

Socio-Economic Status of Women in Imphal West District: A Case study of Naoriya Pakhang Lakpa Constituency

Tongbram Premchand¹, Dr. Chanam Sonia Devi², Dr. Sharmila Thingbaijam³

¹Research Scholar, Dept of ACEE, MU. Email: premchandtongbram2@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor (S-2), Dept of ACEE, MU. Email: chanam sonia@manipuruniv.ac.in

³Assistant Professor, Dept of ACEE, MU. Email: sharmilathingbaijam@gmail.com

Abstract

Socio-economic status of a woman includes the quality of life and well-being. It is a key factor for determining empowerment of women. It is an important issue in the present context of socio-economic situation in Manipur. The study area focuses in the most populated and educated among the valley district. For the present study, 200 women were randomly selected from Naoriya Pangkhlanglakpa Constituency, Manipur. To study women's participation indecision-making at household and community levels. This study examines the socio-economic conditions of women in this locality to assess their progress and challenges in achieving equality and empowerment. The present study found out that most of the women are literate up to higher secondary education and most of the women are self-independent through economic participation by earning more than Rs-10,000-15,000/- per month.

Keywords: Socio- Economic Status, Women Empowerment, Education, Manipur

1. Introduction

Socio-economic status of a woman includes the quality of life and well-being. It is a key factor for determining empowerment of women. Empowering women through education, employment and equal rights is essential for achieving inclusive growth and social justice. Empowerment can be seen in through careful analysis which in a holistic sense that is economic, social-political, psychological and emotional. It is not only a holistic achievement but is related to the goal of a woman across various section of society. With the advancement of society can be measured through the status of women in the field of social and economic development. Women in Manipur experience a completely unique reput in society. In Manipur, a woman plays a significant role in human society at different stages of development in the state. Women particularly the Meitei women have participate in all aspects of life since time immemorial. One of the best examples of this is the women's market in Imphal popularly known as Ima Keithel (Mothers Market) in Manipur. It is the main preserve of women, humming with trade and selling activities. From the 19th century onwards the status and role of women have change the socio-economic status in the state. Women are the backbone of agricultural activities in Manipur. The current scenario in Women's involvement in politics, economics, health care, education, and various activities is increasing. Women also contribute in economy and society as workers participation in the production process and also in the household with their valuable household labour which are as yet unaccounted for but which contribute to human capital formation of the economy and of which new studies have emerged arguing for its valuation. It is an important issue in present context of socio-economic situation in Manipur. Naoriya Pangkhlanglakpa Constituency, one of the assembly constituencies of Imphal West District presents a microcosm of these dynamics.

Objectives of the study

- i) To study the demographic and educational profile of women in Naoriya Pakhang Lakpa Constituency
- ii) To analyze the occupational structure and income levels of women

- iii) To study women's participation in decision-making at household and community levels

2. Review of Literature

D. Ram et.al (2013), Entrepreneurship Behaviors of Women Entrepreneurship in Imphal, Manipur, India. It highlights that women entrepreneurs were found to have medium levels of decision-making ability and also managerial activity. It also found that not all women came for money, for some of them are engaged in recreational activities and a majority of them are obliged to support their families.

Seepana P. (2013) discuss about the socio-economic standing street vendors in Chandigarh that although there has been an extraordinary rise in the number of migrant street vendors in Chandigarh cities, the Government attitude is negative and out of proportion to their unique needs. It also points out that caste and class are distinct but closely related measures of one's place in the social and economic hierarchy. Their relationship shifts over time due to various factors, including shifts in production relations. Overall, we can observe change as well as continuity in these relationships. Out of 500 vendors, 234(46.8%) are illiterates (i.e 53.2% are literate), which is a very depressing indicator of the educational status of street vendors. The illiteracy rate among women is 72 (82.75%), which is more than twice as high as the illiteracy rate among men, which are 162 (39.22%). It also suggested that interdependency of the stakeholders, i.e., producers, street vendors, and consumers, legal safeguards, and social security measures are to be provided to the street vendors to uphold the right to work for maintaining social harmony and to achieve inclusive growth.

Sophia A. (2020) describes how Manipuri women have contributed to the economy of the nation as workers, working in a variety of fields despite social, cultural and professional barriers and maintaining a strong presence in the nation's economy since ancient times. It found that women play a significant role in the Manipur economy and information on employment is gathered for all workers. Even though women actively participate in business, politics and society, official data indicates that, as in all patriarchal societies, their labor force participation is still lower than that of men.

Premmi W (2022) examines women vendors of Manipur that female market street vendors are free from the constraints of patriarchy and other social obligations. The results show that the women are finding challenges in balancing work and family life that come with many compromises and that the women are finding challenges in balancing work and family life that come with many compromises and sacrifices. From the above interviews, it is clear that most of the market women are middle-aged and the market is a way to provide food. Women's empowerment is only possible when women comes out and help empower themselves. The study brings out the need for a revival of primitive traditional value systems so that women are more involved in the public eye.

3. Research Methodology

Plan and Procedure:

For the present study descriptive research design is adopted.

Population and Sample

All the women located in Naoriya Pangkhanglakpa Constituency are the population of the present study. Through simple random sampling techniques 200 women is selected for the study.

Tools

Both the self- made questionnaire and interview schedule is used.

Data Analysis

Data is analyzed and interpreted with the help of percentage and graphical presentations.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Socio-demographic profile of the respondents

S. No.	Age-Group	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	15-25yrs	55	27.5%
2	25-35yrs	47	23.5%
3	35-45yrs	65	32.5%
4	45-55yrs	33	16.5%
Total		200	100

Compiled from survey

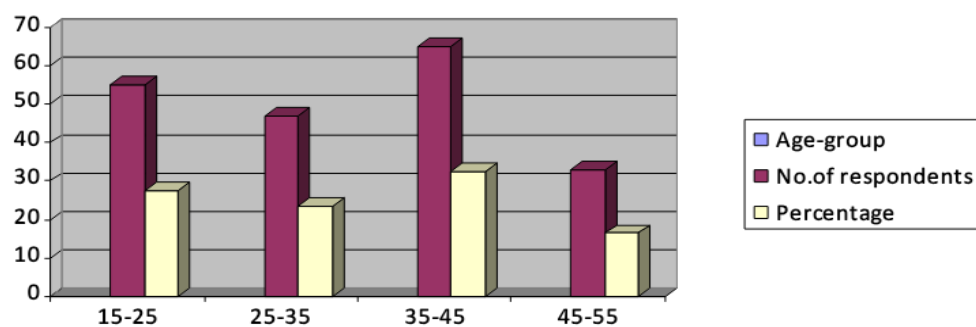


Figure 1: Socio-demographic profile of the respondents

From the table no.1 and fig no.1, it shows that out of 200 women respondent it found the highest number at the age-group 35-45 age-group found 65(32.5%) number of women followed by 15-25yrs were 55(27.5%) while 25-35yrs were found 47(23.5%) and 45-55yrs were found 33 respondent (16.5%). Thus, most of the women at the age group 15-45yrs were active.

Table 2: Educational status of the women

S. No.	Educational Level	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	15	7.5%
2	Primary	30	15%
3	High School	70	35%
4	Higher Secondary	50	25%
5	Graduate and above	35	17.5%
Total		200	100

Compiled from survey

Table no.2 and fig no.2, shows that the educational status of the women, it indicates that out of 200 women respondent 70 (35%) of women complete the high school level followed by 50 (25%) complete the higher secondary, 35(17.5%) women complete the graduate and above while 30 (15%) complete primary and 15(7.5%) women were illiterate respectively. Thus, most of the women are literate in Naoriya Pangkhanglakpa Constituency of Imphal West District.

Table 3: Occupational Structure of the respondents

Sl.No	Occupation Type	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Self-employed	90	45%
2	Government/Private	35	17.5%
3	Housewife	50	25%
4	Daily Wage	25	12.5%
Total		200	100

Compiled from survey

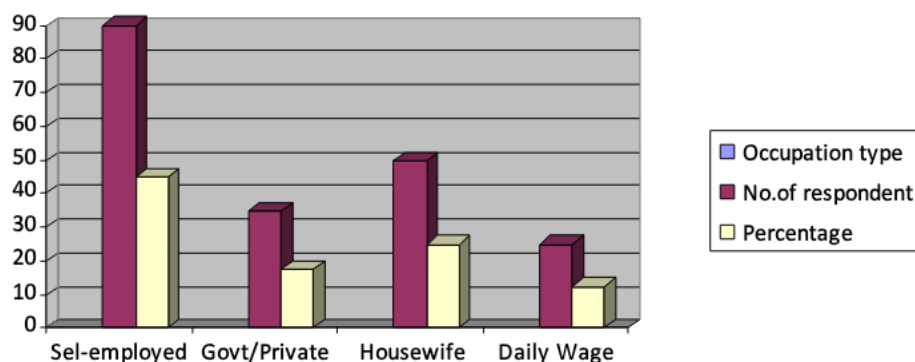


Figure 2: Occupational Structure of the respondents

From the above table no3 and fig no.3, shows that the occupational structure of the women that out of 200 women respondent 90 (45%) of women were self-employed followed by 50 (25%) of the respondent were housewife, 35(17.5%) women were working in Government and private while 25 (12.5%) women were daily wage. Thus, nearly half of the respondents are self-employed means entrepreneurship is high in Naoriya Pangkhanglakpa Constituency of Imphal west District.

Table 4: Distribution of monthly income of the respondents

S. No.	Monthly Income	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	6,0000- 10,000	40	20%
2	10,000-15,000	65	32.5%
3	15,000-20,000	60	30%
4	20,000 above	35	17.5%
Total		200	100

Compiled from survey

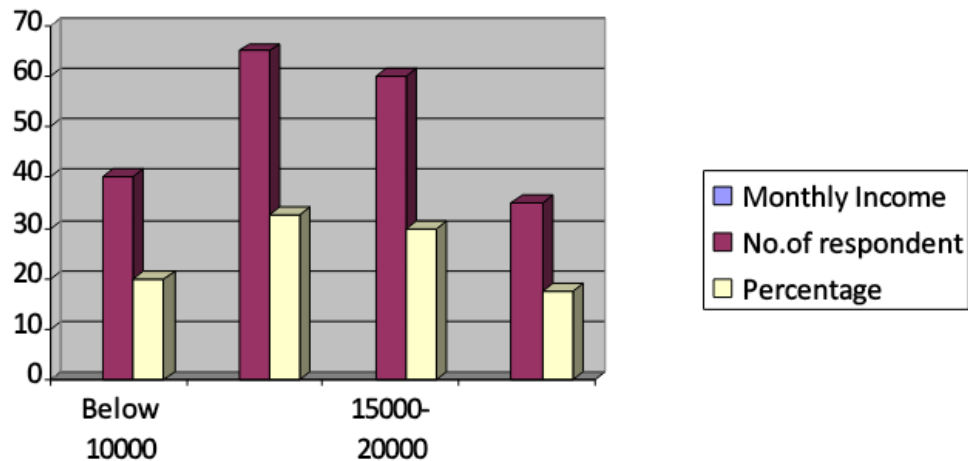


Figure 3: Occupational Structure of the respondents

Table no 4 and fig no 4, shows that the distribution of monthly income of the respondents that out of 200 women Rs 10,000-15,000/- monthly income were found 65(32.5%) followed by Rs.15,000-20,000/- monthly income were 60(30%) women while below Rs.10, 000/- were 40(20%) of the respondent and above Rs. 20,000/- were 35(17.5%) respondents. Thus, majority of the women respondent earn Rs.10, 000-15,000/- per month.

Table 5: Decision-Making Participation

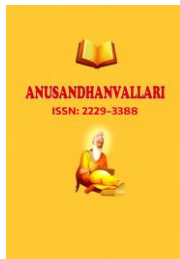
S. No.	Area of Decision-Making	Full Participation (%)	Partial Participation (%)	No Participation (%)
1	Household expenditure	120 (60%)	60(30%)	20(10%)
2	Children's' education	140(70%)	40(20%)	20(10%)
3	Property matters	80(40%)	80(40%)	40(20%)
4	Social/Community	75(35%)	75(35%)	50(25%)
5	Political activities	65(32.5%)	85(42.5%)	50(25%)

Compiled from survey

From the above table no 5, shows that decision-making participation of the women that out of 200 women respondent that fully participation in different area of decision making is that children's education is fully participate 140(70%) women followed partial participate 40(20%) women and 20(10%) were not participate respectively. It follows by household expenditure 120 (60%) of the women fully participate follow by 60 (30%) partial participation and 20(10%) not involved. About the property matters 80(40%) each of women were fully and partially participate while 40 (20%) are not participate. Social/community issues were 75(35%) each were fully and partial participate of the respondents followed by 50(25%) of the respondent were not participate. While about the political activities 63(32.5%) women were fully participating followed by 85(42.5%) partial participation and 50(25%) were not participate. Thus, the respondents are actively participating in children's education and household while property matters and political are marginalized.

5. Conclusions

From the present study, it can conclude that the socio-economic status of women in Naoriya Pakhang Lakpa



indicates gradual progress, with improved literacy and participation in small-scale activities. However, disparities persist in income, property rights and political empowerment. Strengthening educational and financial support, along with gender-sensitive policy interventions, is essential to achieving genuine women's empowerment in the region.

Policy Implications

- i) To make the women more progress and empowered in economic and to create clusters or self-help group especially for weaving so that it can improve more earning.
- ii) It shows that 20-30yrs were more in weaving so it need strengthening the weaving handloom in various sections like improving and establishing self-help group.
- iii) To create a new holistic development for the weaving women is the need of the hour to make an economically sound as well as wellbeing in the society

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