



# EDUCATION AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract:

Education is key to development. Without, neither a society nor a nation as a whole can socially and economically. India is a classic example of this fact. Until the last decade of the last century vast majority of the country were illiterate and more so of the rural people and such economic status India as compared with those of the modern countries was very low. On the other hand now India is picking up development from the last decade of the present century as literary rate of the population has risen above 52 percent. These facts establish the correlation between growth of education and growth of economy. Stress must be, therefore, given educational development of any community be it rural or urban, tribal or lower castes etc.

Keywords: Education, development, society, rural & economy.

## Introduction:

Women form more or less, half of the population of any society; and hence they form half of the work force of the society. So, unless the women are able to participate equally with men in the development process the society or the nation cannot achieve its goal of development. Therefore, in India special programmers' for educational development of women has been introduced. As result women's education has been progressing rather rapidly since the dawn of the Independence of the country.

When we talk of rural development we generally mean rural people of the country as a whole. But this is not necessarily justified for the reason that because of physical and socio-cultural setting problems of rural residents of the entire country are not the same. The problems of Punjab or Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh are not the same with those of Bihar or Assam or Manipur. Similarly, the problems of Goalpara are not the same with those of Tinsukia or Sadiya etc.

So, our first approach to rural development undertaken keeping in view the problems of rural families of certain district or area having some common problems. This would be more expediate

and viable. What would be the components of the measure would be determined by the field workers under rural development agencies. They in consultation with the panchayats would finalise and execute the measures.

Coming to the question of women's role it may be mentioned that some special schemes befitting to women's aptitude and interests according to their cultural heritage should be introduced. For example, the women of the Mising, Deori, Bodo and other like them have long tradition of keeping pigs and fowls. Special schemes for developing piggery and poultry farms in modern system should be introduced. Their traditional system of keeping these and birds is not at all viable. So, they must be motivated and trained for modern way of firming and trading them in modern marketing system.

Similarly, women in general of Assam are well known for their dexterity in weaving. Women of every caste, creed and community of Assam have long tradition of weaving and the tradition is passed on to every new generation. As such, the women of the State have natural interests and inclinations to weaving. So, weaving industry can be well developed in rural areas. Assam has plenty of raw materials for producing clothes of silk varieties which are rare in other part of the country. Silk clothes have world market. Therefore, efforts may be made to industrialise production of varieties of silk clothes in rural areas of Assam. Along with cloth production centres for yarn production and garment making, may be also established in which women can be employed in large number.

There are also high prospect of producing honey varieties of species and fruit products in rural areas of Assam. Though these commodities have been traditionally produced in Assam, they are not necessarily for commercial purpose. Now the families should be encouraged for producing commodities in commercial line for which necessary training should be imparted.

However, it must be noted that success for all the schemes suggested education is necessary. Unless the women are adequately educated in industrial and commercial activities, no scheme whatsoever would be successful and that is what has been happening to-day. Many and varieties of schemes have been introduced for rural development for the last several decades but without expected success. The reason is that the rural girls are getting nothing more than general education and nothing about professional or occupation. As result, they consider present education to get certificate for while job only. So, when they cannot secure a white collar job they remain unemployed and eventually become housewife. Thus their education becomes washed. This is great loss of human resource of our country especially of Assam.

So, job oriented courses of study should be introduced in the educational institutions established in rural areas. Courses for creating awareness and interest in industrial and commercial undertaking should be made a part of general studies at schools and colleges located in rural areas.

In the last analyses it is found that rural development ultimately depends on joint will and efforts of the public authorities and rural masses. The governments, non-government organization and

the rural masses must cooperate in introducing new schemes and carrying them out in which both men and women participatory effective; and for that change of attitude to work of the rural women in particular and of men in general is necessary and that is possible only by professional oriented education.

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