



Women Empowerment: Socio-Economic, Political and Educational Status of Women with Special Reference to Banmukh Chutia Village, Sivasagar District, Assam

Dr. Binita Chutia

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, BLB College, Sivasagar, Assam, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18628586>

Corresponding Author: Dr. Binita Chutia

Abstract

Women are considered the backbone of a society. They are vital for the overall growth and development of a society, a nation, a country, and especially a family. The vision of a progressive nation can only be realized when women in every society are given equal position and status, enabling them to live with dignity and stability. However, in today's society, women are often deprived of their rights in all areas of life. Although there are reserved seats for women in various political organizations, they are still not given real opportunities to participate in decision-making and policy-making processes. Women are often subjected to male dominance. They do not receive the respect they deserve from a so-called patriarchal society. This issue has become widespread, especially among women from the lower castes of society.

Women empowerment is a process aimed at empowering women. It can be understood in many ways, such as recognizing women's rights, improving their social status through education, awareness, knowledge, and skill development. Women empowerment allows women to take part in making decisions regarding various social issues. They may also have the chance to review gender-related matters or similar issues, which can provide them with more freedom to pursue their aspirations.

In the modern world, women play a significant role in many fields, ranging from scientific achievements and literary works to support and competition in the social and economic aspects of life. An effective women's empowerment includes a wide range of measures, such as encouraging their active participation in development programs and helping them become independent and confident. This helps them face the challenges of living in a patriarchal society with courage and self-respect. True empowerment can only be achieved when individuals have the ability to make their own decisions. Society must understand that a woman is essential for the survival of the human race. She is the backbone of societal development. When the status of women improves, the quality of life for everyone increases. Woman is the backbone of the development of societies. When the status of women improves, the quality of life improves for everyone. In this article an attempt will be made to discuss about "Socio-Economic, Political and Educational Status of Women in General and Banmukh Chutia Village, Sivasagar District, Assam in Particular.

Keywords: Empowerment, Women, Rights, Socio-Political, Educational, Economic Status, Sivasagar, Assam

Introduction

Women are the backbone of society. They are viewed as essential for the overall growth of a society, a nation, a country, and especially a family. The vision of an advanced nation can only be achieved when women are given equal standing and position in any society, allowing them to live with dignity and quality. However, in the current society, it is common for women to be deprived of their rights in all areas of life. Although women are provided reserved seats in every political body, they still have no real opportunity to take part in the actual decision-making and policy-forming processes of the country. They are dominated by men. A

woman does not receive much respect in the so-called patriarchal society, and this issue has become a widespread social concern, especially among women from the less developed sections of society.

In this context, it is important to discuss the term "status" in detail. Theoretically, the term "Status" has certain legal meanings. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, the word "status" means "the legal position of a person, group, or country; the social or professional position of a person in relation to others." Similarly, the dictionary also defines "status" as "the degree of significance attached to a thing, a situation at a particular time during a process."

Therefore, it is clear that the term "status" refers to the social or professional position of a person in a particular society when compared to others. According to sociologists, status describes the position that a person holds in a given society. All individuals hold multiple statuses and play roles associated with them. A status can be described as a set of morals, values, behaviours, and expectations tied to it.

Additionally, the International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences states, "Age, wealth, birth, lineage, and other natural and traditional characteristics are the true basis of status. Until about 1920, the term 'status' was generally used to refer to either the enforceable rights and limitations of people or their relative superiority and inferiority."

Despite this, there is still a lack of consensus among socio-political scientists regarding the status of women. For example, the social scientist Sacchidananda argues that "the role and status of women worldwide are generally determined by social institutions, moral values, religious beliefs, and class position."

Another scholar, A.K. Lal, in his work "Status of Women in and Collaborative Setting: An Analysis of Mannered Sequestration in the Family," observed that "While the status of women in a society is influenced by various factors, it is clear that the pattern of task division within the family also provides important insights into the prevailing status of women in society. Women's status will be lowest in a society where the division of labour between men's work and women's work is most pronounced."

In ancient India, women were given a high position and status. This heritage continued even after independence, as the Indian constitution and laws have granted women equal status with men. However, despite these efforts, women are still perceived as the most vulnerable, oppressed, and subjugated members of society in all aspects of their lives.

Thus, it may categorically be concluded that unless and until the domination of male over female, the so-called man made superstitions and prejudices of any society can be dispelled out, development, elevation, empowerment and upliftment of the women status cannot be ascertained and any effort in this direction would remain a futile exercise. The term 'status' was most often used to refer to either the legally enforceable abilities and limitations of people or to relative superiority and inferiority. In ancient India, women were endowed with superior position and status. Even after decolonization, the Indian Constitution and laws have accorded women the same status as men.

Despite this, women are considered the most discriminated, dispossessed and oppressed group in society in all spheres of life. If women are empowered by economic, social, religious and political power, they will be more confident and express their thoughts without fear of laughter and be more effective in their actions. This can be good for him and his family and community, because he will be involved in decisions that affect everyone, and his decisions will depend on what is appropriate for everyone, not just her. Providing education and mentoring programs that teach young girls, young women, and older women how to contribute and live with themselves will lead to a great change in our society that will impact the entire world. A woman who is satisfied with her identity and learns how to love herself and cooperate with other women without fear of loss or envy will promote economic growth and enable women to be more

progressive, influencing every aspect of their lives.

Thus, the status of women in a society is determined by a number of factors, the pattern of task differentiation in the family also provides valuable clues to the prevailing status of women in society. The status of women is lowest in a society characterized by some form of differentiation between men's and women's work. From this it can be categorically concluded that the development, promotion, empowerment and improvement of the status of women cannot be established until the domination of men over women, the so-called man-made superstitions and prejudices of a society can be eradicated, and that any effort in this direction would be futile.

The objectives of the study

The basic objectives of the study have been formulated as follow.

1. To discuss about the meaning of empowerment.
2. To examine the empowering women through education.
3. To study the socio-economic, political and educational status of women in India specially. Banmukh Chutia village, Sivasagar District, Assam.
4. To examine the women empowerment in present context.

Methodology

As for the question of methodology, the present study is based on the historical and analytical method. The historical method covers the history of the role, empowerment of women of Assam. The analytical method is used to study the socio-economic development and the level of political awareness of women.

In terms of sources of information, the proposed work relies largely on primary sources. These mainly include relevant official records, files, and essentially field studies. In order to determine the level of social, political awareness, a questionnaire and an interview method are also used.

Statement of the problem

Assam serves as a key gateway to the North-Eastern region of India. It is situated in the North-eastern part of the country, bordered by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh to the north, Nagaland and Manipur to the east, Mizoram and Tripura to the south, and Bangladesh, Meghalaya, and West Bengal to the west. The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya were once part of Assam. Assam is home to a diverse population, including both hill and plain communities, as well as racial and non-tribal groups, primarily of Tibeto-Mongolian origin. These groups arrived in Assam, which was previously known as Kamrupa and Pragjyotipura, from various directions and at different times. The Tai-Ahoms, who ruled Assam for nearly six centuries, from 1228 to 1826, are recognized for uniting these communities and creating a unified Assam, although they eventually gave up their own language.

One of the important district of Assam is the Sivasagar district, which was originally called Rangpur. Sivasagar was the capital of the Ahom dynasty, which ruled Assam for six centuries. According to local tradition, the original name of Sivasagar was "Kalan Supar," named after "Kalan Su Gohain," who lived in a village near where the Sivasagar Pukhuri (tank) is located. In 1733, the Ahom queen

Ambikadevi had a tank constructed in the capital of Rangpur, covering an area of 257 hectares. The place came to be called Sivpore (Sivpur), which is associated with the Siva Dol (shrine) built on the banks of the tank. Over time, the name Sivasagar became popular. Since the name of the place is linked to a shrine built by a queen, it reflects the significant role women played in that region. This is why the study focuses on the status of women in Banmukh Chutia village, Sivasagar, Assam to determine whether their position has improved or worsened over time.

Women make up nearly half of the world's population, yet they do not enjoy equal rights as men. Throughout history, women have been seen as the property of men, serving their interests within society and at home. They were often denied access to education and other opportunities. While the Dharma Sastras elevated the status of women, it is unclear whether they actually achieved that position. Due to the patriarchal traditions in ancient Assam, women's roles were limited in various areas. That is why women are often referred to as the "better half" or "half of heaven." Without women's involvement in all kinds of work, human civilization could not have progressed. Therefore, women's participation in social, artistic, and political activities is a crucial indicator of their status in a country or society.

Women in India are not a single group, and the challenges they face vary based on their background. As a collective, they are constantly subjected to inequality and domination in India's rigid and unjust social system. Although women make up half the world's population, their contributions to high positions are often overlooked. They face specific limitations in accessing and participating in social arrangements across all aspects of life. In this context, it is clear that women's status in society cannot improve unless they are empowered. The involvement of women leaders can be examined in two main areas: leadership within the community and leadership influenced by external factors. Empowering women means giving them greater control over the decisions that affect their lives both inside and outside the home. Women should be encouraged to contribute their vision, leadership, knowledge, skills, and perspectives to the development process, from the local to the global level. They should also be involved in decision-making. Emphasis should be placed on supporting gender-responsive legislation and local reforms to enhance women's ability to influence society and remove barriers to their access to power.

In the modern world, women play a vital role in various fields, including science, literature, finance, and the competitive social and economic landscape. Effective women's empowerment involves a broader set of measures, including their active participation in development programs and encouraging women to become independent and confident so that they can face the challenges of life in a patriarchal society with courage and respect. Individual empowerment can only be achieved when individuals have the freedom to form their own opinions. Society must recognize that women are the key to the survival of humanity. They are the backbone of societal development. When the status of women improves, the quality of life for everyone also improves. Women must be respected, confident, and have the freedom to determine their own conditions. Classifying people based on gender is

unreasonable and has no value. Women are still paid less, have to cook, and are often confined by their family members. To overcome these situations and play an independent role in society, women must be empowered. The empowerment of women is their fundamental right. They should be allowed to participate equally in education, society, economy, and politics. They should have access to higher education and be treated equally to men.

Empowerment is a multidimensional social process that helps individualities and communities gain the control they need over their lives. This process primarily supports the right power of individualities that they will use in their own way in their lives, communities and communities to exclude the problems. When this action aims to raise the position of the community of women, this is called the empowerment of women. Empowering women to achieve gender equivalency is clearly the loftiest precedence among the numerous programs to empower women in utmost countries around the world. It's also clear that gender inequalities are veritably high in developing countries compared to numerous advanced countries.

Women's empowerment can be defined in a number of ways, similar as accepting women's points of view or working toward those points of view, perfecting the status of women through education, mindfulness, knowledge, and training. Women's empowerment empowers and enables women to make life-defining opinions in the face of different problems in society. They've the occasion to review gender places or other places, which in turn gives them more freedom to pursue asked pretensions.

Women's empowerment has become an important topic of discussion in development and economic policy. Economic empowerment enables women to control and use resources, assets, and income. It also fosters the ability to manage risk and improve women's well-being. It can lead to approaches to support trivialized genders in a particular political or social context. The broader concept of gender empowerment, while often used interchangeably, refers to people of any gender and emphasizes the distinction between biological sex and gender as a role. Women's empowerment helps improve the status of women through literacy, education, training, and awareness.

In addition, women's empowerment refers to women's ability to make strategic life decisions that were previously denied to them. However, modern women are aware of their rights and are able to make rational and informed decisions in all areas of life. This includes the continued struggle for women's empowerment in the social, political, economic and religious spheres. After all, equality means that men and women in society have equal opportunities to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. Modern women do not lose themselves in the comfortable confines of their homes. Women today are doctors, engineers and scientists, and thus play an important role in society. They also enjoy freedom of expression without any restrictions. In most countries, there is a solid legal infrastructure that encourages and protects women from exploitation, such as dowry and marriage. The government is constantly working to implement laws to increase women's awareness of their rights.

When women are empowered through economic, social, religious and political power, they are more confident and

express their thoughts without fear of being laughed at and are more effective in their actions. This can be good for him, his family, and his community, because he will be involved in decisions that affect all of the above, and his decisions will depend on what is appropriate for everyone, not just them. Providing education and mentoring programs that teach young girls, young women and older women how to contribute and live with themselves will lead to a great change in our society that will affect the whole world. A woman who is comfortable with her identity and learns to love herself and work with other women without fear of loss or envy will promote economic growth and allow women to be more progressive, influencing every aspect of their lives.

Socio-economic, political, educational status of women with special reference to Banmukh Chutia village, Sivasagar district, Assam

Women are regarded as the backbone, foundation of society. They are considered essential for the overall progress of a society, a country, a rural area, and particularly within families. The vision of a developed nation can only be realized when the female part of every society is given equal status and recognition within their communities, enabling them to lead a respectful and stable life. However, in modern society, it is commonly observed that women are often deprived in various aspects of their lives. Although there are reserved seats for women in all political organizations, they are not usually chosen by political parties to participate in decision-making, thus excluding them from the process of shaping policies in our country. Women face dominance from men. A woman does not receive the respect she deserves from a society that is still patriarchal, and this has caused a subtle form of social discrimination, especially among women from backward communities.

The term "status" refers to a person's social or professional position within a society in relation to others. Sociologists define status as the position someone holds in a specific context. Individuals often have multiple statuses, each associated with certain roles, expectations, and behaviors. A role is a set of norms, values, behaviours, and personality traits linked to a particular status. Until about 1920, the term "status" was generally used to indicate people's fixed abilities and limitations, or their relative superiority or inferiority. Still, the status of women will remain the lowest in a society where there is a clear separation between men's work and women's work. In ancient India, women were given a high status and respect. Continuing this tradition, after independence, the Indian Constitution and laws provided women with equal status to men. Despite this, women are indeed the most marginalized, deprived, and oppressed group in every aspect of their lives.

The main aim of this article is to discuss the socio-economic, political, and educational status of women with a specific focus on Banmukh Chutia village in Sivasagar District, Assam.

Details of Banmukh Chutia village can be summarized as follows

Banmukh Chutia village is a medium-sized village located in Sivasagar District, Assam, with a total of 206 families. The village has a population of 1,004, of which 518 are

males and 486 are females, as per the 2011 Population Census. The population of children aged 0-6 is 101, which constitutes 10.06% of the total population of the village. The average literacy rate of Banmukh Chutia village is 938, which is lower than the state average of 958. The child literacy rate for Banmukh Chutia village is 870, which is also lower than the state average of 962. Banmukh Chutia village has a higher literacy rate compared to Assam. In 2011, the literacy rate of Banmukh Chutia village was 94.46, compared to 72.19 in Assam. In Banmukh Chutia village, the male literacy rate was 97.84 while the female literacy rate was 90.89.

According to the Indian Constitution and the Panchayati Raj Act, Banmukh Chutia village is governed by a Sarpanch, who is the representative of the village. Among the total population, Scheduled Tribes (ST) constitute 24.40%, while Scheduled Castes (SC) account for 15.64%. of total population in Banmukh Chutia village, Sivasagar district.

Table 1: Data of Banmukh Chutia village

Total No. of Houses	206	--	--
Population	1,004	518	486
Child (0-6)	101	54	47
Schedule Caste	157	81	76
Schedule Tribe	245	132	113
Literacy	94.46%	97.84%	90.89%
Total Workers	324	265	59
Main Worker	208	--	--
Marginal Worker	116	95	21

In Banmukh Chutia village, Sivasagar out of total population, 324 were engaged in work conditioning. 64.20 of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning further than 6 Months) while 35.80 were involved in Borderline exertion furnishing livelihood for lower than 6 months. Of 324 workers engaged in Main Work, 19 were tillers (proprietor or owner) while 21 were Agrarian labourer.

In this article, I had selected 20 respondents for interview. Within these interviewees, there are literate and illiterate women also. Illiterate women are mainly housewife. But I noticed that these illiterate women also try to solve the economic problem of the family. Today, women are becoming more and more economically independent. Nowadays, the status of women in India in general and study area in particular have greatly improved and there are many women holding job, high and prestigious positions in government offices and private companies. Women's activities are in all areas of contemporary economy in India. This proved that women can be even better than men if given the opportunity. Both the central and state governments of India should give women equal opportunities as their male counterparts. In earlier times, women were exploited by the society by all possible means. They endured a lot of review, demanded freedom and stood nowhere coming to men. They were indeed deprived of introductory human rights. Traditionally, women were considered caretakers. They had to take care of the smooth running of the family, they had to manage their charges as economically as possible, they had to take care of elderly father-in-law, take care of the child, etc. They were anticipated to observe their husband's orders. The elders of

the family, but kept themselves in sequestration when it came to major opinions concerning the family. There were also aged women who were well educated and led the way to success in multitudinous areas of life thanks to the support of their families. It's these women who lead the ways of change and brought about a transformation in how people viewed women in society. The treatment with women in the society has changed a bit in recent years. It can be observed that a slow and steady increase of women status in all important fields is significantly visible now.

On the other hand, at present women are no longer limited to cooking and taking care of the household activities, but they are able to step out of their home to create their own images in the outside world as well. In a summarised way, this can be referred to as women empowerment. Society has now changed its attitude and view of women as a result of the achievements that women have made in all dimensions. Men today are more understanding of the women in their lives, although there are many cases of domestic violence and gender discrimination.

Women with regards to upliftment education is a device that achieves correspondence of chance. The denial of right to education to female because of prohibitive social mentalities and assumptions of females' inefficient jobs has prompted the perseverance of inconsistent status. On account of their obliviousness, females have been taken advantage of and tormented for a very long time. Being a male society where men corner females' freedoms. An ignorant women doesn't have the foggiest idea about her situation in the family. She in this manner turns into a manikin in the possession of her significant other and follows his lead. Banmukh Chetia village, Sivasagar. It may, training uncovered obliviousness and lack of education. One more significant advantage of imparting education to women is developing consciousness of their status. Nowadays rural and urban girls are almost as educated as boys. Like any other places, I noticed that girls are almost as educated as boys in Banmukh Chetia village, Sivasagar. In this village, there are also women service holders like men.

In ancient times, men dominated society and women were subordinate to men. At the family level, women had little to no input and men were solely responsible for all decisions. Women were considered the property of men. Academic performance and formal jobs were much higher for men, while women took on family responsibilities and shouldered the burden of household chores. A patriarchal and oppressive society with an inhumane caste system has caused immense suffering to women in many parts of the world. They were abused inside and outside the home. Women in India followed in the footsteps of women in the West more than 80 years ago. The role of women in shaping modern India is staggering. The Indian subcontinent is slowly emerging as a powerful nation since women began to play an important role in the development, culture and economy of the country. The change in the status of women from the past to the present is very admirable.

Today, women are seen as the driving force behind the country's development. A perfect combination of family and career. Indian women have held high and prestigious offices, including President (Mrs. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil), Prime Minister (Mrs. Indira Gandhi), President Lok Sabha (Mrs. Meera Kumar) and First Lady of the IAS (Isha

Basant Joshi). First female IPS (Kiran Bedi) and others. In the context of India, until recently, the power women enjoyed depended on their hierarchical position in the family, especially motherhood of male children, the status of husband or son. The career choice was not typical for middle and upper class economic women in Indian society. The educated working woman is a new conception that surfaced in the world substantially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but the process is slower in the Indian environment. The freedom movement and the partitioning of the Indian key were necessary in the emergence of an profitable part for Indian women in educated Indian society. With the exception of education, nursing and medical professions, women's participation in jobs is a 20th century miracle in India.

Still, the place of women should be measured by their factual place in the social, family, plant and profitable power structure. The main purpose of women's participation was to insure equivalency between men and women in educational institutions. further women than ever are sharing in sports moment. It's extensively believed that women around the world have faced demarcation and privation of all kinds since recorded history, being denied indeed introductory rights similar as access to education and property. This global concern has grown steadily in recent decades, leading to efforts to bring women in the mainstream of life, primarily through socioeconomic activities aimed at empowering women and restoring gender equality.

But a woman's true empowerment lies in helping her unlock the spiritual side of her personality, make the character, and reveal her chastity and fatherhood. These make up the personality of the ideal Indian woman. All women are part of the same horizonless Divine Power. The significance and applicability of women's empowerment must be completely honored in order to save artistic traditions and spiritual values and combat the negative trends presently impacting politics. Since independence, the Indian government has tried to legislate laws, regulations and positive discriminative programs to empower women. The indigenous frame seeks to reduce the forces that divide society and achieve equivalency in terms of estate, gender and religion. Acceptable legislative measures are also legislated and development programs are initiated to increase women's participation in profitable affairs by breaking down from traditional and rigid socio-artistic constraints, practices and stations. Enterprise have been taken to raise mindfulness of gender equivalency, but pointers of the charge's success appear to have reached elite situations. The changes do not represent a significant improvement in the status of women overall, especially those of the lower castes, the illiterate and the poor, who make up the majority.

However, in modern time women are apprehensive of their rights and are suitable to make rational and informed opinions in all areas of life, including the ongoing struggle for women's empowerment. Because gender equality means that men and women in society have equal opportunities to achieve internationally agreed development goals. The modern woman does not lose herself in her comfort zone at home.

Today women play important roles in society, becoming

doctors, engineers and scientists. They also enjoy unrestricted freedom of opinion and expression. Most countries have strong legal infrastructures to encourage women and protect them from exploitation. Governments are constantly enforcing laws to make women aware of their rights.

The status of women has been steadily evolving. India had many female reformers who worked to elevate and improve women. There were numerous women liberals in India who worked to elevate and ameliorate the species of women. In this period women's education increased and English was introduced. In modern India, not only the right to education, but also freedoms and rights similar as freedom of expression and equivalency were given to Indian women. Like that, some problems similar as dowry, domestic violence, coitus bloodsucker- convinced revocation, and girl child murder are still current in our society. The status of women in India has bettered significantly, with further women holding high positions in government and private companies. This proves that women are better than men when given the chance. India's central and state governments should give women the same opportunities as men.

It is true that women are intelligent, hardworking, and efficient workers. Strive for maximum efficiency and perfection in administrative affairs. Their character integrity is perhaps superior to that of men. In general, women are found to be less vulnerable to corruption in the form of bribery and favoritism. Women play an important role as teachers. In a country like India, where millions of people are illiterate and groping in the darkness of ignorance, what they need most is effective education for their children. Through their love and affection for children, women have proven to be the best teachers in elementary and kindergarten. Little children in kindergarten receive maternal affection from their teachers. It may be mentioned that Indian women have also worked as doctors and nurses. They have monopolized positions as nurses in hospitals and nursing homes. Few men can compete with them in this area, as women are naturally more inclined to serve and clean.

On the other hand, women's contribution to politics and social services is also very important. One can mention the name of Indira Gandhi, who played an important role in Indian politics. Today we need a ministry of educated women who travel across the country and help people end their suffering. The government is concerned about rapid population growth, especially in rural areas. Volunteer women can more easily undertake the task of spreading the benefits of family planning to rural women. In urban areas, orphanages and widow welfare centres can efficiently carry out the task of visiting and teaching orphans and helpless widows. But all this should not lead to the conclusion that women should look down on family life. The main sphere of action for those who have never worked outside of the home should essentially be a happy home. It is their true kingdom, where sweet manners and mature advice as wives, mothers, sisters and daughters have a great influence on the male members.

However, a nation's progress depends on the care and skill with which mothers raise their children. Therefore, the most important duty of Indian women is to produce a noble

generation of patriots, warriors, scholars and politicians. Therefore, women play an important role in the mother's arms. As children grow up primarily in the arms of their mothers, they must feel and recognize that they are shaping the destiny of our nation at every stage of their lives. Husbands and sons must be dissuaded from corrupt practices of Corruption has been the biggest obstacle to India's progress so far. Without corruption, India would have become one of the world's most advanced nations.

However, it is undeniable that women in India still face many obstacles and social ills in a male-dominated society despite the great progress they have made in the last 50 years. Hindu law divides property equally between her daughters and sons, and marriage law no longer considers a woman to be the property of a man. Marriage is now seen as a personal matter, and if one partner is dissatisfied, that partner has the right to divorce. But passing laws is one thing, and incorporating them into society's collective thinking is one thing. They must shake off the shackles of slavery and superstition in order to prove they are equal to the dignity and status accorded them in the Indian Constitution. They need to help government and society eradicate the evils of dowry, illiteracy and ignorance among mothers.

The dowry problem is taking a dangerous shape in this country. Thousands and tens of millions must be paid to the bridegroom and his greedy father and mother. If the promised goods are not given by the bride's parents, cruel and greedy members of the groom's family resort to excruciating tortures on married women. In such cases, some women are murdered. Dowry death is a truly heinous and barbaric crime by a cruel and inhumane person. Young girls should have the courage not to marry a boy who demands a dowry from her parents, and the boy should refuse to marry if his parents demand a dowry. But, unfortunately, the number of such brave and conscientious boys is very small.

However, when women are empowered by economic, social, religious and political power, they are more confident, able to speak their minds without fear of laughter and act more effectively. This is good for her and her family and community as she participates in decisions that affect all of the above and her decisions depend on what is appropriate for everyone. Young girls, young women, the elderly providing training, education, and mentoring programs that teach women how to enter and live with themselves is focused on making a difference in our society and impacting the world. Women who are comfortable with their identities, who learn to love themselves without losing fear or jealousy, and who learn to work with other women can foster economic growth, enable women to become more progressive, and, as a result, they can influence every aspect of their life.

Education is one of the most important means of providing women with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to participate fully in the development process.

On the other hand, Government plays a key role among external factors in women's empowerment. Numerous laws were enacted to improve the status of women in India both before and after independence.

However, today's women are aware of their rights and can make rational and informed decisions in all areas of life.

Including the ongoing struggle for women's empowerment in society, politics, economics and religion. Because gender equality means that men and women in society have equal opportunities to achieve internationally agreed development goals. Modern women never get lost in a cozy corner of their home. Today, women are playing important roles in society, becoming doctors, engineers, and scientists. They also enjoy freedom of expression and self-expression without any restrictions. Most countries have a strong legal infrastructure to encourage and protect women from exploitation such as dowry and marriage. The government continues to enact laws to raise awareness of women's rights. The status of women has been steadily evolving. India had many female reformers who worked to elevate and improve women. During this period, female education increased and English was introduced. Various writers appeared in society. In modern times, women in India have been granted freedoms and rights such as freedom of expression and equality as well as the right to education. During this period, various positions of authority were held by women. They use Women First's services in a variety of fields.

However, issues such as dowry, domestic violence, sexually selective abortion, and the killing of female children are still prevalent in our society, the position of women in India has improved significantly, with many women holding senior positions in government agencies and private companies. Women's activism is present in all areas of India's modern economy. It has proven that women can be better than men if given the chance. The central and state governments of India should give women equal opportunities with men. Today, women are becoming more and more economically independent, and men are taking on new responsibilities previously considered women's work. Even more important than the International Year of Women is that economic conditions and basic needs are forcing both men and women to rethink traditional and existing social conditions.

In this article, I want to discuss what the status of women was in the past, how it affects the present and what can be expected in the future. On the other hand, as a result of their newfound freedom, Indian women rose to prominence in many walks of life as politicians, orators, lawyers, doctors, administrators, and diplomats. Not only do they take on responsible tasks, but they do so with great honesty and integrity. There are few areas of life in which Indian women do not engage and prove themselves. It is seen that women exercise their right to vote, participate in parliamentary and congressional elections, seek public office, and compete with men in other areas of life. This shows that women in India today enjoy more freedom and equality than ever before. They were given more freedom to engage in national affairs. They are equal to men in shaping their own future and sharing responsibility for themselves, their families and their country. It is true that women are smart, hardworking and efficient. They unite heart and soul in everything they undertake. They work very hard to achieve maximum efficiency and excellence in their administrative work. The integrity of their character is perhaps better than that of men. Women in general have been found to be less susceptible to corruption such as bribery and favoritism.

In India, women undoubtedly hold the most important positions in the prime minister, president, chairman of the

Lok Sabha and in the corporate sector, but women are witnessing abuse in the home, dowry deaths and abuse. According to the 2014 census, India's current sex ratio remains unsatisfactory at 943 women to every 1,000 men. Women's contributions to the state legislature and legislature each made only between 8 and 10 percent. Today, women are denied opportunities and marginalized in various fields of employment just because they are women. Deep prejudice against women and extreme poverty create a vicious cycle of inequality that prevents women from reaching their full potential. The frequency of rape and violent attacks is alarming. Empowerment is a tool to help women achieve equality with men and significantly reduce gender bias.

Women play an important role in the development of various fields and contribute to economic development both visible and invisible. Therefore, in order to break the vicious cycle that imprisons women in India, it is necessary to simultaneously empower women in the social, political, economic and cultural spheres. The real truth is the horrific conditions and exploitation of women, especially women from vulnerable backgrounds and those belonging to rural areas. It may be mentioned that various steps have been taken in India for the empowerment of women. The Constitution of India guarantees the equality of women by providing (Article 14), equal privileges for women, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, sex, caste or place of birth (Article 15(1)), equal opportunities for all residents regarding employment (Article 16) etc. In addition, the Constitution of India provided at least one-third seats for reservation in Municipalities and Panchayats for ladies 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993). And 33% of seats reserved in Parliament and State Legislatures under the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act (1998). India has adopted many legislative and constitutional provisions and many progressive schemes to improve the status.

Women empowerment in present context

Women are said to be the backbone of a society. They are considered as the main potentiality for all around development of a society, a nation, a country in general and a family in particular. The dream of a developed nation can be realized only when women segment of every society are accorded equal position and status in a given society which leads them to live a respectful and dignified life. But in the contemporary society, it has been usually witnessed that women are deprived of their lives in every spheres. Though reservation of seats for women are granted in every political organization, still they do not get a chance to take part in the actual decision making as well as policy making process of our country. They are made subject to male domination. A woman does not get a worthwhile respect for her from the so-called patriarchal society and this has got diffused like a social disease especially among the women belonging to the backward classes of the society. Since time immemorial, Women have always been seen as a multiple role player, effortlessly every day, and thus, they are the backbone of every society. Although living in patriarchal societies, still they are capable play a wide range of roles, such as a loving mothers, caring daughters, and efficient employees.

On the other hand, they have also considered as backward section of the society around the world. As a result, it has

been observed that women are facing the brunt of injustice, financial constraints, domination, and various social evils. In some societies, women are still facing gender based discrimination. They are not equal in the eyes of the law. They get less wages, considered good for household activities. It seems that Women are considered as the sole bearer of culture. They are not considered safe to stay late in night, or to work with men. Empowerment of women is a need. It is essential for women's morale upliftment and also for the society.

It may be mentioned that empowerment of women is to give women their due right. Women must have equal right to education, to take part in all social activities, and to take decision in economical and political matters. Women has the capability to involve in society. They must be allowed higher education as like men. They should be allowed to pursue high-level of education, finish their classes, learn skill and study whatever they wish for. Women must participate in policy making because she takes part in the formation government by casting her vote judiciously. Empowerment of women is capable of reducing domestic violence by compelling people to give the due value to women. Empowered Women are not abused by factors such as sexual, and physical abuse because she knows her rights and ways to defend herself. Women empowerment refers to authority, or the power embarked on women by sharing indistinguishable rights. It refers to the unleashing of women from socio-economic constraints and development of reliance. Women comprise around half of the country's population but a bulk of them stays economically dependent on others in lack of proper employment. In the era of feminism, a tiny portion of women in the country are free and can engage their free will and are allowed to carve out their lives the way they wish for. But there is still a huge section of women in India who need optimistic support. In both rural and urban India, women are still denied of their fundamental rights namely education and are never allowed to pursue higher education despite having qualification to do so. Likewise, employee empowerment is relatively a new concept. Empowerment of Women' would mean enabling women to realize their full potentialities and powers in every sphere of their lives.

Since empowerment is a practical philosophy and a tool for change that helps to improve the employee satisfaction leading to organisational effectiveness it was felt necessary to find out the opinion of the women executives in empowering them in their organisation. There is hardly any country that treats women at par with men. Despite the vast numerical strength, women occupied a marginalized position in the society because of several socio-economic constraints. Therefore, unless women are empowered, their status in the society cannot be improved. Improving women productivity and quality of life implies a multi dimensional contribution to overall growth and development.

Likewise, in order to raise the status and participation of women, the government has undertaken various measures. As a result, in all the cities and villages of India, today's women are breaking the social and psychological barriers and are assuming new responsibilities. Women's role once confined to domestic servant hood or farm labour has expanded noticeably. Women have started working in all fields. It is being observed that the number of women

employees are increasingly today in all organizations. Today's India has facilitated the entry of women into all fields of activity and we can witness their empowerment which was rare around three to four decades ago. The idea of empowerment can be visualised better in environment of social, educational, economical, political and psychological upliftment of women. The social of empowerment women addresses areas of gender discrimination in the society. Women empowerment is to maximize the educational openings of women because of which they can be suitable to make meaningful opinions about themselves and their families.

The economic empowerment of women is to be understood as the process of bestowing women the power to come "bread winners" to be self-reliant to generate income from any projects and thus fight poverty. The political empowerment of women is her involvement in policy making. The psychological empowerment of women is the process in which woman increase their self-interests and morale to become more involved in national level issues namely education, politics, health, agricultural and development and numerous further.

Empowering women is the fundamental right of women. They should get equal rights to share in education, society, economics, and politics. They must be allowed to have advanced education and be treated equal to men. therefore, in reality women empowerment is to empower herself and not to over power men. We can also understand this as empowerment of women is the process by which the disempowered/ helpless women gets an occasion for upliftment. They get the situations and the power to have decision making authority in their own lives. For this, women must have the freedom to be tone reliant and tone confident. Keeping this in mind, government of India legislated several legislations from time to time to raise the status of women.

Women's empowerment without two effects is insolvable. One is education and the another bone is profitable independence. In the recent times, everyone is pointing on the women empowerment. It's right to say that women's empowerment has come the necessity of the time. Women must have liberty, faith, and self-worth to raise voice for their requirements and demands. Demarcation grounded on gender is a kind of crime and is having no impact as we can see the growth of women in the last many decades. Women empowerment in the country is possible by prostrating situations of similar types and also by furnishing women with their independent part in the society. Empowerment of women is a necessity. They should have commensurable rights to contribute to the society, economics, education, and politics. They must be approved to get advanced education and admit a analogous treatment at par with men. To empower women with knowledge and self-confidence, education is one of the most important means. It's necessary for women to be educated in order to share completely in the development process.

Women comprise half of our society, without them public development is insolvable. Being part of a patriarchal society, an illiterate woman does n't know her position in her own family. As a result, she becomes a puppet in the hands of her spouse and in-laws and dances to their tune. However, upto a great extend education has removed the

ignorance. The other important contribution of women education is raising awareness about their status. Besides enacting the legislations for women, the government had taken measures in the direction of providing justice to women by protecting them against social evils. A special cell to help women in distress has been established by the Government of India. The measures are.....

Firstly, the central government had appointed a woman minister to deal with women's issues.

Secondly, social vigilance groups were established to help the aggrieved.

Thirdly, person and national plan of legal literacy have been evolved to raise the legal status of women.

Fourthly, the policies and programmes for economic and social development initiated by the government brought positive results in the improvement and widening of opportunities for women to participate in the social processes in a more effective manner. Education, vocational, training, health services, family planning, welfare and development programmes sought to change and improve the conditions of living and mental horizon of women.

Fifthly, the supreme ancient Hindu law bestows women should be protected and honored at all stages of her life. However, down through the ages, due to socio-economic condition, women of India could not play a vital role in the progress of our society. Unless women play an important part in the activities of the state, the state could not make much progress.

However, in the Indian context, until recently, the status enjoyed by women depended on their hierarchical status within the family and on motherhood, especially the birth of male children. It depended on the status of the father, husband or son. Career choices were not common for women in the middle- and upper-class economic systems of Indian society. An educated and professional woman is a new concept, especially in her late nineteenth and early twentieth century world, and the process slows in the Indian context. Liberation movements and the partitioning of the Indian subcontinent contributed to the emergence of the economic role of Indian women in educated Indian societies. But women's empowerment must be measured by the actual place they occupy in society, at home, at work and in economic power structures. Among the external factors in women's empowerment, governments play a central role. Numerous laws were enacted in both the pre-independence and post-independence period to improve the status of women in India.

In India, women hold prime ministers, presidents, spokeswomen in parliament, and most important positions in the corporate sector. According to the 2014 census, India's current gender ratio of 943 women and 1,000 men is far from satisfactory. The proportion of women in state and legislative bodies was only 8 to 10 percent.

Empowerment serves as a important tool that enables women to achieve equivalency with men and significantly reduces gender bias. Women play a pivotal part in the development of colorful sectors, making substantial benefactions to the frugality in both visible and less egregious ways. Thus, it's vital to empower women in all areas of life - socially, politically, economically, and

culturally - to break the dangerous cycle that numerous Indian women are confined within. The reality is that women, particularly those from poorer backgrounds and pastoral areas, frequently face severe rigors and are constantly subordinated to exploitation.

In India, multitudinous enterprise have been launched to support women's empowerment. The Constitution of India guarantees equivalency for all (Article 14), prevents demarcation grounded on religion, gender, estate, or place of birth (Article 15(1)), and ensures equal openings for all residents (Article 16), among other protections. The 73rd and 74th amendment in 1993 introduced reservation that reserved at least one- third of seats in original governing bodies like panchayats and cosmopolises for women. The 84th Amendment Act in 1998 extended this reservation to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. India has enforced colorful laws, indigenous safeguards, and progressive measures aimed at perfecting the status and rights of women.

Despite these, women remain pivotal to the development of different areas and make significant benefactions to profitable progress, both in direct and circular ways. It's thus imperative to empower women in all aspects of life to break this dangerous cycle. The current situation is that numerous women, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and rural areas, face serious mistreatment and exploitation.

Summary and Conclusion

This article explores "Women empowerment: Socio-Economic, Political and Educational Status of Women with a special reference to Banmukh Chutia Village, Sivasagar District, Assam." Women should have equal rights to share in education, society, the frugality, and politics. They can freely choose their religion, language, occupation, and other conditioning. Women should admit advanced education like men. They should be suitable to attend classes, gain chops, and learn whatever they ask. In politics, women have the right to vote and to be involved in political matters. Empowerment helps reduce domestic violence by offering women more respect and support.

In this research work, I had taken 20 women from Banmukh Chutia village in Sivasagar district, Assam. Of these, 10 were married and working, and 10 were housewives. All 20 women completed a questionnaire. From the responses, it was observed that 90 of the respondents explosively agreed that women are making the topmost benefactions in the field of empowerment. Also, 80 of the women explosively agreed that empowerment is a positive step towards societal development. Anyhow of their marital status, 60 of the women explosively agreed that they had endured domestic violence at least formerly in their lives. 80 of the respondents explosively dissented that education is a more effective tool to be heard in family and society. 100 of the respondents explosively affirmed that once they started earning, they didn't face unwelcome situations at home. The fiscal dependence of women on family members makes them vulnerable to unwanted services and indeed victims of domestic violence, as 100 of the respondents believe. When women come the sole breadwinners or help in earning, they no longer have to render unwanted services to anyone, and no bone dares to harm them. However it was clear that also, 80 of the respondents explosively agreed and 20 agreed that

dividing labor within the family is maintainable as a working woman is treated as equal to a man. This means that 100 of the respondents agree with this statement. When asked about whether reservations and special proportions are helping to ameliorate the status of women, 50 of the respondents agreed, 40 were neutral, and 10 explosively disagreed. Still, there was no strong protestation. A conclusion can be drawn that 50 of the actors support the statement. Out of the total respondents, 60 were neutral about whether the government and other agencies are effectively spreading mindfulness about women's empowerment and its requirements.

From these findings, we can conclude that women are more comfortable engaging in different spheres that they can carry out from home, such as food processing, followed by weaving. This may be due to restrictions from their guardians, which also require them to be available at home. From this process, we can conclude that women's empowerment can be achieved through the development of women right. More than education, reservation, or awareness programs by the government or other agencies, financial contribution to the family boosts women's morale and earns them respect in both the family and society. Working women may face some restrictions in moving out of the home, but they rarely face domestic violence. This economic empowerment acts as a protective shield for women.

Thus, we can conclude that independent of women economically is the main factor in women's empowerment, which in turn can help reduce the rate of domestic violence. This applies to both married and unmarried women in the country. It is often said that money cannot buy happiness, but it can buy everything that can lead to happiness. A woman living with dignity and happiness is definitely living a peaceful and contented life. Therefore, she can achieve happiness and peace by being empowered. Empowerment of women means giving them their due rights. Women should have equal opportunities to participate in all areas, including education, society, economy, and politics. Women are free to choose their religious beliefs, language, work, and other activities. They can pursue higher education just like men, complete their studies, acquire skills, and learn anything they want. Women can also participate in political activities as they have the right to vote and engage in political processes. Empowerment helps reduce domestic violence by promoting the value of women in society. Women are not subjected to abuse in the form of sexual, emotional, or physical violence.

Women are also educated about the social benefits, including awareness of existing societal problems, good recognition and image within their communities, and the ability to plan and promote better education for their children. They also take care of the health of the elderly and children. Today, a significant percentage of women have the opportunity to complete their education up to the degree level. Laws prevent child marriage, and people are increasingly aware that raising a family at a young age is not beneficial. The government has introduced several schemes and grants for women's education, which have helped women from poor backgrounds gain access to education. These schemes, grants, and scholarships have provided women with the chance to return to school, continue their

education, or acquire new skills.

It may be mentioned that NGOs are also offering support to empower women. Both the central and state governments are allocating funds for women's empowerment. Interested women can seek direct assistance from the government or approach NGOs working in the field of women's empowerment. The government has special schemes to support women entrepreneurs. Women are being encouraged to start their own businesses to become self-reliant and independent. NGOs are also contributing to this cause.

In conclusion, it can be said again that women play an important role in the different spheres such as social, political area etc. At present, the status of women in the country has greatly improved. Many women are holding high and prestigious position in both government and private sectors. Women are contributing in all sides of present day economy in the country. This has proved that, if they are given ample opportunity, women can perform at par with men. The women must get equal opportunity like their male counterparts and the central and state governments of India must assure the same. Celebration of Women's day not glorification of the beauty and grace of women. Rather it is to bring awareness among the public regarding women's status in the society and how to give her equal opportunity so that she can proof her worth. By developing their inner strengths, Women should strengthen themselves. They must increase their moral strength and face the world fearlessly. Nowadays, women are taught to be bold and outgoing. We should help women in our lives to be independent individuals. They should never depend on anyone to meet their goal. Self reliant people are respected by everyone and each and ever women deserve to be respected like any other person. A woman is usually responsible for making the family budget and meeting the family's needs, which requires her to use all of her income. Often, she cannot spend even a small amount without her husband's permission. However, it is clear that women contribute not only to the economy but also to the running of the household. They take care of their children and manage household tasks. Women are contributing in all sides of present day economy in the country. This has proved that, if they are given ample opportunity, women can perform at par with men.

Interview Schedule

1. Name of the village:
2. Name of Interviewee:
3. Father's name:
4. Educational qualification:
5. Age:
6. Caste:
7. Gender:
8. Religion:
9. Mother tongue:
10. Marital status:
11. Nature of works he/she is involved
12. Number of family members:
13. Age group of family members:
14. Dependent/independent:
15. Social status:
16. Head of the family(husband/wife):

17. Number of earning member of family:
18. Do you play a role in family's decision-making process?
19. Are you financially supported by your husband provided he is also a earning member of family?
20. Who looks after the family's domestic affairs like child upbringing school going children and other house hold affairs?
21. Whether you are allowed to have a say in social functions in the event of getting the girls child as well as sons/boys married?
22. Do you have a hospital in your village?
23. Do you know what is the name of C.M. of Assam?
24. Do you have voting right?
25. Do you cast your vote in any election in the state?
26. Are you interested in contesting election in the grass root level like panchayat ?
27. Are you a member of any political parties?
28. Which political party generally you support and why?
29. Are you member of any women organization? ACMS/Mohila Parishad/Any other.

Age	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Above 70
Male								
Female								

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