## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgement</th>
<th>i-ii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>xv-xviii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Figures</td>
<td>xix- xxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Photograph</td>
<td>xxii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Appendices</td>
<td>xxiii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHAPTER - I : INTRODUCTION 1-26

1.1 Statement of the problem 2-11
1.2 Review of Literature 11-12
1.2.1 International Status 12-16
1.2.2 National Status 16-19
1.2.3 Regional Status 19-20
1.3 The Present Study 20-20
1.4 Research Question 20-20
1.5 Objectives 21-22
1.6 Significance of the Study 22-22
1.7 Organization of the thesis 22-24
1.8 Definitions of certain terms behind the problem to be addressed 24-26
CHAPTER - II : METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sampling Plan
  2.1.1 The first stage of sampling plan
  2.1.2 The second stage of sampling plan
  2.1.3 The third second stage of sampling plan

2.2 Sampling tool
  2.2.1 Design of the Survey Schedule
  2.2.1.1 Questionnaire for the household’s survey
    2.2.1.1.1 Basic information
    2.2.1.1.2 Housing condition
    2.2.1.1.3 Facility available in the households
    2.2.1.1.4 Land resource and agricultural products
    2.2.1.1.5 Household amenities
    2.2.1.1.6 Social aspects
    2.2.1.1.7 Daily work load
    2.2.1.1.8 Decision making
    2.2.1.1.9 Access to health facilities and status of women’s health
    2.2.1.1.10 Access to educational facilities
    2.2.1.1.11 Perception
  2.2.1.2 Questionnaire for the Self-Help-Group
    2.2.1.2.1 Basic information
    2.2.1.2.2 Functioning of Self-Help-Group
    2.2.1.2.3 Access of loan to women members
    2.2.1.2.4 Investment, expenditure and income
2.2.1.2.5 Time management 39-39
2.2.1.2.6 Training 39-39
2.2.1.2.7 Access to schemes facilities 39-39
2.2.1.3 Schedule for gaon Panchayats women 39-40
2.2.1.3.1 Basic information 40-40
2.2.1.3.2 Status of the women members 40-40
2.2.1.3.3 Awareness about the welfare programmes 40-40
2.2.1.3.4 Awareness of basic knowledge in Political field 40-40
2.2.1.3.5 Participation in panchayats related issues 40-41
2.2.1.3.6 Women empowerment through involvement in gaon
   panchayats 41-41
2.2.1.3.7 Difficulties faced by the women members 41-41
2.3 Data analysis 41-41

CHAPTER - III : GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND 42-107
OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 Geographical background of Kamrup district 42-42
3.1.1 Geographical background of Boko C.D. block 43-43
3.1.1.1 Physical Setting 44-44
3 .1.1.1.1 Relief 44-45
3.1.1.1.2 Geology 45-45
3.1.1.1.3 Soil 45-46
3.1.1.1.4 Drainage 46-47
3.1.1.1.5 Climate 47-49
3.1.1.1.6 Natural vegetation 49-49
3.1.1.7 Flora and Fauna 50-51
3.1.2 Cultural Setting of Boko C.D. Block 51-51
3.1.2.1 Agriculture 51-53
3.1.2.2 Infrastructural facility 53-53
3.1.2.2.1 Transport and Communication 53-54
3.1.2.2.2 Educational facility 54-55
3.1.2.2.3 Health facility 55-57
3.1.2.2.4 Drinking water facility 57-57
3.1.2.3 Demographic profile 57-58
3.1.2.3.1 Growth of population 58-58
3.1.2.3.2 Density of population 59-59
3.1.2.3.3 Description of Schedule Tribe population 59-60
3.1.2.3.4 Description of Sample villages 61-61
3.1.2.3.5 Occupation 62-63
3.2 Geographical background of Chandrapur C.D. block 63-63
3.2.1 Physical setting 63-64
3.2.1.1 Relief 64-64
3.2.1.2 Geology 64-65
3.2.1.3 Soil 65-65
3.2.1.4 Drainage 65-66
3.2.1.5 Climate 66-66
3.2.1.6 Natural vegetation 66-67
3.2.1.7 Flora and Fauna 67-68
3.2.2 Cultural Setting of Chandrapur C.D. block 68-68
3.2.2.1 Agriculture 68-69
3.2.2.2 Infrastructural facility
3.2.2.2.1 Transport and Communication
3.2.2.2.2 Educational facility
3.2.2.2.3 Health facility
3.2.2.2.4 Drinking water facility
3.2.3 Demographic profile
3.2.3.1 Growth of population
3.2.3.2 Density of population
3.2.3.3 Description of Schedule Caste population
3.2.4 Description of Sample villages
3.2.5 Occupation
3.3 Geographical background of Hajo C.D. block
3.3.1 Physical setting
3.3.1.1 Relief
3.3.1.2 Geology
3.3.1.3 Soil
3.3.1.4 Drainage
3.3.1.5 Climate
3.3.1.6 Natural vegetation
3.3.1.7 Flora and Fauna
3.3.2 Cultural Setting of Hajo C.D. block
3.3.2.1 Agriculture
3.3.2.2 Infrastructural facility
3.3.2.2.1 Transport and Communication
3.3.2.2.2 Educational facility
3.3.2.3 Health facility

3.3.2.4 Drinking water facility

3.3.3 Demographic profile

3.3.3.1 Growth of population

3.3.3.2 Density of population

3.3.3.3 Description of Char community population

3.3.4 Description of Sample villages

3.3.5 Occupation

3.4 Geographical background of Kamalpur C.D. block

3.4.1 Physical setting

3.4.1.1 Relief

3.4.1.2 Geology

3.4.1.3 Soil

3.4.1.4 Drainage

3.4.1.5 Climate

3.4.1.6 Natural vegetation

3.4.1.7 Flora and Fauna

3.4.2 Cultural setting of Kamalpur C.D. block

3.4.2.1 Agriculture

3.4.2.2 Infrastructural facility

3.4.2.2.1 Transport and Communication

3.4.2.2.2 Educational facility

3.4.2.2.3 Health facility

3.4.2.2.4 Drinking water facility

3.4.3 Demographic profile
3.4.3.1 Growth of population 94-94
3.4.3.2 Density of population 94-94
3.4.3.3 Description of General Caste population 94-95
3.4.4 Description of Sample villages 96-96
3.4.5 Occupation 96-96
3.5 Geographical background of Sonapur C.D. block 97-97
3.5.1 Physical setting 97-97
3.5.1.1 Relief 97-98
3.5.1.2 Geology 98-98
3.5.1.3 Soil 98-99
3.5.1.4 Drainage 99-99
3.5.1.5 Climate 99-100
3.5.1.6 Natural vegetation 100-101
3.5.1.7 Flora and Fauna 101-101
3.5.2 Cultural Setting of Sonapur C.D. block 101-101
3.5.2.1 Agriculture 102-102
3.5.2.2 Infrastructural facility 102-102
3.5.2.2.1 Transport and Communication 102-103
3.5.2.2.2 Educational facility 103-103
3.5.2.2.3 Health facility 103-103
3.5.2.2.4 Drinking water facility 103-103
3.5.3 Demographic profile 104-104
3.5.3.1 Growth of population 104-104
3.5.3.2 Density of population 104-105
3.5.3.3 Description of Tea community population 105-106
CHAPTER - IV : EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

4.1 Women Literacy Rate in the identified C.D. blocks 109-111
4.1.1 Variation in women literacy rate among the villages of the identified C.D. blocks 111-114
4.1.2 Women Literacy rate in the sample villages 114-116
4.1.3 Educational attainment of the women members in the selected households of the sample villages 116-118
4.2 Gender Gap in literacy 118-121
4.3 Women literacy rate and Work participation rate in the identified C.D. blocks 121-121
4.4 Access to Developmental programmes related to Educational empowerment of women 122-122
4.4.1 Various schemes for Educational empowerment of women 122-125
4.4.2 Access to various facilities under educational empowerment schemes 125-134
4.4.3 Access to Rights at home 134-137
4.5 Inter variable relationship of educational empowerment of women 137-138
4.5.1 Decision Making Index for Women Empowerment 138-141
4.5.2 Variation in Decision Making Index 141-141
## CHAPTER - V : ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

5.1 Women and work participation 143-144

5.1.1 Women work participation, Boko C.D. block 144-145

5.1.2 Women work participation, Chandrapur C.D. block 145-145

5.1.3 Women work participation, Hajo C.D. block 146-146

5.1.4 Women work participation, Kamalpur C.D. block 146-147

5.1.5 Women work participation, Sonapur C.D. block 147-147

5.2 Access to developmental programmes related to economic empowerment of women 147-148

5.2.1 Access to Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yajana (SGSY) and Self-Help-Group 148-150

5.2.2 Access to Udisha scheme 150-151

5.2.3 Access to Swa–Shakti Scheme 151-151

5.2.4 Access to join Sale centers / Gramyashree Mela 151-152

5.2.5 Access to Nabow/ Baidew scheme 152-153

5.3 Formation of women Self Help Groups in the identified C.D. blocks 153-154

5.3.1 Functioning of women Self- Help-Groups (SHGs) in the Sample villages 154-155

5.4 Access to Micro-credit by women SHGs: The scene from the identified C.D. blocks 155-158

5.4.1 Access to credit by the women SHGs: The scene from the sample villages 158-160
5.4.2 Access to internal credit by the individual women members of the SHGs 160-161

5.5 Access to subsidy by the women SHGs, The scene from the identified C.D.blocks 162-162

5.5.1 Access to subsidy, the scene from the sample villages 163-163

5.6 Economic Activity adopted by women SHGs in the identified C.D. blocks 163-165

5.6.1 Economic activity adopted by the women SHGs in the sample villages 166-169

5.7 Access to training by women SHGs in the identified C.D. blocks 169-171

5.7.1 Access to training by women SHGs in the sample villages 171-173

5.8 Impact of Self-Help-Groups in the empowerment as perceived by women respondents 174-176

5.9 Inter variable relationship of economic empowerment of women 176-177

5.9.1 Variation in Decision Making Index for economic empowerment of women 177-177

CHAPTER - VI: POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN 178-199

6.1 Panchayati Raj Institutions in Assam 179-180

6.1.1 Assam panchayat Act, 1994 180-182

6.1.2 Reservation for Women 182-183
6.2 Participation of women in panchayats  183-184
6.2.1 Participation of women in Goan Panchayat level 184-184
6.2.2 Participation with respect to Religion and Caste 184-186
6.2.3 Participation with respect to Age and Marital status 186-188
6.2.4 Participation with respect to Education and Leadership 188-190
6.3 Awareness level of Gaon Panchayats women 190-190
6.3.1 Awareness in developmental programmes 190-190
6.3.2 Awareness of basic knowledge in political field 192-193
6.3.3 Awareness on social weakness 193-193
6.4 Participation in Panchayat related issues 194-196
6.5 Difficulties faced by women 197-197
6.6 Women empowerment through involvement in gaon panchayats 198-199

CHAPTER – VII : WOMEN EMPOWERMENT WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH  200-238

7.1 Access to facilities related to health 203-203
7.1.1 Drinking water facilities 203-205
7.1.2 Sanitation facilities 205-206
7.1.3 Access to Ventilation facilities 206-206
7.1.4 Access to Lighting facilities 206-207
7.1.5 Access to Household amenities 207-208
7.2 Access to Health centres 208-209
7.3 Marital status, marriage age and health 209-212
7.4 Women as home maker 213-214
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.4.1</td>
<td>Women’s household work and health</td>
<td>214-217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.2</td>
<td>Access to fuel for cooking</td>
<td>217-219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.3</td>
<td>Access to cooking facilities and health</td>
<td>219-221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Access to developmental programmes on health for empowering women</td>
<td>221-221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.1</td>
<td>Access to Anganwadi facilities</td>
<td>221-222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.2</td>
<td>Access to ASHA</td>
<td>222-223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.3</td>
<td>Access to Janani Suraksha Yojana</td>
<td>223-224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Women and motherhood: Reproductive health of women</td>
<td>224-225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.1</td>
<td>Access to family planning measures</td>
<td>225-226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.2</td>
<td>Access to facilities during delivery</td>
<td>226-229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.3</td>
<td>Access to free medicine</td>
<td>230-233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.4</td>
<td>Access to financial assistance</td>
<td>233-233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.5</td>
<td>Access to Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)</td>
<td>233-234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.6</td>
<td>Access to ASHA workers</td>
<td>234-235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>Prevalence of Social weakness with respect to health</td>
<td>235-236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>Inter variable relationship of women empowerment with respect to health</td>
<td>236-237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8.1</td>
<td>Variation on factors of women empowerment with respect to Health</td>
<td>237-238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER – VIII : SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION  239-261**

References : 262-274
Appendices : 275-299