CHAPTER 2

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURS IN NER AND ASSAM: CONCEPT, FEATURES AND MOTIVES

In this chapter, the topic “Ground Level Institutional Finance to Trained Entrepreneurs of Assam: A Critical Appraisal.” has been described with an introductory note and its need in a particular area i.e. the district of Sivasagar, Assam. It has been observed that there are a lot of educated unemployed youths in the district of Sivasagar. Some of them have proper training in different fields and some may not have. It is also observed that there is not enough scope for employment opportunities before the government to utilize such a huge man power. Therefore, it is essential to study and analyze the root cause of the problem which has faced by our unemployed youths. Keeping in view all the aspects, this chapter has been introduced to discuss about the entrepreneurial environment in NE India, Assam and especially in the study area.

The basic objective of this chapter is to define various conceptual terminologies/ definitions of entrepreneurship used in this study as well as to find out the research gap through the literature review discussed in chapter one. Moreover, an attempt has been made in this chapter to highlight the entrepreneurial activities in the study area as well as Assam and NE region. A historical glimpse of Assam has also been presented to have a clearer view of the study area.

To achieve these objectives of the chapter, as per the queries, the query as to whether socio- economic factors are favourable or not in the study area to set up new agricultural and allied and non farm sector enterprises by the trained entrepreneurs has been investigated.
2.1 Brief history of Assam

Assam has a place of pride among the North Eastern States of India. The North Eastern region (hereafter NER) of India is a treasure house of resources and at the same time a store house of diverse problems. The NER of India is situated at North Eastern Himalayan sub-region. It is comprised of eight states namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The NER is connected with the rest of the country through a narrow strip of land in West Bengal linking Assam. NER is covering an area of a little over 25.5 million hectares which is nearly 8 per cent of the total area of the country. The region shares a long international boundary, almost 98 per cent with China and Bhutan in the North, Myanmar is the east and Bangladesh in the west. The total population of the region is 39 million (as per 2001 census) which accounts for 3.8 per cent of the total population of India. The states of NER are renowned for its bio-diversity, hydro electricity potentials, oil, gas, coal, tea, limestone, and forest resources. But in spite of high potentialities, the states of NER have been occupying lower ranks in the development scenario of the entire country.

The name 'Assam' is derived from the term "Asom" which in Sanskrit, refers to unequal or unrivalled. The uneven topography of the land, full of hills, plains and rivers might therefore, have contributed to her name. A land of about 25 million people, the principal language of Assam is Assamese, although a number of other languages are spoken. Assam is famous for one horned rhinoceros.

Assam is the land of hills, valleys and the land of the mighty river Brahmaputra. It is a land where everywhere there are flowers that are exquisitely beautiful, animals that are rare and beleaguered people who are proud and hospitable (The Bodos- A demographic profile, Dibrugarh University, 2005, p. 2-3).
The structure of population in terms of age and gender reflects the socio-economic life of the people. As per census report, 2001, 87.3 per cent of the total populations of Assam live in rural areas and 59.43 per cent rural families of Assam are below poverty line. The rural sex ratio is higher (939) than the state average (932) sex ratio. On the other hand, the rural women literacy rate is lower (52.25) than the average state women literacy rate (56.03%). Moreover, Assam's Human Development Index (HDI) rank within India is 26th and Gender Related Development Index (GRDI) is 29th in 2001. The density of population is 340 per square km and the credit deposit (CD) ratio in Assam was only 33.08 per cent against the 58 per cent of all India average on 3.6.2001. The number of SHGs formed in Assam is 1, 12,353 and SSI units owned by women is 11752 and 1.11 of the total percentage (Economic Survey, Assam, 2009-10).

The Table 1(A) shows the structure of population (A Preview of the Study Period) in Assam.

### Table 2.1(A). Population of Assam, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>2,66,38,407</td>
<td>1,37,87,799</td>
<td>1,2850,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(51.76%)</td>
<td>(48.24%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2.1(B). Total Population of Assam, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total Persons</th>
<th>Total Males</th>
<th>Total Females</th>
<th>Sex ratio (Females per 1000 males)</th>
<th>Population Density (per Sq Km)</th>
<th>Decadal Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>31169272</td>
<td>15954927</td>
<td>15214345</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>16.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census 2001 and 2011*
2.2 Historical Background of Sivasagar

Sivasagar is the 21st administrative district of Assam located in the easternmost part of Assam. Sivasagar, earlier known as Rongpur was the headquarters of the East-India Company. Sivasagar was the capital of the mighty Ahoms who ruled Assam for more than six hundred years, before the advent of British. In the year 1913, the headquarters was shifted to Jorhat by the East-India Company and a sub-division was established in Sivasagar. After seventy years, it was declared as a separate district on 1st July 1983. The district headquarter is located in Sivasagar. It consists of three sub-divisions viz., Sivasagar, Nazira and Charaidew. Modern Sivasagar is a fast developing urban settlement and a leading tea and oil producing centre. It is situated in upper Assam and surrounded by Arunachal Pradesh in the east, Nagaland in the south, Dibrugarh in the north and Jorhat in the west. The district lies between 26°40' and 26°55' North latitude and 94°31' and 94°51' East longitude. The total geographical area of Sivasagar District is 2668 sq. km. out of which 2637.85 sq. km covers rural Sivasagar and 30.15 sq. km covers urban Sivasagar. According to 2001 census report the population of Sivasagar District is 10,51,736 out of which 5,45,476 are male and 5,06,260 are female. Out of the 7, 48,322 total literate persons, 3, 22,266 are female and 4,26,056 are male. The sex ratio of Sivasagar District is 928 per 1000 male. The female work participation rate in Sivasagar District has decreased from 33.4 per cent in 1991 to 29.6 per cent in 2001. The total number of women self help groups in Sivasagar District is 729 and the number of multipurpose women co-operative society is 118. In Sivasagar, 71 small industries have registered in 2008-09 under industrial policy of NE, 2007 and in 2009-10 this went down to 33. On the other hand, under Directorate of Industries and Commerce the number of small scale industries registered was 3013 up to 31-12-04. According to Central Handloom Census Report 1996 the total number of women
The total numbers of agricultural establishments are 1047 and non-agricultural establishments are 38245 which are generating employment to 3055 and 100745 persons respectively. Total number of registered women enterprises in Sivasagar District as on 2000 was 1003 and number of employment provided by these enterprises was 2679 in 2000. The number of weaver training centres in Sivasagar District is 4. About 498 numbers of women entrepreneurs' availed loan through Prodhan Mantri Rojgar Yozona from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 and the number of weavers benefited under Mahatma Gandhi Bunker Bima Yozona in 2009-10 are 8852.

There are six revenue circles, 16 police stations, 13 police outposts, 4 fire stations, 4 municipal boards, 2 town committees, and 4 assembly constituencies in Sivasagar district. There are 9 (nine) development blocks in the Sivasagar Zilla Parishad covering 20 Gaon Panchayats with 866 inhabited and 12 uninhabited villages. These blocks cover 118 Gaon Panchayats and 24 Mouzas. The river Brahmaputra flows through the North Western part of the district. There are some important rivers in the district such as Dikhow, Dishang, Darika, Namdang etc. Instead of rivers, there are so many streams, ponds in the district such as Sivasagar Pukhuri, Joysagar Pukhuri, Gaurisagar Pukhuri, Nitai Pukhuri, Purani Pukhuri, Ligiri Pukhuri, Tenga Pukhuri, Sa-
Dhuwa Pukhuri etc. All were dug by Ahom kings. (District Statiscal Deptt. Sivasagar, Govt. of Assam).

Map (Sivasagar District)
2.2.1 Sibsagar

Sibsagar was the capital of the mighty Ahoms, who ruled Assam for more than six hundred years till the advent of the British. 'The Ocean of Shiva' is the literal meaning of the name, strewn with telltale ruins of a powerful empire. The most remarkable landscape of the town is the Sibsagar tank comprising 129 good acres. Although situated within the heart of the town, the water level of the tank is above the level of the town. On its bank are three temples- Shivadol, Vishnudol and Devidol, all built by Queen Madambika, the wife of Shiva Singha in 1734. The Shivadol is believed to be the highest Shiva temple in India. Its height is 104 feet and the perimeter is 195 feet, at the base.

2.2.2 Kareng Ghar and Talatal Ghar

A seven-storeyed palace having three storeyes underground known as Talatal Ghar and the upper storey known as Kareng Ghar situated a few km away from the main town of Sivasagar and built by King Rudra Singha (1696-1714). There were two underground tunnels from the Talatal Ghar connecting Dikhow River and Gargaon palace, which were later blocked by the East India Company.

2.2.3 Gargaon Palace

The Gargaon Palace is situated at Gargaon which is also at a distance of 10 km away from Sivasagar town.
2.2.4 Rang Ghar

There is a two storeyed oval shaped pavilion situated at Rangpur, the ancient capital of Ahom Kings and from which Ahom royalty watched elephant fights and other sporting events. It was built in the eighteenth century.

2.2.5 Joysagar Tank and Temples

The tank was built by King Rudra Singha in memory of his mother Joymati, a martyr in 1697 at Rangpur. It covers an area of 318 acres. Three temples were built on its banks in 1698 by the same monarch. They are the Vishnu Temple, Shivadol and Devidol.

2.2.6 Gaurisagar Tank and Temples

The eighteenth century tank, dedicated to goddess Durga, is of 150 acres and on its bank stands the Devidol, Shivadol and Vishnudol.

2.2.7 Rudrasagar Tank

The Rudrasagar Tank was built in 1773. On its bank stands a Shiva Temple.

2.2.8 Charaideo

The first capital of the great Ahom kingdom, built by Sui-Ka-Pha, in the thirteenth century, is 28 kms east of Sibsagar town. It is famous for the maidams (or the
burial vaults) of the kings and other royal members. The Sui-Ka-Pha park with a modern look is there to get the tourists delighted in the strange surroundings.

Sibsagar (now renamed as Sivasagar) is one of the most industrialized districts in comparison to many other districts of Assam. It is one of the important commercial towns in the eastern part of Assam. Sivasagar is one of the largest oil producing districts of Assam. Due to urban setup and establishment of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL), the process of industrialization was started in Sivasagar District. Oil deposits are mostly found in Gelakey, Lakuwa, Rudrasagar, Nazira etc. The crude oil industry plays a very significant and decisive role in the overall growth, economic development, industrialization and urbanization of the district as a whole. The Sivasagar district endowed with the gifts of nature, attracted attention of the British in the early period of the nineteenth century and from the last part of the 19th century the tea, coal, oil and other related industries have created the present industrial atmosphere of the district. Moreover, the district produces a sizeable amount of paddy, potato, brinjal, cabbage, rape-seed and mustard, pulses, sugarcane, beans, chilies, orange, ginger; fruits etc.

Sivasagar was an agriculture dependent district during the Ahom period, yet the economy was marked by a circulation of variety of goods produced by the skilled artisans. During the post-independence period, the cottage and small scale industries had been developed with joint effort of government and the enthusiastic local people. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited was established in 1956. Assam Assets head quarter is in Nazira, sixteen kilometers away from Sivasagar. Sivasagar is also the branch office of ONGCL. After the establishment of ONGCL's Assam Asset in Sivasagar the industrialization and urbanization process started rapidly. (Tiluttama Chetia, Rongpur Rongpur, Souvenir, 59th session of Xahitya Xava).
As per the land utilization statistics for the year 2007-08 (Provisional), the total reporting area of the State was 78.50 lakh hectares. Out of the total reporting area, net sown area constitutes 35.1 per cent (27.53 lakh hectares), 23.6 per cent under forest, land not available for cultivation 24.35 lakh hectares or 31.0 per cent of the total reporting area and other uncultivable area was 4.32 lakh hectares or 5.5 per cent. While fallow land constitutes 2.4 per cent of the total reporting area with around 1.86 lakh hectares, land under still water and water logged area jointly constitutes 1.78 lakh hectares or 2.27 per cent. The area under Social Forestry was only 0.13 lakh hectares or 0.16 per cent of the total reporting area.

The gross cropped area recorded decrease to 38.39 lakh hectares in 2007-08 from 38.96 lakh hectares in 2004-05. The area sown more than once, while recorded 5.0 per cent decrease with 10.86 lakh hectares during the year 2007-08 over the figure of the area sown more than once in 2004-05, the net cropped area remained at the same level during the year 2007-08 as it was in 2004-05 (27.53 lakh hectares).

Thus, it is revealed from the above that the ratio of area sown more than once to the net area sown was 39.45 per cent during the year 2007-08 as against 41.52 per cent during 2004-05. During the year 2003-04, the area sown more than once was 43.75 per cent in 2003-04. The ratio of net sown area to gross cropped area, on the other hand, was calculated at 71.71 per cent during the year 2007-08 as against 70.66 per cent in 2004-05.

In ancient times, all Assamese women knew how to weave and it was mandatory for everyone to learn the art of weaving. The women of Sivasagar are distinctive in their dresses. They wear a mekhela, a riha, a chadar made from silk and cotton fabrics with beautiful designs of indigenous art, which are woven by the women at home looms. All these features have been found in Sivasagar since its inception. In
the beginning of the twentieth century the cloth requirements of every family of Sivasagar were secured from the family handloom. But with increasing competition from cheaper mill made cloth and changing dress pattern, the family handloom now supplies only a few special varieties of clothes for women and some for social and religious purposes. Even then in rural areas, women still depend on hand made clothes, woven from mill made yarns. As handloom clothes are mainly for family needs, there is very little trade therein.

Table 2.2. The number of handicrafts artisans in the North Eastern States of India, 2004-05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of States</th>
<th>In Lakhs</th>
<th>Percentage of Artisans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>0.15 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2.07 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>4.01</td>
<td>5.55 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>1.44 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.10 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>1.80 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>3.64 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Survey Manipur 2008-09

Since the turn of the century, the status of women in Sivasagar has been changing due to growing industrialization and urbanization, spatial mobility and social legislation. Over the years, the number of women in higher education, technical and professional education and their proportion in the labour force has also increased.
With the spread of education and awareness, women of Sivasagar district have shifted their activities from the kitchen, handicrafts and traditional cottage industries to non-traditional higher level of activities.

During the seventies, the decade of the international women's efforts to promote self employment among women received greater attention from the govt. and private agencies. The new industrial policy of the Govt. of India has laid special emphasis on the need for conducting special entrepreneurial training programme for women to enable them to start their own ventures.

Various government and non-government organizations are coming forward for making women empowerment movement a success through entrepreneurship development.

2.3 Concept of Entrepreneur

One of the major characteristics of an under developed economy is the lack of entrepreneurial activities. Assam is also an underdeveloped state. As such, entrepreneurial activities are also negligible. Entrepreneur and entrepreneurship are the real change agents of any economy right from the inception of production through industries.

An entrepreneur is a person who has possession of a new enterprise, venture or idea and is accountable for the inherent risks and the outcome. The term was originally borrowed from French and was first defined by the Irish-French economist Richard Cantillon (18th century, French Economics). Entrepreneur in English is a term applied to a person who is willing to launch a new venture or enterprise and accept full responsibility for the outcome. Jean-Baptiste Say, a French economist, is believed to
have coined the word "entrepreneur" in the 19th century. He defined an entrepreneur as "one who undertakes an enterprise, especially a contractor, acting as intermediary between capital and labour".

The term 'Entrepreneur' was first used by Cantillon, which was applied initially to business activities. 'Entrepreneur' originates from French. The word 'Entreprendre' means 'to undertake'. The entrepreneur leads the firm or organization and also demonstrates leadership qualities by selecting managerial staff. Management skill and strong team building abilities are essential leadership attributes for successful entrepreneurs. Scholar, Robert B. Reich considers leadership, management ability, and team-building as essential qualities of an entrepreneur. This concept has its origins in the work of Richard Cantillon in his Essai sur la Nature du Commerce en (1755) and Jean-Baptiste Say (1803 or 1834) in his Treatise on Political Economy. Entrepreneurs emerge from the population on demand, and become leaders because they perceive opportunities available and are well-positioned to take advantage of them. An entrepreneur may perceive that they are among the few to recognize or be able to solve a problem. Joseph Schumpeter saw the entrepreneur as innovators and popularized the uses of the phrase 'creative destruction' to describe his view of the role of entrepreneurs in changing business norms (Desai, 1996).

According to Peter Fdrucker "entrepreneur is one who maximizes opportunity. Later he said, indeed entrepreneurs are a minority among new business, they create something new, something different, that is, they change or transmulate."

The most significant influence on an individual's decision to become an entrepreneur is workplace peers and the social composition of the workplace. Entrepreneurs also often possess innate traits such as extroversion and a propensity for risk-taking. According to Schumpeter, an entrepreneur characteristically innovates,
introduces new technologies, increases efficiency, productivity, or generates new products or services. An entrepreneur acts as a catalyst for economic change and research indicates that entrepreneurs are highly creative individuals who imagine new solutions by generating opportunities for profit or reward.

There is a complexity and lack of cohesion between research studies that explore the characteristics and personality traits of, and influences on the entrepreneur. Most studies, however, agree that there are certain entrepreneurial traits and environmental influences that tend to be consistent. Although certain entrepreneurial traits are required, entrepreneurial behaviours are dynamic and influenced by environmental factors. Shane and VenKataraman (2000) argue the entrepreneur is solely concerned with opportunity recognition and exploitation; however, the opportunity that is recognized depends on the type of entrepreneur which Ucbasaran et al. (2001) argue there are many different types dependent on their business and personal circumstances.

Psychological studies show that the psychological propensities for male and female entrepreneurs are more similar than different. Perceived gender differences may be due more to gender stereotyping. There is a growing body of work that shows that entrepreneurial behavior is dependent on social and economic factors. For example, countries which have healthy and diversified labor markets or stronger safety nets show a more favorable ratio of opportunity-driven rather than necessity-driven women entrepreneurs. Empirical studies suggest that women entrepreneurs possess strong negotiating skills and consensus-forming abilities.

In modern concept, an entrepreneur can be defined as an individual who intends to add value to the economy by creating a new business venture through the able utilization of his knowledge, passion, dreams and desires.
2.4 Concept of Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship is a complex phenomenon. It relates to entrepreneurs, his/her vision, and implementation. The key player is the entrepreneur. It is an important determinant of the industrialization process and the entrepreneur has significant contribution in the development of modern and innovative society.

Fig. 1.

2.5 Features of Entrepreneurship

There are some features seen among entrepreneurs in India.

- Women form less than 13 per cent of the trainees in Entrepreneurship Development Programmes.
- Location of the site for business is invariably based on proximity to the home.
- Difficulties are encountered by women as compared to men at initial stage, especially in terms of family problems, provisions of collateral security, lack of technical training and marketing.
- Visible differences in certain characteristics normally associated with entrepreneurs such as passive versus energetic, non competitive versus competitive, private versus social.
2.6 Motives of Entrepreneurship

Some factors influencing entrepreneurs are:

- Challenges and aspiration for something new or possessing innovative skills.
- Desire to have an independent occupation
- Responsibility thrust due to death or incapacitation of near relation.
- To supplement the family income.
- Tax benefits for self and relatives.
- Special qualification attained for running a business/concern.
- The business culture of the family.
- Find out new ideas that one is convinced about.

2.7 Preferred area for trained entrepreneurs

The following are the areas where trained entrepreneurs have started participating in large numbers

- Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture.
- Dairying and animal husbandry.
- Fisheries.
- Home based industries like handicrafts, beedi industry, agarwatti making, tailoring, and garment Industry.
- Pottery and Blacksmithery, Doll making.
- Jewellery, Beauty parlour, Textile Printing
• Electronics, chemicals, and food processing.

• Nurseries and Crèches.

• Stationary products. (Dr. Ram, 1978)

2.8 Women Entrepreneurs in India

In India, entrepreneurship among women is very limited in the formal sector. Mostly women find self employment in the home based informal sector which is not accounted in official statistics. Therefore, contributions of women entrepreneurs in the national economy in the past were unknown. The female work participation rate is very low both in urban and rural areas. Although, there is a slight increase in the women
The following table indicates the female work participation rate in India:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Total Rural/urban</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>52.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Census of India, Govt. of India.

In India, according to all India women Entrepreneurs Directory, 1998, the number of women entrepreneurs in different states of India is 1469. But, at present this number has increased to 18848.
The Table 2.4 indicates the number of unit run by women entrepreneurs in different states of India. The table shows that number of women entrepreneurs is very negligible in relation to male entrepreneurs. States like Kerala, Punjab, Gujrat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have shown development in this line. But other states including NER has shown no sign of improvement in women entrepreneurial activities.

**Table 2.4. Women entrepreneurs in different states of India (2004-2005)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>No. of Unit</th>
<th>No. of registered entrepreneurs</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>9618.00</td>
<td>2930.00</td>
<td>30.36 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttarprodeash</td>
<td>7980.00</td>
<td>3180.00</td>
<td>39.84 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerela</td>
<td>5487.00</td>
<td>2135.00</td>
<td>38.91 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>4791.00</td>
<td>1618.00</td>
<td>33.77 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharastra</td>
<td>4339.00</td>
<td>1394.00</td>
<td>32.12 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Female share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujrat</td>
<td>3872.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>39.72 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>3822.00</td>
<td>1026.00</td>
<td>26.84 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>2967.00</td>
<td>842.00</td>
<td>28.38 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other states and union territories</td>
<td>14576.00</td>
<td>4185.00</td>
<td>28.71 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>57452.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>18848.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>32.82 per cent</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: GOI, Ministry of S.S.I, Annual Report, 2004-05*

### 2.9 Entrepreneurs in the NER

Entrepreneurship among the people is not a recent phenomenon in the NER. The handicrafts and village and small scale industries of NER had a glorious past and were a main source of employment for many rural people. From the view point of diversity of population, the NER is a miniature India with different ethnic, religious, and racial groups of composite culture, customs, and tradition. In north east India, more people are involved in income generating activities than other parts of the county. There is enough potential for developing entrepreneurship among people in this region. They would however, require help and guidance to take up entrepreneurial activities. Among the full time weavers in the NER, 82.26 per cent are women weavers. Women of NER are mainly engaged in trade and business activities. The market in NER especially in the state of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland etc. are mostly controlled by women. All India Congress of SSI unit revealed that in NER, 12.05 per cent of the enterprise are managed by women as against the national figure of 7.7 per cent. A statement showing
the DRDA physical achievement industrial self employed person in Assam published in 2001-02 reveals that out of the total 6084 self enterprises, women constitutes 1221 units.

Percentage of male and female enterprise in the different states of NER is mentioned below. Table IV shows the Percentage of women entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas of the different states of NER.

Table 2.5. Percentage of male and female enterprise in NER (2005-2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Male Rural</th>
<th>Male Urban</th>
<th>Female Rural</th>
<th>Female Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>34.48</td>
<td>48.28</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>11.496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>49.41</td>
<td>30.59</td>
<td>7.06</td>
<td>12.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>16.52</td>
<td>68.08</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>11.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>41.77</td>
<td>42.27</td>
<td>11.24</td>
<td>4.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>7.69</td>
<td>65.63</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>24.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>52.45</td>
<td>41.92</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>44.01</td>
<td>22.96</td>
<td>23.74</td>
<td>9.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>40.46</td>
<td>46.07</td>
<td>7.85</td>
<td>5.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>39.83</td>
<td>51.85</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Govt. of India, Ministry of SSI Annual Report 2005-06

From Table 2.5, we have seen that in Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Assam, the number of female entrepreneurs are remarkable. One of our seven sisters (now eight sisters), Manipur has created a history by setting up all women markets in Moreh, Bishnupur and its capital Imphal. The entire markets are dominated by women.
Participation of women in small scale industries is also very low in NER. The role of small medium scale industries can hardly be over emphasized in NER, because they are employment oriented, less capital intensive, favorable for equitable distribution of income, use of latest resources etc. So, entrepreneurship development among the people in NER is the need of the hour to solve unemployment, alleviate poverty and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the region.

The participation of women in small scale industries in NER is mentioned in the Table 2.6.

**Table 2.6. Participation of Women in SSI Sector (2005-06)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Unregistered</th>
<th>Registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprise managed by women</td>
<td>Women enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>8434</td>
<td>9980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>2346</td>
<td>3007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>3018</td>
<td>2929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>9241</td>
<td>9716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>880780</td>
<td>926187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Govt. of India, Ministry of SSI, Annual Report 2005-06

From the Table 2.6, it is seen that, registered women enterprises are highest in Assam followed by Manipur. So, Assam and Manipur has a place of pride
among the NER of India. Women of NER today are not only involved in the traditional
works in making pickles, garments, weaving, embroidery etc., they have also entered
into many new and challenging fields of activities, such as electronics, opening of
fashion designing institutes, processing of cement craft and fiber and cloth from banana
tree etc.

2.10 Entrepreneurs in Assam

The following data has been incorporated to have a preview of the study
period i.e. 2002-2005.

Out of the 5,82,873 enterprises in Assam, 18,227 enterprises are found
under agricultural activities while 5,64,646 enterprises are found in non-agricultural
activities, the percentage being 3.13 and 96.87 respectively.

The overall growth rate of enterprises during the period 1990-98 is
estimated at 2.06 per cent against the all-India growth rate of 2.23 per cent. Among the
districts, Tinsukia records the maximum growth rate followed by N. C. Hills and
Kamrup.

Out of the total enterprises, 3.99 lakh are located in the rural areas while
1.84 lakh are in urban areas. The growth rate in urban areas is maximum in Tinsukia
district followed by Darrang and Nalbari.

Almost 18,000 enterprises constituting 3.13 per cent are engaged in
agricultural activities as per Economic Census 1998. The share of agricultural
enterprises against total enterprises as per Economic Census 1990 was 3.25 per cent.

21.99 lakh workers constituting 3.38 per cent of total workers of all -
India level are working in all enterprises. The annual growth rate of workers in the State
during the period 1990-98 is 3.35 per cent which is much higher than that of the all-India growth rate of 1.30 per cent. Tinsukia registers the highest growth rate followed by Goalpara and Golaghat. It is only in Darrang District that a negative growth rate of workers has been observed.

Out of the total workers, 15.85 lakh are working in rural areas. The growth rate during the period 1990-98 is 4.43 per cent per annum against the all-India growth rate of 1.62 per cent per annum. Dibrugarh witnesses the maximum growth rate followed by Cachar and Golaghat. Negative growth rate has been observed in the districts of Hailakandi, Kamrup and Darrang.

In urban areas the number of workers is 6.14 lakh which constitute 27.91 per cent of total workers. The growth rate of workers per annum in urban areas during the period 1990-98 is only 0.93 per cent, which is less than that of all-India level. Maximum growth rate has been recorded in Tinsukia followed by Darrang. Negative growth rate have been found in the districts of Karbi-Anglong, Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Sibsagar, Sonitpur and Cachar.

In Assam, women entrepreneurship started in 1980. The number of women entrepreneurs’ who have set up small scale unit till 1989 was 715 only and at present it is 15757.

The coming of women to run enterprises is a positive development and in this regard. Meghalaya leads the NE states as 30.78 per cent of the units are managed by women, the same being 20.59 per cent for Assam.

In Assam the SSIs owned by women is 11752 and per cent of total percentage is 1.11. The success story of Kanaklata Mohila Cooperative Urban Bank, Jorhat is a bright example of women entrepreneurship in Assam. (Economic Survey, Assam 2001-02).
The figures mentioned above reflect the total involvement of entrepreneurs in entrepreneurial activities in the districts of Assam in different fields or activities prior to the study period. This has been done in order to bring about a comparison between the entrepreneurial activities of the previous as well as the period of study covered.

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- Dr. Sanjay Tiwari and Dr. Anshuja Tiwari, “women entrepreneurship and Economic Development.” Sarup and Sons, New Delhi, 2007.
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• All India women Entrepreneurs Directory 1998.