

## Chapter IX

### Summary and Conclusion

#### 9.1 Summary and Conclusion

Women constitute half of the world population (49.58 percent as per World Bank Report, 2019) not only that in every society the women are the equal half of the men. In the study area the participation of women is 49 percent. Although the women are the equal half in terms of number but they are not treated equally. In every part of the world the scenario is more or less similar. They brought up with the culture of silence and ended their life in the darkness of silence. They deprived in every aspect of life. The women have no equal rights on the resources, education, employment, and no control over power. They lived like a second class citizen in the world. Similarly in India, the women do not get equal opportunity with men. They are deprived in every aspect of life from their childhood and it was started from their home. The boy children always get the good treatment and opportunity then girls as it is believed that man is the bread owner of the family and they took care of the of their old patents and family in future. So the women are deprived in their household just after her birth, in childhood the young girl have to look after her siblings along with all her household work. They are not sent to school and not allowed to do any job. Now a days the scenario has changed a lot. They girls are sent to school, they are doing job, participated in politics, cultural and social work but still they are not get the equal opportunity in every aspect still they are deprived.

The present study is an attempt to understand the educational and economic empowerment of rural scheduled caste women the Koch Bihar district. In the study the researcher is tried to find out what is the present scenario of the scheduled caste women in the district, whether the women get equal access on the educational facility or not, whether the education could provide them employment opportunity or not and the women are still facing the discrimination or not. In the study the researcher used primary data, secondary data analysis report and field observation. The study shows that concentration of Scheduled Caste population is high in three blocks namely Sitalkuchi, Mekhliganj and Mathabhanga I i.e. more than 67.00 percent as these blocks have high fertile land for

cultivation and as most of the scheduled castes are cultivator. Out of the 1132 inhabited village 311 villages have more than 80.00 percent Scheduled Caste population and more than 40.00 percent villages are in Mekhliganj block. From the surveyed scheduled caste women 68.85 percent are from Rajbanshi community, 21.30 percent from Namasudra and 8.89 percent from Jaliakaibartta community these are the majority Caste of the district. In the study it is observed that the educational status of the women is not improved so much although the literacy rate has increased a lot. Most of the respondents are studied upto primary level (33.5 percent), 9.30 percent women have completed their higher secondary and only 7.00 percent of the respondents women are studied upto graduation level. The literacy rate and educational level is increased in generation wise, the educational mobility of the scheduled caste women shows the very positive trends from the last three generation but still the discrimination exists in the study area. Still there is a huge gender gap in the literacy rate in the district. The enrolment ratio is also high among the boys. After close observation on the educational level it is found that in primary, upper primary and secondary level number of girls are higher than the boys but after secondary the number of girls is decreasing. The main reason for the dropouts is marriage. After secondary level most of the parents do their daughter marriage. Various governmental schemes are introduced to reduce the girls dropout among them Kanyashree scheme is the effective one by the state government, although the situation is not improved. The parents of the girl child are not aware about the importance of girl education. They are not aware (43.00 percent) about the various scholarship and fellowship schemes by the state and central government. Still about 6.00 percent respondents are not supporting their girls education, 10.74 percent of the respondents think investment in girls education is waste of money, 12.00 percent of the respondents don't want their daughter do any kind of job along with that 44.00 percent respondents also admitted that the girls are not equally treated in their home which shows a clear picture about the educational status of the scheduled caste women and girls in the district. For the educational empowerment of the scheduled caste girls and women in the district awareness could play a vital role, through the awareness make them to understand the importance of education and how the education helps them to increase their employment opportunities. When the women become educated they understand that education is not only gives the employment but it also increase their

knowledge, develop their skill, and make them self-confidence to participation in the cultural and social organization and give them full freedom to participated in decision making in the home as well as in the society and moreover then could understand that education increased the decision making power over the policy making work. Education has a positive role in their social life to as with increased with the level of education the family size has reduced. Similarly with increasing with the education the legal age marriage of the women or the age of marriage of the women increased. On the other hand the economic empowerment is depending on the economic condition of the women in the study area. In the study the researcher is tried to understand economic status of the rural scheduled caste women of Koch Bihar district and whether the economic independence could provide the empowerment to the women. The study shows that most of the respondents (40.00 percent) are house wife and after their all-day selfless hard work they are not considered as a worker. About 25 percent of the respondents are cultivator, they work their own land along with their all household work and they did not get any money for their work and they considered as unpaid worker. In both the case the women have no economic freedom and they are fully depending on their husband or the male member of their household. Due to the economic condition their participation is also low in the decision making. They have limited freedom in the decision making process even in small decision like preparing every day meal this type of decision also mostly taken by the male member of the family. The women are hardly involve any kind of economic decision making like buying or selling of land, livestock or any kind of property (1.48 percent). Even the women do not have full control over their body like the number of child birth this decision also most of the time taken by the husband. But the decision making varies with the income level or economic condition of the women. The women who earn more they have better hold on the family as well as in the society, if the women is the only earning member then they have full control over the family decision making in every aspect. So it shows that economic condition of the women determine their control over power or access over resources and hold over any kind of decision making which gives the economic independence and freedom which leads the women towards empowerment.

So in conclusion it could be said that the education and employment are the most important tools for the women empowerment. The study also reveals that the education and economic condition is depend one another. If education increased it increased the employability which leads to the women towards the improvement of economic condition, on the other hand if the economic condition is low it shows the low educational status of the women and their children. The study showed 40.00 percent of the respondents left their study due to the poor economic condition. So for the overall development or for the overall empowerment of the women in the study area increasing the level of education instead of the increasing only the literacy rate and providing the employment opportunity to feel the economic freedom which give the women self-confidence and control over power then only the empowerment of the rural scheduled caste women could be possible.

## Photo Plates



Photo Plate 1: Semi pucca house of Namasudra community in Salbari village of Cooch Behar II block.



Photo Plate 2: Katcha house of Rajbanshi community in Bajejama Kuchlibari village of Mekhliganj block.



Photo Plate 3: Pucca toilet outside the house in Bara Atiabari village in Sitai block.



Photo Plate 4: Katcha toilet outside the house in Mahischura village in Mathabhanga I block.



Photo Plate 5: Pucca house of Jaliakaibartta family in Maradanga village of Tufanganj I block.



Photo Plate 6: The researcher during field survey in Madhya Hudumdanga village in Haldibari block.



Photo Plate 7: A woman of Jaliakaibartta community taking tuition class in Maradanga Village of Tufanganj I block.



Photo Plate 8: The Girl's of Scheduled Caste community taking tuition in Baro Dola Gadalerkuchi village of Mathabhanga I block.



Photo Plate 9: A Rajbanshi woman look after her livestock's in Khatimari village of Mathabhanga II block.



Photo Plate 10: Rajbanshi woman working as agricultural labour in Talliguri village of Cooch Behar I block.



Photo Plate 11: Rajbanshi woman and her kitchen garden in Satimari village of Sitalkuchi block.



Photo Plate 12: Girl's from Scheduled Caste community working in the agricultural field as labour during peak season in Jamalaha village of Mekhliganj block.



Photo Plate 13: A Rajbanshi woman running her won Xerox and photo shop in Lauchapra village of Dinhata II block.



Photo Plate 14: A Rajbanshi woman working her own agricultural field in Panikhawa village of Sitai block.



Photo Plate 15: The women of Scheduled Caste Community busy in beedi rolling work in Ghoghar Kuthi village of Tufanganj I block.



Photo Plate 16: A Namasudra woman is in her stationary and tailoring shop in Nilkuthi village of Cooch Behar I block



Photo Plate 17: A Rajbanshi woman working in the brick kilns in Maradanga village of Tufanganj I block.

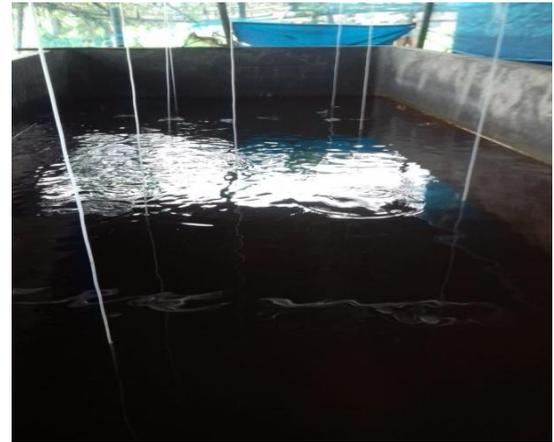


Photo Plate 18: A biofloc fish tank in Ghoghar Kuthi village of Tufanganj I block.