

INTERNA**J**OURNAL OF **E**NGINEERING **S**CIENCES & **M**ANAGEMENT **WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG MISING COMMUNITY: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurship is the process where women take lead and organize business and or industry and provides employment opportunities to others. Though at the initial stage, women entrepreneurship developed only at urban areas, lately, it has extended its wings to rural areas. The Government and non-Government organizations should give more prominence to promote self employment among Mising women and build women entrepreneurship. Special finance assistance is provided and training programmes are organized for women to start their ventures. An attempt has been made to highlight the historical background of Mising community and study the past and present aspects of woman entrepreneurship in Mising

Keywords: *SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, PAST AND PRESENT ASPECTS OF MISING COMMUNITY, Mising Population. And Existing Micro & Small Enterprises etc.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Women entrepreneurship is the process where women take lead and organize business and or industry and provides employment opportunities to others. Though at the initial stage, women entrepreneurship developed only at urban areas, lately, it has extended its wings to rural areas. The Government and non-Government organizations should give more prominence to promote self employment among Mising women and build women entrepreneurship. Special finance assistance is provided and training programmes are organized for women to start their ventures. In India, during the Vedic and Later Vedic periods, women were given much respect and they enjoyed equal right with men in all fields. Slowly with the advent of Turks and Muslims the position of women deteriorated as they were forced to follow certain restriction as Purda, Sati, Child Marriage, Polygamy etc. During the early decades of planning in the Mising community women's role in economic activity was not given much importance and only the Sixth Five Years Plan (1980-85) had stressed for special emphasis on the issues of women entrepreneurship and steps were undertaken. Women entrepreneurship is the process where women take lead and organize business or industry and provides employment opportunities to others. Though at the initial stages, women entrepreneurship developed only at urban areas, lately, it has extended its wings to rural and semi-urban areas too. The Govt and Non- Govt organosations are giving more prominence to promote self-employment among women and build women entrepreneurship. Special finance assistance is provided and training programmes are organized for women to start their venture .

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the historical background of Mising community.

To study the past and present aspects of woman entrepreneurship in Mising community.

III. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

A non-empirical study has been conducted in order to achieve the primary objectives. Only secondary data were collected to analyze the objectives. The different sources of secondary data were research papers, journals, books, libraries, organizational records, and other published and un-published sources, etc

IV. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION AND PAST AND PRESENT ASPECTS OF MISING COMMUNITY IN ASSAM

Misings- a tribe of Assam in Northern Eastern region of India were earlier known as Miris. Waddle, (1901) was the first author to mention the name Mising in preference to Miris. The original habitat of Misings, in the distant past, is said to be somewhere in the Tibeto Chinese Border. Misings and the Adi tribes come under the broad group of Indo-Mongoloid races and are referred to as Kirata , in Indian epics. According to the Linguistic Survey of India, apart

from the Nagas and the Jyantias, the Mongoloids of India, speak the Sino- Tibetan group of languages. Misings, forming a fragment of this race, falls under the category of the Tibeto- Burman speakers of the great Sino- Tibetan group.

V. EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE MISING COMMUNITY

The Mishings since their stay in the hills were totally ignorant , illiterate and most of them did not even know about the existence of reading and writing. In most of the time , they got engaged themselves in agriculture, fishing, hunting, etc. They even did not relieve their children from taking care of their child and domesticated animals for attending schools. Besides schooling facilities were rarest in those days. Literary as is defined is one having ability to read and write simple capital letters. Even under this generous criterion before independence the position of literary was the worst. After independence although the position in respect of boys slightly increased but in case of girls remained unchanged. But the position is now much better than before,,as the percentage of literary in Mising society has gone upto 28.54 percentage for men and 7.54 percent for women. Despite this, one of the commendable achievement is that now oral Mishing literature has been converted in to written literature. This effort has enabled them to bring out a set of literature viz., books, booklets,magazines and newspapers in the Mishing language and now they can learn things in their own mother tongue. Another interesting factor is that the literacy rate of Mishings residing in Arunachal Pradesh averages to 68.8% ,which is higher than that of Assam as well as India. It is more than 78% among males and 59% among females.

VI. ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MISHING COMMUNITY

The Mishing society was never known as a trading tribe although while inhabited in the hills some of them became middle-men of hill traders in exchanging hill products with those of plains. Yet,it does not necessarily mean that they dishonoured trade and commerce as their occupation. But for certain reasons like lack of appropriate knowledge about the occupation itself, and the technologies for producing consumers commodities, isolated location, lack of suitable transportation and communication facilities, etc ; they rarely opted for business as their occupation. The perusal of literature reveal that before independence, some of the Mishings started trading of local agricultural products, domesticated animals, housing materials, and few items of weaving and cottage industries.

VII. WOMAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MISHING COMMUNITY

Mishing women plays a major role in the co-management of their natural, social, economic resources and agricultural development including crop production, livestock production, livestock production etc but they remain backward due to traditional values, illiteracy, superstition and many other social and cultural factors. The participatory role of Mishing women in improving their living conditions by fully exploring natural endowments and alternative uses must find an appropriate place in the strategic approach.

In Mishing community, the role of women is substantial and crucial. They constitute about half the total population. In Mishing society women are most important than in other social groups, because they work harder and the family economy and management depend on them. Even after industrialisation and the resultant commercialization swamped the tribal economy, women continued to play a significant role. Collection of minor forests produce is done mostly by women and children. Similarly weaving also forms a major part in their day to day life. Many also work as labourers in industries, households and construction, contributing to their family income.

As such it is seen that there is a vast scope for Mishing women in the entrepreneurship sector. But the problems and constraints experienced by women entrepreneurs among Mising population have resulted in restricting the expansion of women entrepreneurship.

Table 2.1 Statement of Mising Population in Jorhat District in 2013-14

Areas	Male	Female	Total
Mariani	4212	2360	6572
Titabor	2865	2558	5423
Jorhat	6078	5678	11756
Teok	3869	3785	7654
Majuli	6104	4879	10983
Total	23128	19260	42388

Source: Directory of Tribal Welfare Office, Jorhat, 2014.

VIII. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**Table 2.2 :Details of Existing Micro & Small Enterprises and Artisan units in Jorhat district-**

Type Of Industry	Number Of Units	Investment (Lakh Rs.)	Employ-Ment
Agro based	6	19676000	51
Soda water	NA	NA	NA
Cotton textile	8	900000	54
Woolen, silk & artificial Thread based clothes.	NA	NA	NA
Jute & jute based	NA	NA	NA
Ready-made garments & embroidery	12	958000	22
Wood/wooden based furniture	1	13000	3
Paper & Paper products	NA	NA	NA

Leather based	NA	NA	NA
Chemical/Chemical based	3	290000	7
Rubber, Plastic & petro based	1	8231041	21
Mineral based	NA	NA	NA
Metal based	2	131000	8
Engineering units	NA	NA	NA
Repairing & servicing	3	211000	5
Others	25	54916482	162

Source: DICC, Jorhat, 2011-12

The above table represents the numbers of Micro and Small Enterprises and Artisan units in, total investment upon particular industries and number of employment generation through such industries in Jorhat district.

IX. POTENTIAL AREAS FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ASSAM

It is perfectly obvious that women entrepreneurship has a vital necessity today for total socio-economic empowerment of women. There should be such a platform for women so that women from every nook and corner can hurry up together and break their barriers and embrace the path of self dependency. There are innumerable areas in Assam for the growth of women entrepreneurship. The prospective areas where women in Assam can find potential avenues for themselves are highlighted below:

Handloom: This sector has been popular and become more prospective for tremendous potential for women. For example- Assam's endi, pat muga, other folk and tribes costumes etc. have a great scope for show case women potential.

X. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The potential of rural women can be used for the sake of developing rural entrepreneurship. Lack of work at farms or migrate to urban areas for the sake of earning their livelihood. The need is to create entrepreneurship environment for creating entrepreneurship skill. They should be trained and guided about how they can start a venture by taking maximum advantage of locally available resources. Moreover, they should have easy access to micro finance meant for initiating a new project. They can avail the following benefits of the rural industrial projects.

Exemption from paying tax for 5 to 10 years is given to industries established in backward and rural areas. The different tax benefits available for rural entrepreneurs are excise, income tax, sales tax and other tax. These tax benefits are in the form of direct and indirect taxes, but for that matter, an individual is required to fulfill certain conditions. These tax benefits are in the form of different tax holidays under section 10a, 10aa, 10b and 10ba.

Electricity is supplied at concessional rate of 50%. In some states, it is exempted for initial five years.

Water is given to industries initially on 'No profits, No loss' basis or on 50% concessional rate or water charge is exempted for 5 years.

Finance is also given for purchasing capital assets. Subsidy of 10-15% is given for giving initial boost. Loans are also given at reasonable rates.

Consequently, a rural entrepreneur can exploit the following situations and resources:

Abundance of cheap labour.

Advantage of local and regional resources in case the unit uses them as a raw material.

Prestige and respect among the local community- live example for local women for local women for taking up entrepreneurial project. They can be a role model for others as they are highly motivated persons –as they had a need and had channelized their behavior towards that goal.

Support and appreciation from local people.

Competitive advantages over the big business due to the proximity to the raw material and labours.

Employment generation for local people

It is always the attitude of an individual that matters for development, rather than the availability of resources. If at all, women entrepreneurs among Mising community have the will power to work for common benefits of all, then they can do wonders. The following characteristics are desirable from their persona:

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