Chapter 8

Findings, Recommendation and Conclusion

8.1 Introduction:

Gender disparity in education in India with special reference to Assam, impact of gender disparity in education on economic development in India in general and Assam and Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) in particular, a comparative analysis of gender disparity in education in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts of BTAD in Assam and reasons of gender disparity in education and the means to reduce the gap in Assam with special reference to Baksa and Kokrajhar districts have been analysed elaborately in different chapters. Reasons of variation in gender disparity in education across India and across Assam have also been analysed. In this chapter, summary of findings of the forgoing study and limitations of data have been presented. The chapter is also devoted to present conclusion of the whole analysis and recommendations on the basis of the findings of the study.

8.2 Summary of Findings:

From the analysis it is found that, in India as a whole and in all its States and Union Territories (UTs) male Literacy Rate (LR) surpassed female LR during the period 1991-2011. It is also observed that the gender disparity in LR decreased in India as a whole and in all its States and UTs. In India, in Lower Primary level (LP) and Upper Primary level (UP) during the period 2003-2004 to 2014-2015 and in Secondary level (Secondary) during the period 2010-2011 to 2014-2015, although female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)/enrolment in India as a whole and in most of its States and UTs remained lower than male GER/enrolment in some years of the respective periods, in the last two years of the respective periods, in India as a whole and in many of its States and UTs, female GER/enrolment surpassed male GER/enrolment. In Higher Secondary level (HS) and Higher Education (HE), in India as a whole and in some of its States and UTs, female GER lagged behind male GER during the period 2010-2011 to_2014-2015. However, for some of the Indian States and UTs, female GER surpassed male GER during the period while for some States

and UTs, only in certain years of the period female GER surpassed male GER. So far as Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) is concerned, in LP and UP, during the period 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, for India as a whole and for some of its States and UTs, female NER surpassed male NER, while in some of the States and UTs female NER remained lower than male NER. Moreover, for some of the States and UTs, only in one year of the period female NER surpassed male NER. In Secondary and HS also, it has been found that in the last two years of the period of observation i.e., 2012-2013 to 2014-2015, in India as a whole and in some of its States and UTs, female NER surpassed male NER, while in some of its States and UTs female NER remained lower than male NER. Moreover, for some of the States and UTs, only in one year (of the last two years of the period of observation), female NER surpassed male NER. On examining the gender disparities in Dropout Rate (DOR) in LP for the period 2007-2008 to 2013-2014, UP for the period 2010-2011 to 2013-2014, Secondary and HS for the period 2012-2013 to 2013-2014 across India, it has been found that, in LP, in India as a whole and in some of its States and UTs, male DOR in LP surpassed female DOR in LP throughout the period, while in some of the States and UTs female DOR in LP was greater than male DOR in LP. Moreover, for some of the States and UTs, only in certain years of the period female DOR surpassed male DOR in LP. In UP, in India as a whole in most of the years of the period, female DOR in UP remained higher than male DOR in UP. Moreover, for most of its States and UTs also, it has been found that in some years of the period females were favourable and in some years males were favourable. In Secondary level, in some of the States and UTs female DOR was greater than male DOR, in some of the States and UTs male DOR was greater than female DOR while in some of the States and UTs in some years of the period, females were favourable and in some years of the period males were favourable. For India as a whole, in Secondary level, female DOR was not worse than male DOR in the period. Moreover, in HS, in India as a whole female DOR remained greater than male DOR in the period. Most of the States and UTs has been found to have male DOR greater than female DOR in the last year of the period in HS. It has also been seen for HS that, in the previous year to the last year of the period, in some of the States and UTs female DOR was greater than male DOR while in some of the States and UTs it was opposite. Gender inequality, where females are

unfavourable, has also been observed in Never Attended (NA) Rate for the year 2011. In India as a whole and in most of its States and UTs, in the age groups, 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, all ages above six years (60+) and Age Not Stated (ANS), female NA Rate surpassed male NA Rate. Moreover for India as a whole and for majority of its States and UTs, the gender disparity in NA Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from 7-14 to 60+. Regarding Attended Before (AB) Rate for the year 2011, male AB Rate has also been observed to be higher than the female AB Rate for the age groups 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS for India as a whole while for some of its States and UTs, male AB Rate has been found more than female AB Rate for the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS. Moreover, in India as a whole and in all its States and UTs, in the age groups 30-34, 35-59 and 60+, male AB Rate surpassed female AB Rate. Female illiteracy rate (ILR) has been found to be higher than male ILR for India as a whole and for majority of its States and UTs for the year 2011 in all the age groups viz., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+. In the ANS group also, in all the States and UTs and in the country as a whole female ILR remained higher than male ILR. The disparity in ILR increased with the higher age groups i.e., from 7-14 to 60+ for India as a whole and for majority of its States and UTs. Calculated Education for All Development Index (EDI) values for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for India as a whole and for some of its States and UTs shows the existence of gender disparity in education where females are unfavourable, in India as a whole and in all the States and UTs for which it was calculated. Calculated Gender Equality in Education Index (GEEI) for the year 2014 also reveals the existence of gender disparity in education in India where females lag behind males.

Across India, variation in gender disparity in education was observed. On examining the reasons behind the variation in gender disparity in education across India for the year 2011, it has been found that impacts of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product Capita (PCNSDP), Percentage of Christians on Gender Parity Index (GPI) of LR were significantly positive in both the cases. On the other hand, impact of percentage of Other Persuasions Population on GPI of LR was significantly negative.

In Assam as a whole and in all its districts, male LR surpassed female LR in the period 1971-2011, except for Hailakhandi district in 2001. As observed, in 2011, gender disparity in LR was the highest in Baksa district and it was fourth highest in Kokrajhar district. On examining the gender disparity in GER in LP and UP for the period 2005-2006 to 2014-2015 and Secondary for the period 2011-2012 to 2014-2015 across Assam, it has been found that, in Assam as a whole, female GER did not remain lower than male GER in LP, UP and Secondary throughout the period of analysis. In most of its districts also, in all the levels, female GER remained higher than male GER. So far as DOR is concerned, although, for some of the districts in certain years of the period of observation i.e., 2005-2006 to 2014-2015 for LP and UP and 2011-2012 to 2014-2015 for Secondary, female DOR surpassed male DOR in LP, UP and class IX of Secondary, yet in Assam as a whole and in some of its districts male DOR surpassed female DOR throughout the respective periods in LP, UP and class IX of Secondary. However, in class X of Secondary, in the State as a whole and in most of its districts, female DOR remained higher than male DOR in most of the years of the period. Gender inequality where females are unfavourable has been observed in NA Rate and AB Rate for the year 2011 across Assam. In Assam as a whole and in majority of its districts, in the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS female NA Rate remained higher than male NA Rate. The gender disparity in NA Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from 7-14 to 60+ for Assam as a whole and for majority of its districts. On the other hand, regarding AB Rate, in Assam as a whole and in majority of its districts, male AB Rate surpassed female AB Rate in the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS. The disparity in AB Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from 7-14 to 60+ in Assam and in some of its districts. It has been found that female illiteracy rate in Assam as a whole and in majority of its districts remained higher than male illiteracy rate in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59 and 60+ in the year 2011. In the ANS group also, female illiteracy rate was higher than male illiteracy rate in all the districts and in the State as a whole in the same year. It has also been found that the gender disparity in illiteracy rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+ in the State as a whole and in majority of its districts. Calculated EDI

values for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 for Assam as a whole and for most of its districts reveals that gender disparity in education exists in them.

The results of the analysis of the reasons of variation in gender disparity in education for the year 2011 across Assam indicates that impacts of percentage of poverty on GPI of LR was significantly negative. Moreover, regarding the impact of religions, impacts of percentages of Muslims, Sikhs, Jains and Other Persuasions Population on GPI of LR were significantly positive in all and impact of percentage of Christians on GPI of LR was significantly negative.

For India as a whole, it can be concluded that impact of gender disparity in education on economic development was negative. An increase in Literacy Rate Gap (LRG) significantly decreased Human Development Index (HDI) as a whole, Education Index (EI) and Gross Domestic Product Per Capita (GDPPC and increased Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Birth Rate (BR). An increase in Gender Gap (GG) of GER in HS significantly increased BR and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and decreased NSDPC. An increase in GG of NER in HS also significantly increased TFR, BR and IMR and decreased NSDPC and HDI. Impacts of GG of GER in HE on HDI and Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB) were significantly negative (in both the cases) and on IMR was significantly positive.

So far as Assam is concerned, the impact of gender disparity in education on economic development was negative. An increase in LRG significantly decreased LEB and HDI in Assam. An increase in LRG significantly increased BR and DR and decreased SR, Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (PCNSDP) and Net State Domestic Product (NSDP). It has also been found that, if GG of DOR in LP increased NSDP decreased and, if GG of GER in UP increased DR also increased.

For BTAD, it can be concluded that impact of gender disparity in education on economic development in BTAD was negative. It is found that the impacts of GG of DOR in LP on Living Standard Index (LSI) and Average Per Capita Income (APCI) were significantly negative, impact of GG of DOR in UP on EI was significantly negative and impact of GG of DOR in class IX on BR was significantly positive in BTAD.

LR in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam (State) in 2011 has been compared. It is found that male LR surpassed female LR in both the districts and in

the State. The gender disparity in LR in both the districts was higher than the gender disparity in LR in the State. In comparing the districts, the gender disparity in LR was higher in Baksa district than the gender disparity in LR in Kokrajhar district . It is also found that male LR was higher than female LR in all the blocks of both the districts. In all the rural and urban areas of the districts also, male LR surpassed female LR. The gender disparity in LR in the rural as well as urban areas of Baksa district is found to be higher than the gender disparity in LR in the rural as well as urban areas of Kokrajhar district. For Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Others Categories of Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam female LR is found to be lower than male LR. The gender disparity in LR of SC, ST and Other Categories in both the districts was higher than the gender disparity in LR of SC, ST and Other Categories in the State. Moreover, it is found that, the gender disparity in LR of SC, ST and Others Categories in Baksa district was higher than the gender disparity in LR of SC, ST and Others Categories in Kokrajhar district. So far as SC, ST and Others Categories of urban areas of the districts and the State are concerned, female LR remained lower than male LR. The gender disparity in LR of SC, ST and Others Categories in urban Baksa as well as urban Kokrajhar was higher compared to the urban State. Moreover, the gender disparity in LR of SC, ST and Others Categories in urban Baksa was higher compared to urban Kokrajhar. For SC and ST of rural areas of Baksa, Kokrajhar and Assam also male LR surpassed female LR. The gender disparity in LR of SC and ST in rural Baksa as well as rural Kokrajhar was higher compared to the rural State, and the gender disparity in LR of SC and ST in rural Baksa was higher compared to rural Kokrajhar. Further, for the Other Categories of rural areas of Baksa, Kokrajhar and Assam also male LR was higher than female LR. The gender disparity in LR of Other Categories was higher in the rural areas of both the districts than the gender disparity in LR of Other Categories in the rural State. However, the gender disparity in LR of Other Categories was higher in rural Kokrajhar than the gender disparity in LR of Other Categories in rural Baksa. In comparing the gender disparity of SC, ST and Others Categories within each district and within the State, gender disparity in LR is found to be the highest for SC in the districts, while in the State it is found for ST. In all the religious groups viz., Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Other Religions and Persuasions

(Others) and Religion Not Stated (RNS), of both the districts as well as the State, male LR surpassed female LR. The gender disparity in LR of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, in Baksa district was higher than the gender disparity in LR of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, in Kokrajhar district. Moreover, the gender disparity in LR of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Other Religions and Persuasions and RNS was higher in both the districts compared to the gender disparity in LR of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Other Religions and Persuasions and RNS respectively in the State.

ILR in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam (State) in 2011 has been compared. It is found that female ILR surpassed male ILR in both the districts as well as in the State, if all ages above six years are considered. The gender disparity in ILR in both the districts was higher than the gender disparity in ILR in the State. Moreover, the gender disparity in ILR was higher in Baksa compared to the gender disparity in ILR in Kokrajhar district. It is found that in both the districts as well as the State, female ILR surpassed male ILR in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS. The gender disparity in ILR increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+, in the districts as well as in the State. It is found that in the rural areas of Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam, female ILR surpassed male ILR, if all ages above six years are considered. In the rural areas of both the districts the gender disparity in ILR was higher than the gender disparity in ILR in the rural State. Moreover, the gender disparity in ILR was higher in rural Baksa compared to rural Kokrajhar. In the rural areas of both the districts as well as the State, female ILR surpassed male ILR in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS. The gender disparity in ILR increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+ in the rural areas of the districts as well as the State. It is found that in the urban areas of Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam, female ILR surpassed male ILR, if all ages above six years are considered. In the urban areas of both the districts the gender disparity in ILR was higher than the gender disparity in ILR in the urban State. Moreover, the gender disparity in ILR was higher in urban Baksa compared to urban Kokrajhar. In the urban areas of the districts and the State, female ILR remained higher than male ILR in all the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24,

25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS, except for 15-19 age group in urban Baksa. The gender disparity in ILR increased with the higher age groups. It increased from the age group 20-24 up to 60+ in urban Baksa, while it increased from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+ in urban Kokrajhar and urban Assam. It is found that, female ILR surpassed male ILR for SC, ST and Others Categories in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam, if all ages above six years are considered. In the case of SC, the gender disparity in ILR was higher in both the districts than the gender disparity in ILR in the State, and the gender disparity in ILR was higher in Baksa district compared to the gender disparity in ILR in Kokrajhar district. In the case of ST, the gender disparity in ILR was higher in Baksa district than the gender disparity in ILR in Kokrajhar district, and the gender disparity in ILR was lower in Kokrajhar district than the gender disparity in ILR in the State. So far as Other Categories is concerned, it is found that, the gender disparity in ILR was lower in Baksa district than the gender disparity in ILR in Kokrajhar district, and the gender disparity in both the districts was higher compared to the gender disparity in ILR in the State. In the State and in the districts, female ILR surpassed male ILR in all the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS for SC, ST as well as Other Categories. For SC, ST and Other Categories of the districts and the State gender disparity in ILR increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+. In comparing the gender disparity in ILR of SC, ST and Other Categories within each district and within the State, it is found that the gender disparity in ILR was the highest for SC in both the districts but for the State it was for ST. It is also found that, in both the districts and the State, in all the religious groups i.e., Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Other Religion and Persuasions and RNS, female ILR remained higher than male ILR. The gender disparity in ILR of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Jain in Baksa district was higher than the gender disparity in ILR of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Jain in Kokrajhar district. Moreover, the gender disparity in ILR of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Other Religion and Persuasions and RNS of both the districts was higher than the gender disparity in ILR of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Other Religion and Persuasions and RNS of Kokrajhar district. The gender disparity in ILR of Christian in Baksa district also was higher than the gender disparity in ILR of Christian of the State, while the gender

disparity in ILR of Christian in Kokrajhar district was lower than the gender disparity in ILR of Christian of the State.

NA Rate in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam (State) in 2011 has been compared. In comparing gender disparity in NA Rate of the districts and the State, it is found that female NA Rate surpassed male NA Rate in the districts as well as in the State, if all ages above six are considered. The gender disparity in NA Rate was higher in both the districts than the gender disparity in NA Rate in the State, and the gender disparity in NA Rate was higher in Baksa district compared to the gender disparity in NA Rate in Kokrajhar district. It is also found that female NA Rate surpassed male NA Rate in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS in the districts as well as in the State. Moreover, the gender disparity in NA Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+, in the districts and in the State. On examining the gender disparity in NA Rate separately for rural and urban areas of Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam, it is found that female NA Rate surpassed male NA Rate in the rural and urban areas of Baksa and Kokrajhar districts, if all ages above six years are considered. For rural as well as urban, the gender disparity in NA Rate was higher in the districts compared to the gender disparity in NA Rate in the State, and in comparing the districts, the gender disparity in NA Rate was higher in Baksa district than the gender disparity in NA Rate in Kokrajhar district. Within each district and within the State, the gender disparity in NA Rate was more for rural compared to urban, if all ages above six years are considered. It is also found that, in the rural and urban areas of Baksa, Kokrajhar and Assam female NA Rate surpassed male NA Rate in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS, except for the age group 15-19 and ANS for urban Baksa. The gender disparity in NA Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+ in rural and urban areas of all of them, except for urban Baksa. In urban Baksa, the gender disparity in NA Rate increased from the age group 20-24 up to the age group 60+. On examining the caste-wise gender disparity in NA Rate, it is found that, female NA Rate was higher than male NA Rate in the districts and in the State for SC as well as ST, if all ages above six years are considered. Further, for SC as well as ST of the districts and the State, it is found that, female NA Rate surpassed

male NA Rate in all the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS, except for ANS group of SC in Baksa district. The gender disparity in NA Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+ for SC as well as ST in both the districts and in the State. For Other Categories of the districts and the State also female NA Rate was more than male NA Rate, if all ages above six years are considered. The gender disparity in NA Rate was higher in the districts than the gender disparity in NA Rate in the State. However, in comparing between the districts, the gender disparity in NA Rate of Other Categories was higher in Kokrajhar district than the gender disparity in NA Rate of Other Categories in Baksa district. Further, for Other Categories of the districts and the State, it is found that, female NA Rate surpassed male NA Rate in all the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS, except for age group 7-14 of the State. The gender disparity in NA Rate increased with the higher age groups i.e., from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+ for Other Categories in both the districts and in the State it increased from the age group 15-19 up to the age group 60+.

AB Rate in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts and Assam (State) in 2011 has been compared. In comparing the gender disparity in AB Rate of Kokrajhar and Baksa districts and Assam, it is found that male AB Rate surpassed female AB in all of them, when all ages above six years are considered. Moreover, in the districts as well as in the State, male AB Rate remained higher than female AB Rate, in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS. The gender disparity in both the districts and in the State increased with the higher age groups. In Baksa district, it increased from the age group 7-14 up to the age group 60+, and in Kokrajhar district and Assam, it increased from the age group 20-24 up to the age group 60+. On examining the gender disparity in AB Rate separately for rural and urban areas of Baksa, Kokrajhar and Assam, it is found that male AB Rate surpassed female AB Rate in the rural and urban areas of all of them, if all ages above six years are considered. The gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in rural Baksa compared to the gender disparity in AB Rate in rural Kokrajhar and in the rural State, and the gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in the rural State compared to the gender disparity in AB Rate in rural Kokrajhar. So far as urban areas of the districts and the State are concerned, the gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in the urban areas of

the districts compared to the gender disparity in AB Rate in the urban State, and the gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in urban Baksa district compared to the gender disparity in AB Rate in urban Kokrajhar. Within each district and within the State, the gender disparity in AB Rate was more in rural compared to urban, if all ages above six years are considered. It is also found that, male AB Rate surpassed female AB Rate in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS of rural and urban areas of Baksa, Kokrajhar and Assam, except for the age group 20-24 in urban Baksa, 15-19 in rural Kokrajhar, 15-19 and 20-24 in urban Kokrajhar and 20-24 in urban Assam. On examining caste-wise gender disparity in AB Rate, it is found that, male AB Rate was higher than female AB Rate, among SC, among ST and among Other Categories of the districts and of the State, if all ages above six years are considered. For SC and Other Categories, the gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in both the districts than the gender disparity in AB Rate in the State, and the gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in Baksa district than the gender disparity in AB Rate in Kokrajhar district. For ST, the gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in Baksa district than the gender disparity in AB Rate in Kokrajhar district. The gender disparity in AB Rate was higher in Baksa than the gender disparity in AB Rate in the State, while the gender disparity in AB Rate was lower in Kokrajhar district than the gender disparity in AB Rate in the State. In comparing the gender disparity in AB Rate within Baksa, within Kokrajhar and within Assam, it is found that, the gender disparity in AB Rate was the highest among SC in the districts and in the State.

In comparing the Gross Enrolment Ratios (GERs) in LP, UP and Secondary in Baksa and Kokrajhar Districts, it is found that, female GER remained greater or equal to male GER in all the levels in both the districts during the period 2011-2015. Moreover, in LP, female DOR remained lower than male DOR during the period 2011-2015 in both the districts but in UP and Secondary during the same period in certain years of the period female DOR remained higher than male DOR in both the districts.

Household income, performance of household duties, society's attitude, distance of learning place, father's and mother's educational level and knowledge of

relevance of literacy, adult literacy and lifelong learning are found as factors behind gender disparity in LR in both the districts.

Low income of household, performance of household duties, society's attitude, parents educational status and knowledge of the relevance of literacy or adult literacy or lifelong learning are found to be important factors behind gender disparity in literacy rate in Assam and Baksa and Kokrajhar districts. In order to eliminate gender disparity in literacy rate, raising poor households' income, establishing more learning places that meet the requirement of people belonging to different ages and places, financial support of government in education and motivation need to be taken up.

8.3 Limitation of Data:

To discuss the gender disparity in education in India, gender disparity in LR was examined but Male and female LR data for India, for its States and UTs and for the districts of the States is available on a decadal basis only. State wise male and female LR of India prior to 1991 could not be collected because of its unavailability so the analysis was made for the period 1991-2011. For the analysis of gender disparity in education in India, discussion was also made upon GER, NER and DOR in the LP, UP, Secondary, HS and HE levels. Gender disparity in GER in LP and UP for the period 2003-2004 to 2014-2015; GER in Secondary, HS and HE for the period 2010-2011 to 2014-2015; NER in LP and UP for the period 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, NER in Secondary and HS for the period 2012-2013 to 2014-2015, DOR in LP for the period 2007-2008 to 2013-2014, DOR in UP for the period 2010-2011 to 2013-2014, DOR in Secondary and HS for the period 2012-2013 to 2013-2014 have been analysed. Prior to the period of the variables mentioned above, analysis could not be done due to the unavailability of State wise gender disaggregated data of the variables. NER and DOR for India and its States and UTs were unavailable and therefore analysis could not be made. Gender disparity in NA Rate, AB Rate and ILR according to the age groups 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+, ANS and All ages above 6 for India and its States and UTs could be calculated for the year 2011 due to the unavailability of data prior 2011. EDI for India has been calculated only for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 due to the unavailability of data on primary NER

before 2013-2014. Although EDI values have been calculated for the above mentioned years, yet same data of LR or GPI of LR was used due to the unavailability of data on an annual basis. Similarly, data upon some of the components of GEEI for India as a whole and for the States and UTs was unavailable, so, only for all India, GEEI could be calculated for 2014.

Although the gender disparity in LR in Assam was examined for the period 1971-2011, analysis for 1991 and 1981 could not be made. In 1981, Census was not conducted in Assam and data of 1991 upon LR for the districts of Assam could not be collected due to its unavailability.

Similar to India's, in Assam also for an in depth analysis of gender disparity in education, gender disparity in GER and DOR in LP, UP and Secondary was made. GER in LP and UP for the period 2005-2006 to 2014-2015, GER in Secondary for the period 2011-2012 to 2014-2015, DOR in LP and UP for the period 2005-2006 to 2014-2015, DOR in classes IX and X for the period 2011-2012 to 2014-2015 was made. Prior to the period of analysis mentioned above of the variables, analysis could not be done due to the unavailability of data. Data on NER of LP, UP and Secondary levels of Assam as a whole and its districts could not be collected, so, gender disparity in NER in LP, UP and Secondary levels across Assam were not analysed. Moreover, in the discussion of gender disparity in education in Assam, gender disparity in HS and HE were also not discussed due to the unavailability of required data. For the same reason, gender disparity in NA Rate, AB Rate and ILR for Assam as a whole and its districts was analysed only for the year 2011. EDI for the districts of Assam as well as for many of its districts were calculated for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Although EDI values have been calculated for the above mentioned years, yet same data of LR or GPI of LR was used due to the unavailability of data on an annual basis. It could not be calculated for the years before 2012-2013 and even for 2014-2015 due to the data unavailability upon survival rate for the districts of Assam for the years under consideration. Data upon girls' Secondary NER, girls' survival rate over five years in primary school, net girls' primary school attendance were not available for 2013, although GDI of 2013 was available for the districts of Assam and the State. Prior to 2013 and after 2013 also data on GDI was not found for

the State as well as for the districts. So, GEEI for Assam as a whole as well as for its districts could not be calculated.

In the analysis of reasons of variation in gender disparity in education in India and Assam, time series analysis could not be done due to the unavailability of the required data of independent variables to match with the data of dependent variable. However, cross section analysis was done. In the analysis for India, although the average government expenditure on education was considered but due to the multicollinearity problem, it was excluded from the analysis. In an attempt to include government expenditure on education in the analysis of reasons of variation in gender disparity in education in India, only the budgeted government expenditure on education was used due to the unavailability of data upon the actual government expenditure on education. Only 32 States and UTs in the analysis have been used due to lack of data of some independent variables for some States or UTs. In examining the reasons of variation of gender disparity in education in India, data of percentage of SC and ST population and population size were for population of all ages while, the dependent variable in the model i.e. GPI of LR was of population seven years and above. In Assam, 27 districts' data was used in the analysis of the reasons of variation in gender disparity in education. Impact of the government expenditure on education upon the variation in gender disparity in education could not be analysed due to the unavailability of data upon the government budgeted expenditure on education or government actual expenditure on education of the districts of Assam. Moreover, in the analysis of reasons of variation in gender disparity in education in India as well as in Assam, GPI of LR has been used as a proxy for gender disparity in education.

In the analysis of the impact of gender disparity in education on economic development in India and Assam, not all analysis could be done with time series data because of the required data unavailability. In most cases, cross section analysis was made. Due to the same reason, in BTAD, only cross section analysis was made. For some time series analysis of Assam using gender disparity in LR, interpolated data was used for the year 1981.

For comparing the gender disparity in education in between Baksa and Kokrajhar districts, gender disparity in LR, NA Rate and AB Rate could be examined

only for the year 2011 based on the Census Report of India, 2011 because both Baksa and Kokrajhar districts of Assam were established in 2003 and Census data in India is collected on decadal basis. The latest Census in India was done in 2011. Gender disparity in LP, UP and Secondary level have been discussed only upon GER and DOR. Overall GER and DOR have been discussed for LP, UP and Secondary level since 2011-2012 only because of the data unavailability for Baksa district prior to the period. Caste wise, Religion wise and rural-urban wise data on GER and DOR in LP, UP and Secondary levels was unavailable, so analysis could not be done for that. For the Higher Secondary and Higher Education district wise data on GER, Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) and DOR was not available in Assam so gender disparity in education in Higher Secondary and Higher Education could not examined in the two districts.

Reasons behind dropout and illiteracy might be different. Based on the secondary data analysis and to get more specific picture, reasons of illiteracy were found out to find the reasons behind the gender disparity in education in Assam with special reference to Baksa and Kokrajhar districts. Since the data was collected for the population aged seven years and above and married as well as unmarried, so the analysis had to be done with simple average method. Regression analysis or other analysis could not be fitted for the collected data.

8.4 Conclusion and Recommendation:

Although elimination of gender disparity in education, where females lag behind males throughout the world, was aimed by many international organisations, yet India continues to face gender disparity in education. It can be concluded from the findings of the study that gender disparity in education exists across India and across Assam. Throughout Baksa and Kokrajhar districts of Assam also, gender disparity in education exists. Gender disparity in education is found to have a significant negative impact on economic development in India, Assam and BTAD (area of Assam which includes Baksa and Kokrajhar districts of Assam). Low household income, performance of household chores, distance of learning place, parental education, knowledge of relevance of literacy or adult literacy or lifelong learning has been found to be the reasons behind gender disparity in education in Baksa and Kokrajhar

districts. From the forgoing analysis and observations, the following recommendation can be made for reducing gender disparity in education in India as well as in Assam and in its districts:

Since income is found to be a factor behind gender disparity in education or variation in gender disparity in education and since, gender disparity in education affects economic growth, more programmes to raise poor peoples' income need to be taken up. Uplifting the economic position of the households will contribute in reducing gender disparity in education. Although, the Government of India and Assam have taken various policies to uplift economically the poor people, a sea change in the percentage of poverty has not occurred in Assam. As a matter of displeasure, still a good percentage of poverty can be observed in India as a whole as well as in Assam. Therefore new policies that raise poor peoples' income or poor households' income should be taken up. Along with it new strategies for proper implementation of the existing policies and best strategies for proper implementation of new policies need to be adopted.

Since distance has been found as another reason of gender disparity in literacy rate therefore, more centres for learning need to be opened up. More number of upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, under graduate, distance learning and adult literacy institutions should be opened up, so that many people, specially females, do not remain far away from education due to either performance of household duties or from the point of insecurity or time problem or age problem.

In chapter 4, it has been shown that, in Assam, poverty is an important factor of variation in literacy rate across Assam (Table 4.34). Moreover, this study also has found that household income is an important factor of gender disparity in literacy rate (Table 7.1). Therefore in an attempt to reduce gender disparity in education, government's financial support in education to the poor is important. When the question of acquiring education either by a male or a female of a family arises, due to low income of the household, male get preference. Moreover, government's aid would at least attract or support many poor people including females to acquire education. Therefore, government's financial aid deems important in an attempt to reduce gender disparity in education. Government's support may occur in many forms such as free books, free uniforms, free admission fee etc. Government's financial

support in education should not only target population of a particular age group, rather it need to target population of all ages above six years. Government's step in eliminating gender disparity in education through financial support in education will be fruitful only if it can be done. In support of this it can be mentioned again that, in India, Assam and its Baksa and Kokrajhar districts, in all the age groups male LR remained higher than female LR in all the age groups i.e., 7-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-59, 60+ and ANS and the disparity in all of them increased with the higher age groups i.e., from 7-14 to 60+ and that, still quite a high percentage of poverty can be observed for India as a whole and in Assam.

The study has found that knowledge of relevance of literacy or adult literacy or lifelong learning is an important factor behind gender disparity in literacy rate in Assam and Baksa and Kokrajhar districts. Moreover, behind the success of any policy, knowledge about the subject by the concerned people is important. Therefore in order to reduce the gender disparity in literacy rate, motivation of the people is important. In the name of motivation, relevance of literacy, adult literacy, lifelong learning and literacy and women empowerment should be widely communicated. The success of the goal of eliminating gender disparity in education largely, although not solely depends on it. Males as well as females should be motivated so that gender disparity of either males being unfavourable or females being unfavourable in education does not arise in future. To motivate the people, government, Non Governmental Organisations, Women Organisations, Youth Organisations etc can come forward.

In the case of providing learning there need to be monitoring and gathering of data and reporting to the authority, so as to examine whether policies are working or not for the target groups or individuals, place and the way it has to be.

Teaching and learning should be designed in such a way that is relevant and motivational to women. In other words, in going to provide learning, accessing and analysing of obstacles to participation in learning is important. Stories of illiterate girls and women should be listened as well as raising awareness on gender inequalities, marginalisation and women's empowerment is important.

Government need to look into the matter of better implementation of the existing laws with respect to the protection of girls and women.