

## **12. A Study on the Educational Development of Tea-Tribe Women in Itakhola Area**

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### **Abstract:**

*Education is considered a crucial key for the development of a nation. It plays an important role in the lives of women, enabling them to play various roles in society and bring about positive changes. However, even in today's world, women face numerous challenges and problems in their everyday lives, be it social, economic, political, or educational. This may be because women are often unaware of their rights, which leaves them unable to confront these challenges and forces them to compromise with situations. Education is a powerful tool that helps women to understand their rights and empowers them to raise their voices against social injustice, violence against women, discrimination, and gender inequality.*

*This study was aimed to analyze the educational development of women's belonging to tea-tribe of Itakhola area in Assam. For the purpose, 70 nos. of women are selected for conducting the study as sample and information was collected by using a questioner prepared by the researcher. The statistical technique such as tabulation, pie-chart has been applied for the comparison of the educational development of women's. In result it was found that the literacy rate of the area was not satisfactory in the area. There are many problems such as family problems, financial problems and marital problems.*

### **Keywords:**

*Women, Tea-Tribe, Education, Development.*

### **12.1 Introduction:**

Women today are an indicator of progress in any society. Now, they are no longer confined within the four walls of the kitchen, but speak and perform in a variety of roles in society. All of these changes are brought about by education. Therefore, education is not only the core of socio-political and economic issues such as employment opportunities and social equality, but also a major weapon and important factor in the development and development of women. Education is a top priority for women.

A movement for the advancement of women began around the world, and education took a dominant position. However, women do not take advantage of all the educational opportunities available to them and often do not enjoy them at all. Worldwide, women are less educated than men, and in the vast territory of India, most illiterate people are women. The inferior status of women is linked to their traditional roles.

Since prehistoric times, the place of women in the social composition has not changed. Although women make up nearly half of the country's population, their status in India is very poor, both economically and socially. Our Constitution guarantees equal rights and equal opportunity for both men and women, but gender inequality, visible and invisible, still exists. The dominant and pervasive patriarchy has disadvantaged women in all areas and at all stages of life.

In tea tribal societies, men dominated women. Women's lack of education was one of its major reasons for their low social status. The main occupations of women were housework, such as nursing their children and tea collection in the field. Parents saw no need to raise their daughter at all.

The Assam tea tribe women are very jolly and they create a happy atmosphere when working, especially when picking leaves together. With rattan baskets and nets on their backs, they diligently do their work with smiling faces despite the scorching sun, torrential rain or cold winter in the middle of the field.

Tea pickers have to work in changing climates and in dangerous situations, maintaining an awkward static posture that causes back injuries and pain in the neck, shoulders and other parts of the body. When the position is held for longer, it causes discomfort and fatigue. Women are more likely to develop anemia, have health problems, be victims of child marriage, be abandoned by their husbands after having children, or become breadwinners even after having children or a lifetime of husbands. Women do their work in the usual relaxed posture, which leads to musculoskeletal problems and then housework, because they cannot recognize the expenditure of energy and other muscular effort.

## **12.2 Educational Status of Tea Tribe Women in Assam:**

The tribal community of Assam is an integral part of whole community. They were taken up by British people from different part of India such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal as indentured labourers for their tea garden, in between 1860-90s. These people are very hard-working and friendly in nature. After independence, when British left India. These tea tribe people didn't left Assam and they are lived here permanently and become a very essential part of Assam.

The educational status of tea tribe people is very poor in Assam. Parents engaged their child in different works for earning rather than to school. For this reason, the rate of literate people of this community is still very low. So, it is high time for us to think for them and educate them, especially the girl one. Because providing education to girls or women are the only key for development of any society.

### **12.3 Need of the Study:**

Education plays a significant role in the human life. It is only education who makes us different from animals. So, education is the main weapon to shape human civilization.

The Itakhola area of Sonitpur district is mainly rural. People of different ethnic groups live here. There is one three school, two ME school and four LP schools in the area.

This area is mainly filed with tea gardens. Where more than three hundred tea workers and their family lives. Although, the education rate of the people is good in this area, but in case of tea tribe women, the status of literacy rate is very poor. Therefore, this project attempts to find out to what extent the education of tea tribe women in the greater Itakhola region has developed in this regard.

### **12.4 Objectives:**

- To find the literacy rate of tea tribe women in the area.
- Identification of problems in tea tribe women's education in Itakhola area.

### **12.5 Population of the Study:**

Itakhola is a very large area. Many different communities were lived there. The Total population is nearly about 1000 houses. Where Tea-tribe, Bengali, Assamese, Bihari, Nepali and some other comminute people lived there.

### **12.6 Sample of the Study:**

The samples of the study are different women of tea-tribe community. Where 70 nos. of women are selected for conducting the study. All samples are selected with the help of random sampling technique.

### **12.7 Methods:**

In the present study the researcher adopted descriptive survey methods.

### **12.8 Research Tools:**

To conduct this study the researcher used some tools mention below

- **Questionnaire:** A questionnaire is prepared for conducting the test by the researcher.
- **Observation:** The researcher observes the environment, talking style of the respondent, life style of the samples, for batter result.
- **Interview:** The researcher conducts individual interview with each respondent to Conduct this research.

### **12.9 Statistical Techniques Used:**

The present study contains simple percentage, pie diagram and classification as its statistical tools.

### **12.10 Data Analysis:**

The researcher used different type of data analysis technique for conducting this research.

### **12.11 Objectives and Discussion:**

#### **Objective 1:**

The first objective of the study is to Survey on literacy rate of tea-tribe women in Itakhola area. To fulfill this objective the researcher collects some information from samples. Those collected data are mentioned below.

**Table 12.1: Survey on Literacy Rate of Tea-Tribe Women in Itakhola Area.**

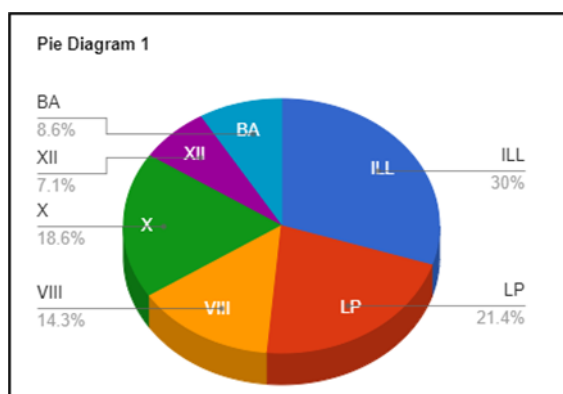
<b>Educational Qualification</b>	<b>Numbers of Women</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
ILL	21	30.00
LP	15	21.42
VIII	10	14.29
X	13	18.57
XII	05	07.14
BA	06	08.57

- Ill- Illiterate
- LP- Lower Primary Level.
- VIII- Upper Primary Level.
- X- Class 10 Level.
- XII- Class 12 Level.
- BA- Graduation Level.

#### **The Interpretation of Table 12.1 is Mention Below.**

- The rate of illiterate women is 30.00 percent, which is very high.
- 21.42 percent women left school after lower primary level.
- 35.71 percent women are under matriculate.
- From the above table it is seemed that the percentage of graduation level is not satisfying, where-
  - a. 18.57% women are matriculate.
  - b. 07.14% women are higher secondary pass.
  - c. 08.57% women are graduate.

A dedicated pie diagram is present below for better understanding.



**Objective 2:**

The next objective of our research is identification of problems in tea tribe women's education in Itakhola area. To analysis this objective a dedicated table is mention below-

**Table 12.2: Identification of Problems in Tea Tribe Women's Education in Itakhola Area**

Problems	Nos. of Women	Percentage
<b>Family Problem</b>	26	37.14
<b>Financial Problem</b>	14	20.00
<b>Marital Problem</b>	16	22.86
<b>Health Problem</b>	08	11.43
<b>Others</b>	06	08.57

From the table it is seemed that –

1. The marital problem is one of the major problems regarding educational dropout of many women with the percentage of 22.86
2. 37.14 percent women have to drop school education due to their family problem or poor parenting.
3. The study shows that some women are suffering from financial, Health and some other problem. This leads them to drop schools.

**12.12 Major Findings:**

After collecting and evaluating all data, the major findings of this study are mentioned below-

- Total rate of illiterate women is 30%.
- Main problems affecting women are –

- a. Family Problem.
- b. Financial problem.
- c. Marital Problem.
- d. Health Problem.
- e. Other Problems.

- Most of the women are not aware of their rights and government schemes.

### **12.13 Analysis:**

From the study it is found that many problems are occurring to the tea-tribe women's. Most of them are not aware of their rights and government schemes. They are also not aware of new educational opportunities like distance education or open schools.

So, it is high time for us to work for the women of our societies and provide them the equal opportunity to get education after marriage and make a happy life with better knowledge and respect in the society.

### **12.14 Suggestions:**

The researcher is now in a stage where he/she can give some suggestions about the problem, so it will be helpful to solve the issue.

- Giving information about non- formal or informal education to the society.
- Teachers should play an important role in retention of children toward schools.
- It is very important to spared awareness about education between tea-tribe women women's.
- Parents should realize the importance of schooling.

The tea-tribe is priding the of Assam and it is our duty to take them with us in the journey of success and better society. But in the last few years, it was seemed that they are lagging behind the walls of ignorance and some social taboos. This is why the educational development in the tea-tribe society didn't meet with the expectations. So it is our duty to take necessary action to solve this issue.

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