

Preface

Empowerment of women means development of women in every aspect of life. Empowerment is a process of social transformation where women get control over any kind of resources and full autonomy on the decision making on every aspect of their life without any interference which improve not only the condition of the women but improve and change the society as a whole. In this process the women are uplifted economically, socially and politically which is possible only through the education and knowledge, awareness, participation and control over resources. Women consists half of the world population. They are engaged in the two third of the work of the total work in the world but they get only one tenth of the world's total income. Till date nearly two-thirds of the women are illiterate and have only one percent asset. The women are subject to discrimination, oppression, exploitation in every aspect of the life but the process of empowerment is help to build up a society where women can breathe without any fear of discrimination. Now the world has changing and the entire world is committed to uplift women through empowerment. The women are in Koch Bihar district also faced same kind of discrimination and oppression in education and economic sector and most of the women are belongs to scheduled caste community as it is India's highest schedule caste populated district. So women in the district are more vulnerable due to the lack of educational and employment opportunities. The study shows that the educational and economic status of the rural scheduled caste women and their level of empowerment and how the level of empowerment is varies with the Sub Caste and their level of income and education.

The entire research work has been divided into nine chapters. Chapter I present the introduction of the study with methodology and concept of women empowerment and its measures with the relevant literature review. The Chapter II explains the brief profile of the study area along with the physical, cultural and demographic background. Chapter III highlights about the women rights in India from ancient period to modern period. Chapter IV deals with the various Government policies and programs for women empowerment. Chapter V discuss about the demographic profile of the rural Scheduled Caste women of the study area. Chapter VI represents the educational status of the rural Scheduled Caste women of Koch Bihar district. Chapter VII shows the economic status of the rural Scheduled caste women and their level of empowerment. Chapter VIII highlights the various strategies for educational and economic empowerment of the rural scheduled caste women with a proposed model for economic empowerment. Chapter IX provides an overview and presents conclusion of the study.

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