

# Socio -Economic Position Of Tea Garden Women With Special Reference To Nambor Tea Estate

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## **Abstract:**

A participation of women in the tea industry have significant role. women workers are the most potential labour force in the tea industry of Assam. They are the victim of circumstances and they are struggling for their existence. Tea garden women workers are mostly , illiterate and they are not aware of the minimum standard of living. A women worker in the tea plantations generally leads. a very busy daily like with practically, no time to have leisure and relaxation. All tea garden women carried her day to day work along with all domestic activities. At present the problems of inadequate need based wages including other benefits, education, increasing unemployment and socio-economic backwardness are the most burning issues which can bring healthy working atmosphere. of the tea gardens of Assam.

**Key wards:- Women, Tea Gardens, worker economic, positions. Industry.**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

A Participation of women in the tea industry has remained significantly high along with other plantation crops such as coffee and rubber. However, the nature of women's employment within such plantation crops needs serious assessment in the light of current concerns on declining female work participation rate. Through various literature, employment of women and children in particular to work in plantations as family labour is historically evident. With the system of family employment, both women and children were engaged in tea picking, weeding and clearing and so on in the plantations.

Women workers are the most potential labour force in the Tea industry of Assam. They are the victim of circumstances and they are struggling for their existences. Tea garden women workers are mostly illiterate and they are not aware of the minimum standard of living. Prejudice, superstitious beliefs, alcoholism etc. are high among this underdeveloped community Socially they are less exposed, economically hard pressed and hand to mouth, educationally and culturally dwarf which caste gloomy picture on their posterity. There are more than 100 sub castes among the Tea labour community in Assam, who were from various cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic heritages. They have become now part and parcel of Assam.

According to Segen's Medical Dictionary (2012), Socio Economic status implies the standing of a person or group in a community or society based on education, occupation and income which is often used as a benchmark for investigating health inequalities. Here the investigator also study the educational qualification, their monthly income, occupation, caste, type of family, marital status etc of the sample tea gardens of KarbiAnglong District. Secondly women workers in the tea garden comprise half of the total population of the tea garden. Women have been employed in the tea industry from its inception. Out of the tea labour employed more than 50 to 60% is engaged in crop harvesting. From among these crops harvesting about 80% are women. It is the oldest and the largest tea producing state in India with about 55% of the production in the country.

A women worker in the Tea plantations generally leads a very busy daily life with practically, no time to have leisure and relaxation. All Tea Garden women carried her day-to-day work along with all domestic activities. The role of women has been changing in modern time with rapidly changing norms of our society both inside and outside home. In addition to their role within the family, the Tea Garden women are now having a large role in the labour market. At present the problems of inadequate need-based wages including other benefits; education, increasing unemployment and Socio-Economic backwardness are the most burning issues which can bring healthy working atmosphere of the tea gardens of Assam. Therefore, an attempt has been made to highlights the Socio-Economic backwardness of the Tea Garden women workers in Assam.

## **2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :**

This Paper is attempted to study the Socio-Economic position of the contemporary Tea Garden women of Assam specially in KarbiAnglong District. Consequently, it was decided to select the topic as follows: Socio Economic position of the Tea Garden women - "With special reference to Nambor Tea Estate.

## **3. SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDIES :**

Women play an important role in the society. Women are the half part of the society. A majority of the workers in the plantation sector are women. The reason for this is that these plantations are historical linked with colonialism. The plantation are located in remote areas and were sparsely populated during the colonial period. As a result, families were employed other than individuals, thus absorbing women in the labour force.

In the overall economics activity in India” Women workers constitute about one-fifth of the total work force, out of which only 6% are employed in the organized sector. Rest of the women workers are engaged in the unrecognized sector. In spite of the mandatory legislative protective provisions, the extent of their exploitation exists not only in unorganized sector but in the organized sector also. Due to

unsatisfactory implementation of protective legislative provisions concerning women workers, there still remains a yawning gap between these provisions and the facilities, actually made available to them. There are still cross where women workers are deprived of the benefits and amenities like equal pay vis-a-vis there made counter parts maternity benefits, proper child care services etc. Several factor responsible for their plight are indifferent attitude of the employers towards women workers..their week bargaining power and in many cases the women workers themselves being unaware of their rights. Although the Government is seized of the situation, yet it continues to remain a problem area due to non-availability of reliable statistical data and other information pertaining to work, living and socio-economic condition of women workers.

#### **4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY :**

Women has played a significant role in Tea plantation sector. A majority of the workers in the plantation sector are women Women workers have all along been an integral part of the labour forced engaged in the plantation industries in India. Outing to the very fact that soft hands nimble finger are suited especially for Tea leaves plucking and picking of coffee seeds, women workers dominate the employment scene in this plantation.

Women in employment across the plantation sector based on the data from the labour Bareau (2012) reflects that 53.27% of women are employed across all plantation (Tea, coffee, rubber and other). In Tea plantation 53.43% women worker are employed. In the present time the problem of inadequate need based wages including other benefits education, unemployment, health, socio-economic backwardness are the most burning issues which can bring healthy working atmosphere of the Tea garden of Assam. There for an attempt has been made to highlight the socio-economic backwardness of the Tea garden women workers in Assam.

#### **5. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY :**

The main theme of this study is to explore the condition of women workers of Tea garden The main objectives of the study are as follows :-

1. To study the socio-economic status of Tea garden women worker, with special reference to 'Nambor Tea Eastate ' under Bokajan development block in the district of KarbiAnglong.
2. To study the role of Tea garden women workers for their economic, social and cultural development in 'Nambor Tea Eastate'.

#### **6. Methodology :**

In the study, primary data are collected. And Secondary data collected from the old records. Here, the different records are used as the main source of collecting secondary data. In some different books also reviewed.

## 7. ANALYSIS OF DATA:

Sampling is the process by which relatively small numbers of objects or events are selected and analyzed in order to find out something about the entire population from which it is selected. Sampling procedure provides generalization on the basis of a relatively small portion of the population.

## 8. Major findings and conclusion:

In our survey Nambor Tea Estate we found that the most of the women of our respondent are in the age group of 20-30 yrs.

In our survey among the respondent of Nambor Tea Estate, the respondent are belongs to Christian religion with the percentage of 60%. And the other 40% respondent are belongs to Hindu religion. The education qualification among the respondent of Nambor Tea Estate is not satisfactory. 48% women of the respondent are illiterate and 32% are below primary. In our survey it has been seen that all respondent of Nambor Tea Estate are belongs to OBC or MOBC category. Among the respondent of Nambor Tea Estate, it is found that 47% women worker are married, 28% women worker unmarried and the other 8% are widow. In the study of Nambor Tea Estate majority of the respondent are include to Nuclear type of family. 77% of the respondent are comes from nuclear family and other 23% are from joint family. The size of the family of the respondent of Nambor Tea Estate, highest in the group of 6-10 member. With percentage of 51%, 44% are the group of 1-5 member and the other 5% are the 11-15 member. Among the respondent of Nambor Tea Estate, 82% family are under the male authority and the other 81% of family under the female authority. In the study of Nambor Tea Estate 57% respondent are residing in Kaccha type of house and the 43% respondent residing in Paccka type of House. Among the respondent of Nambor Tea Estate, 63% Women Worker are temporary, 26% are permanent and other 11% women are House wife. In the survey of Nambor Tea Estate, it is observe that 78% of women worker have their average monthly income of Rs. 1000-Rs. 4000, while 22% of them have Rs. 4000 to Rs. 8000. Among the respondent 47% women are organized love marriage and the other 53% women are organized arranged marriage. From the study we concluded that in the women worker of Nambor Tea Estate 50% has equal status with man. The position of women in the Nambor tea State Remains Gradually Changed. Increased awareness, Government Welfare scheme, Educational opportunities and the active involvement of women self help groups have started to strengthen their position.

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