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ANNEXURE - 1

“Role of Women Entrepreneurship in Promoting Women Empowerment with special reference to kokrajhar District”

(Structured Interview Schedule)

PART I

Socio-Economic Profile of the women entrepreneurs

Please tick (✓) the appropriate answer.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Name of the respondent | : | | |
| 2. Age | : | a) 21 to 30 years | b) 31 to 40 years |
| | | c) 41 to 50 years | d) 50 years and above |
| 3. Religion | : | a) Hindu | b) Muslim |
| | | c) Christian | d) others |
| 4. Monthly Income | : | a) Below Rs. 10,000 | b) Rs. 10,000 to |
| 20000 | | | |
| | | c) Above Rs. 20,000 | |
| 5. Community | : | a) ST | b) SC |
| | | c) OBC | d) General |
| 6. Marital status | : | a) Married | b) Unmarried |
| 7. Educational Level | : | a) Below 10 pass | b) 10 th Pass |
| | | c) 12 th pass | d) Graduation |
| | | e) Graduation and above | |
| 8. Family formation | : | a) Joint family | b) Nuclear family |
| 9. Nature of Work | : | a) Beauty Parlour | b) Weaving/Handloom |

c) Food Processing d)

e) Grocery shop/garments Shop f) Restaurants

: a) Yes b) No

Women Entrepreneurs

$$\vdots$$
$$\vdots$$

e?

b) 6 to 9 years

d) 12 years and above

Agencies?

b) No

property?

b) No

?

b)Flexible

b) 4-8 c) 8-12

b)Disagree c)Not sure

e) Strongly agree

9. Motivating Factors of Women Entrepreneur

Sl. No	Motivating Factors	Strongl y Agree	Agre e	Not Sure	Disagr ee	Strongl y Disagr ee
1	Family responsibilities					
2	Economic need					
3	Desire to be independent					
4	Knowledge					
5	Experience					
6	Enjoying better life					
7	Encouragement and advice of family members					
8	Assurance of career and family security					
9	Non-ability to find suitable job or work					
10	Personal satisfaction					
11	Influence of success stories					
12	Desire to utilize own skills and talent/technical qualification					
13	Family business					
14	High profitability					
15	Aim to become an entrepreneur					
16	Society Recognition					
17	DIC & Government Assistance					

9. Problems faced in managing their businesses

Sl.No	Problems	Not at all	A little	Moderate	Much	Very much
1	Financial constraints					
2	Marketing problem					
3	Male dominant society					
4	Lace of education					
5	Lack of family support					
6	Low mobility					
7	Intense competition					
8	Overload of work					
9	Role conflict/family ties					
10	Infrastructure					
11	Limited managerial ability					
12	Exploitation by middle man					
13	Unequal treatment in public spheres					

PART –III

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1. Economic Level Indicator

Sl.No	Economic Indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
1	Control Over income					
2	Purchasing power (business purpose)					
3	Purchasing power(personal use)					
4	Bank credit worthiness					
5	Savings level					

2. Social Level Indicator

Sl.No	Social level indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
1	Social participation in local institution					
2	Social decision making power					
3	Freedom to visit friends or relatives place					
4	Respect in society					
5	Respect in family					
6	Voice against social Violence					

3. Political Level indicator

Sl. No	Political Level Indicator	Very High	High	Mode rate	Low	Very Low
1	Awareness on Voting right					
2	Awareness on right to Equality					
3	Participating in local council					
4	Participating in MLA.M.P election					
5	Conducting Government Programmes					
6	Participate in Political activities					

4. Government Level Indicator

Sl. No	Government Level Indicator	Very High	High	Mode rate	Low	Very Low
1	Participation in government programs					
2	Receiving Government subsidies					
3	Participation in government training					
4	Getting employment opportunity					
5	Financial assistance from government					
6	Total					

4. Professional Level Indicator

Sl. No	Professional Level Indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
1	Special traits in business					
2	Decision making skill					
3	Application knowledge in business					
4	Leadership quality					
5	Team spirit					
6	Solution in critical situation					

5. Legal level indicator

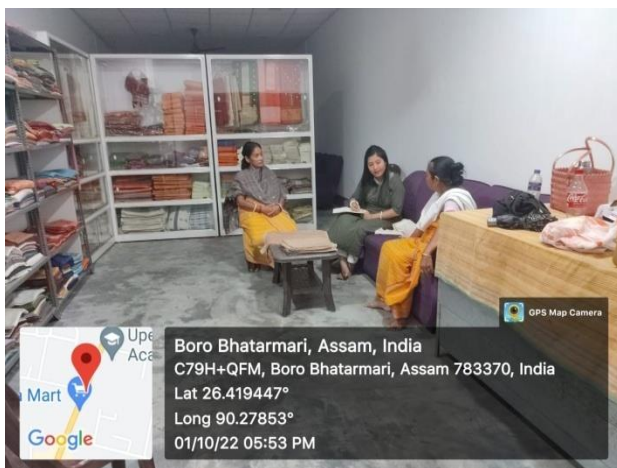
Sl No	Legal level indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
1	Receiving legal rights					
2	Receiving Equal rights with man					
3	Appeal against violence, dowry, sexual harassment etc.,					
4	Equal partition from family properties					
5	Legal power related to in justice, prosecutors, lawyer etc.,					

6. Personal Level Indicator

Sl No	Personal level indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
1	Physical Mobility (come out from four walls)					
2	Family bond& relationship					
3	Health and Sanitation					
4	Achieved Self-Confidence					
5	Perceived Mental Satisfaction					

ANNEXURE 2

SURVEY PHOTOS



ANNEXURE 3

LIST OF SEMINAR/CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

SI No	Name of the Conference	Sponsoring Agency and Date of Conference	Title of the Paper
1	International Seminar on Gender and development	ICSSR sponsored Gossaigaon College, Department of Economics 26- 28 August 2019	Challenges of Women Entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar District
2	International conference on Standardizing Management Practices: Challenges and opportunities	Faculty of Management studies Mohanlal Shukadia University, Udaipur 12-14 August 2021	Women Entrepreneurs :Challenges and impact of Covid-19 Pandemic with special reference to Kokrajhar district
3	International conference on Contemporary Issues in Business Management	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology and Institutions Innovation Council, Ministry of Education Initiative 3 rd and 4 th February 2022	Women Entrepreneurial Ventures in Select District of Sixth Schedules Areas of Assam: A Study
3	Indian Association for the study of Population North Eastern Regional Conference	IASP in Collaboration with Bodoland University 18 th to 19 th May 2023	Female Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development
4	International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research and Practice for sustainable development and Innovation	Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University Agra and Koshambi Foundation 16 th to 18 th December 2023	Level of Women Empowerment among Women Entrepreneurs: A Study

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Sr. No	Title of the Paper	Year of Publication	Name of Journal	ISSN / ISBN Ref.
1	Role of Women Entrepreneurs in promoting women empowerment and their challenges with special reference to Kokrajhar district Assam	2020-2021	Journal of Education: Rabindra Bharati University	ISSN-0972-7175
2	Women Entrepreneurial Ventures in Select District of Sixth Schedules Areas of Assam: A Study	2022	Journal NeuroQuantology	e ISSN 1303-5150 2023
3	A Study on the Present Scenario of Bodo Ethnic Handicraft Sectors	2023	Sodha Prabha	0974-8946

IASP



Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP)

NORTH-EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This is to certify that Dr./Ms/Mr

Tanuja Basumatary

Presented a Paper/Poster entitled

Female Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship Development:
A Case Study of Kokrajhar District Assam

at the 3rd Regional Conference organized by the IASP in collaboration with Bodoland University
Kokrajhar, Assam during 18-19 May 2023

Prof. Suresh Sharma
President, IASP

Prof. Usha Ram
General Secretary, IASP

Prof. Laishram Ladu Singh
Vice Chancellor, Bodoland University

ICSSR SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

"GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT : A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

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GOSSAIGAON COLLEGE, GOSSAIGAON, ASSAM, INDIA

IN COLLABORATION WITH

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Prof. / Dr. / Mr. / Ms Tanuja Basumatary, Research Scholar of Bodoland University, Kokrajhar has participated in the International Seminar (Multidisciplinary) held on 26th, 27th and 28th August, 2019 at Gossaigaon College, Gossaigaon and Chaired a session / Delivered invited lecture / Presented a paper entitled: Challenges of Women Entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar District BTAD, Assam: A Study

Dr. N. K. Brahma
Principal & Chairman
Seminar Organizing Committee

Dr. Dinesh Das
Convener
Seminar Organizing Committee

Our Distinguished Guest Speakers/Chairpersons

1. Prof. Mallika Pinnawala, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
2. Prof. Kushum Shakya, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
3. Prof. Shubha Ratna Shakya, Tribhuvan University (Amrit Campus), Nepal
4. Prof. Sanzida Akhter, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

5. Prof. Mir Tamanna Siddika, Begum Rokeya University, Bangladesh
6. Prof. Sanjeev Mehta, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan
7. Prof. Kanak Kanti Bagchi, University of North Bengal, WB
8. Prof. Archana Sharma, Gauhati University, Assam



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ON
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
(ICCIBM-2022)**

Certificate of Presentation

This is to certify that

Miss Tanuja Basumatary

of

Bodoland University

has presented a paper titled

**Women Entrepreneurial Ventures in select districts of six Schedule
areas of Assam: A study**

in

**International Conference on Contemporary Issues in Business Management
(ICCIBM - 2022)**

held at SMIT, Sikkim, India during 3rd & 4th February, 2022

Dr. Bedanta Bora
Convener

Dr. Anindita Adhikary
Co-Convener

Dr. Neeta Dhusia Sharma
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Dr. Subhadeep Mukherjee
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Ms. TANUJA BASUMATARY (*Research Scholar*) from BODOLAND UNIVERSITY has presented research paper entitled WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS :CHALLENGES AND IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT (*Online Presentation*) in the International Conference in Track V (Emerging Trends in Business).

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**ROLE OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN PROMOTING WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT AND THEIR CHALLENGES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT ASSAM**

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Abstract.

Women Entrepreneurship is considered as an effective means of promoting women empowerment. In the era of information technology the women have become more aware and better educational facilities have emerged them as a key player in economic development of the nations. The women entrepreneurs setting up their own firms not only make themselves socially independent but also generates new employment opportunities to the society and increase the per capita income of the nation. It is observed that inspite of having a great number women in Kokrajhar District, no satisfactory entrepreneurial skills has taken place amongst them in promoting their empowerment level. Consequently, the human resource skills associated amongst the women in kokrajhar district are not productively utilized for enhancing their empowerment. Further, it is observed that lack of appropriate production technology, marketing facilities, financial and human resources development opportunities etc are stand on the way developing Women Entrepreneurship skills amongst the women community of Kokrajhar District. The Present study attempts to identify role of women entrepreneurs in promoting women empowerment and the challenges faced by these women entrepreneurs, and provide some suggestion for overcoming these challenges and obstacles. Besides the study also attempts to investigate the reasons behind few number of women entrepreneurs as compared to male entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar district Assam.

Key words: Women Empowerment, Women Entrepreneur, Economic development, challenges.

INTRODUCTION

An entrepreneur is a person who is involved in economic activity and takes an initiative to start a business with innovative ideas. Entrepreneurship provides huge opportunities for self - expansion as well as serves the society. All over the world, entrepreneurs provide vast employment opportunities by setting up Micro, Small and Medium enterprises in urban, semi - urban and rural areas for uplifting the living standard of people. The phenomenon of women entering the entrepreneurial arena is in the early stage as businesses have been male dominated and women have always engaged in homely affairs i.e cooking and nurture the family and children. Over the last few years, the scenario has changed and the women have come to the forefront. Entrepreneurship as such is not bound by the class, religion, community, gender or age and hence any person can start a business today. In past few years, women entrepreneurs have been involved significantly in the development and social progress of the country due to industrialization, urbanization along with education awareness. Setting up their own ventures not only makes them self-sufficient and self-dependent but also enables them to create their own social identity. In Earlier days Indian society was male-dominated and women were not treated as equal partners both inside and outside four walls of the house. In fact they were treated as abla, i.e weak and dependent on men, so entrepreneurial activities are considered only for men. But in modern India with increasing literacy rate women are increasingly participating in all spheres of activities. The fact remains that the citadels of excellence in academic, politics, administration, business and industry are no longer prerogatives of men in India. Development of industrialization and urbanization has changed the scenario of Indian women entrepreneurs a lot. The Global evidences buttress that women have been performing exceedingly well in different spheres of activities like academics, politics, administration, social work and so on (Khanka, 2018). With the use of information technology and better education facilities the women has emerged as a key player in economic

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development and are significantly involved in the social progress and development of the country. The Government of India has defined women Entrepreneurs based on women participation in equity and employment of a business enterprise as “an enterprise owned and controlled by a women having a minimum financial interest of 51 percent of the capital and giving atleast 51 percent of the employment generated in the enterprise to women.” (GOI, 2006) .The women entrepreneurs setting up their own firms helps in creating new employment opportunities and contribute to the increase in per capita income of the nation . They become socially independent, and can provide a better future for the next generation and family members .The women are creative in nature and posses innovative ideas which is the main attributes of a successful entrepreneurs Therefore the women has a high potential to become a successful entrepreneurs . Although the women entrepreneurship has become key player in Economic development there are number of socio-economic hurdles faced by the women for running the enterprise. The Present study attempts to identify the challenges faced by these women entrepreneurs, and provide some suggestion for overcoming these challenges and obstacles.

MEANING OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women Entrepreneur

Women entrepreneur may be defined as women or group of women who initiate, organize and run enterprise. The Government of India has defined women Entrepreneurs as “an enterprise owned and controlled by a women having a minimum financial interest of 51 percent of employment generated in the enterprise to women.” Women are expected to innovate, imitate or adopt an economic activity to be called women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneur define as a female who plays a captivating part by repeatedly interacting and keenly adjusting herself with financial, socioeconomic, and support spheres in society. The role of women entrepreneurs is important part of the labour force, the economics of which cannot be isolated from the framework of development. They should explore the prospects of starting new enterprise; undertake risks, introduction of new innovations, coordination administration and control of business and providing effective leadership in all aspects of business.

Women Empowerment

The notion of empowerment, propounded by Caroline Moser (1993), is focused on the individual –with control over resources seen as the central means for redistribution of power. Women empowerment is the empowerment of women which helps them to take their own decisions by breaking all personal limitations of the society and family. Empowering women is to make them independent in all aspects from mind, thought, rights, decisions, etc by leaving all the social and family limitations. It is to bring equality in the society between male and female in all areas.

Women empowerment includes:-

Economic Empowerment- In the process of empowerment as women gains greater control over resources than earlier. Economic empowerment leads to creation of personal assets, ability to support the family. Economic empowerment helps women to make monetary decisions.

Psychological Empowerment- Psychological empowerment help women to develop the sense of self worth boost their confidence, sharpen their decision making skills.

Empowerment within Family- Intra familial or within family empowerment is very important. The freedom of women to take decisions about their own life, their role in maternity and family planning related decisions and their role in decisions regarding important issues of family members.

Social Empowerment- The enhancement of empowerment in public life is expected to be reflected by the qualitative changes women perceive and enjoy outside their home.

Political Empowerment- Political empowerment of women is very necessary it gives women clear views about political leadership. They become aware about the problem in the locality. They become able to vote according to their free will without being under any kind of influence.

Collective Empowerment- Empowerment process starts with collective action and grows into individual. Collective action of women in strategic manner would result in loosening of certain community level norms such as those constraining women’s freedom of movement.

According to UN definition the women empowerment has five components

- Women's sense of self worth.

- Right to have and determine choices.
- Right to have access to opportunities and resources.
- Right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home.
- Ability to influence the social change to create more social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

II. PRESENT STATUS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT ASSAM

Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) is a set of four districts that form an autonomous administrative unit in the extreme north bank of the Brahmaputra river, within the state of Assam, North East India by the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. There are four Districts in BTAD viz : Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baska and Udalguri. At present Kokrajhar town serves as the headquarter of Bodoland. Kokrajhar district is an administrative district in Bodoland Territorial of Assam. The district has its headquarters located at Kokrajhar Town and occupies 3,169.22 km². Women's population in Kokrajhar district is around 48.95 percent. The literacy rate for men is higher than women; the proportion of male rate is 71.78 percent and 59.70 percent for women (census, 2011). Education is fundamental to women's empowerment and way to eliminate gender disparity in the socio-economic aspects of life (Sharma, 2014). Women of Kokrajhar district mainly depend on agricultural practices for their livelihood. With the growing awareness of business women in Kokrajhar district have started entering into business. From the year 2008 to 2018 total number of 141 Entrepreneurs are registered in Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) under District Industries & Commerce Centre (DIC) Kokrajhar, out of which only 51 Women Entrepreneurs are registered. Most of the registered women entrepreneurs are running small enterprises like Beauty parlour, Handlooms, Weaving, Tailoring and readymade garments store, poultry farming etc. Special incentives and subsidies have been provided to the women-owned MSMEs by the government of India. Mahila Vikas Nidhi and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh were funds set up in accordance with the provisions in the 9th five year plan for providing financial assistance to the women entrepreneurs (Report, 2018). Yet there is a huge gap existing between the male and female entrepreneurs to be covered. Obstacles are faced at every stage of setting up business by this group of entrepreneurs. Hence, the purpose of this paper is to identify the challenges faced by these women entrepreneurs to provide some suggestion for overcoming these challenges and also to study the reasons behind less number of women entrepreneurs compared to male counterparts.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Subash and Bordoloi (2015) in their study described about the problems and prospects of women entrepreneurs of BTAD and Assam who lack in finance, resources availability and government concerns. The women entrepreneurs in Assam and BTAD are very negligible, and are treated as dependent part of society and for that reason they require coordinated action from different stakeholders as well as the government.

Devi (2013) made a comparative study between the women entrepreneur of Manipur and Assam and elicited the information on motivation factors of both the states that includes self-employment, improve family income and generate employment through moral support and time management from their families to become flourishing entrepreneur.

Kripanjali Pradhani & Dr. Soma Dey Roy Choudhury (Nov 2017) In their study "Constraints of work Life Balance of women Entrepreneurs" identified that extensive support and encouragement from family and society has helped the women entrepreneurs to achieve the height of new scale in business ventures.

Alexander W. Bartik, Bertrand, M Luca, and Christopher (2020) in their study "The impact of Covid-19 on small business" explored the impact of COVID-19 on the small business landscape in the United States, focusing on three questions. First, how did small businesses adjust to the economic disruptions resulting from COVID-19? Second, how long did businesses expect the crisis to last, and how do expectations affect their decisions? Third, how might alternative policy proposals impact business and employment resilience and suggest from their study result that the pandemic had already caused massive dislocation among small businesses just several weeks after its onset and prior

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to the availability of government aid through the CARES Act. Across the full sample, 43 percent of businesses had temporarily closed and nearly all of these closures were due to COVID-19.

Sanja,Dusica and Nichola (2020) in their study in their Study Women Entrepreneurship in the time of Covid- 19 pandemic, found that the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 had a great impact on the business activities of the women entrepreneurs. The results showed that 76% of women-owned companies were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and that women replaced the lack of hours spent at work with work at home and care of family members.

IV.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the objectives of the society:

1. To identify the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar District.
2. To identify the main reasons behind the phenomena of few Women entrepreneurs compared to man. .
3. To provide suggestions for overcoming the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar district.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Area of the study : The present study is descriptive and analytical in nature which attempts to discuss the challenges of women Entrepreneurs and to identify the reasons behind less number of women entrepreneurs compared to men in Kokrajhar Districts of BTAD, Assam.

Sample design: The total sample size of the study 40 and it is drawn by using simple random sampling technique from the women entrepreneurs in kokrajhar district which include both the registered and unregistered women entrepreneurs.

Sources of the study: The data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected by interview method. The secondary sources include- Books,newspaper, journals, District Industries Commerce Hand Book of Kokrajhar , and websites.

VI.DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

A.CHALLANGES OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT, BTAD ASSAM:

1.Difficulty in raising Finance: Finance is the life blood of any business be it a small or big.Women entrepreneur in kokrajhar district suffers from shortage of finance because they do not have property in their name generally to use them as collateral securities for obtaining funds from external sources. As a result women have to rely on their own savings and their enterprise fails sometime due to shortage of finance. 52.5 percent of the respondents are of view that difficulty in raising finance is their main challenges for starting and running the business.

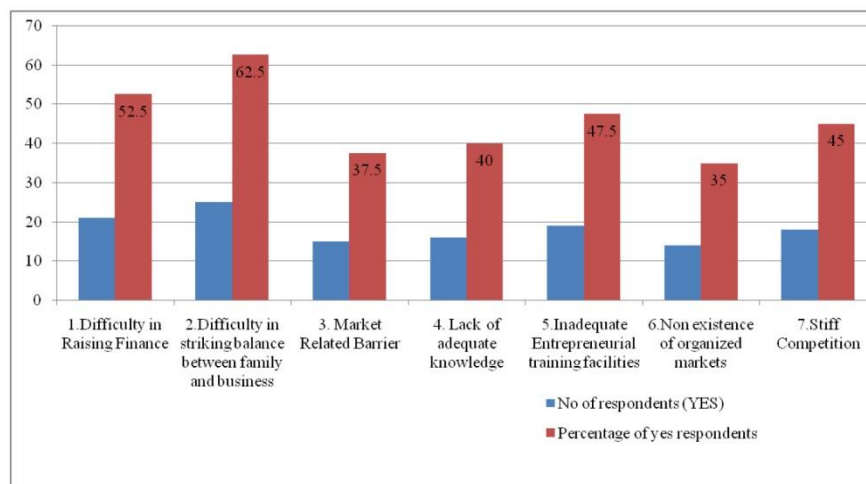
Table 1: CHALLANGES OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT ASSAM:

Factors of challenges	Number of Respondents			
	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
1.Difficulty in Raising Finance	21	52.5	19	47.5
2.Difficulty in striking balance between family and business	25	62.5	15	37.5
3. Market Related Barrier	15	37.5	25	62.5
4. Lack of adequate knowledge	16	40	24	60
5.Inadequate Entrepreneurial training facilities	19	47.5	21	52.5
6.Non existence of organized markets	14	35	26	65
7.Stiff Competition	18	45	22	55

Source: Field Survey

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Figure 1: CHALLENGES WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT



Source: Field survey

2. Difficulty in striking balance between family and business: 62.5 percent of the respondent are facing problem to strike a balance between family and business. The primary duty of women is to look after the children and other members of the family. Most of the women entrepreneurs in Kokrajhar district are married and they have to strike a balance between her business and family. Therefore family bonds and responsibilities also limit the entry of women into business.

3. Market Related Barrier: Marketing is an organizational function that creates, communicates and delivers value to customers. However, strong competition, weak marketing network, poor sales strategies, delays in payment by clients, lesser marketing experience and rapid change in demand and technology creates barrier to women's business. 37.5 percent of the respondents face market related barriers in running their business.

4. Lack of adequate knowledge: Lack of adequate knowledge about entrepreneurship is another challenge for women entrepreneurs; they do not have proper management and accounting system and updated knowledge about the global markets. About 40 percent of the respondents are not aware of entrepreneurial skills and supports that government has for the women entrepreneurs.

5. Inadequate Entrepreneurial training facilities: During the fieldwork, it was seen that many women entrepreneurs of the district are not aware of the training facilities related to entrepreneurship and government schemes for financial assistance. 47.5 percent of the respondents are not availing training facilities given by state government through Entrepreneurship development programme.

6. Non existence of organized markets: There is not yet any organized market in many rural places of Kokrajhar district to sell the product produced by the entrepreneurs, so they are unable to secure remunerative price for their products. 35 percent of the respondents are of the view that they are not getting less price for their products.

7. Stiff Competition: In Kokrajhar Women-owned micro, small and medium enterprises have been surviving under stiff competition from established firms and male entrepreneurs in terms of cost, quality, standards and meeting the dynamic demand of customers. 45 percent of the respondents are suffering from stiff competition with male entrepreneurs in the market.

B. REASONS FOR LESS NUMBER OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS COMPARED TO MALE ENTREPRENEURS:

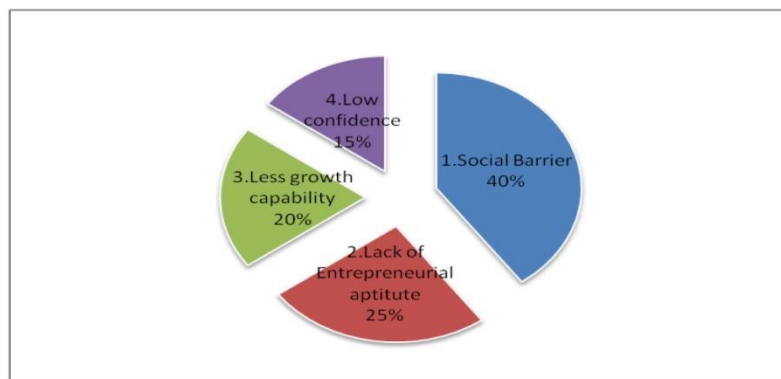
1. Social Barrier: Gender discrimination, fear of reaction from the society, family responsibilities and commitments are some of the factors that combine together to make a social barrier for women to venture into entrepreneurship. The duties, responsibilities and obligations towards family are considered to be acting as a barrier for women to take up entrepreneurship (Sonugarg, 2017). 32 percent of the women are of the view that social barriers restrict them to start new business.

Table 2 : REASONS FOR LESS NUMBER OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT COMPARED TO MALE

Basis of reasons	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.Social Barrier	16	40
2.Lack of Entrepreneurial Aptitude	10	25
3.Less Growth Capability	8	20
4.Low Confidence	6	15
Total	40	100

Source:Field Survey

Figure 2: REASONS FOR LESS NUMBER OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT COMPARED TO MALE



Source:Field Survey

2 Lack of entrepreneurial aptitude : Lack of entrepreneurial aptitude and behaviour is one of the personal barriers in the way of start and grow of any business activities. Generally, upbringing of women is not as well as men with respect to business understanding and thus, they have no entrepreneurial bent of mind even after participating in a number of entrepreneurship development programmes and training, workshops, seminar etc. 29 percent of the respondents have not availed trainings for starting their entrepreneurs.

3.Less growth capability: Male entrepreneurs are more likely to exhibit autocratic management style, while female entrepreneurs tend to show participative or consulting management style. More women choose not to grow their business, because the interest of the family does not get into conflict with the business. Small business offers flexibility for playing multiple roles. Small business offers greater flexibility for reconciliation of work requirements and family commitments, whereas large firms are designed for male entrepreneurs. (N.Nagaraja, 2013). 31 percent of the respondents doesnot want to expand their business due to family responsibilities and financial problems.

4.Low confidence: Starting a business has been considered traditionally as a“male” career, so women entrepreneurs are thought to have less confidence in their entrepreneurial abilities than male entrepreneurs. As a result, they are less likely to believe that they can undertake the key in organizing a new venture, such as obtaining startup and working capital and attracting customers (N.Nagaraja, 2013).8 Percent of the respondents lacks confidence in their business and are taking help from their husbands and family members.

VII. SUGGESTIONS FOR OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

1. Awareness of Women Entrepreneurship in all the villages and town of the district is very necessary to promote entrepreneurship. For this purpose School, Colleges, university should take initiative and include women Entrepreneurship in the academic Curriculum of formal education. Different NGO groups can create awareness Programmes about Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and financial assistance provided by Government and Banks.

2. Designing training programmes and workshops, more relevant to today's scenario along with programmes addressing needs of the women entrepreneurs at various stages of the firm's life cycle would immensely help them by equipping them with skills and knowledge required to create a successful firm.

4. Women Entrepreneurs those who are not registered under District Industries and Commerce Centre(DIC) should be encouraged to avail financial assistance from banks and other beneficial given by government.

5. Financial Institutions and Banks can play an important role in promotion of women entrepreneur by lending money to in simple way without collateral securities to promote women entrepreneurship and economic development.

6. The transportation system in rural area should be developed so that the entrepreneurs can cheaply carry their required materials for smooth development of their projects.

7. The marketing system should be developed.

8. Moral support from family and husbands will encourage many women entrepreneurs to give their best performance in the business

9. Window setup for women entrepreneurs staffed with well informed and skilled personnel could help the women entrepreneurs to manage the cumbersome government procedures, manage tax related issues and complete legal formalities.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

Women entrepreneurs setting up their own firms contributes in women empowerment, makes themselves socially independent and also generates new employment opportunities to the society which contributes to the economic development of the nation. From the above study it is identified that women entrepreneurs have empowered the women in Kokrajhar district to a great extent and has helped them to become independent financially and became support to the family. Although there is a greater scope for development in the entrepreneurial field, women in Kokrajhar district are not able to grab the opportunities due to multi-dimensional challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in managing the enterprise. They face social barriers right in the beginning of the start-up phase followed by the financial barriers and so on. However, amidst a lot of difficulties, they have proven their ability to manage their small and medium enterprises but are not able to diversify into large scale enterprise. A proper environment with support from society, primarily their own family, and government can together help women entrepreneurs to overcome these challenges of women entrepreneurs. The women should be motivated to come out of their traditional occupation for accepting more challenging and rewarding economic activities; there is also need for creating a positive entrepreneurial environment so that women can join in large number in the entrepreneurial activities. In the conclusion, it may be mentioned that entrepreneurship development can be regarded as a powerful tool for promoting women empowerment and to make them independent in all aspects from mind, thought, rights, decisions, etc by leaving all the social and family limitations.

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Women Entrepreneurial Ventures in Select District of Sixth Schedule Areas of Assam: A Study

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Abstract

There are different types of women entrepreneurial Ventures which are engaged in different entrepreneurial activities. The main purpose of present paper is to examine the growth of women entrepreneurial ventures and type of such ventures in the study area. It is assumed that there is no significant relationship between the amount of investment and number of employment provided by the ventures. The registered micro women enterprises have been considered and the findings reveal that Number of employment generated is related with the type entrepreneurial ventures. The study clearly proves that there is relationship between the type of women entrepreneurial venture and volume of employment. The women entrepreneurial ventures employment has a significant relationship with the amount of investment level.

Keyword: Women, employment, investment, ventures, growth.

Introduction

As per the 2011 census, Indian population comprises of 48% women. 34% of the population participates in the financial and economic activities with many of them not being paid. In the case of an unfortunate event of losing the earning member, they are heavily dependent and the survival of the family is at stake. Hence, promoting women entrepreneurship is an important activity that any society should promote. Involvement of women has its inherent benefits for the industry as well as society. Professionally, the women entrepreneurs setting up their own firms help to create new employment opportunities and per capita income of the nation is increased. Socially, they become independent, provide a better and brighter future for the next generation as well as family, better education and awareness levels, more confident about themselves and are in a better position to manage family businesses in case of loss of the earning member.¹⁴ The major reason that attracts women to begin as an entrepreneur is that they have innovative ideas and ability to do something creative which helps their individual identity to be recognized at not only local or national but at a larger also global level. In earlier history barter system was way of life. By removing stagnancy for social development, the entrepreneurship brings new blood to the culture of society. Everywhere in the world, entrepreneurship is seen as one of the most important solutions to unemployment, poverty and low economic growth. The creation of new ventures and growth of existing business are



vital contributing factors to any economy, and is a way of enhancing the entrepreneurial activity everywhere in the world, entrepreneurship is seen as one of the most important solutions to unemployment, poverty and low economic growth. The entrepreneurial activity in a country can be enhanced by providing entrepreneurial training and education to potential and existing entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurship in economic development of any nation has been documented for its significant contribution. In the present study Women entrepreneurial ventures of Kokrajhar district BTC Assam, is taken for the study. In Assam there are 3 three Autonomous territorial councils under sixth schedule of the councils of India. They are: Bodoland Territorial Council(BTC), Dima Hasao Autonomous Council and Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council. As per 2011 census Bodoland Territorial Council is the highest population districts among the three autonomous council of Assam.Considering the fact of highest population district council,the headquarter of BTC Kokrajhar district is chosen for the study.

Review of Literature

Roshan Lal and Bandrinarayan H.S 2011 in their study found that women entrepreneurs are essential for achieving economic growth of the nation. There are certain obstacles which hinder the growth of nation to be avoided.**Kripanjali Pradhani & Dr.Soma Dey Roy Choudury (Nov 2017)** In their study “Constraints of work Life Balance of womenEntrepreneurs identified that extensive support and encouragement from family and society has helped the women entrepreneurs to achieve the height of new scale in business ventures. **Jayan, V. K. 2013** Women Entrepreneur ship in MSME (with special reference to Coimbatore cityThe study reveals that education and previous experience and government policies/assistance incentives/subsidies are motivating factors. Capital investment and marketing are major factors that contribute in success of women owned enterprise Women Entrepreneurship plays a prime role in industrial development. MSME is playing a remarkable role in widening the base of industrial entrepreneurship in India. **(Deshpande 2020)**. On employment, analysis of data from the Center for Monitoring the Indian Economy-the only source of all-India longitudinal data on employment under the pandemic covering several thousand households-showed that in April 2020, soon after India’s stringent lockdown on March 25, 2020, although more men than women lost jobs in absolute terms, women were 20 percentage points less likely to be employed among those employed before the pandemic. And by August 2020, although both had recovered partially, women were behind men.

Research Gap

Though there are numbers of literature available on women entrepreneurs ,substantial studies has not been done on the women entrepreneurs of sixth schedule area of Bodoland Territorial Council Assam. From the above literature it is found that women entrepreneurs are essential for achieving economic growth of the nation. There are certain obstacles which hinder the growth of nation to be avoided. Women Entrepreneurship plays a prime role in industrial development. MSME is playing a remarkable role in widening the base of industrial entrepreneurship in India. But the growth rate of women entrepreneurs in sixth schedule district areas are not upto the mark level.So the study is an attempt to fill the gap.



Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the growth of Women Entrepreneurship Ventures in the study area during the study Period.
2. To find out the type of Women Entrepreneurial ventures in the study area.

Hypotheses of the Study

H₀₁: There is no significant association between type of women entrepreneurial venture and volume of employment.

H₀₂: There is no significant association between investment and employment in women entrepreneurial venture.

Research Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature and based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected from the office of DIC, Kokrajhar. The descriptive statistics like tabulation, simple percentage, percentage growth rate are used to analyse and interpret data. To test the hypothesis, Pearson Chi square test is used and 5 % level of significant is considered. The study is based on census method, as the population size is small in number and it requires intensive data.

Results and Discussion

1. Growth of women entrepreneurial ventures:

Table 1 depicts the number of registered women entrepreneurial ventures under DIC kokrajhar from the year 2014 to 2020 and its growth rate percentage per year. In 2015 the growth rate is 56% and 36%, 47%, 50%, 48% and 43% simultaneously in the year 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

980

2. Type of women entrepreneurial ventures in the study area:

Table 2 reveals that it clearly indicates that among the micro women entrepreneurs in the study area, majority engage in manufacturing activities. However, there are a sizable number of women who run service based entrepreneurial venture. It may be because of the increased in local demand due to globalization and liberalisation of culture.

3. Investment level of women entrepreneurial ventures:

Table 3 reveals the investment level of women entrepreneurs. The amount of investment upto 1 lakh is 55.7% and upto 2 lakh is 44.3%.

4. Number of employment:

In table 4, the number of employment is shown. The number of employment upto 5 workers is 80% and above 5 is 20%.

Hypotheses testing Result

The Hypotheses testing Results are shown Table 5 and Table 6. In table 5 with regard to the H₀₁, at 1df the χ^2 result is found to be 5.613 and p value is found to be 0.018. Since p value is less than 0.05, the hypothesis is rejected. Hence, an alternative hypothesis 'there is significant association between type of women entrepreneurial venture and volume of employment' is developed and accepted. Similarly in table 6 also with regard to H₀₁, at 1df the χ^2 results found to be 5.255^a and p values be found to be 0.022, the hypothesis is rejected. Hence an alternative

hypothesis 'there is significant association between investment and employment in women entrepreneurial venture is developed and accepted.

Conclusion

The number of employment generated by the women entrepreneurs is related with the type entrepreneurial ventures. The finding of the present study clearly proves that there is relationship between the type of women entrepreneurial venture and volume of employment. The women entrepreneurial ventures employment has a significant relationship with the amount of investment level. The more the amount of investment will be made the more employment will be generated and will contribute for the economic growth of the nation. Therefore the government should encourage the women entrepreneurs to invest more capital in their business to generate more employment to empower womens. The more investment we do, more employment can be generated. The creation of new ventures and growth of existing business are vital contributing factors to any economy, and is a way of enhancing the entrepreneurial activity everywhere in the world, entrepreneurship is seen as one of the most important solutions to unemployment, poverty and low economic growth. The entrepreneurial activity in a country can be enhanced by providing entrepreneurial training and education to potential and existing entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurship in economic development of any nation has been documented for its significant contribution.

Table 1: Number of women entrepreneurial ventures registered and growth rate per year

Year	No of Registration	Cf	Growth rate
2014	7	7	-
2015	4	11	57%
2016	4	15	36%
2017	7	22	47%
2018	11	33	50%
2019	16	49	48%
2020	21	70	43%

Source: field study

Table 2: Type of women entrepreneurial ventures

	Type	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Service	17	24.3	24.3	24.3
	Manufacturing	53	75.7	75.7	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Source: field study

Table no 3: Investment level of women entrepreneurial ventures

	Investment level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	upto 1 lakh	39	55.7	55.7	55.7
	above 1 lakh	31	44.3	44.3	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table 4: Number of women employment

	Employment	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	upto 5	56	80.0	80.0	80.0
	above 5	14	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Study

Table 5. Ho1 testing

Ho1: Relationship between type of venture and employment

Table 5: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.613 ^a	1	.018		
Continuity Correction ^b	4.084	1	.043		
Likelihood Ratio	8.857	1	.003		
Fisher's Exact Test				.016	.012
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.533	1	.019		
N of Valid Cases ^b	70				
a. 1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.40.					
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table					

Table 6. Ho2 testing

Ho2: Relationship between type of investment and employment

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.225 ^a	1	.022		
Continuity Correction ^b	3.941	1	.047		
Likelihood Ratio	5.278	1	.022		
Fisher's Exact Test				.034	.023
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.151	1	.023		
N of Valid Cases ^b	70				
a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.20.					
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table					

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A STUDY ON THE PRESENT SCENARIO OF BODO ETHNIC HANDICRAFTS SECTORS

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ABSTRACT

Handicrafts are a representation of the society's way of life and their artistic skills. They are a substantial medium to preserve rich tradition, culture and heritage. The Bodo ethnic tribes are very rich in their traditional arts and handicrafts. The weaving culture is significant art of the Bodo community. They made almost all articles required for their daily use like songrai, sandri, khada, jekhai, kobai, etc. and also weave their own traditional dress Dokhona, jwmgra, gamsha, aronai etc for daily wear. The Bodos are maintaining their traditional artistic creativity by following old traditional methods taught by their forefathers. Their art and craft reflects the hidden old heritage of bodo community racial, religious and tribal identities. The present paper attempts to study about the present scenario of bodo ethnic handicrafts sector in kokrajhar district and their issues. The study is descriptive in nature. It is based on both primary and secondary data. To achieve the said objective various books, research papers, articles, magazines and Newspapers are referred and primary data is collected by using structured questionnaire and through personal interviews.

Key words: Bodo, ethnic, handicrafts, traditional, market.

INTRODUCTION

Handicraft is a work where useful and decorative objects are made by hand. It includes textiles, woodwork, papercraft, cane and bamboo, candle making, jewelry making and so on. They are made by hand fully or semi- hand made by using tools and machines. They are unique expressions of a culture or a community through craftsmanship. With increase in globalization, handmade goods are facing competition from machine made goods. Handicrafts play a big role in the society. It is a representation of the society's way of life and their artistic skills. Handicrafts industries are those that produce things with hands to meet the needs of the people in their locality. They are a substantial medium to preserve rich tradition, culture and heritage. The handicraft sector is one of the largest employment generators in the country and accounts for a significant share in the country's exports. It is a cottage-based industry and is highly labor

intensive. There is a huge demand for Indian handicrafts in the national and international markets. India offers a wide variety of handicraft products as every state in India has their own craft traditions. Indian handicraft items range from wooden, stone, metal, glass, bamboo, cane, clay, terracotta, ceramics and textiles. States such as Manipur, Tripura, Assam, Rajasthan, Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are popular for their handicraft collection. The government provides various incentives for the upliftment of this sector through five- year plans and industrial policies. The world market considers handicraft as valuable due to it being rich in culture, heritage of great art and craftsmanship.

The handicraft sector is affected by increase in demand of artificial and machine-made products as these products are much cheaper and can be utilized just as the handmade items. Innovation and introduction of advanced tools help this sector to cope with the modern demands.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the present scenario of bodo ethnic handicrafts in kokrajhar district.
- 2 .To study the commercial viability of bodo ethnic handicrafts.

RESEARCH METODOLOGY

The study covers the Kokrajhar district of Assam and is descriptive in nature.To achieve the objectives of the paper both primary and secondary data has been used. Secondary sources of data have been collected from different published articles and research papers. Primary data are also collected by the researcher and some data are collected by telephonic interview and through the conversation with various persons related to the sector.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

There were following limitations in my study:

- (i) Some respondents were reluctant to give out personal information
- (ii) The sample size consists of only 100 producers and sellers and 50 buyers so results may be prone to errors

HANDICRAFTS IN KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT

Kokrajhar is one of the districts of Assam and is gateway to northeast India. The district also shares international boundary with the Kingdom of Bhutan. The district is predominantly

inhabited by Bodo tribe with a sizeable Rajbongshi and Santhal population. Before, agriculture was the main occupation of people in the district. There is no shortage of raw materials required for handicrafts in the district as most of the households grow bamboo and cane. Although every household used to make garments with manual looms, only 30% of the population in the district was engaged in the commercialization of their produce. This has come down to about 10%-15% in the recent years due to shifting of people's occupation towards the service sector. Nowadays, due to globalization there has been a need to sustain and promote traditional handicrafts. Almost 70% of the traditional garments in the local market are mass produced in states like West Bengal. The power loom in these states produce traditional garments in huge numbers and they are priced cheaper than handmade garments. It is a threat to traditional form of loom, but local people prefer hand made garments rather than machine made ones because they feel that machine made garments are worse in quality than hand made ones. A number of handicraft and weaving units are run individually, by Self- Help Groups, NGOs and enterprises. They are backed by DIC and organisations such as BRAWFED. Organisations like BRAWFED, Indi loo enterprise and DIC (District Industries and Commerce Centre) have helped the artisans financially and socially. Earlier artisans in Kokrajhar produced handicraft and handloom products only for personal and domestic use and for selling in the local market. Looms were present in every household but they were not produced for the sale of Commercialization. The district is predominantly inhabited by Bodo tribe, but since a number of communities co- exist in the district, we can see variants of a product in the local market. One of the examples is Kobai, which is an equipment to store fishes. This product can be found in various shapes and sizes according to the community it comes from. Fishing tools also differ from community to community.

BRAWFED

The Bodoland Regional Apex Weavers and Artisans Co- operative Federation Ltd. (BRAWFED) is registered under Handloom and Textiles Department, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). It is a state level organization that is established under ARTFED (Assam Apex Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd.). The organization looks after the handicraft and handloom sector of four districts (Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri) of Assam.

Mission of the organization

- (i) To promote handicraft and handloom of Bodoland area and aims to develop the artisans and weavers of the area.
- (ii) To improve the socio- economic status of the artisans in BTC.
- (iii) To improve production, productivity, quality and cost competitiveness of handloom and handicraft products.
- (iv) To improve the market potentiality of handloom and handicrafts of BTC and compete with confidence for an increasing share of the global market.

They provide training from time to time and after each training they provide the trainees with new and advanced tools. They help the artisans by helping them reach markets beyond local markets. They are promoted in National and International levels through exhibitions. The organization understands that the artisans in the area, although they are skilled, lack entrepreneurial skills. The organization helps those artisans in marketing and skill development which helps in increasing self- esteem of the artisans. The artisans get exposure and it helps them gain confidence in their talents. The organization provides 5 months training programs and after completion of each program the artisans are provided with new toolkits.

PRODUCERS AND PRODUCTS

There are approximately 2000 artisans in the district. Some of them work part time in this sector. They produce a varied number of traditional and contemporary products. Most of the women are engaged in weaving. The types of products produced by these producers are garments, cane and bamboo products, wooden products and paper products. The producers largely belong to the rural areas. They learn the crafts from their elders and some go to get certification from crafts institutes such as Bamboo and Cane Development Institute in Agartala, Tripura. Some of the items are difficult to make and it takes them hours to complete a piece but they make them with precision and in such a way that their hard work is paid off. The products are made from materials that are not plastic, so they are durable.

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

Traditional crafts dominate the local market more than the contemporary crafts. It is because traditional crafts are used by a lot of local people to carry out daily tasks. For example,

traditional sieves (songrai), garments (dokhona and gamsa), hand fan (gisib), stool (mora and kamplai) are used by the people for their quality. People are used to using traditional crafts because of their durability. Fishing is one of the main occupations of people in the area and so, we can find different types of fishing equipments in the area such as kokha, sen, Jekhai.

WEAVING

The weaving is a process of cloths or textile production with threads and yarns for human civilization. The spinning, knitting, crocheting, plaiting, braiding and felting are the main characteristics of weaving. Bodo is the one largest tribal community of Assam among the different tribes that still creates handmade fabrics and is able to maintain their cultural heritage. Weaving industries of Bodos has traditionally been one of the most surviving sectors of mass employment. We have seen that the Machine or Mill made fabrics weaving items largely dominated on local fashion markets. The Bodo women weave multi-colour dresses for their day-to-day uses as well as business purpose.

Weaving cloths:

The cloths used and production in the weaving industries of Bodos are presented in table and described below as a whole within a common framework.

Table1. - Major weaving items produced by Bodo Community

Sl No	Weaving items	Approximate size in meter	Uses
1	Dokhona	It is 3 to 3.5 meters long and 1.5 to 2 meters wide.	It is main female dress of Bodo community. Usually used for covering body from chest to ankle.
2	Aronai	It is 1.5 to 2 meters long and 0.5 meter wide	It is a small respectful scarf, occasionally used by both men and women.
3	Gamsa	About 1.5 to 2 meters long and breadth is almost 1 to 1.5 meter wide.	Long men garment worn round the hips and reaching tills the knees.
4	Fasra	It is about 2 to 2.5 meters long and 1 meter wide.	Use by women for upper part of the body.
5	Hichima	It is about 3 to 3.5 meters long and 2 to 2.5 meters wide	It is a big and wide size cloth which uses as during the winter season.

The Assam Govt. has implementing of schemes for all round development of the handloom weaving industries among the Bodos to increase productivity with high quality to keep pace with the global fabric market as well as socio-economic development.

Bamboo and Cane crafts:

The people of this area make a large variety of articles of bamboo. The bamboo made article are playing a vital role in the daily life of the Bodo society. Only some kinds of article are found which are made of cane. They are used to cane split especially for tied to articles. They make varieties of household article, agricultural implements, fishing implements, musical instruments, weaving implements and traditional loom etc.

Some of common articles are mentioned below.**(i) Agricultural Implements:**

Jwngali: The Jwngali is made of Burkha owa (one kind of bamboo) wood or bamboo. The length of jwngali is 5 feet. Jwngali is used to combine two bullocks in the agricultural work for the pulling of nangwl (plough). The pair of bullocks holds the jwngali on their shoulders at the time of pulling the plough. Both the sides of jwngali are fixed to two small sticks.

Mwi: Mwi is made of Burkha (one kind of bamboo) bamboo. It is generally used to level the surface level after the ploughing of land. The length of mwi is 5 feet. Two steps made of bamboo are joined to the two divided bamboo poles. At the time of its use the man boarding it used to stand on it.

Dangkhura: The dangkhura is also made of bamboo. This Implement is used to connect mwi with the jwngali. It is joined to the both sides of mwi and jwngali, when the bullocks pull the mwi.

Khofri (head gear): It is also made of bamboo split and palm leaves. Khopri is used by farmers for protection from the rain and sun light especially in the field work. It is a head gear which is used instead of an umbrella. The weaving technique is two similar nets of hexagonal and V pattern shape in the centre which is equal in size of a man's head. In the midst of these two nets leaves of khofri plants (palm leaves) are placed smoothly after being dried. A jute string is provided at the inner side which helps the man to bind with his neck.

Naora: The Naora is made of wood and the handle is a piece of bamboo. It is like a spade but size is larger. It is used to pull the paddy or corns together while drying in the sunlight (used in pulling).

Hukhen: Hukhen is made from a single piece of burkha bamboo. The last part of the bamboo is

used by keeping one branch node for the purpose. It is about 6 or 7 feet in length. Hukhen is used when the paddy seeds are to be separated from the plant.

Sandanga: The Sandanga is woven with fine bamboo slips. It is a round shaped disc like object and its diameter varies from 7 feet to 8 feet. It is almost same like chandri (sieve), but it is larger in size. It is woven with fine bamboo split; small holes are made between to wrap and weft as used by twill technique. The holes of sandanga are bigger than chandri. It is generally used to separate the rice from the hay.

Bharti or Baokha: It is also made of Burkha bamboo. Bharti is also important equipment for the farmer. It is 6 feet to 8 feet long strong bamboo piece which is pointed or torn both side to carry a hump of paddy on their shoulder. This is basically used to carry paddy or corns.

Maithob: Maithob is also another important implement for farmer. It is used as a container of paddy seeds. It is made of bamboo splits and hay turned into an oval shape in order to keep the paddy seed for sowing in the next season.

Khichiri: Khichiri is also another important tool or implement of the farmers. It is made of cane and is given the shape of a ring. It is woven with fine cane split to wrap and weft as used in the technique of twined methods. They are used to make maithaob to keep the paddy seed for sowing in the next season.

Laothi: Bamboo stick. It is also made of bamboo piece and used for beating cattle in the time of ploughing.

Duli (A large basket in which grain is stored): It is made of bamboo strips. This is used to store paddy and mustard seed etc. It is a U shaped basket but its diameter in the mouth portion is slightly greater than the bottom part. It is woven with fine bamboo split wraps and wefts used by twill technique. Duli is longer and wider than any other basket

DEMAND OF THE PRODUCTS

The producers have stated that there are no changes in demand of the products. The products are always on demand in the local market due to their usage.

Demand for garments are relatively lower in summer season because people don't like wearing new clothes in summer as people tend to sweat due to hot weather.

There was a decrease in demand few years back due to increase in demand of machine- made

products that are cheaper than handmade products. But now, people have started to understand the value and quality of hand made products and it's demand in the local market have become stable in the recent years.

HOW ARE THE PRODUCTS MARKETED?

All of the producers sell products by themselves or through middlemen. BRAWFED and DIC collects products from them and sell them in their emporium. Some wood workers have stated that they get orders from people outside the district also. Some of the artisans work together as groups with a seller. They produce goods and the seller sells them in the market since the producers are not able to carry out selling activities on their own.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY MARKET?

All of the producers have stated that their primary market is local market and nearby districts. They are able to sell in other states or countries through exhibitions, expos and fairs. But only a few of them have access to these markets. Some producers do not feel the need to go to other markets as they are able to make good sales in the local market itself.

FINDINGS

1. The people engaged in handicrafts avail raw materials from their home produce. They are not required to purchase raw materials while the people engaged in handloom purchase yarn from wholesalers.
2. The producers mostly learn their skills from elders and start working at a very young age in order to support the family. They drop out of schools at a very young age. Some of them get training from art and craft institutes in order to be able to teach crafts to other people.
3. Most of the artisans are backed by DIC (District Industries and Commerce Centre) and BRAWFED (Bodoland Regional Apex Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd.) and are provided with timely training, promotion, financial assistance. While the rest of the artisans work independently without any assistance.
4. Garments are the most sought and most produced products in the area followed by cane and bamboo products such as stools, tables, sieves, etc.
5. Only female respondents are engaged in producing garments. There are organizations like Indiluo, where the organization is managed by male, but production activities are done only

by women.

6. Organizations like DIC and BRAWFED have helped the artisans and weavers in the area to a great extent.

7. The producers have stated that they are able to manage the household with their earnings. Respondents having children want their kids to complete their studies and land good jobs and they are helping their children in studies in every way possible.

8. Although some products are expensive, people still buy those because of the authenticity and cultural heritage.

9. There are artisans who teach crafts to school kids or other artisans during training programs.

10. There are artisans who have certificate from Government of India Ministry of Textiles and are known as Mastercraft person. Artisans who are State Awardees get pension from the Government of India.

11. There have been a lot done by the government for the upliftment of this sector, yet, due to lack of communication the producers are not able to get the benefits.

12. The buyers have stated that the prices of the products are high, but they are worth the purchase.

13. All of the producers agree that the future of this industry depends upon the help provided by the government. They need more upliftment and help in case of marketing and production.

14. The practices of traditional weavings or handlooms have occupied an important place in the economic and cultural lives of the Bodos.

15. The weaving cloths design or motif of Bodo community have inspired by natural sources. The plants, animals, birds, insects, crafts and planets play a vital role in the cloth motif designs of Bodo.

CONCLUSION

The Bodo community has been taking weaving as their dignitary and respectful cultural work. Nevertheless as per demand and trend their traditional weaving technology has transformed towards the new technology, modern trends as well changeable tendency. Even though some skilled weavers among the bodo still practices their traditional weaving industries at own houses without any upgradation. Uses of bamboo traditionally in a variety of purposes have become an

important part of the cultural diversity of the Bodos. There have been a lot done by the government for the upliftment of the handicrafts sector. But all these helps are not availed by the artisans of the Kokrajhar district. There is a communication gap and lack of information which does not allow the artisans to avail those benefits. This sector cannot be neglected as it is one of the major employment generators in the rural areas. Handicrafts form a part of the daily life of the society. There have been a lot done by the DIC and BRAWFED for the upliftment of the local artisans and there is still scope for further improvements in their work. People from rural areas who are less educated are dependent upon this sector. They work individually or form self help groups which are backed by big organizations. These organizations help them by providing them training, taking them to big expos and exhibitions, improved toolkits and financial assistance. The products are always in demand in the area because they form a major part of the lifestyle of the people living in the district. The raw materials are available in abundance in the locality which is a great advantage for the producers. With the support of government and local organizations, the artisans are able to keep the tradition of producing hand made goods which promote and maintain the culture of the societies present in the district.

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