

IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ORUNODOI SCHEME IN ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

The position of the women empowerment in the society is an important issue which draws the attention of the people all over the world. In India there have many good examples of the unequal distribution for right between man and woman. Though the constitution provides equal rights to all, but in practical life, we see a reverse situation. Indian women are still undergoing the exploitation. In majority society they believed male are superior and men can do only everything. This is a major drawback of the society. The scope of social welfare administration is a new social problem for women. So, Assam government adopted various type of scheme especially poor weaker section women like- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Women Helpline Scheme (WHS), Ujjwala New Scheme (UNS), Working Women Hostel etc. and including Orunodoi schemes also. Orunodoi scheme is very recently introduced in Assam. Though initially Orunodoi scheme first introduced all parts of Assam, but Bodoland Territorial Area Districts have not been included due to the model code. This paper highlights study of implementation and procedure of Orunodoi Scheme 2020-2021 and also who will be beneficiaries from Orunodoi Scheme 2020-21 and what are the eligibility criteria of scheme.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Social Welfare Administration, Orunodoi Schemes.

Introduction

Empowerment is a concept of autonomy degree and self-determination which is recognised by attitude, capability, condition and opportunities. It's also a process of becoming stronger, more confidence and can control one's life and also claiming one's right as a result it increases own capacity gain and can also take decision and manage their goals. So, it's a continuous multi-dimensional and dynamic process. It focuses on people's strengths and directs attention to social change. In maximum society there has within its same minority group feel incapable of controlling their own destiny. In the same way in organisation their number of people believe that they were controlled from others and they are dependent on others and their performance also has very little impact. So, level of empowerment is very important for different fields like economic, political, social, legal, educational etc. in different ways.

The term of "Women empowerment" means promoting women's self-worth, their ability, their right and their own choice who gave their status. It's not only in the society, but also, they can influence their social change for themselves with equally others. Women empowerment is an increasing of the spiritual, political, social or economic strength for women. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their capacity. The position of the women in the society is an important issue which draws the attention of the people all over the world. So, Women Empowerment Principles are used in community, market place and work place equally.

After analysis government takes various initiatives and supported for empowerment especially women and girls' children. Because of all they can speak up for their right and advocate their community. They have been able to rise in social standing, feed for their future generation and also, they could solve life determining decisions through the different types of schemes. So, in these situations Women empowerment schemes only can help boost the status of women through education, training and awareness.

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India, as one has many good examples of the unequal distribution of right between man and woman. Although equal rights to all, in practical life, we see a reverse situation. Indian women are still undergoing the exploitation of society which is a major drawback for literacy rates, labour participation rate earning, achieve knowledge for their right, financial support, better health care etc. Women, especially in India are thought to be weaker than men, both physically and mentally but things do not remain the same always. It's not the same as they were before. At present, women are enjoying equal freedom with the men. There were hardly any field in which women are not found. This is a result of education in one hand and other the changing horizon on the perception of the women as well as man. Modern educated women are now free to get married according to their own choice also. We find women occupying some important positions in the society now which is also regarded as women are now empowered.

Women Empowerment in Assam

In north-eastern region, there have total eight states and out of them Assam is the only one of plain state. If we see geographically the position of women, we can find out easily the space of men and women are almost the same everywhere in the world, but still the level wise reflected inequality status in political, economic, social, and cultural background. Though, the sex ratio (female per 1000) is 954 and female literacy ratio is 67.27%, but it's found that, the socio-economic background set up is not so in favourable and affecting the overall progress in the state, because of heterogeneous culture background. It's not only economy, but also social structure because of womenfolk of the state. This status of women can extend by educations of skill opportunity, employment opportunity, better health and also power and position. These all level can improve by the various types of schemes which Government always implement and tried for better position of women. Gender Empowerment measure is an important for women empowerment decision in both level public and private. It's found out that the maximum women in Assam, they are employed in agriculture, forest base, food base and weaving. Only few are in professional, technical or managerial occupation. GEM are indices for measuring gender inequality and also focused on political economic resources. GEM proposed to assess women's and their relative economic income activity and their command also over on economic resources. The GDI score for India was 0.819 and that for Assam was 0.444 in 2015. State Assam was placed 26th in GDI score. The aggregate score for GEM for India was 0.497 in 2015 and for Assam it was 0.444 ranking 16th in GEM score. It reflects the existence of sharp disparities in gender empowerment in Assam (Soma, 2014).

The economic development extend largely depends on its human resources. Women empower are also play a vital role of human resource development. It's not only India, but also Assam. Women are an integral part of each and every society. The position of the women in the society is an important issue which draws the attention of the people all over the world. The status and development of women in the society is determined by their economic and non-economic participation activities. In the poorer and weaker section family women income and hard work is very important. When we find out socio-economics factors child marriage, subjugation, after marriage and absence and divorce system etc is the main barrier. Social attitude and superstitions affect the female in all stages. They did not get much mobilization's scope because of conservative attitudes, part of religious, economic structure and also male dominating society. For these types of reasons Assam Government take various types of imitative for women empowerment especially Social Welfare Department, Assam provided different types of projects for women and child which would help for their right. Various Self-Help Group formatted for economic condition improvement. In Assam Rural Health Mission introduced various types of schemes for women like Janani, Surakha Yojana, Mamoni, Majoni, Mamata and also Orunodoi. After all, women are enjoying equal status with man which one very important for their empowerment.

National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) Scheme

The "National Mission for Empowerment of Women" Scheme launched by the Indian Government in 2010 on the day of "International Women Day". The main objective was to strengthen the process to promote overall development of women. The main aims where it can run by a single window service with inter-sector convergence, coordination of all women welfare development process and socio-economic development programmes. The "National Resource Centre" for women has been set up for all scheme function can run up smoothly and without hassle. It gave information of knowledge, research and data on all gender related issue. It was striven to integrate gender concerns into training curriculum of academic, police, legal, health, skill and rural development, and also prepared training modules for various level functionaries. NMEW focus to bridge gaps between knowledge and practice at National and State level. Poverty alleviation and economic empowerment, health and nutrition, gender budgeting & right, gender-based violence, social empowerment etc also would be engaged by expert at national level.

At the State Level, the State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) under State Government (Department of WCD/Social Welfare) also gave focused to inter -sectoral wise which affecting to women. The main function of women centric scheme at state level and to measures for improvement the effectiveness. The objectives of SRCW to developed different strategies and implemented for women empowerment through SHG federation, workshop, awareness generation of different scheme, health and education etc. SRCW prepare action plan which basically based on women issues and it's approved by State Department of Social Welfare/Women & Child Development's Assam, the Central Social Welfare Board promoting various activities and implementing some welfare programmes for women and children through Voluntary Organisation which set up from 1954. Since, then the board implementing different programmes like -Family Counselling Centre, Short Stay Home, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Condensed Course of Education For Adult Women, Awareness Generation Project, Innovative Scheme, Integrated Scheme for Women Empowerment etc.

Scope of Social Welfare Scheme in Assam

Social welfare administration and takes into account mostly the execution of the government's sponsored programmes. In other words, this view corresponds with the managerial view. The scope of social welfare scheme in Assam, it gives continuously encourages to the women and girl's child. It provides to realised their full identity, power position, dominance capability in the society. Its gives how to do make their own leadership position and status in society. They can gather their knowledge and idea by their continuous motivational process of the scheme. These schemes are also providing better awareness of women rights and duties which are very important for women empowerment in society and economically. The scheme always gives better idea and encourages for women empowerment and their status.

Review of Literature

Bokil, Milind S. (2003) has highlight in the recent years, traditional roles of women have undergone some changes due to economic needs, and some efforts were made to bring visibility and mainstream women's contribution to the overall growth and development of society. In this study almost all respondents mentioned that get time for themselves, self-employed women need to be engaged in wider community activity by freeing their energies, which at present are imprisoned in domestic chores and occupational responsibilities. Then alone would their human potential be fully utilized, and be a true indicator of development.

Thornhill, Laura (2004) has discussed the universal and some societies have higher rate of violence against women.

Swabhimani, Bhubaneswar (2005) has discussed women with disabilities to sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

Premchander, Smita. & Vanguri, Promila. (2007) has discussed the Indian Government has paid special attention to women 's empowerment as well as the 10th Five Year Plan, illustrate its commitment to women 's empowerment and welfare. They discussed about the lack of employment opportunities for women and support for self-employment.

Ram, Usha. (2008), has studied the inability of women to have children becomes a cause to subject them to social discrimination and place restrictions on their participation in social events and celebrations. The women who remain childless face many adverse results divorce/desertion and discrimination.

Esther Duflo (2011), in her research paper highlighted about "Women Empowerment and Economic Development". Author analysed on both sides of the empowerment-development nexus, and argues that the inter-relationships and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake which needed to bring about equality between men and women.

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) highlighted the comprising study of women education in India at present and past. He also highlights the terms of empowerment which means to give lawful power or authority to act.

Ana Revenga and Sudhir Shetty (2012) has discussed about closing gender gaps benefits whole women and girls. Author highlight women are very strong & powerful, so they can do every job, whichever they liked, because right now they had improved their situation. They also highlighted in paper husband and wife happiness which is depended upon equal cooperation.

Dr. (Smt.) Rajeshwari M. Shettar (2015) has study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India. This paper attempts to analysed the status of Women Empowerment in India and also the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment.

Dr. T. Rama Devi (2016) highlighted on “Gender Equality of Women Empowerment”. Author attempt was made at present some of the key determinants which inequalities of our country. So, author find out some idea for extent Gender Equality and Share of women in economic participation and opportunity. Also identify the Gender Equality and Women accessibility to resources and examined the Women Empowerment in Political Field.

Dr. Rashmi Rani Agnihotri, H.R and Dr. Malipatil, K.S. (2017) highlight women empowerment significant economic development. Author point out the approaches regarding other trivialized genders in a particular political or social context. Researcher also explained different component of scheme for women empowerment.

Amit Kumar, Dr. K Gayathri Reddy and Varsha P S1 (2019) discussed about a scientometric analysis of the women empowerment (1985-2018). The authors have been analysed the overall revealed patterns of convergence and divergence, diversity, specialization, and interdisciplinary engagement in women empowerment. Researchers also contributed some scientometrics technique which has been made on study at the time of evolution for the field of WE between 1985 and 2018, by using the scientometrics technique.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives highlight of this paper:

- To study of implementation and procedure of OrunodoiScheme2020-2021
- To study of who will beneficiaries from Orunodoi Scheme 2020-2021and what are the eligibilities criteria of scheme.

Methodology of the Study

This study based on qualitative content analysis method using documents. The information and data are collected from secondary sources like: printed books, journals, newspapers, periodicals, research papers web sites. Discussion of Important Aspects of Women.

Discussion

Assam Arunodoi Scheme Implementation

‘Orunodoi’ Scheme is a very new scheme and its was launched on 2nd October 2020 by Assam Government. This scheme has been launched for “Below Poverty Level” (BPL) families. They will get to purchases some fundamental items like medicines, pulses, sugar etc. Financial Assistance of Rs. 830 per month will get, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme. Around 17 Lakhs Families will get benefit in the state.

Under this scheme have target 1500 beneficiaries will get first priority which widowed, divorced, unmarried, separated, specially-abled women and the poor family’s candidates. But, only one year can take benefits who will be apply for the scheme.

Basically, this scheme for women empowerment and provide financial support directly. Namely house wives’ and poor weaker section women and children. This scheme also will help the families who are facing economic set back due to this COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown situation.

While launching this scheme, Health Minister says that the state government will give Rs 2,80,000 crore for the Orunodoi scheme. Women of each family will get the benefit who will apply for this scheme. Approx. 17 lakhs families will get benefit and this benefit will get Rs 830 every month per family. An annual income of less than Rs.2 lakh from all sources that families’ female member will get only these benefits. Means Direct benefit transfer scheme ‘Orunodoi’ to provide financial assistance to a woman member of poor families of the state by giving them money. 2,400 crore was announced for this scheme in the state budget. This scheme has been started for 29 districts.

The main objective of the scheme to help all the residents of Assam to lead a happy life without any financial hardship. In Assam whatever financial problem facing in poor family, that all cries and problem tries to remove by this scheme.

Assam Orunodoi Scheme Procedure and Eligibilities Criteria (2020-2021)

In Assam Orunodoi scheme Followed some criteria which every applicant beneficiary must be followed:

- Application will be Candidate considered only permanent and presently resident of Assam.
- Total household Income of beneficiaries should be less than Rs.2lakhs per annum.
- Matching nominated female member should have a bank account where in the name in the bank records under the scheme.
- If candidate did not have bank account, then they can open account prior to the date of approval of the application.

Under the scheme, priority shall be given to household with

- Widow/divorced/unmarried female/separated female
- Specially abled nominated female
- Specially abled household member

The following types of households will be excluded

- Households which do not have a female member.
- Households which have any former or current MLA/ MP.
- Households which have current members of PRI/ ULB.
- Households which have any regular serving or retired Government employees.
- Households which have any regular serving employees of Co-operative Societies.
- Households which have any Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountant, Architects and Registered Government Contractors.
- Households which have any income tax-payee.
- Households which own more than 15 bighas of agricultural land.
- Households which own four wheelers, mechanized boat and tractor.
- Households which own refrigerator/washing machine or air-conditioner.

Benefits of Orunodoi Scheme in Assam

In 2020, 17th August first started this scheme. In this year Assam Government provided Rs.830per month for 17 lakhs families. The poor householder families also got additional per annum income Rs.10000for medical and nutrition needs. In this year budget announced Rs.2800 crore for beneficiaries. Amount sending started from October by DBT to the beneficiaries account who is women nominated in the family. The amount transferred every first day of month. After initiative of this scheme poor families' financial problems improved and also it became "Substantial Income Support of women" in the family.

Selection Process of Beneficiary

The process of Orunodoi Scheme preliminary stage would start either from Goan Panchayat or Council Development Level. After that the District Level Monitoring Committee may devise modalities and they have been prepared the eligible beneficiaries' list. At the time of preparing list, they have followed their strict Guidelines. Candidates are an eligible or not they will take decision. After preparing checklist of the beneficiaries, the checklist will forward to GP/VCDC/ULB level and they will be prepared list. And then, District level Monitoring Committee will be compiled the final list by prioritization and selection process. The Assam Orunodoi Scheme Application Form is in offline Mode. But now present pandemic situation it can apply both offline and online mode. Every information does update and the exact details available the Assam Orunodoi Scheme 2020 website along with official notification.

Scope and Process for Apply the Scheme

In this processes beneficiary should followed five steps:

Step 1: Scroll down and go to Important Links

Step 2: Click on "Application Form"

Step 3: Open Application form

Step 4: Download the form and fill the all details.

Step 5: Submit the form along with all necessary documents to the respective office/s.

Assam Orunodoi Scheme launched by Assam Government, so applicant must have permanent resident in Assam. Family Income Certificate must be submitting, but income should not be more than Rs.2 lakhs per annum. Candidate should give also valid identity proof with address. & BPL card also must submit.

This project under Assam Government that only resided of Assam people can purchase basic things like sugar, medicines, pulses, fruits, and vegetables. By seeing the basic criteria, the government make the budgetary accordingly, i.e., for procure medicine allowed Rs.400 and they can take care of their health-relate, Rs. 150 INR is for fruits and vegetables, Rs.200 INR for pulses, and 80 INR for sugar, which comes into the total of 830 INR.

How the Money Can be Transferred to the Beneficiary Bank Account

After verifying the application, the finance department of Assam will transfer the money by using DBT to the eligibility candidate as per the guidelines of the Scheme. The validation of the applicant's bank account and all the documents can also be verified through PFMS. After that on the particular time period they have been transferred amount into the beneficiary account and if the bank account is not available of beneficiaries, then the applicant should apply for it before the releasing date approved candidates. There have also another point mentioned that if candidate want any changes, then they can do change. Only for that changes they can do by request to the District Committee. Before handover to District Committee, it will be verified by the Special Goan Sabha or General body of ULB. After that the District Committee verified the required changes and rectification of the beneficiaries list will published at the end of every financial year.

Data Maintenance

The beneficiary data will be managed the soft format in the centrally based portal. And all the supporting documents and records will be maintained for future references. The finance department also takes care of the receiving application form, approval of the beneficiary list, uploading of the draft to the beneficiary account etc.

Power to Remove Difficulties

The Finance Department has the full authorization, to eliminate any obstacles which appear in the path of the provision of the scheme. The finance department will take the essential action, as per the instruction and according to the guidelines of the Scheme.

Recovery in Case of Fraudulent Claims

At the verification process, if it can be found that the applicant has given the false information and he/she is not eligible of the scheme, in that case candidate have to refund the whole amount of money with interest.

Conclusion

The Assam Government has dwelled on the matter lately and has released many schemes for the upliftment of girl child or women. It continually has, from time to time launched the Women Empowerment Schemes that could benefit for women in financial and also various arenas.

Women Assam, especially weaker section, they are always getting different types of helps by the Government Schemes. Though they are getting different types of offers from government, but them did not have any awareness about these scheme and other people also not help to them. Maybe it's for the weaker section people are not must more educated or forwarded.

Though the women are not coming forward, but government try their best participation in every level and also motivated to them. It shown not only the government, but also improving day by day in private, social and political activities. So, it is extremely important to identify, understand and eradicate the patriarchal practices against women existing in our society.

There has to be openness both men and women to change and willingness to educate not just women but even men to make sure that the society is ready to embrace equal rights and opportunities.

So, the Assam government implemented this Orunodoi Scheme very recently to support the poor families of Assam whether they come under NFSA or not. According to the scheme, the government will give 830 INR per month to low-income families, and this scheme implies for women, who are widows, unmarried, specially-abled, separated women, members of the specially-abled family. Hopefully by this scheme in assam weaker, widow and poverty section women can better improvement own self financially and also better independent.

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