It is a kind concept which offers power to women and provides rights to control over materials. Regarding women empowerment, the Beijing conference of 1995 declares under section 13. The declaration says, "Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace." 'Dodd' and 'Gutierrez' says that empowerment has a social function. But the exponent of this concept did not take any step to explain the term 'power' in systematic and depth manner during 1960's. Because, to know the proper meaning of empowerment, it is necessary to analyse the nation power. Power may be known by two ways, i.e. (i) capacity to acquire by one's own capacity and (ii) capacity to influence others through which one can think, do idea and believed to go ahead. These two types of power is reflected by personal and social power.

1.2: Generalization About Empowerment:

There are some generalization about empowerment, these are –

- (a) Empowerment is a social process which tries to abolish suppression on women. It in this context needed to note down that if women do not down that if women do not take strong step, then they will be exploited as well as suppressed forever.
- (b) If it is wanted by all there is utmost need of women empowerment, then they should come forward to acquire political power. By acquiring political power, They will be able to make development in all fronts. They will also be able to look into the plights of women in depth manner and to find out solution.
- (c) Women empowerment may be compared with the nation equality and equal justice. Because women empowerment creates equal status for all which leads to grow unity and prosperity in the society.
- (d) Women empowerment helps to reconstruct the society in such a way that every one will respect them. It means that every person in the society will be able to realize the equal position of women.