

## CHAPTER - 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The previous chapter has given an overview on relevant literature. This chapter provides details regarding the methodology that has been adopted to carry out the present study. Methodology is a phenomenon of study under which we seek answers of the particular study. It encompasses the scope and importance of the study, specific objectives, research design, sources of data, construction of tools, sampling, process of data collection, and nature of analysis and so on.

The study is basically based on primary data. The primary data has been collected through interview schedule and several structured and unstructured personal interviews were also conducted to elicit first-hand information with the theme of the research work. The whole analysis for this present study depends solely on primary sources.

However, secondary data is collected through various sources like journals, books, manuals and reports of the state concerned literatures. The collected data is analyzed with the help of various statistical tools, charts, diagrams and graphical representations.

### SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE

Assam with its unique culture and the excellent performance of its sports, music, Bihudance, vast literature, cinema, theater have been widely acclaimed. Unfortunately, it is also the home to various issues and problems like unemployment, insurgencies, rampant corruption, drug abuse, political problem with this mind; the researcher is confined to look at the topic of women empowerment under the influence of SHGs in the various villages of Kamrup district.

In Kamrup district there are many women SHG are in operation. In many houses women are engaged in SHGs. One of the powerful approaches to women empowerment and rural entrepreneurship is the formation of SHGs especially among women. This strategy had fetched noticeable results not only in Bangladesh but world over. Women Self Help Groups are increasingly being used as a tool for various

developmental interventions. A Self Help Group is conceived as a sustainable people's institution that provides the poor rural women with space and support necessary for them to take effective steps towards achieving greater control of their lives. The SHGs approach has proved successfully not only improving the economic conditions through income generation but in creating awareness about health and hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness, environmental protection, importance of education and better response for development schemes. Along with these it is also hoped that the Government as well as the NGO should take proper care to strengthen the hands of these women and stabilize the institution. Since women took a prominent role in economic development of a nation, therefore, participation in economic activities increases, which brought them, economic independence. This economic independence release women from the bondage of depending on others especially their husbands, parents, in-laws etc. for their daily requirements. This fact can be realized only by the development of women SHGs.

The significance of the present study is the identification of the area, where women of the region can uplift themselves economically, and at the same time contribute in the economic development of the region. There economic independence can also be an important route to their economic empowerment. In Kamrup district one can find many forms of industry practiced by the people who are mainly agriculturists. In every house the wife weave the silk cloth for her family. Though Self Help Groups among women is being pursued through a number of central and state sponsored programmes and there is a hue and cry for improving the status of women yet the part to success is not easy. It is also hoped that the Government as well as the NGOs should take proper care to strengthen the hands of these women and stabilize them.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- i) To study the Socio-economic condition and educational attainment of women in SHGs.
- ii) To analyze the sources of social support and motivational factor of members for joining to SHGs.

- iii) To explore the extent of awareness of members regarding policies and programmes, schemes, funds and training opportunities.
- iv) To know the personal and group problems and future plans for SHGs development.
- v) To find out the scope of professional social work intervention for the effective functions of women SHGs.

### **RESEARCH QUESTION**

- i) How women are maintaining their dual role as SHG members and family members?
- ii) Whether SHGs have adopted the method of democratic functioning?

### **UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY**

The researcher takes only rural women of Kamrup District of Assam. In Kamrup district more than 20,000 women SHGs are functioning as reported by DRDA, SBI, Director of Gaon Panchayat, and NABARD and also reported in the website of Govt. of Assam. Those Women SHGs are working more than three years at rural areas would be considered for this study.

### **SAMPLING DESIGN**

For the selection of the sample respondents, the researcher approached 6 NGOs functioning under Kamrup district and 50 SHGs have been selected from each of the NGOs. Total 300 samples are being taken.

### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

### **METHODS AND TOLLS OF DATA COLLECTION**

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative method was applied. The structured Interview schedule, focus group discussion and case study were used as base tools for

data collection for this study. Using the structured interview schedule, the primary data were collected from the selected SHGs with regard to their homogeneity, regularity in conducting meetings, level of attendance, and participation in meetings. Besides this all relevant secondary data were collected from literature, books, journals, articles, magazines, websites in concerned field and key informants from various Government officials and also from the records of State Bank of India, local head office, Guwahati and NABARD, Guwahati.

### **CONSTRUCTION OF TOOLS AND PRE-TEST**

The variables used in the study have been identified during the discussions with the officials of the NABARD, State Bank of India, the NGOs and a preliminary interview with the selected Self-Help Groups. The variables identified for the study is for the members were drafted. The schedule for the members of the SHGs was pre-tested with the help of 15 members. In the light of their comments the interview schedules were further modified.

### **FIELD WORK AND COLLECTION OF DATA**

The researcher herself with the help of the NGOs carried out fieldwork for this study. It was undertaken for a period of five months from January 2013 to May 2013. The researcher used one interview schedule and interview guide for the collecting data from SHG members.

### **DATA PROCESSING AND INTERPRETATION**

The collected data was processed through coding master chart, tabulation and other statistical techniques especially through SPSS. The quantitative data has been presented in the form of simple tables as well as cross tables, charts and graphs. The qualitative data are presented in the form of relevant portions of narratives of the respondents in order to bolster or counter the quantitative findings. Findings of the study has been presented through the use of different graphs, chart and so on.

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE KEY TERM**

**SHGs:** - A self-help group is a small group formed by 10-20 members for meeting the specific objectives particularly credit which are mostly informal in nature constituted mainly for economic and social development. The most common need of these groups relate to meeting their emergent economic needs without depending on any help from outside.

**EMPOWERMENT:** - It is a process of giving power and creating power within. It is multi-dimensional process which enables individual and groups to realize their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. It means giving legal and moral power to an individual in all spheres of life, economic, social, political, psychological religious and spiritual, which are essential for the survival and over all development of mankind.

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION:** -Here socio-economic condition includes the respondents income, expenditure, education housing condition and cordially with the family members. It also includes the payment or expenses for the family burden.

**RURAL:** - The rural is essentially means an area, which is characterized non-urban style of life, occupation structures, social organizations and settlement pattern. Rural is essentially agriculture; its settlement system consist of villages or homesteads; socially it cannot greater interdependence among people, more deeply rooted community life and a slow moving rhythm of life built around nature and natural phenomenon and occupationally it is highly dependent on crop farming, animal husbandries, tree crops and related activities in this study.

**EMPLOYMENT:** - Here the employment refers to the self-employment of the members.