Preface

Women are the wheels of a nation; by all means they can be very effectual agents of change for a better home, society and ultimately a better economy. Empowering women is now-a-days a growing concern among developing countries like India. If the operation of social and economic change has to be guaranteed it is the women who have to be mobilised and this will lead the nation towards progress and prosperity. Without the participation of women a nation or a society cannot achieve its inclusive growth and development of the economy. Though the Constitution of India is based on the principle of liberty, fraternity, equality and justice to all citizens but, unfortunately these affirmations are only in the Constitution. Men and women are still living in an unequal world. So, it is of utmost necessity to empower women as they form a large component of human resources of our country. Empowerment will help them in capacity building leading to greater participation in decision makings which can serve as a powerful instrument to achieve upward social and economic mobility and achieve power and status in society.

The study attempts to examine the socio-economic status of women in Barak Valley and to investigate the problems that women are facing in Barak valley. The study also aims to construct Women Empowerment Index (WEI) and attempts to study the rural-urban disparities of women empowerment in Barak Valley. The study also focuses on the interrelationship and its degree between women empowerment and economic development and finally it evaluates how far the programmes and policies for empowerment of women taken by the government have proven successful in raising the status of women in Barak Valley.
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