

ABSTRACT

GENDER AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF HAILAKANDI DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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By

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In the present work, an attempt has been made to understand how human development is affected by gender inequality especially in Hailakandi district of Assam, which is situated at the southernmost part of Assam. With the above context the main objective of this micro level study is to analyse different gender issues of poverty, education, health, and empowerment etc. of women in relation to men in public and private sphere. An attempt has been made to find the way out to remove the traditional socio-economic and political barriers so that the bulk of the population of the country will be included in the development agenda by resolving the gender issues. The study has been concluded with viable suggestions to the policy makers and planners of our country to make all inclusive plans and policies so that growth and development of the country may be translated in to a reality.

Gender and Human Development: A Conceptual Framework

According to UNDP Human Development Report (1990), human development may be defined as a process of enlarging people's choices. The most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect.

The term **gender** refers to array of socially constructed role and relationship, personality trait, attitude, behaviour, value, and relative power and influence that society attributes to the two sexes on a differential basis. Gender is an acquired identity that is learned, changes over time, and varies widely within and across cultures. Gender is relational and refers not simply to women or men but to the relationship between them. For the convenient study, chapter-wise presentation of the content and findings has been made.

Methodology

For the purpose of study, the relevant data have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The purpose at hand necessitates an empirical investigation of how inequality discriminates women than men and how gender and human development are incompatible in Hailakandi district. Sample (both male and female) of **six hundred** representative nature has been drawn from universe of the study that is total of 659296 (six lakh fifty nine thousand two hundred ninety six), population of the district, as per 2011 census of India.

Sample Study

For study of gender and human development in district of Hailakandi of Assam, **stratified sampling** has been used. Size of total sample is 600. As the total universe of the study i.e. N is 659296 according to 2011 census, the five (5) blocks of total universe has been taken as the unit of sample as per proportional allocation i.e.

$$n_1 = n/N \times N_1$$

$$n_2 = n/N \times N_2$$

$$n_3 = n/N \times N_3$$

$$n_4 = n/N \times N_4$$

$$n_5 = n/N \times N_5$$

N= Total population of 5 (five) blocks in the district and since n i.e. the sample has been taken 600 the calculation for distribution of sample will be as per the formula mentioned below.

$$N_1 (\text{Algapur Block}) = 121392$$

$$N_2 (\text{Hailakandi Block}) = 166498$$

$$N_3 (\text{Lala Block}) = 203139$$

$$N_4 (\text{Katlicherra}) = 73410$$

$$N_5 (\text{South Hailakandi}) = 94857$$

$$\text{Total} = 659296$$

Total sample study has been undertaken for the purpose varying from block to block of the district to make the study more scientific and hence according to the formula of stratified sampling:

$$n_1 = \frac{600}{659296} \times 121392 = 110 \text{ (Algapur Block)}$$

$$n_2 = \frac{600}{659296} \times 166498 = 152 \text{ (Hailakandi Block)}$$

$$n_3 = \frac{600}{659296} \times 203139 = 185 \text{ (Lala Block)}$$

$$n_4 = \frac{600}{659296} \times 73410 = 67 \text{ (Katlicherra Block)}$$

$$n_5 = \frac{600}{659296} \times 94857 = 86 \text{ (South Hailakandi Block)}$$

After collecting data from field and following different indicators, data have been shown in percentage in table. Interpretation of data has been made by comparing HDI of different districts of Assam and of state as a whole. Linkage has also been established with national level of HDI and gender disparity and gender inequality has been found through the construction of gender index by subtracting GDI from HDI rank and figure and inference has been made accordingly.

The study is primarily a modest attempt to understand socio-economic base of given population, and their capacity and awareness about basic amenities of life. As human development occupies a centre stage in global development debate and movements all over the world for gender equality emerge as major challenge in India and abroad, this study is also an attempt to understand women related issues of Hailakandi district because despite of several measures a very large section of women of the district still live under absolute poverty and remain the poorest of the poor. They are worse affected by process of economic

growth, transformation and development. In all indicators of Human Development Index such as standard of living, education, work-force, health, participation in decision-making process etc., women of the Hailakandi district are worse affected and their plight is clearly visible. Keeping this in view the present study of Gender and Human Development of Hailakandi District of Assam addresses **gender as central issue to development outcome**, transforming unequal gender relation to promote shared power, control of resources, decision-making and support for women empowerment. In this connection the study focussed poverty and economic inequality, inequality in education and health, discrimination in decision-making process (both in public and private sphere) of women in Hailakandi district due to prevailing socio-cultural and political attitude of patriarchy. Entire finding of the study has been presented on basis of research questions, objectives and hypotheses.

Research Question

The micro study on gender and human development is going to enquire whether **traditional socio-economic and political institutions become barriers to usher in development in Hailakandi district of Assam by resolving gender issue.**

Objectives of the present study are to enquire about:

1. To study how does human development is affected by gender inequality in Hailakandi district.
2. To study how does gender and development are incompatible in Hailakandi district.
3. To study how does gender inequality discriminates women than men.
4. To study rationale behind gender discrimination in Hailakandi district.

Considering the key objectives, the study attempts to test the following **hypotheses**.

1. Gender inequality promotes underdevelopment in Hailakandi district.

2. Gender discrimination is both attitudinal and actual.
3. Gender disequilibrium happens due to less education vis-a- vis employment of women.
4. Change of governing values and institutions may bring gender equality and development.

Introductory chapter i.e. **chapter-I** of the study presents an outline of background of study on the concept and theory of Gender and Human Development and an outline of the research plan. A conceptual framework of the study has been given to understand key concepts like gender equity, gender and human development, women empowerment, poverty and women, human development index etc. that has been attached to them for purpose of the present study. For a clear understanding of key concepts and terms used in the research, operational definitions, a theoretical framework of study have also been provided in the chapter. The chapter has been concluded with a chapter plan and profile of the sample area.

So far as **chapter-II** is concerned, the framework of study contains statement of the problem that signify importance and relevance of the study, objectives of study, basic research questions, methodology of study, hypotheses explaining size of sample, procedure of its selection and techniques of data collection. For purpose of the study data have been collected both from primary and secondary sources. Whenever necessary, personal interviews have been taken and I participated in group discussion, community meeting and training programme to collect more useful data for making the study empirical. Data are tabulated and analysed properly to make the study more scientific and holistic. I reviewed relevant literature. As many as **fifty relevant literatures** have been reviewed. The study has critically analysed all related literature in field like human development, gender equality, woman empowerment, gender and society etc. and found some gaps in different writings of different

scholars on gender and human development. For progress of study some important works of well known scholars have been taken as index and very often their views have been referred .

Chapter III of the study explains a brief account of profile of Hailakandi district as title of the research is on gender and human development in Hailakandi district of Assam and scope of the study has been confined to district of Hailakandi, the chapter of the study explains in brief history, geographical location, area, climate, density of population, decadal growth of population, religion basis of population, economic activities in district, basic amenities of life etc. with physical map of the district. For providing justice to title of the study, a brief explanation has been given on gender challenge and problems of women in district and how gender is related to human development of the district

Chapter IV explains growing ‘feminisation and poverty in Hailakandi’ as a large proportion of women in district of Hailakandi continue to live in poverty. Such happens due to added responsibility, apart from family and household function. On women, to earn a living and skewed patriarchal system that denies access to ancestral wealth. While women work nearly 67% of working hours they earn only 10% of income and own less than 1% of land. Poverty often leads to economic exploitation and sexual abuse of women. Their labour has not been classified as an economic activity. Gender differences in the work place continued to be widely prevalent. The most dangerous aspect of this feminisation of poverty is inequality in access to and participation in economic activities as compared to men.

Human poverty index in case of all the districts of Assam in which Hailakandi district stands at 17th position having higher HPI value than 16th other districts of Assam with 27.00 HPI value. It indicates more people in the district are suffering from Human poverty. This is indeed a great challenge for people of the district and state government. Major task has been

identified to reduce gender disparity and inequality with priority basis and to bring basic services within reach of each and every citizen of the district.

The study explains in **chapter-V** 'inequality and women in Hailakandi' as it prevails among women as compared to men in district due to less access to education and literacy. Lack of education denies women their right to productive employment and also their legal right. Due to lack of education inequality also prevails in access to health of women as compared to men. Through this chapter it has been tried to solve some of the basic related questions with which the whole society confronts are- Does women's education lead to a positive impact on gender development? Will improvement in female literacy ensure greater gender equality? While it can be stated with a certain degree of certainty that improving the education of women will lead to gender development, it is difficult to affirm that improvements reflected through the variable of female literacy alone will be sufficient to bring about women equality. Use of this or other education-related indicators reflects attainment/achievement levels and highlights the gap or extent of parity between men and women. Existing levels of discrimination and biases are an outcome of socio-cultural factors and patriarchal structures which are not easily overcome by introduction of literacy alone. Nevertheless, the benefits of education cannot be trivialised as these would have a long-term impact upon the empowerment of women. From beginning of planned era, education along with health and social welfare were accepted as crucial services for women's development. Allocations through the Five Year Plans and special programmes for women's education together with efforts to reduce gender inequalities in school enrolment and dropouts have been undertaken by the state could not deliver gender equality at the district level.

The chapter reveals that status of girl child constitutes an acid test of social development in Hailakandi. Discrimination on basis of sex is a structural culture. Girl child is a daughter of denial. Female infanticide is a social evil that exists in our civilised society along with dowry,

bride burning and child marriage. This patriarchal mind set of people in Hailakandi district has created stumbling block on way of human development as bulk of population are deprived of from benefits of modernisation and development.

The **chapter- VI** explains access of women in Hailakandi to power and decision making in public domain as well as their private life is responsible for status of women's empowerment in the district. While women enjoyed right to vote for many years, they occupy only a small fraction of seats in state legislature and parliament. Although situation gradually change with 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments that provide reservation of 33% of seat on panchayat and municipality, but this has yet to be translated at national and state level.

The subordination of women in Hailakandi is clear visible and this is due to patriarchal nature of society, demographic composition, conservative tradition and mindset, male domination in public and private sphere, ignorance and lack of awareness of women folk, less initiative for women upliftment by women organisations and above all concern of state as well as central governments, for which women are still in a subordinated position and gender equality is need of hour.

It can be said that participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institution particularly in Hailakandi district is low and for their activities they are dependent on others. Most of the time, they are not in a position to take a decision on their own and are not able take positive decision. The findings of this study show that the progress of women in panchayati raj institution is slow and it will take more time to attain women's goal. Because women are irregular in the Panchayat activities due to worth missing their daily wage and worry about their babies and family. It is also fact that the women who have come in under caste reservation have come out with their social and economic disadvantages –mostly illiterate, with little productive assets, largely dependent on wage labour and into a rural society that

has fixed places for various castes and gender. In the course of conducting the study it is realized that some measures are required to be taken to promote women's participation in politics. So it may be suggested that elected women in each district may develop a network among them and hold meetings and discussions on routine basis about necessary measures to promote their participation and neutralize male domination in local self bodies. The present study presents low level of education in this case study which is not a good sign for a healthy democracy. Thus, it is important to make extra educational training programmes related to politics for enhancing knowledge of elected women members on government policies and programmes, bureaucratic structures and the issues of local concern. For this, government made provision for mandatory attendance of Awareness Programme/Orientation Programme by members of PRIs and Extensive Training Centre, Boalipar, Hailakandi has been providing the same. But it is a matter of great regret that despite of the noble efforts of some of the SHGs there is tendency of proxy women's attendance in various above said programmes. Sensitisation of male members in PRIs is equally important so that they listen to women patiently, converse politely, acknowledge their suggestions in the meetings and implement them wherever feasible. It would lead to psychological empowerment of women.

From the above chapter wise analysis of gender and human development: A study of Hailakandi district of Assam the following major finding can be derived.

Major Findings:

- The study reveals that 'nature of gender subordination in Hailakandi district' is due to traditional socio-cultural structure and social institution existing with primordial loyalties. Not only societal structure and institutions discriminate women but also state institutions function with ideology of patriarchy, for which gender inequality prevails in the district.

- In Hailakandi, women are in a disadvantageous position both in absolute sense and relative to men in the area of access to employment, education, health and decision-making process. Most of the women do not have final say about the use of their own earnings. Most of the women do not have household decision making power, particularly in large household purchases. Most of the women do not have freedom of movement.
- Traditional gender norms particularly those concerning are still prevailing in the society. The women of Hailakandi enjoy somewhat low status in absolute term and much lower relative to men. Household decision making capacity, workforce participation rate and control over resources are lower for the women of Hailakandi in comparison to other districts of Assam and of India. Less women of Hailakandi are exposed to physical violence than that of India. Hailakandi shows better performance in the area of education, employment etc.
- Education, employment and formation of SHGs vary positively with literacy and per capita DDP.
- At primary and middle level enrolment rate is same for almost all the districts. Sex ratio varies negatively with literacy and DDP. Sex ratio is low for Hailakandi as compared to Lower and Central Assam.
- The way in which national, state and local self-governing bodies are usually formulated budgets ignore responsibility and capability of men and women. Budgets formed from a gender-neutral perspective ignore the different impacts on men and women because their roles, responsibilities and capacities are never the same in district.
- Major issues relating to women and children in Hailakandi are persistently high infant, child and maternal mortality ratios. Other important concerns are feminisation

of poverty and exploitation of women in low paid, hazardous and insecure jobs in unorganised sector.

- Lack of awareness about reproductive rights and health tie women of Hailakandi, in particular to domestic chores and play a role` in replicating poverty and nullifying development initiatives.
- Less progress has been made in achieving equality in secondary and tertiary education, which has been noted earlier, is especially illuminated by an examination of ratio of girls' to boys' completion rates.

Suggestion:

The study has advanced following suggestions to improve the status of women in Hailakandi district by minimising gender gaps in relation to the possible Human Development.

1. Changing patriarchal attitudes and improving status of women and empowering them are important steps toward elimination of female infanticide
2. Women need preparation and training mentally and physically. Such preparation can only happen if a supportive environment is provided to women, at all stages, by all sections of society- home, school, religion, government and work place.
3. Community mobilisation, to change societal attitudes toward women in general is necessary and different non-governmental organisations should come forward and make a force to bring about more enlightened social attitudes to women.
4. There is increasing need for local government reforms to be associated with improving service delivery through local governments. A major cross-cutting concern that merits more attention is gender dimension of local development, in particular women's effective participation in local government, to help meet their specific needs and addressing gender inequalities. Major indicators of gender equality are exercise of rights, social control, access

to decision making and a public voice to defend rights. Progress towards gender equality is slow, and this is in part due to the failure to attach money to policy commitments. Not enough attention is given to the impact of allocated resources and this serves to perpetuate gender biases, although budgets offer the potential to transform gender inequalities.

5. Once women are in positions of political power in national parliaments, one of the most effective tools they can use is to monitor national budgets for their gender responsiveness.

6. Overall, the comparison of enrolment rates to completion rates reveals the inadequacy of enrolment rates in telling the full story. The study, therefore, recommends that nation and states to make a standard of gender equality in school completion, not merely in school enrolment. Moreover, wherever possible, information on school completion must be augmented by indicators to measure gender equality in outcomes of schooling and the quality of education.

7. So far as Muslim women are concerned, main challenge will be to strengthen Muslim women's human resources. Better education, up gradation of skill is imperative if Muslim women are to take advantage of the growth on the modern sector. There should be recognition of development potential of Muslim women to imbibe self-confidence and self-reliance so necessary for development of society.

8. At the country level, most initiatives to address violence have been legislative. Although legislation varies, it typically includes a combination of protective or restraining orders and penalties for offenders. As with property rights, a formidable challenge is often enforcement of existing laws. Procedural barriers and traditional attitudes of law enforcement and judicial officials undermine effectiveness of existing anti-violence laws. Training programs for judicial and law enforcement personnel often go a long way to change such attitudes. Beyond training programs, establishment of female-staffed police stations has been effective in

making them more accessible to women. For women who have experienced violence, a range of medical, psychological, legal, educational, and other support services is necessary.

9. Women's share in administrative and managerial occupations is low in most of the districts of Assam, and Hailakandi district is no exception to it. Despite of several governmental measures women are still highly underrepresented. Women's labour in agricultural sector has not been counted as labour and even is not identified. In some of the areas they are not paid properly comparative to their male counterpart.

10. Path to gender equality in employment in Hailakandi, will most probably be through elimination/ evolution of socio-cultural and economic barriers which create gender segregation of jobs. Reduction of gender inequalities in labour market would need a multi-pronged approach- namely, improving women access to higher education, encouraging women to train in what are presently known as "male occupations", increased participation of women workers in trade unions, gender sensitisation of men and particularly employers, as well as expansion of child-care services and flexible working hours. Women need more and more equal treatment in every sphere.

11. Range of strategy that can be employed to get girls into school and enable them to complete a full course of primary and secondary education is well known. They address both supply and demand constraints. Supply side strategies include increasing number and reach of primary and secondary schools, particularly in rural areas; reducing schooling costs (both direct costs and opportunity costs through subsidies, scholarships, income transfers, book provision, etc.); staffing schools with female teachers; instituting policies that promote girls' attendance (such as permitting married adolescents to attend); and improving safety of schools, quality and gender-sensitivity of curriculum (in both texts and through teacher training), and the design of facilities (e.g., provision of latrines for girls). Demand-side strategies include mobilising parent and community involvement in monitoring the quality of

education, undertaking campaigns to increase awareness of value of girls' education, and introducing broader economic policies that increase returns to girls' education.

12. Gender budget initiatives or gender responsive budgets are tools and processes designed to facilitate a gender analysis in formulation of Government budgets and allocation of resources. Gender budgets are not separate budgets for women, or for men. They are attempts to break down or disaggregate government's mainstream budget according to its impact on women and men. These differences are generally structured in a way that leaves women at a disadvantage by creating inequality gaps.

13. Issues of poverty, education and health require a sensitive approach which cuts across all projects/programmes and schemes. Good policy requires understanding both its impact and how it might be better designed to achieve outcomes which meet needs of women, men, and girls and boys as well as different groups of women, men and children. There is no single approach or model of a gender sensitive budget. Evidence suggests that economic gains of gender equality lead to increased output and better development of people's capacities.

14. There is a propensity to see women only as members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), as vehicles for savings and credit. Self-help concept should cover mass-based organisations of women who are legitimately concerned about the lack of food, drudgery, housing, potable water and employment etc.

15. Women bear multiple burdens in the process of displacement as a result of large scale urbanisation and forced settlements they bear greater responsibility of rehabilitating all members of their household in process of involuntary resettlement. It is proposed that gender outcomes be clearly enunciated at policy formulation stage to mitigate negative impacts. Appropriate gender tools should be developed for evaluating those outcomes.

16. Programmes cutting across all ministries and departments could clearly identify and disaggregate group of intended stakeholders and beneficiaries in terms of gender. Gender

budgeting, which involves translation of stated gender commitments into budgetary allocations and dissects government budget to ensure its gender-differential impact, is integral to ensuring gender justice.

17. To address the gender gap, it is important to launch a joint programme to ensure gender equitable local development and improved access to resources and services for women. The programme should concentrate on gender responsive planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

18. Economic agencies are, with liberalisation, more concerned with regulation (or de-regulation) than with implementation. In this role, it is much more difficult to have a direct effect on gender relations. It is important that an annex be produced with the incoming budget papers setting out some gender sensitive indicators that could be used to monitor the budget. The result of facilitating policy dialogue to include gender and macro-economic issues will lead to an improvement of economic growth and human development performance in a way that also empower women.

19. Gender auditing of schemes and programmes and impact analysis inform policy makers about the need for course correction and more gender centric planning. Also the outcomes from gender auditing will push women's advocacy groups to ask for affirmative and corrective action by the Government. The ultimate aim is to give women a greater say at different levels and stages of developmental planning and in the formulation of policy and programmes.

20. Women's economic empowerment could provide the possibility of combination of increased productivity, less stress and better overall health. It is important to develop and implement strategies for women's participation in economic decision making through their engagement in budgetary processes. It is also important to engender economic governance

processes by increasing their transparency and holding national actors accountable to their policy commitments to women.

Conclusion

The study has been concluded with notion that gender inequality is deeply rooted in entrenched beliefs and attitudes, societal institutions, and market forces. The only way that the social change required to bring about gender equality will occur is through the dedication of visible and credible champions at the international and national level. Gender inequality is not a problem that has no solution. It persists partly because of the lack of leadership to institute the policies that can trigger social change and to allocate the resources necessary to get the job done.

Human development is an all-inclusive process and cannot be completed if bulk of population excluded from such process. Removal of gender discrimination should be prioritised at time of taking decision at all level. Hence a well concerted effort of all stakeholders of society, NGOs, governments (both state and central) is essential to remove barriers of development and human development particularly. FLR has positive link with HDI. However FWPR and Sex Ratio have negative relationship with HD in Hailakandi district

Again, it can be said that though complete active participation of women is yet to be achieved in grass root level democracy but still it cannot be ignored that the rural women of this era are becoming now more active in their duties outside their home. Despite of performing their domestic duties they are also contributing to the development of their village as well the nation through participating in the Panchayats. However, it is to be noted that in order to bring all the women force in the mainstream of development they should be more conscious of their rights as well the benefits that they can enjoy which are meant for them. They must be more politically conscious to ensure their complete participation in democracy. Thus,

these huge human forces which are women have to be made more aware and of course education can play here a significant role. By organizing camps, programmes in television, radio the government as well the NGOs can come forward to make the rural women enlighten about their rights, about the framework of Panchayats and other institutions so that there comes cent percent active participation of rural women in democracy. This will no doubt make the dream of our country to have an inclusive growth all round. When the rural women will be good enough to understand their need in participation in democracy and confidence enough to take their own decision hope reservation may not be required to bring the women participation in democracy.

The human development paradigm addresses the limitations of women-focused approaches by placing people at the centre of the development process. It views development as a process of expanding the range of things that a person can be and do in order to improve human lives. People's choices can grow by enlarging their capabilities to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have a decent standard of living and to participate actively in public life through democratic institutions. In order to achieve these goals and assure human development, the obstacles hindering people's choices – such as limited economic and educational opportunities, absence of civil and political freedoms and gender based disparities in access to resources and rights – have to be eliminated. The tasks of achieving gender equality and human development are therefore complimentary and mutually reinforcing. Achieving gender equality is in itself an important goal of human development. The failure to remove the obstacles to expanding opportunities for all men and women represents a serious threat. "Putting people first" cannot afford to deal in averages and aggregate indicators: the rights and welfare, choices and opportunities, of every individual – woman, man, boy, girl – have to be improved. Human development cannot take place when

the opportunities of half of humanity are restricted; therefore the task of achieving gender equality should be put at the heart of the human development

This study of gender and human development acknowledges Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen's Capability Approach (CA) which offers a comprehensive framework for conceptualizing human well-being and thereby, development. Sen views development as expansion of real freedom that people can enjoy for their economic well-being, social opportunities and political rights. From this strand the focus of development policies should precisely be the expansion of freedom or removal of major sources of inequality that people often face in their life – such as illiteracy, ill health, lack of access to resources, or lack of civil and political freedoms. The study examines one of the key concepts of the human development paradigm, that of being an agent of one's own development through participating in policy-decision making processes. It particularly examines the tensions that arose when political participation occurs in conditions of socio-economic inequalities. The focus on the problematic of gender in the discourse and practices of development, especially with respect to poverty and poverty reduction policies. This has lent his theorising to an incorporation of urgent concerns of handicapped by patriarchy and disability within framework of a neo-liberal paradigm. He advocates capability approach to glorify the theory of justice as freedom. The study has its leanings to Maithreyi Krishnaraj's "Towards Alternative Development Strategies: Problems and Possibilities for Women" (1996), a Third World feminist, points out that search for alternatives must integrate within development theory itself reality of women's lives and not seek merely to correct or add on programmes. Such integration requires us to modify macro in light of the micro so that women in third world have an access over education, health, employment, public and private resources.

The study has vast implications as it will not only contribute to the field of knowledge in social science but also will serve the purpose of a beacon light for the policy makers and planners of the district as well as of the state to eliminate gender inequality and discrimination in any form by which the society will be developed in a planned manner. Again the study may serve the purpose of reminder to the guardians of the society to change the traditional patriarchal mindset and to let the women freedom of choice so that socio-economic progress of the society can be realised without any biasness and discrimination. The feminist allegation of deprivation, discrimination and gender inequality in the district can be avoided through this study.

Suggestion for further research

However, due to lack of time and space the study could not cover all the aspects of Gender and Human Development in Hailakandi District of Assam. For this purpose it can be suggested that further micro-studies may be made in the related topics within the district.

Those studies are –

1. Muslim Women and Human Development in Hailakandi District.
2. Gender, Communalism, Development and Peace in Hailakandi District
3. Gender, Rural Women and Human Development in Hailakandi.
4. Gender Urban Women and Human Development in Hailakandi.
5. Women of Tea Garden Areas and Human Development in Hailakandi.
6. Society, Politics, Economy and Human Development in Hailakandi District.
7. Agriculture and Human Development in Hailakandi District.
8. Policy formulation and Human Development in the State of Assam.
9. Inter-district Disparities and Human Development in Assam.
10. Economic Growth and Human Development in the State of Assam.