

Report by the sub-committee on
WOMAN EMPOWERMENT
OF INDIGENOUS ASSAMESE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

THE COMMITTEE

Dr. Nazrana Ahmed
Chairperson

Dr. Nasmeeem Farhin Akhtar
Member

Dr. Jishan Ahmed
Member

Ms Farida Samsul, ACS
Member Secretary

CONSTITUTED BY THE
Welfare of Minorities and Development Department
Government of Assam
Vide Notification No. WMD.62/2021/Pt/7
Dated 31st July, 2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, express my profound gratitude to the Governor of Assam for the notification dated 31st July, 2021 notifying the formation of the sub-committees. My fervent heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma under whose visionary wisdom and guidance the subcommittees were constituted . My deepest gratitude to members Dr. Naseem Farhin Akhtar and Dr. Jishan Ahmed and to member secretary Ms. Farida Samsul, ACS, for their assistance throughout these five months.

My indebtedness to DC Nalbari and DC Goalpara as also ADC Goalpara who discerningly invited a cross section of society from senior sports personalities to cultural exponents and community role models and accorded us the privilege of their time. The Director Char Development in Kamrup, DDCs of the districts of Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Nagaon, Lakhimpur , Sonitpur and ADC Golaghat assisted in ensuring the enlightening public interactions. My utmost gratitude to all the members of the public who gave their unstinted suggestions and the honour of their presence.

I, express my gratitude to the officials of these ten districts for their gracious hospitality and to Insight Advertising, Jorhat for printing this report. May I be permitted a caveat in regretting the inadvertent errors which are solely mine and if I have unintentionally hurt sentiments and remain humbled by the experience and hope this report provides a measure of beacon towards empowerment of indigenous Assamese muslim women.



Dr. Nazrana Ahmed
Chairperson
Woman Empowerment, Sub-Committee

CONTENT

- I. Notification
- II. Introduction
- III. Public Discussion Questionnaire
- IV. List of Districts
- V. Population Stabilisation
- VI. Health
- VII. Cultural Identity
- VIII. Education
- IX. Financial Inclusion
- X. Skill Development
- XI. Women Empowerment
- XII. Acknowledgement
- XIII. Certificates

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
WELFARE OF MINORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
::DISPUR::

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM
NOTIFICATION

Dated Dispur the 31st July, 2021

No.WMD.62/2021/PU7 : In partial modification of this Department's earlier Notification No. WMD.62/2021/Pl.6 dated 9th July, 2021, and in pursuance of decision taken in 'Alaap Alochana' (Interactive Session) held on 04/07/2021 at Assam Administrative Staff Collage, Khanapara, Guwahati-22, the following Sub-Groups/ Committee are hereby constituted to undertake thorough studies on Population stabilisation, Health care, Cultural identity, Education, Financial inclusion, Skill Development and Women Empowerment of Indigenous Assamese Muslim Community of Assam :

A. Sub-Group/ Committee on Population Stabilisation :

Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1. Dr Ilias Ali (Padmashree)	Chairman	9864061796
2. Akabor Ali Ahmed, Retd. Professor, BN College, Dhubri	Member	9678109177
3. Dr Tanvir Alam 4. Tezpur Medical College	Member	9706037060
5. Sahabuddin Ahmed Journalist, Mukalmua	Member	8638919139
6. K.J. Hilaly, ACS, CEO, GMDA	Member-Secretary:	9435080266

B. Sub-Group/ Committee on Health :

Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1. Dr Syed Iftikhar Ahmed (Anti-AIDS Campaigner & Social Activist)	Chairman	8723950583
2. Dr Javed Ali, Professor, GMCH.	Member	
3. Dr. Aftab Ali Ahmed (Assistant Professor, Jorhat Medical College)	Member	9957100114
4. Zahid Chistie, ACS, Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Personnel Deptt.	Member-Secretary	9435055161

C. Sub-Group/ Committee on Cultural Identity :

Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1. Wasbir Hussain (Editor- in-Chief, Northeast Live TV & Commentator)	Chairman	9864265980
2. Imran Hussain (Writer and Poet)	Member	9435608844
3. Nurul Sultan (Film producer and Cultural Activist, Dergaon)	Member	9435092888
4. Mahmud Hassan, ACS, Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Forest Deptt.	Member-Secretary	9435027583

D. Sub-Group/ Committee on Education :

	Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1	Dr Adil Ul Yasin, Retd Prof Dibrugarh University, Political Science	Chairman	9435735840
2	Sheikh Hedayetullah (Prof of English, Ratnapith College, Chapar, Dhubri President, Deshi Jonogosthiya Mancha, Assam)	Member	9435616079
3	Moinul Haq, Writer & Poet	Member	9957860880
4	Inamul Hussain, ACS, Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Personnel Deptt.	Member-Secretary	9435023966

E. Sub-Group/ Committee on Financial Inclusion :

	Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1.	Ms Nafifa Ahmed, IAS Retd.	Chairperson	7086070962
2	Dr Nissar Ahmed Barua, Prof of Economics, Gauhati University	Member	9864034527
3.	Safiur Rahman, RetdJt Director, Economics & Statistics Dept & P&RD Assam	Member	9207001289
4.	Fayek Azad (Deputy General Manager, Assam Financial Corporation)	Member	9435101171 / 9859916509
5.	Syed Ishfaqur Rahman, ACS, Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Finance Deptt.	Member-Secretary	9435156139

F. Sub-Group/ Committee on Skill Development :

	Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1.	Mr Mujibur Rahman, Head Mechanical Engineering Dept, DibrugarhPolytechnic	Chairman:	8474074803
2.	Dr. Nekib Hussain (Entrepreneur and NGO)	Member	9435017680
3.	Md Rashid Arif Hussain, Oil Industry Professional, Technical Expert, NRL.	Member	7053204241
4.	Sazzad Alam, ACS, Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Industries & Commerce Deptt.	Member-Secretary	7002238965

Report by the sub-committee
WOMAN EMPOWERMENT
Of Indigenous Assamese Muslim Community

G. Sub-Group/ Committee on Women Empowerment :

Name & Address	Designated as	Contact No.
1. Dr Nazrana Ahmed, Industrialist & Lawyer	Chairperson:	9435031080
2. Dr Naseem Farhin Akhtar, Director, Centre for Womens Studies Dibrugarh University	Member	9435004378
3. Dr (Mrs) Jishan Ahmed, Head Surgery, Assam Medical College Dibrugarh & Rotarian	Member	
4. Farida Samsul, ACS, Director, Char Area Development Assam	Member Secretary:	9435024034

1. The Sub-Groups/Committee will submit detailed report / Recommendation to the Welfare of Minorities and Development Department within 3 months for taking further necessary action.
2. The Chairman and Members of the Sub-Groups/Committee will be entitled for a sitting allowance of Rs. 2500/-(two thousand five hundred only) each.
3. Each Sub-Group/ Committee can undertake tour and meet different stakeholders, if required.

Sd/-


Commissioner & Secretary, to the Govt. of Assam
Welfare of Minorities and Development Department
Dated Dispur the 31st July, 2021

Memo No. WMD.62/2021/Pt/7-A

Copy forwarded to :

1. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam for kind appraisal of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam, Dispur.
2. The Principal Secretary / Commissioner & Secretary/ Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Guwahati Development Department/ Health & Family Welfare /Personnel/ Cultural Affairs/Environment & Forest/ Education/ Finance/ Skill Development/ Social Welfare/ Welfare of Minorities and Dev. Deptt./ Home & Political Deptt/ Panchayat & Rural Development Deptt. for information.
3. S.O to the Chief Secretary, Assam for information of the Chief Secretary, Assam Dispur.
4. PPS to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam for kind appraisal of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam, Dispur.
5. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Welfare of Minorities and Development Department for kind appraisal of Hon'ble Minister.
6. All Chairman/ Member (All Sub Groups/Committee) for information and necessary action.
7. All Deputy Commissioner for information and necessary action. They are also requested to take necessary step for serving the Notification to Chairman and Members of Sub- Groups/ Committee within their jurisdiction and action taken may be intimated to this Deptt. at the earliest.
8. All Officer concerned for information and necessary action.
9. All persons concerned for information and necessary action.

By order etc.


Joint Secretary, to the Govt. of Assam
Welfare of Minorities and Development Department

II. INTRODUCTION:

National Muslim Women's Rights day is celebrated on First of August and on this day in 2021, our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma, constituted seven sub-groups for the development of indigenous Assamese muslims of which women empowerment is the seventh sub-committee. In each of the seventeen parameters of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within 2030, Woman Empowerment is the aspirational goal. As the seventh Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Atta Annan said " There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women".

We believe that this sub-committee is the anchor group. Accordingly in the public consultations held across ten districts of Assam we sought public opinion in regards to each of the aspects of the seven groups based on a standard questionnaire and also sought suggestions of the public through newspaper advertisements and email. We are deeply grateful for the opinions, suggestions and recommendations which have enriched our perspective, thereby the report. Our interactions, i.e., "*Alap Alochana*" which fosters interaction amongst people from various walks of life is especially crucial when considered from the point of view of lived realities and conditions that women encounter throughout their lives. Oral narratives form an integral part of feminist research methodology. Hence, it is felt that this visionary gesture of the Govt. towards giving voice to indigenous Assamese Muslim women irrespective of their socio-cultural, educational and financial status is in a way an acknowledgement and reiteration of the fact that women's lived experiences are an ingrained matrix of humanity.

Hence the need to be viewed expansively through feminist paradigms which in fact encompasses all aspects of socio-cultural and individual life. But the indigenous Assamese muslim woman are not per se homogeneous and can they be perceived as one monolithic entity. Thereby it is believed that the public consultations conducted by the subcommittee on women empowerment have, in the true sense of the term, "*Alap Alochana*," a dialogue evocative of the Dialogues of Plato the foundation of democracy. This crystallized into dialogue for the indigenous Assamese Muslim Woman to present not only their concerns and grievances but also their much valued

suggestions and feedback on various issues which directly or indirectly have a distinctive impact on their status as women from the indigenous Assamese Muslim community.

Women empowerment is an amalgamation of societal ethics progressing from women emancipation to gender justice. Among indigenous Assamese Muslim women gender equality is cobwebbed by regressive mindsets of self-proclaimed leaders like the “diwanis”, proliferating mainly in the lower Assam districts and neo-groups seeking to assert influence through curtailment of traditional freedom of women in Assamese society bringing in hegemonic traits, alien to our culture in the land of Sri Sri Sankardeva- Ajan Pir (R.A.) where Zikr-Zari, Biya naam, Luko geet, bua-kota, thuria, kaanh-pitol is the weave and weft of the indigenous Assamese muslim. Gender justice is an ethical balance between the state and citizen where each citizen does what they are best suited for governed by reason. The right to equality enshrined in the Constitution of India and promised a life of dignity for each citizen, not bound by shackles of social notions of propriety leveraged on the custodianship of women.

This subcommittee is believed to be the foundational group entrusted with the responsibility of examining the varied aspects, prospects and challenges so far as improvement of the status of the indigenous Assamese Muslim Woman and their holistic development is concerned.

II. PUBLIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONNAIRE:



PLAN FOR DRAFTING THE REPORT ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FROM THE INDIGENOUS ASSAMESE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Objective: To study the status of women belonging to the indigenous Assamese Muslim community, with special focus on the policy provisions, religious and socio-cultural factors as determinants and suggest recommendations towards their empowerment.

Methodology:

- i) Field survey through random sampling technique
- ii) Questionnaire
- iii) Meeting with prominent stakeholders
- iv) Discussions with members from the other sub-committees constituted to examine other aspects of the indigenous Assamese Muslim community

Key Areas to be Surveyed:

Population Stabilization

- i) Age at which girls get married .
- ii) Maternal mortality rate
- iii) Reproductive health and hygiene
- iv) Qualification of girls during marriage
- v) Male child Preference and Fertility
- vi) Knowledge about Family Planning Measures

Health

- i) Common ailments
- ii) Menstrual Health



- iii) Health of the Elderly Women
- iv) Mental health of women of different age groups
- v) Health of the specially abled women of different age groups
- vi) Care giving and role of care givers.

Cultural Identity

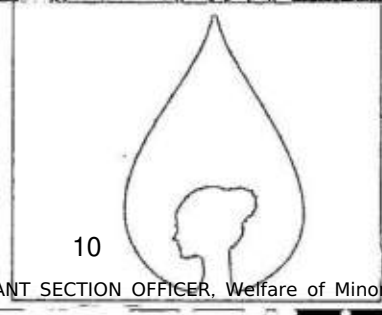
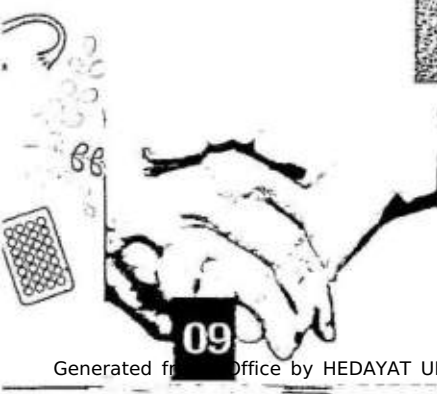
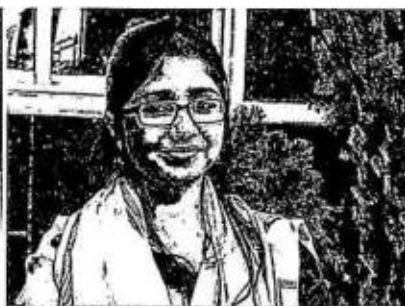
- i) Involvement of Women in political and socio-cultural affairs of the state
- ii) Assamese Muslim Women's organisations promoting Fundamental Duties.
- iii) Women and Marriage and the exercising the option of puberty/ *khyar ul bulugh*.
- iv) Knowledge about legal provisions and access to justice.
- v) Participation of women in politics (starting from Panchayat Elections to the Assembly)
- vi) Participation of Women in sports and extra curricular activities.

Education:

- i) Impact of religious and socio-cultural factors in providing education to girls-(a) age of joining school; (b) freedom to decide one's own course of study; (c) freedom to move out of the house for pursuing education; (d) drop outs and reasons thereof; (e) discontinuation and re enrolment.
- ii) Adult education
- iii) Nature of Education.
- iv) Placement after education and choice of career/s and opportunities.
- v) Access to resources like finance and all other logistical aspects of scalability.

Financial Inclusion:

- i) Participation in policy decisions and implementation of Uniform Civil Code



- ii) Right over ancestral property and own income.
- iii) Wakf properties and their utilization for woman's empowerment
- iv) Scope of gender budgeting especially for indigenous Muslim women

Skill Development:

- i) Access to training and scalability.
- ii) Attitude of community towards women's skill development
- iii) Scope to pursue the application of the skill acquired
- iv) Reasons behind training in a skill (familial pressure/individual choice?)
- v) Women Entrepreneurship

Women Empowerment:

- i) Implementation of Uniform Civil Code
- ii) Impact of women in science, education, entrepreneurship and the society.
- iii) Women as positive responsible role models.
- iv) Status of Women as an equal participant in nation building.

Methodology :

The methodology for arriving at the recommendations was based on the public consultations in ten districts having indigenous Assamese muslims Dibrugarh, Nalbari, Goalpara, Dhubri, Jorhat, Golaghat, Nagaon, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur and Guwahati. The public consultation at Sibsagar could not be held due to the obduracy of the DDC.

Empirical data as available from surveys like National Household Family survey were studied as was the Human Development Index for parity.

Questions to be Addressed:

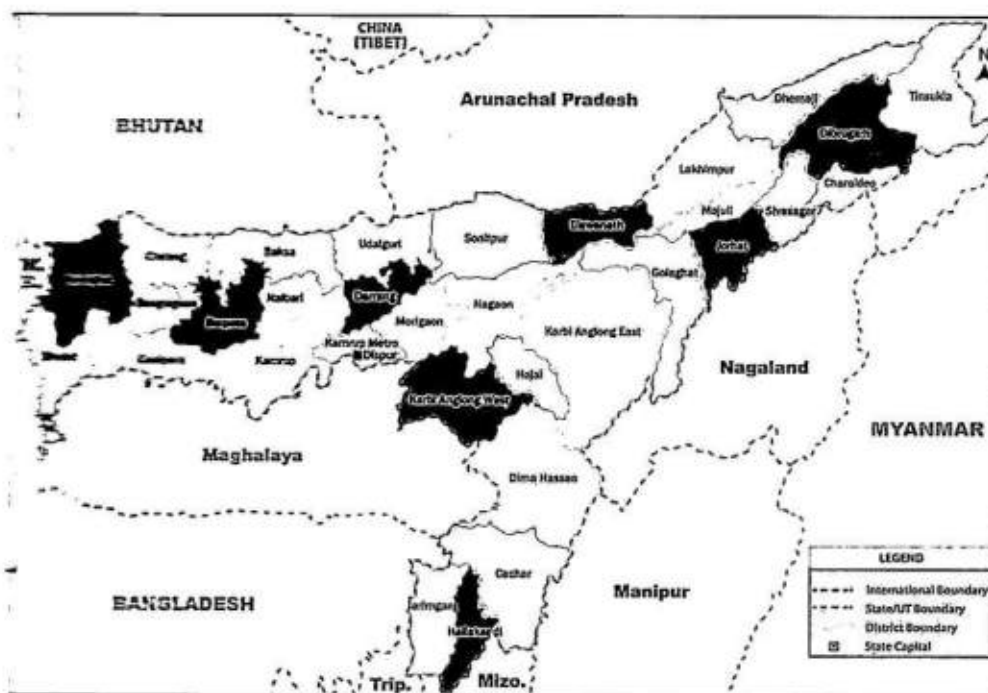
- i) To examine the status of Indigenous Assamese Muslim community for recommendations.
- ii) To determine the source of already available data, if any.
- iii) To prepare a timeline for collection of data, computation of data and preparation of report
- iv) To locate the areas and field assistants during tour as per approved tour plan from Dibrugarh to areas having indigenous Assamese Muslim communities.

III. List of Districts

1. Dibrugarh
2. Nalbari
3. Goalpara
4. Dhubri
5. Jorhat
6. Golaghat
7. Nagaon
8. Lakhimpur
9. Sonitpur
10. Kamrup

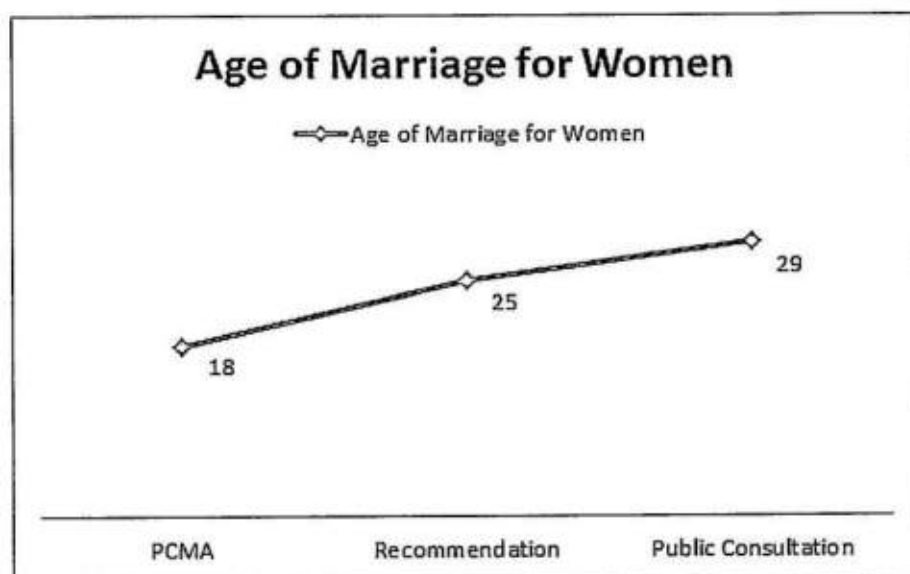
Public consultation in all these above districts brought forth variegated opinions, suggestions and recommendations from which the kernels have been chaffed for the sake of brevity and illustrated in the form of graphs in each of the chapters.

ASSAM



IV. Population Stabilisation

- i) Age at which girls get married
- ii) Maternal mortality rate
- iii) Reproductive health and hygiene
- iv) Qualification of girls during marriage
- v) Male child Preference and Fertility
- vi) Knowledge about Family Planning Measures



The Age of Marriage is the critical index for amelioration of infant mortality and maternal mortality. Both these statistics are critical leading to multiple pregnancies. There was no marked preference for male child as Islamic theology holds the belief that the birth of a girl child ensures heavenly ascent in the afterlife. Yet, girls face moral subjugation from societal norms forcibly imposed by pseudo community - politico leaders seeking to assert authority over girls by imposing coercive dress norms alien to Assamese culture like the niqaab, burqa and hijab.

During public consultation it was stated unanimously that the minimum age of marriage for girls should be 21 years - same as boys. The age should be same in terms of Article 14, Article right to equality, Article 21 right to life and article 44 securing a uniform Civil Code, guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

The Deviations observed where certain members of the public who believed that the customary practice of the groom being older than the bride should be adhered to so that the minimum age of marriage for boys should be 23 or 25 years. It was explained that the marriages are not necessary to be solemnized within the same education batch. During the public consultations though there were naysayers to minimum age of marriage being gender neutral, some suggested that the minimum age could even be 29 years for marriage and those seeking to marry early could get special permission. That marriage registration should be compulsory was another suggestion including the mention of reverse effect of dower to dowry where the mahr or dower due to commercialization is giving way to the notion of dowry.

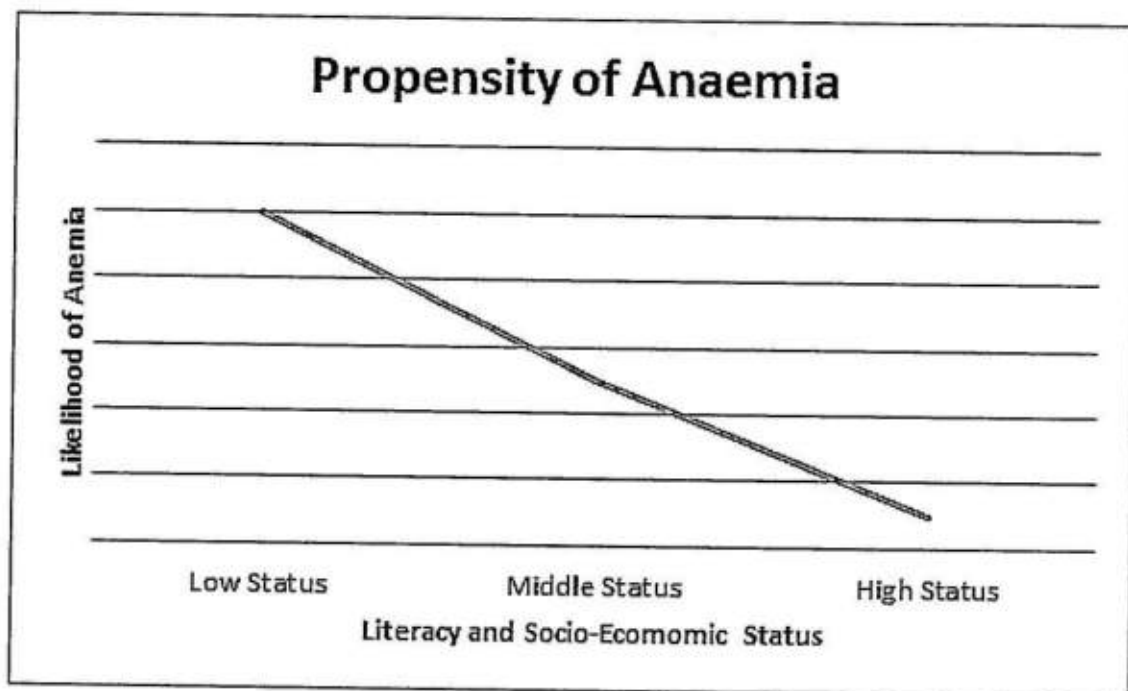
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ The minimum age of marriage should be 21 years for girls and there should not be any age difference based on gender.
- ❖ Primary health centres should generate awareness about family planning measures.
- ❖ Woman should be able to access medical aid on their own and be provided financial support for their own medical treatment.
- ❖ All marriage whether rural or urban must be registered in each block or district.



V. Health

- i) Common ailments
- ii) Menstrual Health
- iii) Health of the Elderly Women
- iv) Mental Health of woman of different age group
- v) Health of the specially abled women of different age groups
- VI) Care giving and role of care givers.



The health of women is neglected and relegated to the lowest importance in the totem pole of family priorities and collaboration of finances. In fact, it is not consciously addressed unless in case of emergency. Hygiene and important aspect suffers due to lack of access to water, toilets and bathing enclosures with due consideration for privacy of woman. access to potable water is often scarce. This was specially stated by public representatives from riverine areas and embankments. Women across ten districts voiced their distress on suffering from anaemia mostly caused by lack of nutrition. It was opined that access to toilets in educational institutions and public institutions should be made widely available. Sanitary pad dispensing and disposal machines were requested to be installed in those educational institutions where it has not been done so far, to the tune where model educational institutions are benefitted by the hygienic menstrual practices.

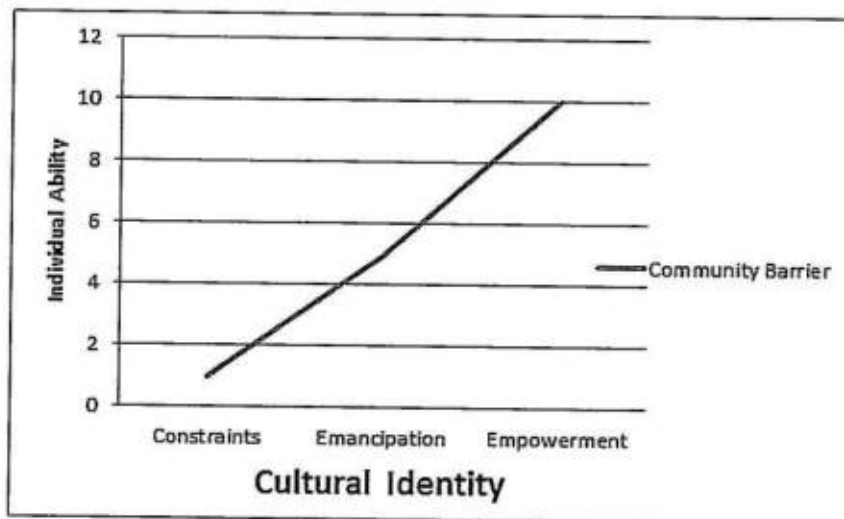
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ Sanitary toilets to women beneficiaries will aid health and hygiene
- ❖ Health cards for women will provide access to medical aid with privacy for addressing menstrual health
- ❖ Hygiene products for monthly menstrual safety with sanitary pad dispensing and disposal machines to be installed in educational institutions which is expected to prevent school dropouts.
- ❖ Nutritional supplements to young girls will ameliorate anaemia caused by paucity of food.



VI. Cultural Identity

- i) Involvement of Women in Political and Socio-Cultural affairs of the state
- ii) Assamese Muslim Women's organizations promoting Fundamental Duties
- iii) Women and Marriage and the exercising the option of puberty/khyar ul bulugh
- iv) Knowledge about legal provisions and access to justice
- v) Participation of women in politics
- vi) Participation woman in sports and extra-curricular activities



Cultural identity is a triune of linguistic, anthropological and sociological threads, each distinct yet interweaved forming the composite indigenous Assamese Muslim culture. Indigenous Assamese Muslim follow the Sufi philosophy of Islam in Assamese language as the mother tongue, attired in mekhela riha sador adorned with thuria, biri, gam kharu et. el. In the ninth-century, treaties Akhbar al-Hind wa-Al-Sin, the author noted, "One does not know a single Indian Muslim or anyone there who speaks Arabic."

The weave and weft of household looms have given away to modern conveniences yet in certain pockets like Jajori and Chapanalla of Nagaon District and Lakhimpur Districts the looms enable women to be economically empowered. But they need market linkages and financial aid for modern designs. The market linkage study by Institute of Economic Studies underscore the importance of economic viability and continuity fostered by access to markets.

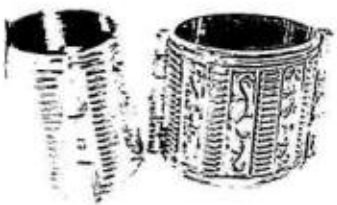
RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Women fostered socio-religious cultural organisations
- ❖ Centres of culture in the sufi shrines where Assam Darshan schemes have already paved the roads for ease of travel like Dargah of Ajan Pir (R.A.)
- ❖ Mandatory representation of Women in All Mosque Committees, Idgah Committee, Kabarstan Committee in all religious institutions.
- ❖ Waqf board should have women representation and its income should be used for propagating these cultural centres

es
ugh

gical
ous
Sufi
ed in
nth-
s not

tern
gaon
cally
tern
dies
ed by



VII. Education

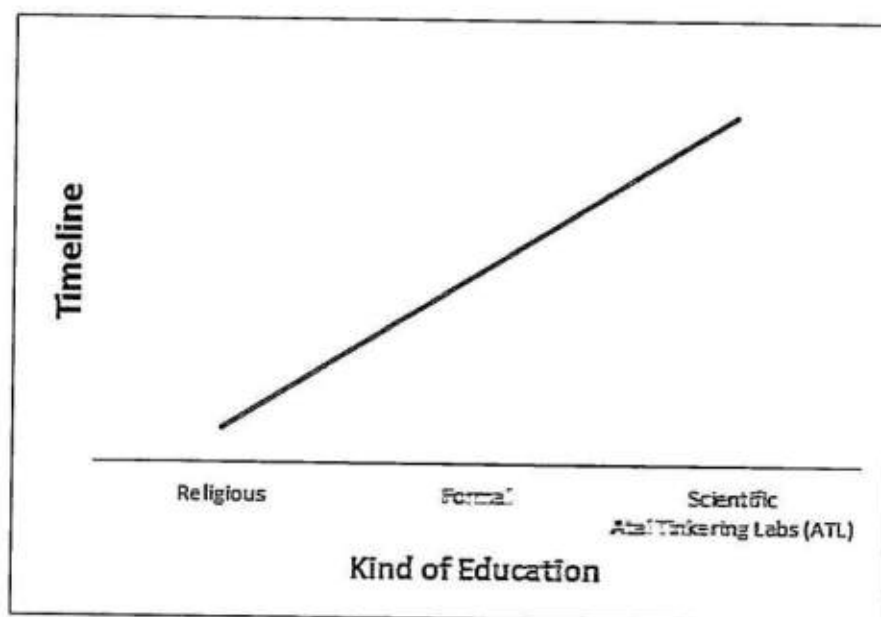
i) Impact of religious and Socio-Cultural factors in providing education to girls - (a) age of joining school; (b) freedom to decide one's own course of study; (c) freedom to move out of the house for pursuing education (d) drop-outs and reasons thereof; (d) discontinuation and re-enrolment

ii) Adult education

iii) Nature of education should be secular in schools with Atal Tinkering Labs

iv) Placement after education and choice of careers and opportunities

v) Access to resources like finance and all other logical aspects of scalability



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said; "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved". The empowering of women points to the compass of education. The compass needle has gyrated between religious education and secular education, especially amongst the rural, financially disadvantaged communities. But unanimously in all the ten districts the public favoured secular scientific education with ethics as a subject for teaching religion and morality and guiding the conscience.

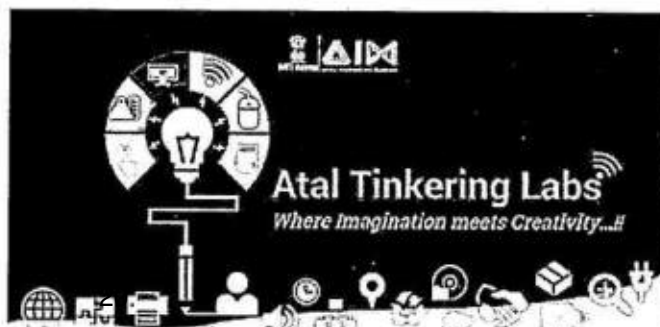
Atal Tinkering Labs were requested by all the districts in all the government schools. NITI Ayog has sanctioned thousand Atal Tinkering Labs in Jammu and Kashmir and it is expected that a similar outcome in the schools in Assam will pave the way for secular and scientific education. The scheme named after former Prime Minister Padma Vibhushan Atal Bihari Vajpayee introduces science education in middle schools to create a million neoteric innovators which is the goal of Atal Innovation Mission with Scientific tools and equipments to guide towards an understanding of the concepts of STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Scholarships under the economically weaker sections is also requested as is scholarships for higher education and for pursuing education in national concerns of education excellence like IITs, IIMs, NIFT, NLU, etc.

The NCFPCR, 2021 report on minority institutions have urged the implementation of Right to Education Act, in minority institutions for the "best interests" of the child. The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions act, should have a state Commission for monitoring and implementation of the mandate of the act.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ Secular education with Ethics as a subject for introducing religious texts and fostering ethical conscious citizens.
- ❖ Atal Tinkering labs in all schools esp. government schools for fostering scientific thought and secular education.
- ❖ Scholarships for the economically weaker sections for school and college education.
- ❖ State funding for pursuing education in national education centers of excellence like IITs, IIMs, NIFT, NLU etc.

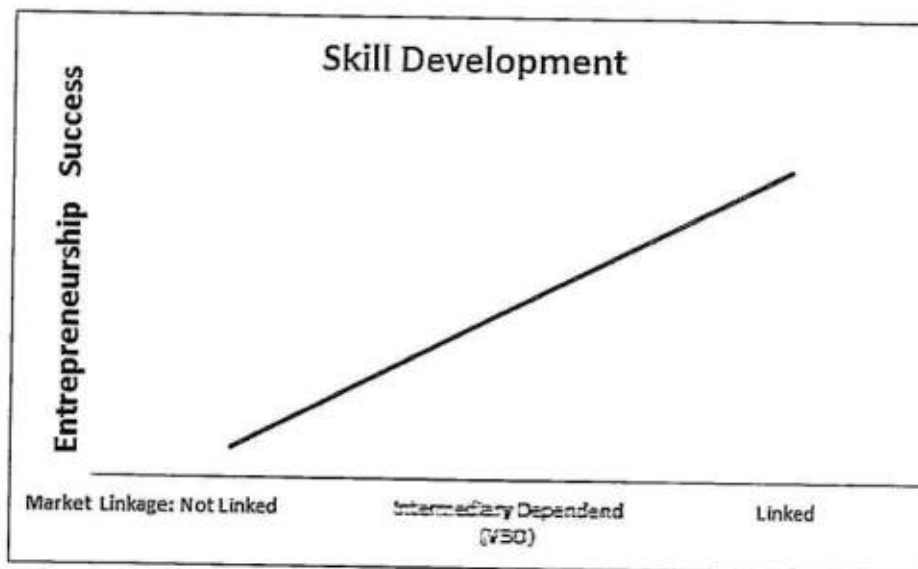


VII. FINANCIAL INCLUSION

1. Participation in policy decisions and implementation of Uniforms Civil Code.
2. Right over ancestral property and own income.
3. Wakf properties be utilised for women's empowerment.
4. Scope of gender budgeting especially for indigenous Muslim women

The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) has identified six pillars for financial inclusion:

- i. Universal access to financial services
- ii. Providing a basic bouquet of financial services
- iii. Access to livelihood and skill development
- iv. Financial literacy and education
- v. Customer protection
- vi. Grievance redressal



Critical property rights have devolved based on Islamic jurisprudence but more often than not on expediency and local interpretation generally subject to denial of rights to women.

Hence for assuring equal property rights not subject to traditional customs of usage Uniform Civil Code was desired by the consulted public uniformly across all districts in terms of Article 44 of the Constitution of India.

Wakf properties are to be utilised for women's financial inclusion and for

guaranteeing a life of dignity to women who have been abandoned by their families due to assertion of rights and privileges accorded under the Constitution. Women who exercise their free will in manner of living, dress, speech, pursuing higher education instead of succumbing to underage marriage or careers are often ostracized and need handholding and mentorship. Working women's hostels in Wakf properties will provide the requisite shelter.

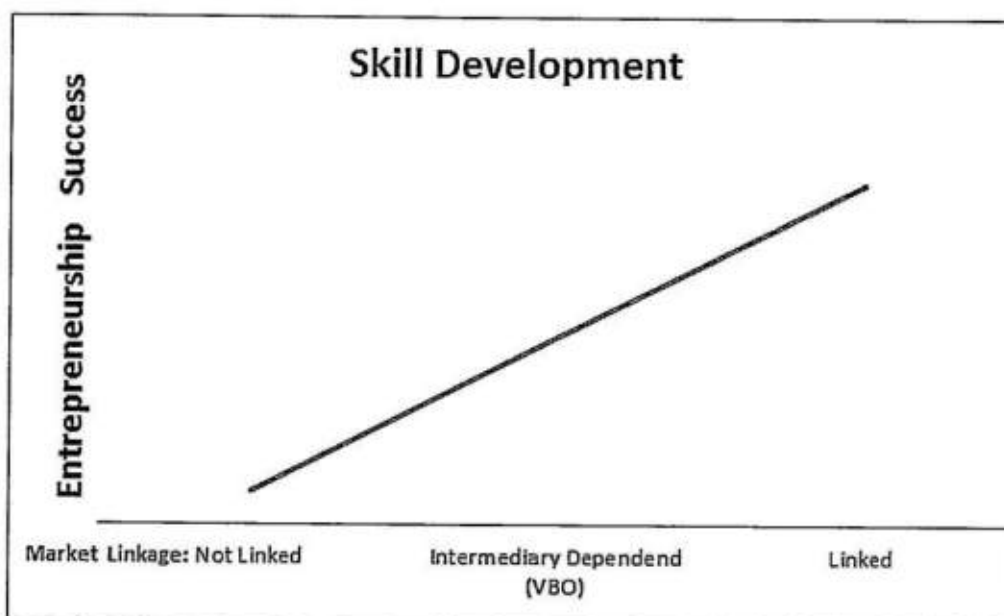
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ Bank account for women to foster financial literacy and garner loans for skill utilization
- ❖ Introducing Uniform Civil Code for equal property rights.
- ❖ Wakf board to be led by women to utilize its properties for providing shelter and financial aid to women.



IX. SKILL DEVELOPMENT

1. Access to training and scalability.
2. Attitude of community towards women's skill development.
3. Scope to pursue the application of skill acquired.
4. Reasons behind training in a skill (familial pressure/individual choice?)
5. Women Entrepreneurship.



Skill training is the first step for enabling women to have economic independence. Skills like cooking, baking and weaving are being done by various NGOs. The need of the hour is marketable skills which have continuity of application and break stereotypical norms, for instance the social barrier to a skill like driving tractor is being chipped away by women role models.

Access to training is curtailed due to social inhibitions which are to be overcome by positive role models and appreciation of those who break the gender obstacles by overcoming pejorative social attitudes.

The consulted public spoke about the acute need for financial aid and scholarships. The institution of nursing schools in these districts, especially in the district of Golaghat was greatly emphasized upon.

Sadiya sub-division is naturally bestowed with "Bogori", the trees grow abundantly even by the roadside. Hence GI proposal for "Bogori" with a food processing center for this indigenous Assamese berry was requested.

Kanh-Pitol, bell metal cottage industry weavers cluster was also sought for along with market linkages for continuity. Special mentorship for school drop outs will ameliorate their condition and prevent early marriage.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ Food processing center for "Bogori" in Sadiya, Tinsukia.
- ❖ Cottage industry cluster of Kanh-Pitol in Upper Assam
- ❖ Handloom villages in Lakhimpur and Nagaon
- ❖ Colleges of nursing in Jorhat and Golaghat
- ❖ Training for bee-keeping, raising nurseries, rearing ducks and goats and milch cattle.



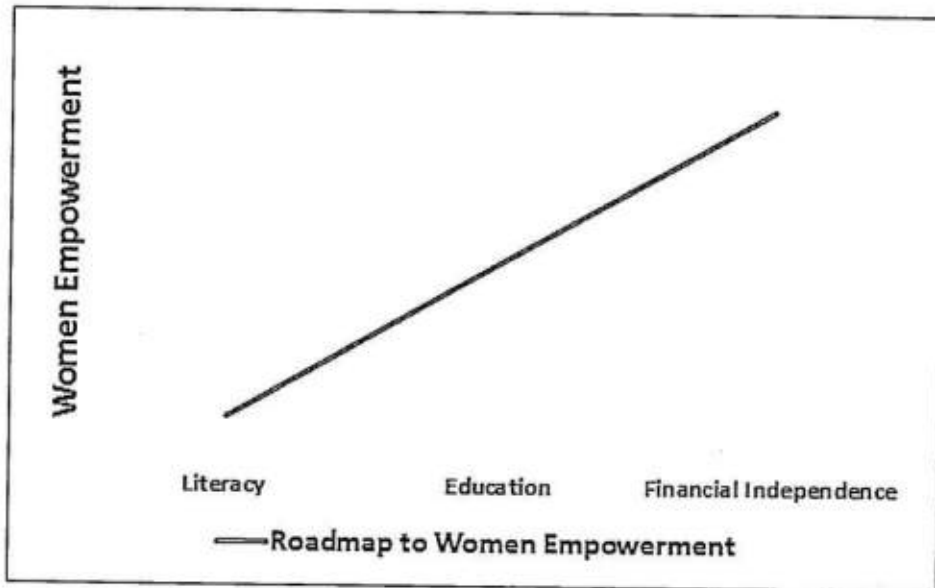
MUMTAZ BEGUM
 Golaghat Assam

- Runs her own sewing school for last five years
- Taught sewing to 77 women in her village
- Inspired many more to start their own businesses



X. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Implementation of Uniform Civil Code.
Impact of women in science, education, entrepreneurship and the society.
Women as positive responsible role models.



The Human Development Index(HDI) considers three indicators of human development, namely, life expectancy, education, and per capita income. If these three parameters in consonance with the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are taken as the matrices, women will be enabled to be equal participant in nation building.

In Uttar Pradesh there are Women Adalats called CHINGARI, started by an NGO called Vidya Dhami Society in Banda district, where women are assured access to justice and jural remedy for their deprivation of rights. Though women receive free legal aid, the way is fraught with lack of access and awareness.

Women should be able to participate in all Islamic organisations like Wakf Board, Idgah committees, Kabarstan committees, Mosque committees and in Sufi centers.

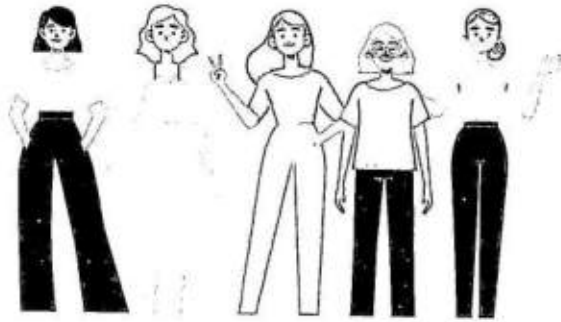
The National Family Household Survey-5 data has shown that amongst females in the age group of 15-24 year olds out of the 30,119 household

surveyed in Assam just 66% use menstrual hygiene products. This is the most vulnerable group of females amongst the indigenous Assamese Muslim women as during this period she succumbs to education disruption and is pushed to early marriage leading to multiple pregnancies and attendant ravaging of the physical body and mental turmoil.

As our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji said, in regards to legislation amending the Prohibition of Child Marriage act, raising the minimum age of marriage for girls from 18 to 21, that at least she will be able to finish her education and start a career. And so the vulnerable girl child must be mentored and provide and anchor by the government for empowerment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ Women to be free to discard social subjugation in matter of choice of individual dress esp. in public spaces. There must not be coercion to wear Niqaab, Burqa and Hijab.
- ❖ Women to be provided scholarships for education through school, college and university both within the state and in national centres of education excellence.
- ❖ Women to have access to shelter homes and financial aid.
- ❖ Women to have health cards and nutritional and dietary supplements.
- ❖ Women to be skilled and be provided loans for economic independence.
- ❖ Women to have representation in Wakf Board and in all social and religious institutions.
- ❖ Women to be provided counselling and security from repressive community leaders.
- ❖ Women to perceive role models to be able to discard regressive social norms.



No subjugation on women



Educational Scholarship for achieving excellence



Health card and Dietary supplement for physical and mental wellbeing



Skill training and loan facility for economic development



Representation in social political, religious and cultural organisations



Implementation of Uniform Civil Code

XI. SUMMATION

In the axis of rights and equality is duties and responsibility, women have their duty to educate themselves and generate awareness in seeking empowerment.

Indigenous Muslim women have progressed from emancipation through adult suffrage, education and skill, enabling us to be heard and are now seeking an equal participation in both the family space and public space not as a puppet but as her own voice, her empowered voice for a life of dignity and self-actualization as envisaged in Article 51 (j); to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.

The Muslim Women Rights Day is observed across the country on 1 August, to celebrate the enactment of the Muslim Women Act, 2019 which prohibits the practice of Triple Talaq in India. Seventy-five years after independence and eighty-five years since the enactment of the colonial Shariat act, women are subjugated to inequities and indignities in the name of religion. The dawn of change is being envisaged a new template of development for indigenous Assamese Muslim Women. The legislation classifying Triple Talaq as a criminal offence came into effect on 1 August 2019 and the Shariat Act, in 1937 within this awning chasm rights of women were submerged. We do hope that gender legislation, gender budgeting and gender justice balanced by ethics and right to equality and dignity, enshrined in the Constitution of India will usher in an inspired impetus towards nation building to indigenous Assamese Muslim women in her own right and her own entity.

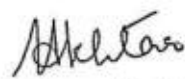
XII. Conclusion


With the recommendations, the Sub-Committee on Women Empowerment of Indigenous Muslim concludes its report with the expectation that the Government of Assam under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma would give due considerations and initiate appropriate measures for the overall growth, upliftment and empowerment of the indigenous Assamese Muslim women community of the state.

Endorsed and signed on this 3rd day of January, 2022, at Guwahati.


Dr. Nazrana Ahmed
Chairperson


Ms. Farida Samsul, ACS
Member Secretary


Dr. Nasmeem Farhin Akhtar
Member


Dr. Jishan Ahmed
Member



GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DHUBRI DISTRICT:: DHUBRI
(TRANSFORMATION & DEVELOPMENT BRANCH)
03662-230050 (O) / 230030 (R) / 232760 (F)
E-mail : dc-dhubri@nic.in

PA (S.K. Gupta)
M. P. ...
20/12

No. DPD 870/2021/Minority/55

Dated Dhubri the 20/12/2021

To,

✓ The Director,
Char Areas Development, Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Sub: Regarding Submission of Minutes of the meeting on Sub-Committee, Women Empowerment of Indigenous Assamese Muslim Society (Alaap Alochana).

Ref: Your Office vide letter No.CADA.235/2021-22/205/1446-51 Dtd.08/12/2021

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the subject cited above, I would like to submit herewith the copy of the minutes along-with member presents on the meeting regarding Sub-Committee on Women Empowerment of Indigenous Assamese Muslim (Alaap Alochana) was held in the Dhubri District.

This is for your kind information & necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As stated above

Don
District Dev. Commissioner,
Dhubri.

Memo No. No. DPD.870/2021/Minority/55

Dated Dhubri the 20/12/2021

Copy to :

1. Dr. Nazrana Ahmed, Chairperson of Sub-Group/committee on women Empowerment for information & necessary action.
2. PA to DC for kind appraisal of the Deputy Commissioner

✓
District Dev. Commissioner,
Dhubri.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER ALAAP ALOCHANA-INTERACTION SESSION OF INDIGENOUS ASSAMESE MUSLIM HELD ON 22/09/2021 AT 12.00 NOON IN THE D.C.'S CONFERENCE HALL, DHUBRI REGARDING
Members Present :- As per Annexure - A

The meeting was presided over by Smti Kanta Das, ACS, District Development Commissioner, Dhubri. She welcomed Dr. Nazrana Ahmed, Chairperson of the Committee on Women Empowerment and Dr. (Mrs.) Jishan Ahmed, Head Surgery, Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh & Rotarian & Member of the Committee on Women Empowerment. At the outset she welcomed the entire participant present in the meeting and initiated discussion on the Women Empowerment.

After threadbare discussion the following reasons have been found for the **lack of women empowerment** in indigenous Assamese Muslim community-

1. Religious education is more prevalent because of which girls are deprived of the modern education.
2. Early marriage is one of the serious problems facing by the girls due to which school dropout rate of girls in Dhubri district is much higher. Banat Madrassas are supporting the concept of early marriage which may lead to poor woman empowerment in the district.
3. Financial backwardness and higher poverty rate pushing more and more girl children towards illiteracy.
4. One major issue for the poor financial status of the women is lack of access to the resources. Mental bondage is imposed on the girls. Girls are forced to wear Hijab, Niqab and Burqas.
5. Access to the skill education for girls especially in the char areas is negligible.
6. Poor health status of women can be understood by higher MMR and IMR. No. of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children is higher in Dhubri as compared to the other districts in Assam. Women have no major role in family planning.
7. Mental health issue can also be seen but it is mainly a regional problem. Most of the cases are concentrated to char areas.
8. Participation of women in political, socio-cultural state of affairs like Media, TV and Entertainment industry is at lowest level.
9. Women's trafficking is a major concern in the area. The women have been victimized of trafficking irrespective of their social classes.
10. Lack of religious tolerance is harming the indigenous muslim specially the women in char areas.

Remedies are-

1. Proper implementation of "Prohibition of Child Marriage Act" will help in reducing the school dropout rate. It is felt that the marriageable age for the girls should be increased to 21 year.

2. It can be seen that Banat Madrassas are promoting religious education and opposing participation of women in financial activities. Therefore, Banat Madrassa should be brought under "Right to education" to increase the educational as well as financial status of the women.
3. More emphasis should be given for skill development among the women. Proper measures should be taken so that girls learning special skills like stitching, embroidery etc. should not face any difficulties due to financial shortage.
4. Girls/Women must be encouraged to learn weaving, stitching, embroidery for self-sustainment.
5. Proper health awareness programme is essential among the women specially in the Char Areas. Girls should be provided with menstrual health awareness from early age. It was informed that health and hygiene works are being conducted by women's cell of various colleges.
6. With respect to the participation of women in social-cultural affairs, there is a gradual change can be notice according to social class, more women who are economically well off are interested in participation in various cultural which is a satisfying news.
7. NGOs like Ujala Home and Halfway home are doing commendable works in rescuing trafficked women and providing them shelters. They were also given skill training like stitching, pickle making etc. A fifteen days' workshop is also organised for their rehabilitation.

The meeting ends with a vote of thanks from the chair.



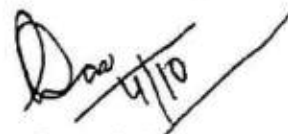
District Dev. Commissioner,
Dhubri.

Dated Dhubri the 4/10/2021

Memo No.DPD.870/2021/Minority/14

Copy to:

1. Dr.Nazrana Ahmed, Chairperson of the Committee on Women Empowerment for information & necessary action.
2. The Member Secretary, Women Empowerment Committee for information & necessary action.
3. All members concerned for information & necessary action.



District Dev. Commissioner,
Dhubri.



PA
H
K
K

(Special
P-11) (106)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER::: DIBRUGARH DISTRICT
DIBRUGARH

No. DDO. 92/Minorities/2020 /2336.

Dated Dibrugarh the 13th December, 2021

To,

✓
The Director,
Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

Sub : Submission of minutes of the Public Consultation.

Ref. : No. CADA. 235/2021-22/206/1463-66 dated 8th Dec 2021.


Sir/ Madam,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to submit the minutes of the Public Consultation by the sub-committee on Women Empowerment under Aloap Alochana an interactive held on 16th of September, 2021 in respect of Dibrugarh District.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Enco : As Stated above.

Yours faithfully,


Deputy Commissioner,
Dibrugarh

Minutes of the Public Consultation by the sub-committee on Women Empowerment of Indigenous Assamese Muslim Community under Alaap Alochana an interactive session.

Venue: Conference Hall, Circuit House, Dibrugarh

Date: 16/09/2021

Time: 03:30 PM

Attendance Sheet: Enclose Annexure-I

A public consultation by the sub-committee on women empowerment under Alaap Alochana an interactive session was conducted by District Administration Dibrugarh on 16.09.2021 at conference Hall, Circuit House, Dibrugarh. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nazrana Ahmed and total 17 members were present. The following points were discussed in the meeting:

1. Effort should be made to collect correct information about Indigenous Population.
2. Awareness about education among women is needed along with encouragement to participate in decision making process. Women should be encouraged to become financially independent.
3. Women should be provided with livelihood support through scheme like ASRLM.
4. Cluster level special Federation should be made to focus specially on women.
5. Awareness about minority related social welfare schemes should be made.
6. One officer can be appointed to implement the rules of National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
7. Introduce the concept of community workers to work on issues related to women empowerment.
8. Measures should be taken to prevent domestic violence at the grass root level. Community level Panel should be constituted to deal with domestic violence issue, to provide counseling etc.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Alheta
Assistant Commissioner,
Dibrugarh

No. DDO. 48/2016/Pt-1 / 2335.

Dated Dibrugarh the 21/09/2021

Copy to:

1. All Members present
2. Office File.

Alheta
Assistant Commissioner,
Dibrugarh

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER - LAKHIMPUR :: NORTH LAKHIMPUR
[DEVELOPMENT BRANCH]

No. LDC.86/Minority.W/2019/ 73

Dated: 08.12.2021

To,

Smti. Farida Samsul, ACS.
Director, Char Areas Development, Assam.
Dispur, Guwahati-06.

1028
16/12/21
DACS: K. Gupta
P. Muly
CS
18/12

Sub: Forwarding of minutes.


Madam,

With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to forward herewith the minutes of the meeting held on 07/12/2021 (Tuesday) at 11 A.M. at the Conference Hall of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur in connection with the visit of Sub Group on Women Empowerment to Lakhimpur District and interaction with Leading Citizens of the Target Community (Indigenous Assamese Muslims).

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Enclosed: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

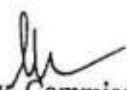

District Dev. Commissioner,
Lakhimpur.

Dated: 08.12.2021

Memo No. LDC. 86/Minority.W/2019/ 73 -A

Copy to:

- C.A. to D.C for kind appraisal of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur.


District Dev. Commissioner,
Lakhimpur.

Minutes of the interaction session "AALAP ALOCHANA" for Women Empowerment of indigenous Assamese Muslim in Lakhimpur District held on 07/12/2021 at 11 A.M.in the Conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Lakhimpur.

Members present: **Annexure A.**

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Nazrana Ahmed, Chairperson, Sub-Group/Committee on Women Empowerment, Assam and Dr. Jishan Ahmed, Head of Surgery, Assam Medical College, Member, Sub-Group/Committee on women empowerment, Assam in presence of Sri Monuj Kr Baruah, ACS, District Development Commissioner, Lakhimpur.

1. The interaction session included thorough discussion on Population Stabilization, Health care, Cultural Identity, Education, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development and Women Empowerment of indigenous Assamese Muslim community in respect of Lakhimpur District.
2. The main objective of the interactive session was to study the status of women belonging to the indigenous Assamese Muslim community, with special focus on the policy provisions, religious and socio-cultural factors as determinants.
3. The key points discussed under population stabilization are – age at which girls get married, maternal mortality rate, reproductive health and hygiene, qualification of girls during marriage, son preference and fertility, knowledge about family planning measures.
4. Health and Education related topics are discussed with outmost preference such as common ailments, menstrual health, health of elderly women, impact of religious and socio-cultural factors in providing education to girls, adult education, placement after education and choice of career, access to resources etc.
5. Discussion regarding Financial Inclusion of women such as right over ancestral property, right over one's own income, skill development viz., access to training, scope to pursue the application of the skill acquired, women entrepreneurship is done and opinions and thoughts for better enhancement and fruitful outcome has been recorded.
6. Various opinions from the dignitaries belonging to indigenous Assamese Muslim Community from Lakhimpur as to how the upliftment of women empowerment could be done has been discussed and recorded by the Chairperson and Member of the interactive session for taking further necessary action from their end.

The interactive session ended with a vote of thanks from the District Development Commissioner, Lakhimpur.


District Dev. Commissioner,
Lakhimpur.

Memo No. LDC. 86/Minority.W/2019/ 72 -A

Dated North Lakhimpur, the 8th December, 2021.

Copy to:

1. The Director, Char Areas Development Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
2. C.A. to D.C for kind appraisal of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur.
3. All members concerned.
4. Office copy.
5. Office file.


District Dev. Commissioner,
Lakhimpur.

SUGGESTIONS

for the development of Indigenous Muslims Community of Assam
received via e-mails

Sumaiyah Begum,
Golaghat, Assam.

Sir/Madam, Kindly find the suggestions are provided under the following heads:

1. Skill development.
2. Education
3. Financial Inclusion
4. Women Empowerment.

* Skill development and educational suggestions are requested to be considered complementary to each other.

1. Skill Development:

- Training in market skills: Youngsters and job seekers should be guided and trained in the current in-demand skills such as coding, Aptitude, analytics, digital marketing, etc. An in-depth study may be conducted to identify the in-demand skills.
- Honing and development of soft skills and interpersonal skills, familiarization with GD, PI, interview, etc.
- More vocational institutes with courses keeping up with market demands should be established in minority-dominated areas. A few suggested courses for vocational training are IT course, tell calling, BPO training, tally/accountancy, etc.
- Courses and training regarding the utilization of opportunities provided by e-commerce platforms to encourage entrepreneurship. This shall include familiarization with buying and selling via e-commerce, legal aspects and registration of business, efficient and targeted advertising, understanding supply chains and all other relevant aspects.
- Courses on quality management, maintenance and control of products intended for e-commerce, small business, quality packaging and presentation of products.

2. Education

- Courses and training on registration of business, legal aspects, etc. Also, dedicated explanatory videos should be uploaded on YouTube for this purpose.
- Baking is a skill found commonly among the community. The skill should be honed and developed among enthusiasts to enable them to make a professional business out of it. Intensive courses by qualified experts may facilitate the initiative.

3. Education:

- Reduction in fees: Reduction in fee up to 50% for Indigenous Muslims belonging to Economically Weaker Sections in Private Educational Institutions, especially up to Higher Secondary level.

- Emphasis on completion of education: Emphasis on completion of at least Matriculation for the entire community including elder members.
- Emphasis on strengthening proficiency in English and Maths up to at least Higher secondary level.
- Motivation and Encouragement to all students of the community for studies and career development.

3

- Assistance in preparation for competitive exams:

1. The youngsters of the community must be trained for competitive exams from class 9 onwards.
 2. All students regardless of their stream should be made proficient in Numerical Aptitude, Logical reasoning, quantitative aptitude and English as these are necessary for almost all competitive, recruitment and entrance exams.
 3. Familiarizing the students with the standard books to follow for different exams as per the exam pattern to aid self-study.
 4. Encouragement and training for State, National and International level exams at the various levels: post-matric, post higher secondary, post-graduation, etc. (Such as JEE, CEE, NEET, CAT, IIT-JAM, GRE, banking exams and others)
 5. If possible, dedicated training programmes may be provided. In case it is not possible, basic short guidance programmes are indispensable and should be provided.
 6. The guidance should make the students aware and able enough to guide themselves and make informed decisions regarding their future.
 7. Workshops and doubt clearing sessions related to career development.
 8. The training may be imparted online to save time for students and prevent issues such as difficulties of adjusting to a nonnative location, difficulties in relocation, etc. But there must be regular follow-up via mock tests and offline tests. The online lectures may be recorded and uploaded via media platforms for future reference of the students.
- Officially recognized online recorded lectures on all subjects of the state board curriculum for all levels (School level to post-graduation level) by the finest teachers should be uploaded on YouTube in English, Hindi, Assamese and other relevant languages as an official initiative of the state government. This will help not only Indigenous Muslims but all students of the state, especially those of remote regions.
 - Granting of easy permission to set up private research, technical and professional private educational institutions by minorities.
 - Raising of EWS limit for receiving scholarships up to 5 lacs. (The present limit of 2 lacs per annum for availing scholarships yields only 16666 rupees per month. A family earning this amount is unlikely to emphasize education enough for their children to be eligible for scholarships)

5. Financial Inclusion:

- Financial literacy: Awareness, guidance and facilitation are needed in this direction as many people in the community do not know how to fill a KYC form. Pamphlets, posters, detailed demo videos on YouTube may also help the target community in achieving financial literacy.
- A dedicated mission/department for the purpose: A dedicated mission/department in financial institutions may be created to ensure the financial inclusion of Indigenous Muslims.
- Reservation of schemes: A certain portion of Priority Sector Lending schemes and other financial schemes should be reserved for indigenous Muslims.

- Transparency in preparation of beneficiary lists: Irregularities in the making of the beneficiary list is a common reason for the ill performance of many schemes targeting the indigenous Muslim community. Often, the lists are sent to the central level for approval and in this process middlemen change the names of the beneficiaries to serve their personal interests. Therefore, the beneficiary list should be approved at the district level by district officials such as Deputy Commissioner. The list of beneficiaries should be regularly uploaded on relevant websites, newspapers, etc. to aid transparency

6

and to provide opportunities for raising complaints in case of any mismatch.

- A dedicated app/website providing information on the schemes for the community may be developed which will help easy dissemination of information.
- Ensuring prevention of appropriation of benefits by a certain creamy layer of the community.

4. Women Empowerment:

- Women participation in politics: Familiarization of women with political processes and activities, helping women in understanding the relevance of social media as a means of political discourse, awareness generation and encouragement to participate in the grass-root level political process.

To

**The chairperson,
Sub-committee on women empowerment**

Refer, your appeal for suggestion to promote women empowerment of indigenous Assamese Muslim community with special focus on education and health

Dear madam,

With reference to subject cited above I would like to put forward the following suggestions for empowering Assamese Muslim women in Assam:

For empowerment of Muslim women, we must equip women with the knowledge, skills and personal qualities that enable them to take control of their life choices and make informed decisions that will lead to favorable outcomes. Emphasis be given on developing personnel competencies, self-awareness and agency skills which enable them to have control over their life circumstances and course of action. No one can deny the importance of education and health empowering women. Higher education is an instrument of enriching women's knowledge, intellectual capabilities, employability skills and bargaining power. It is indeed the most important factor achieving social, economic and political transformations. Similarly, the health issue is an important factor for empowerment of women. Awareness and Knowledge of personnel hygiene, family planning and child health have a tremendous impact on herself and the community she belongs.

1. In the light of above, instead of covering many other aspects of education, we should give outmost thrust in empowering Muslim women in the law and medical sector. A degree or diploma in law will

embolden women to voice against any subjugation and crime against them and make them self-confident and help them to earn a living by practicing law. To achieve this goal, we must do the following:

a) A campaign for motivating young women right from the school level be undertaken. We can arrange seminars/workshop/small group meetings in schools and colleges.

b) Local lawyers, retired lawyer/Doctors preferably from Muslim community should volunteer to visit the school and colleges and act as a resource person or role model to motivate the young ones. Government may take help of NGO's in public private partnership (PPP) mode. It will be most effective if NGO'S with support with local officials of Masjid committee takes a lead. In medical sector besides undergoing MBBS course we can go for paramedical and nursing course which is comparatively easy to get admissions

c) Select (block wise or village wise having Assamese Muslim population) talented and aspiring candidates through transparent and legal selection procedures to undertake these courses. Provisions should be made for a substantial amount of scholarship for such candidates. The corporate sectors operating in Assam may be tied up to sponsor scholarship.

d) Private coaching centers be given special incentive to train up the Muslim girls for appearing the entrance exams for the said courses

e) Further, educationist, leading business men and other prominent social persons could set up law and paramedical schools. The govt may give some incentive such as 'tax free' and subsidy etc. to encourage it. 'Jakat' from local community/masjid committee of Assam may be used as one of the sources of financing these institutions. Legal and transparent formalities may be framed to raise such funds with accountability.

Conclusion: Unless the person belonging to the Assamese Muslim community comes forward with a missionary mindset and zeal, we cannot achieve any desired result. A data base of leading personalities of different fields be made so that their valued experience and suggestions could be used time to time for the development of the community in question.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely

Md Bipul Ahmed

Former Asst Director of Agriculture Assam

30, Milonjoty Path

Hatigaon -Sijubari Road

Guwahati -38

Mob 9435348216

Email mdbipulahmed@gmail.com

Appointment of Women having LLB Degree as Muslim Marriage Registrar & Kazi

Background

Except a few marriages which are registered in the Office of Sub-Registrars Office, most Muslim marriages are registered at the so called Kazis Office which is mostly dominated by Men.

Present Status

Lakhs of married Muslim women in Assam are in deep trouble after their marriage certificates issued by fake Kazis found legally invalid for various purposes, including enrollment of names in the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The Gauhati High Court has directed that only the Government-appointed Kazis can register Muslim marriages and issue the 'Marriage Registration Certificates'. The Court has asked other Kazis to follow the order in its letter and spirit

Proposal

Amendment in the Qualification criteria for the post of Kazi and provision of reservation of women in the post.

Objective

To bring an attitudinal change amongst the Society of Muslim Women.

Main Activities

1. Amendment of ASSAM MOSLEM MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES REGISTRATION RULES, 1935 for inclusion of women having LLB Degrees as the qualification for the post of Kazi or as decided by the authority

Submitted by

Md. Mujammil Ali

7002742593

The MoM of the Public Consultations held in the following districts were not sent by the concerned authorities, despite repeated requests and reminders: Jorhat Golaghat, Tezpur, Goalpara, Nagaon and Guwahati.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, CHAR AREAS DEVELOPMENT ASSAM
HENGRABARI ROAD, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6.

NO.CADA .235/2021-22/208

Dated Dispur, the 8th December /2021.

From : Director
Char Areas Development, Assam.
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

To : The Deputy Commissioner
Jorhat/Golaghat/Nagaon

Sub : Public consultation on Women Empowerment of Indigenous Assamese Muslim Society(ALAAP ALOCHANA)

Ref : CADA-235/2021-22/9/1335-38, Dtd.15/11/2021,

Sir/Madam,

In inviting a reference to the subject and letter number cited above, I have the honour to request you to send the Minutes of the Public consultation held in your district on the scheduled dates as indicated under reference. The written recordings/ minutes of the meeting are required for preparation of the report to be submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam by the Sub-Group /Committee under Women Empowerment.

Matter may kindly be treated as urgent.

Yours faithfully

Director
Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

Memo NO.CADA .235/2021-22/208/1457-62 Dated Dispur, the 8th December /2021.

Copy to :

- 1) ✓ Dr. Nazrana Ahmed, Chairperson of Sub-group/Committee on Women Empowerment for information & necessary action.
- 2) P.S. to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Welfare of Minorities & Dev. Deptt. for kind appraisal of Addl. Chief Secretary.
- 3) The Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Welfare of Minorities & Dev. Deptt. Dispur for information.

Director
Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, CHAR AREAS DEVELOPMENT ASSAM
HENGRABARI ROAD, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6.

NO.CADA .235/2021-22/209/1487-56 Dated Dispur, the 8th December /2021.

From : Director
Char Areas Development, Assam.
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

To : The Deputy Commissioner
Lakhimpur / Sonitpur (Tezpur)

Sub : Public consultation on Women Empowerment of Indigenous Assamese Muslim
Society(ALAAP ALOCHANA)

Ref : CADA-235/2021-22/9/1404-07, Dtd.1/12/2021.

Sir/Madam,

In inviting a reference to the subject and letter number cited above, I have the honour to request you to send the Minutes of the Public consultation held in your district on the scheduled dates as indicated under reference. The written recordings/ minutes of the meeting are required for preparation of the report to be submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam by the Sub-Group /Committee under Women Empowerment.

Matter may kindly be treated as urgent.

Yours faithfully



Director
Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

Memo NO.CADA .235/2021-22/209

Dated Dispur, the 8th December /2021.

Copy to :

- 1) Dr. Nazrana Ahmed, Chairperson of Sub-group/Committee on Women Empowerment for information & necessary action.
- 2) P.S. to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Welfare of Minorities & Dev. Deptt. for kind appraisal of Addl. Chief Secretary.
- 3) The Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Welfare of Minorities & Dev. Deptt. Dispur for information.


Director
Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6.

WOMAN EMPOWERMENT
Of Indigenous Assamese Muslim Community

