



Research Article

WOMEN EDUCATION: A SPECIAL PERSPECTIVE ON BARAK VALLEY, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Barak valley including three district namely Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi is situated in the southernmost part of Assam and it is marked as the mini North East. The total geographical area of the Valley is 6922 sq. km, which constitutes 8.9 percent of the total geographical area of the state of Assam where Bengalis, Dimasas, Manipuris (Both Bishnupriya and Meitei) Rongmei Nagas, and tea garden laborers and some Hmar groups available. The region is surrounded by Manipur in the East, Mizoram in the south, Tripura and Bangladesh in the west and North –Cachar Hills and Meghalaya in the North. Of these three districts of the valley, Hailakandi is the smallest district with total geographical area of 1327 sq. km and Cachar is the largest district with 3786 sq. km. The second largest district Karimganj covers 1809 sq. km of the total geographical area of the Valley. Women is the most important part of the society and if women get deprive from education, nutrition, health and employment that means whole environment will gets gloomy. If a woman get educated she will convince the four of her relatives to get educated and that is the most binary business in the field of education. Men and women are the two tire of the vehicle called society and if the one tire get punctured the whole society will definitely collapse down. To functionalize smooth they must be treated with equality and equal opportunity. Barak valley is dominated by the Bengali speaking people and they prefer to fetch their children’s to Bengali Medium Traditional Schools but after the advent of British they start to show interest over Anglo-Bengali form and from then the system of education shifted to English. Initially Girl child were not allowed for schooling but with the modernization they start to step in to the new format called school. The 21st century has given every human being the equal opportunity to all and more especially to the girls and taking the benefit of the 21st century the up gradation are in quick.

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INTRODUCTION

“If you educate a man you educate an individual but if you educate a woman you educate an entire nation” African saying. The perception of an educated woman is always different than an uneducated one and the difference will be seen in health condition, nutrition, and economic status of a household that constitute a small unit of nations economy. And it can indirectly be seen that if a woman deprived from her fundamental right the collapse down of any nation are not far. In early eon women were taken as the curse to the men but with passage of time the women are holding the most important position in the human modern society. Very early time women had to face the real bitterness of the society by burning themselves with their dead husband but as time passes the retina over women fraternity are changing and slowly but steadily women are taken as the backbone to the globalized and modern society world. In an updated world the women are taken as the most important pillar of human society.

If a women get educated she will help four other man to learn, Like- Son, Brother, Father and husband. Educated women are the weapons who yield in the field of society using their contribution at home as well profession. Right to education has allowed all to take the primary form of education as Fundamental right. When a women /girl ensure her right, the society at large is ensured toits sustainability. In this regards Govt. and few Non-Govt.organization has initiated few project especially for the girls. According to 2011 census the literacy rates of women in comparison to its counterpart as follows:

Si no	Place	Total literacy rate	Female literacy rate	Male literacy rate
01	India	74.04	65.46	82.14
02	Assam	73.02	67.03	78.08
03	Barak Valley	78.31	72.22	84.39

The change in the mind set and the different policies of the government sows the prospective attitude towards women as well nation and if a woman get its education she will try to furnish her family first.

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Present Status of Women Education in Barak Valley

A society will then be called civilized one when the status and eminence of men and women are parallel. In the process of prospective development a women must be weighed up. But due to superstition, exploitation and suppression from her counterpart, the position of Barak Valley women are still remain at the receiving end. There may be countable substantial progress in the life of women after 1947. But still women are handled with weak palm. It is devastating reality in the 21st century, developing country the women and girl child still facing the practice of discrimination. And these flows as different tragedies to the women fraternity. Globally it is seen the one in every three women are facing the violence during her life time. Along with different countries India too are walking in the same way and women are taking as the heavy burden to the family like burden of marriage, huge dowry whereas the male part are taken as the most efficient part. The concept of patriarchy in the rural Indian society blessed with cultural backwardness and cultural biasness against women fraternity like female infanticide and female feticides. Though male and female are not of same physical strength and never be expected to accomplish the same task but according to the physical strength one cannot be denied from the normalcy. Along with the other parts of India, Barak Valley women are too regarded as the dark spot though they are having ample contribution to the Nation. To omit those dark spot one must be given proper education with exact implication of her qualification. Sometime it is seen that women are taken as the most unused materials of the family and too regarded as the helper to her counterpart. There should not be any such discrimination and if happen so the nation will be definitely walking back to the garbage box. Women are always regarded as the wheel of the vehicle called Nation, constituting almost fifty percent of total population of any country and if they are deprived from the main track it means the total Nation is ready to derail from the track. Women are always regarded as the most effectual and beneficial agents for better home, constructive society and ultimately a fruitful economy. Barak Valley is situated in the southernmost part of the state and for that it is sometime neglected by main stream. In doing so every citizen of the Valley faces the discrimination and too deprived from the most needs. Earlier there were only University namely Guahati University where localites takes themselves as the inhabitant and outsiders were neglected whether it is male or female. In crushing so women of Barak Valley are always deprived from the higher education but thanks to the govt. of India for taking Assam University to the land of peace. With the advent of modern technology and prospective attitude of the Govt. the women of Barak Valley are sipping the real taste of education with easy mode. Few collages like Khairunnesa Begum Women college, Rabindrasadan Girls' College, Women College are promoting the women education with rocket speed. According to the proper form of education the mentality of the people must be modified and the equal participation of women fraternity must be allowed in all aspect of life. Out of 15+2=17 nos. of MLA's and MP's there is only one female member, why? This attitude must be crossed and welcome women fraternity in all aspect of life so that the fruitful out coming can be well accepted. Handful nos. of Teachers and office bearers cannot bring the renaissance in one day. It needs real and dedicated work for the betterment of those without whom the better society cannot be accepted. The

mentality of taking women with pampering attitude should be dethrone and equal status must be forwarded to their concern.

List of Educational Institution

1. Khairunnesa Begum women college, Badarpur
2. Rabindrasadan girls college, Karimganj
3. Women college, Silchar

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the educational status of women in Barak Valley.
2. To investigate the problems that women are facing in Barak Valley in the field of education and others.
3. To study the rural-urban disparities of women education in Barak Valley.
4. To examine the relationship between women education and employment.
5. To evaluate how far the programs and policies for educating women taken by the government have proven successful in raising the status of women in Barak Valley.

Challenges of Women Education in Barak Valley

1. Poverty
2. Family restrictions
3. Domestic burden
4. Religion thoughts
5. Educational institution far
6. Patriarchal attitudes
7. Traditional course
8. Absent of smart classes
9. Unemployed environment
10. Risk in the street
11. Ratio of male teacher are maximum
12. Weather condition

Job Opportunities

Lack of proper job opportunities is the localities the trend of higher education are below the minimal standard. It became highly serious phenomenon for male fraternity to acquire and hold a job where female just took birth. The norms and procedure of stereotype attitude should be overcome with the most modern form called Globalization and should flood the system with renaissance in the field of women education and job opportunities

Family Support

Women are the most efficient part of any family and the can more burden of their family and society than her counterpart. They only need to get proper educated and full support from her families. If a girl take proper education she will serve her family and society as mother, educator, teacher, guide, writer, lawyers, doctors, administrators, prospective politicians, scientist, banker, nurse and much more. They only need the family support and family trust as like her counterpart.

Religious and Other Gatekeeping

Religious loopholes are the main reasons of such backwardness. Islam never allows their women folk to participate same platform with their counterpart but too encouraging them to get educated other than their religion. Women are regarded as the wheel of the nation and if a wheel get punctured the upheaval of the same society cannot be

expected. The shackles of the Religious superstition, discrimination, deprivation must be dethrone and welcome the prospective attitude and equal opportunity to all for betterment of society and nation. Other than these there must be some change in the traditional attitudes of the Govt. so that the women fraternity should come forward without any restriction. The Govt. must take some project to alleviate the poverty. Thanks to the RTE (right to educate 2009) project and most recent project of taking free admission in school, college for those who are living below poverty line structure. Another gatekeeping may be noted that the domestic raring and caring responsibilities always falls under the shoulders of women whereas male part are king in the family which are nurtured by patriarchical society. Women are always restricted to take part in socio-economic and religious activities. Uneducated orthodox families always prefer boy-child in all aspects of life but every restrictions for girl child.

Economic Empowerment and Prosperity

Countable numbers of women are in the employment sector which demoralize the upcoming generation. Women are always taken as a burden to the family and society

Alleviate Poverty

According to many exponent women are most efficient manager of the family as well society. If a women get educated she will try her best to make herself more eligible according to her education. And after getting employed her whole concentration will be upon her family bystrategizing her job, family, salary and office in such a way that the result will always fruitful one. Distribution of her time and money are always a matter of appreciation.

Suggestions

According to many people the education are not for girls other than helping their counterpart inside the family. But the norms were proven wrong and it is proved by girls itself. They settled themselves in such a position that even male are dreaming to step in. Without any proven reason none cannot be deprived from the education. If girls are deprived from the knowledge of Domestic Science and child psychology the family will be with full of people but not with knowledge. Mass communication is the most important tools of getting disseminate and if proper spreading of information are done with the most updated media than the gapping between men and its counterpart will be null. The result will be in the hand of every human being and there will be no chance of gender inequality and bias. Educated are more conscious than an uneducated and more fruitful too. The society must avail such a system so that every child should grow up under same umbrella of sustainable development. Women should not be under the frame work of her family but to the world so that she maintain everything is such a way that everything run smooth and accordingly.

CONCLUSION

Women are the wheel of the family and if they get punctured the whole family will collapse down within a fraction of time, so women must be taken seriously without any such societal restrictions. Until middle of the 19th century, girls and women were educated only because to cross the household task but now its 21st century which allow all to take equal participation with equal attitude. India Govt. has initiated many such project like- BetiBachawbetiPadaw, Pradhan mantra Ujjalajujogana, RastriyaMahilaKosh, Mother and child tracking system etc. Women must be welcome every aspect of life without any such traditional; restrictions and allow them to flourish like never before. If male part of the society understand the importance than the development of women cannot be restricted and the boat of society will run over the water like never before. By edging every societal, religious superstition the development of women fraternity should be in the mind of Govt., Male and too Female part of the society. For betterment of the modern society everyone must come forward with new positive and prospective ideas so that everyone must participate for the wellbeing of the society and nation. With sidelining one portion (main) of the society the nation development cannot be expected. So come and join hand to welcome the prospect of overall peace, prosperity and development.

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