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Women Education and Economic Development of Bodo Tribe of BTAD: A Case Study in the Gossaigaon Sub-Division of Kokrajhar District of Assam

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Abstract

The paper aims to know the present educational and economic status of Bodo women in the Gossaigaon Sub-Division of Assam. It is an attempt to investigate the role of Bodo women in uplifting the rural economy. Both primary and secondary data have been collected to conduct the present study. Purposeful sampling technique is used to collect the relevant data and the data have been analysed qualitative and quantitatively. The result reveals that 75% of the Bodo women are illiterate and majority of the households are dependent on cultivation, Piggery farm, weaving, handicraft and piggery farm for their livelihood.

Key Words: Bodo, Education and Economic Status, Tribe, Women Education

Introduction

The Bodo is considered as one of the major tribal communities of Assam originated from the racial group called Mongoloid. Agriculture and allied activities are the main sources of income for this tribe. But it is a very serious concern that Bodo community has been suffering from some serious problems like - insufficient infrastructural facilities for agriculture and economic backwardness, negligence of education especially for the woman, superstitions etc. years after years and which have been creating a barrier on its way of development. To be accustomed with globally changed economic and social environment the problems what they faced to be removed in no condition. It is fact that, women are nearly the half of the total population size of any society. That is why, participation of women in any activities along with man is equally important. Therefore, for the upliftment of the community the Bodo women should take a vital role in the development of economic status. Generally, the women section of the Bodo community is

very much efficient in household and earning activities. They are efficient weaver, skilled in agricultural and other activities, but the modes of operation of economic activities are primitive in nature. The causes behind it are the low rate of literacy of the women section in the community, low rate of capital formation of the community etc. That is why, women section of the community generate low rate of income in their economic activities (Kachari, S.R.; 2015). In the context of the economic development of the rural sector of the Bodo community of BTAD, it is very urgent to study the problem of women education in the community and their role in uplifting the rural economy.

Objectives of the Study

Though Bodo women can take a vital role to uplift the economic status of the community still their poor educational status is standing as a hindrance on this way. Hence, this paper has made an attempt to analysis the women education status in the Bodo community of BTAD with special reference to Gossaigaon sub-division, Assam and their role in uplifting the economic status of the rural sector of the community. Following two objectives have been formulated to investigate the present problem.

Objective I To find out the educational status of the women in the Bodo community of Gossaigaon sub division.

Objective II To find out the role of women in economic activities of the Bodo community of Gossaigaon sub division.

Review of the related literature

Reviewing related literature is an important part of the research procedure which helps to avoid the unintentional duplication and to get the idea about perfect procedure of conducting a research (Koul, L; 2009). Apart from that it is equally helpful for a researcher in selecting a research problem and acquiring knowledge on analysis and interpreting the collected data (Best, J. W., 2007). The following review is found to be more relevant to the present title of investigation.

Kachari, S.R. (2015) conducted a study on "Socio-Economic Status of Bodo People: A Case Study of the Udalguri District, Assam". The paper aimed to know the socio economic status of Bodo people in Udalguri district of Assam. The study was based on primary data. The result revealed that the Bodo people are socially and economically backward in comparison to non tribal peoples.

Das, Jonti (2020) conducted a study on "Socio-Economic Status of Bodo Women: A Study of Gulokpur village in Golaghat District of Assam." with the prime objectives to find out the economic challenges faced by tribal women and their socio-economic condition with measures to tackle the challenges faced by them. The article was published in "Journal of Critical Reviews" bearing ISSN 2394-5125, vol. 7 Issue 17, 2020. The study revealed a pathetic picture with very negative socio-economic aspects due to facing lots of problems like poverty, low income and illiteracy among the Bodo women section.

Methodology/ Design of the study

Methodology is the detail procedure of conducting research. It helps in smooth functioning of the research work.

Population and Sample

Total number of households of Bodo community in Gossaigaon Sub-Division of Assam is the population of the study.

So far as the sample is concerned, the field survey was conducted by selecting 5 representative villages having inhabitant of 280 households.

In our sample survey data have been collected from 280 representative household to find out the present economic scenario of the women of Boro community of BTAD, yet some other information have also been collected from the sample household. In this study, data are arranged in tabular forms to facilitate comparison and show the involved relations.

Sex ratio of the Bodo people of 5 selected villages In our simple survey the sex ratio of the households have been taken in to account as it can effect on the socio economic condition of the female section of the society. In a society nearly half of the total population is female and as such they can take a decisive role not only in family but also economic development of the society as a whole.

Table 1: Sex Ratio of Bodo Community in sample villages

Sex	No. of Person	Percentage
Male	171	61.07%
Female	109	38.93%
Total	280	100%

In this sample survey, the ratio of male and female in family have taken in to account by measuring sex ratio of the respondent household. Which shows 61.07% of the total population is male and 38.93% female as depicted in the table No. 1.

Figure 1: Sex Ratio of Bodo Community in sample villages

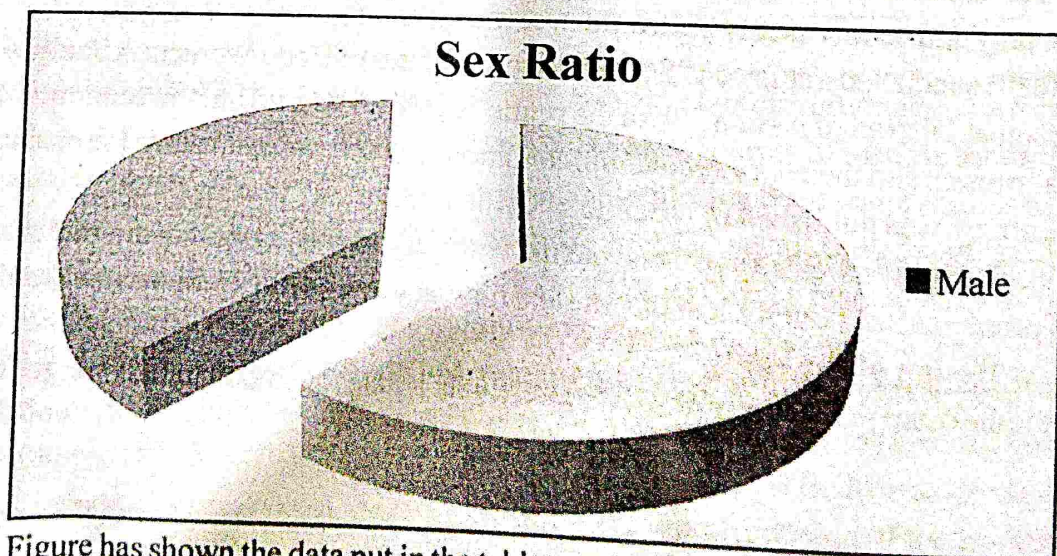


Figure has shown the data put in the table number-

Method used

To get an intensive investigation on the present problem, the researcher followed the survey method to collect the relevant data as per the objectives are concerned.

Tools used and procedure of data collection

To get the reliable data as per research objectives are concerned the researcher has followed personal interview including both open ended and close ended along with observation.

Procedure of data analysis

Data have been analysed through both qualitative and quantitatively. Pie chart, percentage and bar diagram are some of the statistical techniques have been used to interpret the collected data to achieve the objectives.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

After collecting the data researchers proceed for the analysis and interpretation of the data. Data have been collected through field survey. After collecting the data it has been arranged and organized accordingly. Data have been analysed with the help of simple statistics i.e. percentage, pie chart, bar diagram etc.

Objective I To find out the educational status of the women in the Bodo community of Gossaigaon sub division.

Educational Status of the Women of Bodo Community

Education, Economic, and Social developments are the three main aspects of a society as well as for a community. These three are co-related. The educated women easily get the idea to avail all kinds of facilities provided by the government through different means like Bank, DRDA, Panchayat etc. So far as the illiterate women section of the Bodo community is concerned they are lacking behind of those facilities.

It is seen that 25% are illiterate and remaining others belong to different educational status as shown in the table no. 2.

Table 2: Educational status of the women of sample villages

Educational status of the women of sample villages		
Educational Qualification	No. of Household	Percentage %
Illiterate	70	25%
Below HSLC	69	24.64%
HSLC	51	18.21%
HSSLC	64	22.86%
Graduation and Above	26	9.29%
Total	280	100%

Figure 2: Educational status of the women of sample villages

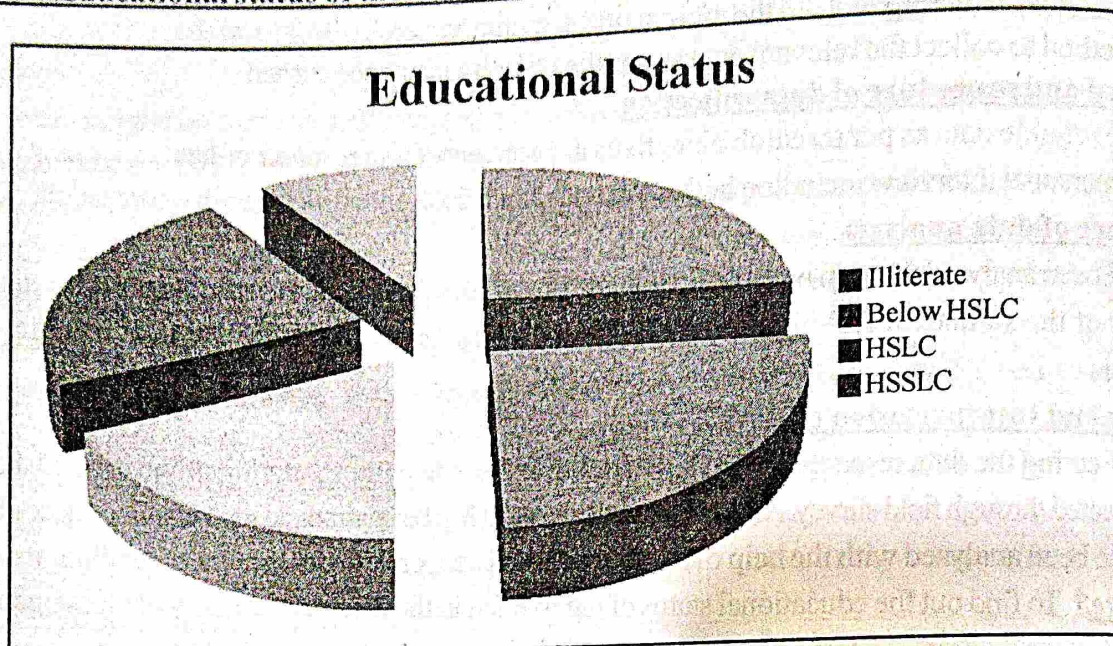


Figure 2 has shown the data put in the table number-2

Objective II To find out the role of women in economic activities of the Bodo community of Gossaigaon sub division.

Occupational patterns of the Bodo women

The occupational pattern of rural Bodo women of Gossaigaon sub-division, Assam has been shown in the following table. Table shows that there are 40% Bodo women involve in cultivation. Mean while, 15.71% involve micro business and 8.57% having own small shops. Likewise, Bodo women having services is 10.71% whereas 3.57% are doing contract and 21.43% are having any other occupations.

Table 3: Occupational pattern of women of Bodo Community in Gossaigaon sub-division

Occupational Pattern		
Name of the Occupation	No. of the Household (280)	Percentage
Cultivation	112	40%
Micro Business	44	15.71%
Small Shop	24	8.57%
Service	30	10.71%
Contract	10	3.57%
Other	60	21.43%
Total	280	100%

Figure 3: Occupational pattern of women of Bodo Community in Gossaigaon sub-division

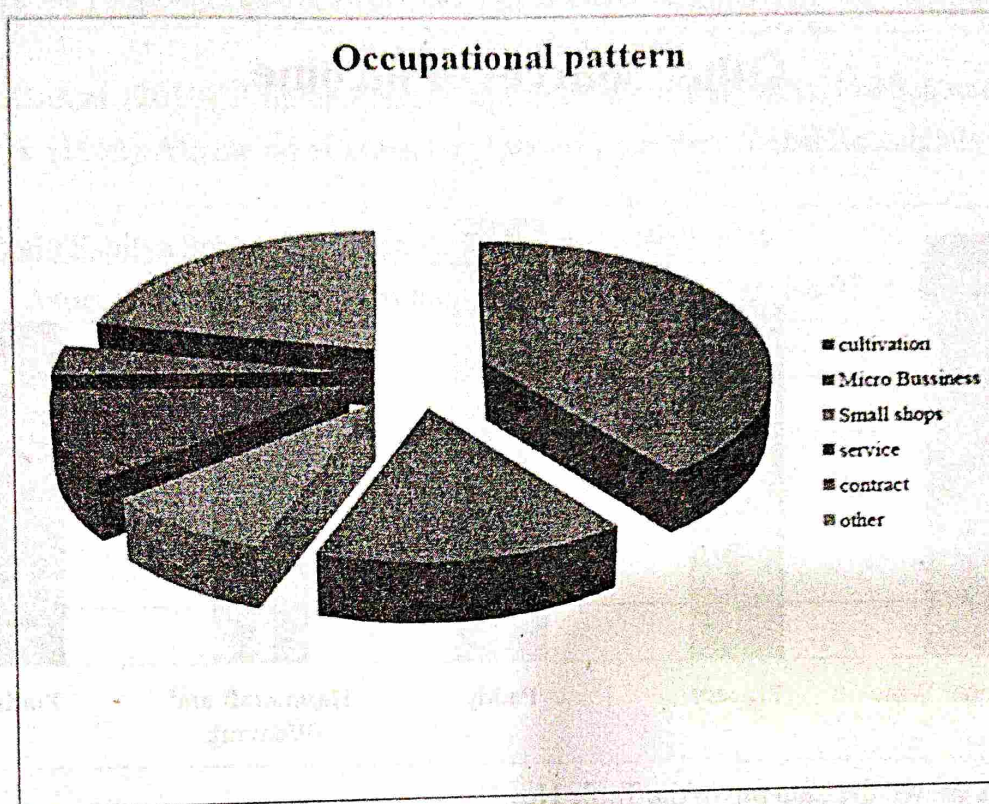


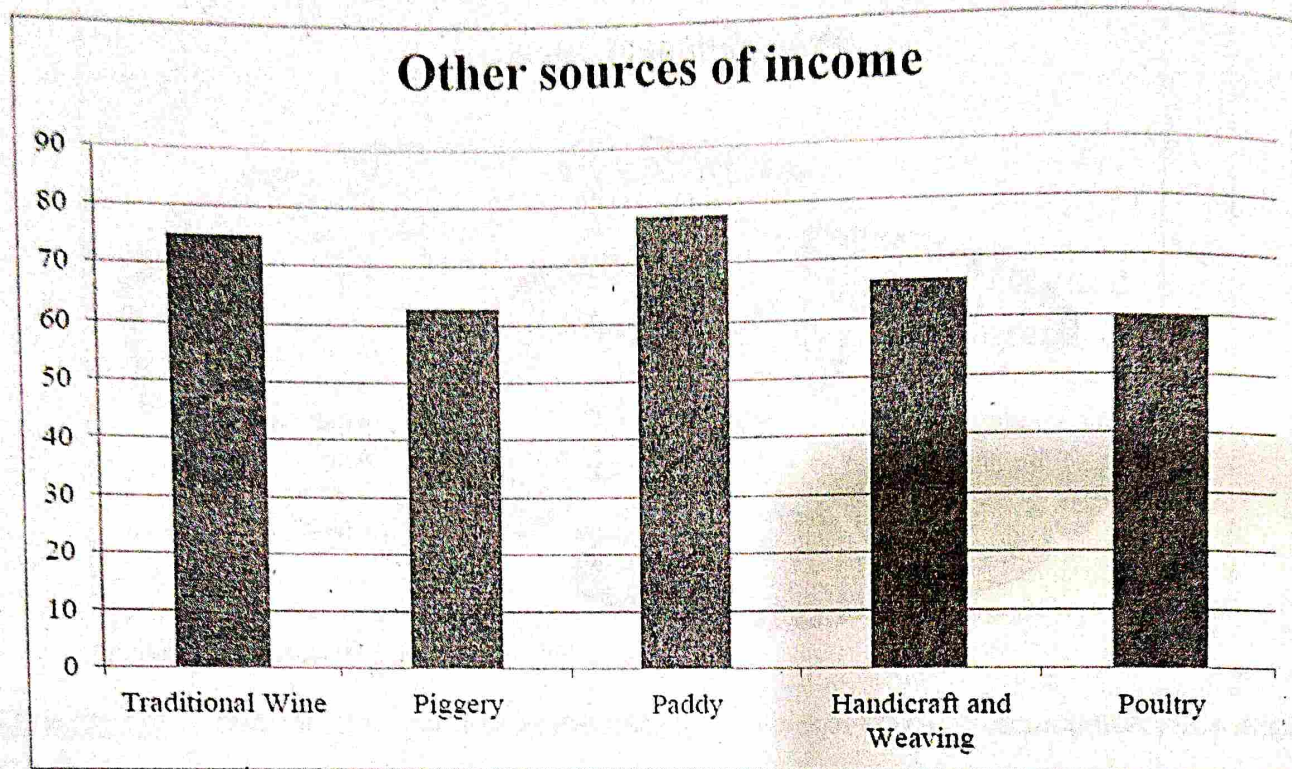
Figure 3 shows the pie chart of the data put in table no 3.

The Bodo women also earn through various sources of income especially in agricultural field viz. traditional wine, piggery, paddy, handicraft & weaving, poultry etc. (Das, D.; 2012). The following table number 4 has shown some other sources of income apart from the occupations included in table no 3. It was found that 75% of the bodo women earn from traditional wine, 62.86% have their piggery farm as earning source and 78.21% of Bodo women earned through paddy. Similarly, 66.43% have handicraft and weaving as their source of income and 60% have poultry farm.

Table 4: Other sources of income of the Bodo women

Other Sources of Income of Bodo Women		
Sources of income	No. of the Household or Bodo Women (280)	Percentage
Traditional wine	210	75%
Piggery	176	62.86%
Paddy	219	78.21%
Handicraft and weaving	186	66.43%
Poultry	168	60%

Figure 4: Other sources of income of the Bodo women



The figure has shown the data put in the Table No. 4

Major Findings of the Study

- Occupational structure of women in the Bodo community of Assam reflects that till now major part of the total women engaged in agriculture sector and generating a respectable amount of income for their livelihood. But gradually due to education of women now a day Bodo women are appeared in service and business sector also which is an indicator of the movement of the society towards development.
- Still 25% of Bodo women are illiterate, 24.64% found with below HSLC and 18.21% found with HSLC passed. On the other hand, 22.86% of the Bodo women found with HSSLC. Likewise, 9.29% of the Bodo women are found with graduation and above. It indicates that they are now being conscious towards education.
- Apart from the other income sources, the Bodo women are also earned through Traditional Wine, Piggery Farm, paddy, Handicraft and Weaving and from the Paddy as well. The data have shown that 75% earned from traditional wine, 62.86% earned from piggery farm and 78.21% earned from paddy. At the same time, 66.43% earned from handicraft and weaving and 60% from poultry farm.

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