Preface

Now-a-days women play a vital role and actively contribute to the promotion of socio economic development in various capacities like housewife, mother, teacher, nurse, labour, officer, doctor, scientists etc. But it is unfortunate that because of inertia, ignorance, illiteracy and sometime conservatism, the potential role of women in the society has been ignored by preventing them from making their rightful claim and contribution to socio economic progress. Therefore it is now recognized that the status of women in the society continues to be inferior to men. They have not been given equal rights in social, economic, as well as political fields. The necessity of improvement of various statuses of women has now been recognized all over the world as important aspects of national progress and development. It is also fact that without providing proper opportunities of productive employment and education, the problem of women’s poverty can not be solved.

In this presence study an attempt has been made to study the education, employment, occupation, savings, decision making role, government benefits, property and assets owned by women, maternity benefits, women’s health care center and mortality rate etc. of women of South Assam region both in urban and rural areas. The study revealed the imbalances in various sectors of gender inequality and their impact on the socio economic development which have also been investigated and discussed.
A critical appraisal of governments various policies and programmes relating to development opportunities for women of this region has also been covered and discussed. The results of the study show that women of this region had meager scope for taking part in different development programmes and enjoy low status especially in the rural areas. Under utilization pattern of family savings, it has been observed that a good number of capable respondents are in favor of investing their savings on bank deposits and house construction. Some invested their personal money on their own purchases and also purchases concerning child care and education and also in times of crisis they support their families by giving money to their male counter folk.

The first chapter introduces the subject “Feminization of Poverty” where the significance of feminization of poverty along with objectives, hypothesis and methodology of the study discussed. The second chapter proposed to make a survey of all the relevant literature on the subject. The next chapter discusses the “Theoretical and Conceptual Frame Work of the Study”. The analysis of background of poverty and women in India is presented in the forth chapter. The fifth chapter deals with the micro level data for the three districts of South Assam both through Primary as well as Secondary analysis. The next chapter discusses the determinants of poverty among women and status of women in South Assam region. The seventh and the last chapter consists of summarizes of the discussion and conclusions along with some suggestions.