

PREFACE

Assam is a land of multi-culture and tradition. Various caste, community and religious groups have been living here since ancient times. The Assam province is merged with India by the British Colonial rule in 24th February, 1826 through the Yandaboo Treaty. Since then this small piece of land has become parts and parcel of India.

During the British colonial rule in India, the concept of Democracy, Decentralization of power, Development of Women and weaker section of people, etc. came to the forefront. After the independence of India, these objectives got new pace. The successive governments of our country have tried their best to uplift the condition of all people irrespective of caste, creed, sex, religion, language and region. The government of independent India has undertaken many plans and programmes for the development of all including the women.

„Women Empowerment“ is an issue that can be described as the backbone of a country’s development specially of India because it is not possible for a country like India to make progress without the overall development of women condition and their lifestyle. As a matter of facts, the question of empowerment of women is given due importance and priority by successive governments in recent years. Bongaigaon District of Assam is not exception to it.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that we have selected the topic- “Women Empowerment: A Study of Bongaigaon District 2002-2012” to evaluate the actual position of women in Socio- Political sphere of the district. Our sincere aim is to bring to light the status of women in the light of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and highlight the role play by the women representatives in this direction. That is why we have tried to focus on the functions of Bongaigaon Zilla Parishad and other ingredients of PRI by adopting various study methods and by providing data on various issues related to women of the district. To make the study more clear and relevant with the topic we have provided a historical background of the district, it’s population pattern, culture and tradition of the district, objectives of the study, questionnaire, methodology, status of women in socio- political sphere etc. Efforts are also made to discuss about the plights of women with remedial measures.

The Thesis is a fundamental work having caste community wise data and information. We will be happy if this little work on women empowerment could provide help to the readers to meet up their needs.

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