CHAPTER VII
SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

The present topic “A Study of Women’s Higher Education in the Valley Areas of Manipur” has analyzed the development of women’s higher education in Manipur since statehood as well as in the valley areas of Manipur since 2002-03 upto 2011-12 in terms of number of women enrolment for higher education.

In the first chapter, the background of the study which includes a brief about Manipur and description of the study mainly the objectives of the study, research questions, rational of the study, delimitations were presented.

The second chapter constituted a brief of review of related literature so as to analyze the various aspects of women’s higher education in the country as well as in some other countries in the world.

In the third chapter, development of women’s higher education in Manipur since statehood is drawn. Also the development of women’s higher education in each four valley districts is presented systematically including the development of women’s higher education in the valley areas (combined).

In the fourth chapter, methodology of the study was described.

In the fifth chapter the analysis and interpretation of the data collected was made using percentage as a technique of the study.
In the sixth chapter major findings of the study, recommendations and suggestions were given. Also, the conclusion of the study was made.

In the seventh chapter a brief summary of the study is highlighted.

**Introduction:**

It is true that the progress of a nation can be due to a great extent by the advancement in the status of its womenfolk as they form a vital part of the society. Human development undoubtedly covers all – men and women. Women constitute roughly one half of the population of our country and the world. Many realize the significance and importance of women's varied role in the society.

Women are the builders of a nation right from the early days in their homes and it is at their hands that children receive their first education. They are not only teachers of children performing all the tasks but they also take part in various socio–economic activities. In regard to the importance of women’s education, Pratibha D. S. Patil, the honorable President of India said in her speech at the 58th Convocation of SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai, 2009, that “Educated women can be an effective voice for articulating women related causes. They can be the voices in the fight against social evils like female feticide, child marriage, dowry and addictions, as well as against the discrimination and biases that exists in the society against women. They can be the advocates for improved working conditions for women, gender equality and welfare of women. Educated women can help other women to become self-reliant and self-confident. They can counsel
other women as well as share their experiences about carrier choices, employment opportunities, and business enterprises and also in matters like nutrition and childcare. If the women of India work in this collective and collaborative spirit, change would be inevitable and change would be that which recognizes, in full measures, the talent and potential of women.”

Women’s higher education helps in moving the family and society in higher strata and developed the nation in better ways. Education enables women to acquire basic skills and abilities and foster a value system which is conducive to raise their status in society. They also represent valuable human resources and play an important role in the development of the community and national economy. Educated women can easily understand and adjust to the environment from time to time accordingly.

Profile of Manipur:

Manipur, one of the states in the states situated in the North-Eastern Region of India, is an isolated hill-girt state stretching between 92°58′E to 94°45′E longitudes and 23°42′N latitudes. It is a charming place encircle by nine hill ranges on all sides with a small and beautiful oval shaped valley at the centre. The state has 352 kms. long border with Burma (Myanmar) to the south-east and 502 kms. long border with the adjacent states of Nagaland on the north, Cachar District of Assam on the west and Chin Hills (Myanmar) and Mizoram on the Upper Chindwin of Myanmar (Burma) on the East. The altitude of the state above the mean sea level varies from 790 meters to 2020 meters. It has a salubrious climate.
Manipur lost her independence to the British India in the year 1891. From 1892 onwards it became a princely native state under the political control of Government of British India. Accordingly, the administration of the state came under the influence of a political agent by vesting all executive power in him. This British Paramountcy continued till 1947 in which India got independence.

According to a merger agreement signed on 21st September, 1947 between Maharaja Budhachandra, the then king of Manipur and the Government of India, the state was merged into Part “C” state on the 15th October, 1949 and administered by the President of India through a Chief Commissioner. Manipur ceases to be part “C” state on 1st November, 1956 and became a Union Territory under the Union Territorial Council Act, 1956. The Territorial Council consisting of 30 elected members and 2 nominated members was constituted on 16-08-1957. However, the Territorial Council was replaced by a territorial Legislative Assembly of 30 elected members and 2 nominated members from 23-07-1963. Manipur became a full – fledge state within the Indian Union with a Governor as the Head of the state on the 21st January, 1972 and the members of the Legislative Assembly was increased to 60. The first popular Ministry, after attaining statehood, was installed on March 20, 1972.

Manipur has a geographical area of 22,327 sq. kms. which constitutes 0.7 percent of the total land surface of India. Ninety percent (90%) of the total geographical area of the state i.e. 20,089 sq.kms. is covered
by hills, the remaining area is a small valley covering only 2,238 sq. kms. and accounting for only one-tenth of the total area of the state which is shown in following table 1.1.

**Table No. 7.1**

**Geographical Area of Manipur**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Area (Sq.km)</th>
<th>Headquarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>3,271</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>4,391</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>4,570</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>4,544</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>3,313</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hill Total</strong>=</td>
<td><strong>20,087 sq.km</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>Porompat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>Lamphelpat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Valley Total</strong>=</td>
<td><strong>2,238 sq.km</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census of India 2011*
Education in Manipur:

Education is a lifelong process by which an individual acquires and accumulates knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights. It starts from the cradle and ends at the grave for an individual. And life experiences are given to child through the informal agencies like family, social groups (clubs, associations, political parties, literary circle, debating societies, library, mass media radio, television, cinema, museum, tour etc. and also through the agencies of formal education such as schools, colleges, universities etc.

The literacy rate has increased from 11.4% in 1951 to 32.9% in 1971 and also 68.87% in 2001. The overall literacy rate of the state according to 2011 census is 79.85% of which 86.49% are male and 73.17% are females. The female literacy rate has been increased rapidly. The improvement of literacy rate in the state can be seen in the following table 1.4.

Table No. 7.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total PC</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rational of the Study:

Education has been perceived to be a significant instrument in improving the status of women and consequently there have been efforts to improve the access of girls and women to education. In the past, there were no colleges for higher education (till 1945). Women have to go outside the state for their further higher education. Therefore, only a few number of women from well-to-do family attended higher education at that time. But women in Manipur participated in many socio-economic activities such as agriculture, health care, professional and technical and also in the movement for the upliftment of the society. The problems of unemployment in the state can also be improved through professional and technical education among women. But there is lack of adequate number of professional and technical institutions. Looking at this situation, the investigator felt to investigate the problems of women students attending these colleges and institutions. With the advancement of knowledge, educated women can actively contribute
towards the removal of social unrest such as alcoholism, drug addiction, insurgency, etc. The state government specially the Education Department should concern to see effective and honest implementation of plans and policies so as to create a value based education and to improve a society where women can perform their duties peacefully. A society can be developed only when women are developed through education. In order to develop the society and state, women’s higher education should be imparted and should be given top priority. Women’s higher education is the most effective means for accelerating the progress of the society and nation by giving empowerment to them with the access of higher education.

Considering the above facts and justification there is a need for undertaking an explorative study on women’s higher education in the state of Manipur especially in the valley areas. The study will give a significant contribution in the study of women’s status and women’s higher (general, professional and technical) education. The Government and public at large will be benefited to make proper plans, policies and programmes for uplifting women education in both the rural and urban areas of Manipur on the basis of the research findings. Keeping in view of this, the investigator felt very strongly to undertake the investigation on the study of women’s higher education in Manipur with reference to the Valley areas.

**Statement of the Problem:**

The statement of the problem is entitled as “A Study of Women’s Higher Education in the Valley Areas of Manipur”.
Operational Definition of the Key Terms Used:

The terms used in stating the problems are operationally defined as follows:-

(a) **Women Education**: Women education refers to the education imparted to women. In the proposed study, women pursuing undergraduate, post-graduate and research levels are included. Here the term ‘girls’, ‘women’ and ‘female’ will be used synonymously.

(b) **Higher Education**: Higher Education means general, professional and technical education provided at undergraduates, post-graduates and research levels.

(c) **Valley Areas**: Valley Areas are popularly known as valley districts of Manipur. It covers four (4) districts i.e. Imphal – East, Imphal – West, Bishnupur and Thoubal Districts of Manipur. Here, ‘valley areas’ and ‘valley districts’ will be used synonymously.

Delimitation:

The study is delimited to Manipur University, all the general colleges, professional and technical institutions affiliated to Manipur University located in the valley areas of Manipur.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the present study are:-

1. To study the development of women’s higher education in the valley areas of Manipur since statehood (1972).
2. To find out the enrolment pattern of women’s higher education in General, Professional and Technical colleges and the Manipur University in the valley areas of Manipur.

3. To study the opinion of women students towards higher education (general, professional and technical) in the valley areas.

4. To find out the problems of women students attending higher education in the General, Professional and Technical Colleges and the Manipur University with reference to:
   A. Infrastructures
   B. Financial
   C. Social
   D. Academic.

5. To find out the opinion of policy makers (Director of Higher Education, Vice Chancellor etc.) towards women’s higher education.

6. To suggest measures for improvement of women’s higher education in the valley areas of Manipur.

**Research Questions of the Study:**

The research questions of the present study are as follows:

1. What is the development of women’s higher education in Manipur since statehood?

2. What is the enrolment pattern of women’s higher education in the General, Professional and Technical colleges and the Manipur University?
3. What are the opinions of women students towards higher education (general, professional and technical)?

4. What are the problems faced by women students in General, Professional and Technical Colleges and the Manipur University regarding - infrastructure, financial, social and academic problems?

5. What are the opinions of policy makers towards women’s higher education?

6. What can be done to improve of women’s higher education in the valley areas of Manipur?

**Methodology:**

Descriptive survey method is adopted in the present study.

**a. Population:**

For the present study, the population included of all the women students studying in higher education institutions (general, professional and technical colleges and Manipur University) which is residing in the Valley areas of Manipur. The population of the present study is shown in the following table:

**Table No. 7.3**

*Population of Women Students in the Valley Districts of Manipur*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. no.</th>
<th>Name of the districts</th>
<th>Type of colleges</th>
<th>No. of colleges</th>
<th>Total no. of Colleges/University</th>
<th>No. of women Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Govt.</td>
<td>Aided</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional &amp; Technical</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Random sampling technique is used to select the sample. The sample of the study consisted of 1000 (10%) women students which includes of 600 from 18 general colleges, 200 from 8 professional and technical colleges and 200 from the Manipur University. The following table shows the sample of the study:

**Table No. 7.4**

Sample of the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. no.</th>
<th>Name of the districts</th>
<th>Type of colleges</th>
<th>Govt.</th>
<th>Aided</th>
<th>Privat e</th>
<th>Total no. of Colleges/U niversity</th>
<th>No. of women Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional &amp; technical</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional &amp; technical</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:
(i) College Statistics 2009-10, published by CDC, Manipur University.
(ii) Department of University and Higher Education, Government of Manipur, 2009-10
* NA- Not available
Out of 1000 women students only 800 (8%) responded to the questionnaires even though the investigator went many times to collect the questionnaires they did not responded. Out of which 500 women students are from 18 general colleges, 150 each women students are from 8 Professional & Technical Colleges and 15 departments of Manipur University.

**Tools of the study:**

The following tools were used for data collection.

A. A separate sets of questionnaire were developed for the following:

   i) Principals of the general, professional & technical colleges.

   ii) Women students of general, professional and technical colleges and the Manipur University.

B. An Interview schedules were developed for:

   i) Vice Chancellor of Manipur University

   ii) University Authority i.e. (a) Dean of Students’ Welfare, (b) Finance Officer (c) Director College Development Council

   iii) Director of University and Higher Education (Government of Manipur).

   iv) Controller of Technical Education (Government of Manipur).
Try Out:

The questionnaires were first tried out among women students, principals of different colleges and different heads of department of Manipur University of the selected sample. When the responses received, they were analyzed and did slight modification to the questionnaires.

The investigator felt necessary to ensure experts view and comments, therefore, the modified questionnaires were given to different experts of department of education for their comments and suggestions for improvement of the same. Their suggestions were accepted and tools were ready with minor modification.

Administering the Questionnaire:

While administering the questionnaires, the investigator herself went to different colleges and different departments of Manipur University included in the sample of the study. The students were made to understand the questions included in the questionnaire and the purpose of the study. Also responses were used only for research work (purpose) and their responses would be kept as confidential.

Administering the Interview Schedule:

Before administering the interview schedules, the interviewee (respondents) were personally contacted and took an appointment. While administering the interview schedule following points were kept in mind:

(a) The interviewee was made comfortable and free during the interview session.
(b) The interviewees were helped for recalling the actual things happened by giving prompts/ideas/points wherever necessary.

(c) Extended thanks and gratitude to the respondents (interviewees) for his/her kind co-operation.

Collection of Data:

Keeping the objectives in view, besides the above tools, consultation of various primary sources such as reports, records and any Governments publications on women and higher education were consulted. Moreover, other secondary sources i.e. books, journals, magazines were also consulted from several libraries connected with women’s higher education (general, professional and technical) in Manipur.

Analysis of Data:

After collecting data from various sources i.e. (a) tools (b) primary sources and (c) secondary sources, it was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Percentage was used as a statistical technique for analyzing the data.

Main Findings of the Study:

Objective 1: To study the development of women’s higher education in the valley areas of Manipur since statehood (1972).

With the attainment of statehood in the year 1972, the study revealed that only 25.9% of female students at the college level and 33% of female students at university level were enrolled in Manipur in 1972-73. In the year
1975-76, the study found that the enrolment of female students reduced to 29.8% and 29.2% both at the college and university level. But the percentage of women students for their higher education rose to 37.5% and 42.6% in the year 1980-81. In the year 1985-86, the enrolment of female students in the colleges increased to 45% but it was only 37.3% at the university level. Also it is revealed that 42.7% and 45.3% of female students were enrolled both at the college and university level in 1990-91. With the establishment of Central Agricultural University (CAU) at Imphal, 40.8% and 44.4% of female students at the college and university level in the year 1995-96. The study revealed that in the year 2000-01, the enrolment of female students in higher education reached 46.8% and 48.3% at college and university level of Manipur.

The study also found out that in the year 2002-03, 50.2% and 45.5% of female students in the colleges of four valley districts and Manipur University were enrolled. It is also seen that the enrolment of women students had reduced to 46.9% and 44.4% in the colleges & Manipur University while 48.9% and 44.3% of women students were enrolled in 2008-09. In the year 2011-12, the study found that 47.7% and 49.6% of women students were enrolled both in the colleges and Manipur University of valley areas of Manipur. Comparing the 10 consecutive years i.e., 2002-03 to 2011-12, it is found that the female students’ enrolment for their higher education had decreased except Manipur University in 2011-12 which reached 49.6% of women enrolment.
Objective 2: To find out the enrolment pattern of women higher education in the general, professional & technical colleges and the Manipur University of valley areas of Manipur.

Among the overall enrolment pattern of women higher education in the colleges of general, professional & technical colleges, 37% of colleges followed selection tests, 33.3% of colleges followed merit basis and 22.2% of colleges followed open admission and only 7.4% of colleges followed first come first serve basis. Manipur University followed only selection test for the enrolment of students. The findings of the study showed varied pattern towards women enrolment in the higher education institutions.

Objective 3: To study the opinion of women students towards higher education (general, professional & technical colleges and Manipur University) in the valley areas of Manipur.

The study revealed that in the general colleges of valley areas of Manipur, majority (87.8%) of women student’s objective of studying higher education is to make better life of present and future. With regards to preference of institutions for higher education, majority (72.4%) women students preferred only girls’ institutes. None of the women students preferred residential institutes in the general colleges of valley areas of Manipur. The study found out that majority (71.4%) of women students in the general colleges of valley areas of Manipur desired to continue for higher education. The study also revealed that majority (84%) of women students felt that higher is a must for women as they get respect and appreciation in
the family and society as well. Regarding the semester system, (almost half) 46% of women students are in favour of semester system as it provides good academic atmosphere.

In the professional & technical colleges of valley areas of Manipur, majority (87.3%) women students are actively pursuing higher education with a view to make better life for the present and future. Almost all women students from professional & technical colleges in the valley areas of Manipur opted higher education just not to complete the degree but to develop the economic and employment status in the state. With regards to preference of institutions of their choices 54% of women students expressed their preference to co-educational institutes’ type. Moreover, in Manipur there are no women colleges/institutions of such type. Similarly, women students from professional & technical colleges do not preferred residential institutes. The study revealed that there were 60.7% of women students from the professional & technical colleges in the valley areas of Manipur who are willing to continue higher education. None of the women students from professional & technical colleges would like to get married after their courses. The findings of the study showed that majority (74.7%) of women students from professional & technical colleges are in favour of higher education of women as it gets respect in the family and society. Regarding semester system, 44.7% of women students from the professional & technical colleges of valley areas of Manipur preferred semester system as it provides good academic atmosphere.
Among the women students studying in the Manipur University, almost all (94.7%) women student’s objective of studying higher education are to make better life of the present and future. None of the women students from Manipur University opt higher education just to complete the degree. Regarding preference institutions from women students of Manipur University, majority (84%) of women students preferred co-educational institutes for their higher education. None of the women students from Manipur University opt for residential institutes for their higher education. The study also revealed that 51.3% of women students are willing to try for job after completing their courses. The study also found out that 58% of women students from Manipur University felt that higher education is must for women as they get respect in the family and the society. Regarding semester system, the study also revealed majority (75.3%) of women students from Manipur University are in favour of semester system as it provides good academic atmosphere.

**Objective 4:** To find out the problems of women students attending higher education in the General, Professional and Technical Colleges and the Manipur University with reference to:

a. Infrastructure 

b. Financial 

c. Social 

d. Academic
The study found out that in the general colleges of valley areas of Manipur, all the colleges (100%) have its own building out of which only 33.3% of general colleges provided girl’s hostel. But almost half (44.4%) of colleges in the valley areas of Manipur have inadequate sanitation. Regarding classroom conditions, the study revealed that all the colleges (100%) have good and satisfactory size of the classroom, lecture stand, blackboard, desks and benches while majority of the general colleges faced electricity problem. With regards to library, all the general colleges (100%) have its own library with books, newspaper and issuing facility. It is found out that only 38.9% of general colleges do not have photocopying facility whereas 61.1% colleges do not have internet facility in their library. Also, 55.6% and 38.9% of general colleges do not provide journals and newspaper in their library respectively.

Regarding infrastructure problems of professional & technical colleges, the study highlighted that all the colleges (100%) have its own building out of which only 25% of colleges provides girls’ hostel. The study found out that 50% of colleges faced the problem of inadequate playground, sanitation and water facility but only 37.5% of professional & technical colleges have inadequate laboratory and auditorium. With regards to classroom conditions, the study revealed that all the professional & technical colleges (100%) in the valley areas of Manipur have good and satisfactory classroom conditions but only 37.5% colleges faced electricity problem. Regarding library, it is revealed from the study that all the colleges (100%)
have its own library with sufficient reading rooms, newspaper and issuing facility in their library. But only 12.5% professional & technical colleges do not provide photocopying facility, internet and journals in their library.

Regarding the infrastructure of Manipur University, the study showed that Manipur University have enough building, good and satisfactory classroom conditions, library with enough books, journals magazines, etc., and adequate photocopying facility in the library.

Regarding the financial problems of women students from general colleges of valley areas of Manipur, the study revealed that almost all (92.2%) female students is financed by their parents while 69% of women students are getting scholarship out of which 1.8% are getting merit scholarship and the remaining 67.2% are getting SC/ST/OBC scholarship. From the general colleges of valley areas of Manipur, 49.8% (half) female students reported that they faced financial problem during the course of their study.

In the professional & technical colleges of valley areas of Manipur, almost all (91.3%) women students are financed by their parents. The study highlighted that 58.7% of women students availed scholarship out of which only 4% are getting merit scholarship. From the professional & technical colleges, 43.3% of female students reported that they face financial problem during the course of their study.

The findings of the study revealed that almost all (92.7%) women students from Manipur University are financed by their parents. The study
also found that women students’ availed of scholarship opportunity at minimum level. Hence, female students reported that they faced financial problem during the course of their study.

With reference to the social problems women students from the general colleges, all (99.2%) women students got favourable attitude from their parents regarding their study. Similarly, majority (84%) of them revealed that they have friendly and cordial relationship with their classmate. Majority (79.8%) of women students from general colleges felt free to express their opinion in front of their male classmates.

Regarding social problem of women students from professional & technical colleges, the study showed that all (100%) the women students got favourable attitudes from their parents. Majority of them (89.3%) reported that they have friendly and cordial relationship with their classmates. Similarly, 82% (majority) of them felt free to express their opinion in front of their male classmates.

The study found out that all (100%) women students from Manipur University got favourable attitudes from their parents for their study. Regarding relationship with their classmates, majority (87.3%) of them have friendly and cordial relation with their classmates. And also majority (82%) of them felt free to express their opinion in front of their male classmates.

With reference to academic problems of women students from general colleges, majority (85%) of them revealed that they did not face any difficulty problem during the course of their study. Similarly 89% (majority)
of them revealed that they got enough time for study at home. Also, majority (81.8%) women students had proper guidance at home.

The findings of the study found out that almost all (90%) of women students from professional & technical colleges did not find difficulty problem during the course of their study. Also, almost all women student (96%) got sufficient time for study at home. Similarly, majority (86%) of them revealed that they got proper guidance at home.

Regarding the academic problems of women students from Manipur University, the study revealed that almost all (89.3%) women students did not face any difficult problem during their course of study. Almost all women students (93.7%) from Manipur University got sufficient time for their study at home. Similarly, majority (78.7%) of them reported that they got proper guidance at home.

**Objective 5: To find out the opinion of policy makers (Director of Higher Education, Vice Chancellor etc.) towards women’s higher education.**

All the policy makers like Vice Chancellor of Manipur University, Dean of Students’ Welfare, Director, College Development Council, Director of University and Higher Education, Controller of Technical Education are in favour of women’s higher education in the state. They have given their opinion towards women’s higher education as below:

1. For the appropriate/ proportionate development of both sexes and for a good standard of living, higher education is must for women.
2. Education makes women aware about the rights and duties and can join together with men for social and economic upliftment of the society.

3. Women should have full knowledge in every aspect of life which can be achieved only through higher education.

4. The more education is provided to women, the better society would be and faster development in all fields of the society and the state.

**Suggestions and Recommendations for the Improvement of Women’s Higher Education in the Valley Areas of Manipur.**

The researcher suggested following measures for the improvement of women’s higher education in the valley areas of Manipur:-

1. Professional & Technical colleges should be established in each district of Manipur to fulfill the desire of professional & technical education.

2. There should be some relaxation of marks for the enrolment of women students both in colleges and Manipur University.

3. Regular inspection and supervisory practices should be made by the competent authority.

4. Number of adequate teaching staff and faculty members should be appointed timely.

5. Construction of building should be checked timely to maintain quality by the authorities.
6. Every institution should provide girls’ hostel.

7. Proper electricity should be provided in all the colleges/institutions/universities.

8. Photocopying facilities should be available at minimum within the campus of the institutions.

9. Internet facilities should be available free of cost within the campus of the institutions.

10. Updated books. Journals and magazines should be kept in the library.

11. Departmental libraries should be opened as far as possible.

12. Essential instruments and chemicals of the laboratory should be provided in time.

13. Financial assistance like scholarships, free tuition fee should be given specially for female students.

14. Free and compulsory education should be provided upto college level especially for female students.

15. Awareness should be given to parents so that they can encourage their daughters to go for higher education without fail especially in the rural and hilly areas of Manipur.

16. Proper attitude of both teachers and parents in dealing with female students is also significant as they are very emotional.

17. Women students should be motivated to have research minded and developing scholarly attitude.
18. Special classes should be made periodically is necessary so that students can improve their weakness.

19. Counseling should be done periodically in each institution among the female students so that they can express their opinion freely.

20. The teaching should be attractive and tactful according to the needs of the students.

**Suggestions for Future Researcher:**

The investigator of the present study viewed that it would be worthwhile to put some suggestions which might be helpful in carrying out the further research in the similar area by future researcher.

Following studies can be made by the future researcher:-

1. The same study can be extended to the whole districts of Manipur.

2. Comparative study can be made between valley and hill districts of Manipur.

3. A study on performance of women students in the colleges of Manipur.

4. A similar study can also be done girl’s education in the primary and secondary level of education.

5. A study on awareness programmes of women education in the rural areas of Manipur.

6. Problems of women teachers in Manipur University.
7. A study on development of women’s colleges in Manipur.
8. Issues and trends of higher education in Manipur.
9. Problems of drop-out women students in higher education.
10. Problems and prospects of women’s higher education in Manipur.
11. Performance of women students in Manipur University.
12. Women’s higher education in the professional & technical education.
13. Similar study can be done in the hill areas of Manipur.
14. Comparative study of women’s higher education in the Manipur University and Central Agricultural University.
15. A study on management of women’s higher education in Manipur.
17. Attitude of women students towards higher education in the valley areas of Manipur.

Conclusion:

Education enhances women’s empowerment and it begins with the awareness about their rights and capabilities and understanding as to how the socio-economic and political forces affect them. Almost all the works of the family except the heavier ones are done by women in Manipur. The markets both in hill and valley (both in rural and urban) areas are dominated by them.
It is also a clear example that Manipuri women take more important role in household maintenance. They are simple, courteous, mild and peace living. But they can become ferocious in case their rights are suppressed by others/rulers. The clear examples are- First Women’s Movement (Ahanba Nupi Lal) of 1904 and Second Women’s Movement (Anisuba Nupi Lal) of 1939. Hence, their capabilities are very fantastic. Such women of distinctive qualities if they are well trained and well educated by giving higher education, how fast our society will be developed. Keeping the needs and importance of higher education in mind the policy makers of Manipur are opined that women’s higher education is must in the state as the more education is provided to women, the better the society would be and faster development in all fields of the society and the state.

Nowadays, Manipuri people have broad minded. Their old thinking that women should be within the four walls only has totally changed. Therefore, female literacy rate in Manipur reached upto 73.2% by 2011 census. But only 47.7% and 49.6% female students are pursuing higher education in the colleges of valley areas and Manipur University respectively. Manipuri women are brave and talented in all fields-like games and sports, cultural, economic and social life. Hence, higher education should be made compulsory for them in order to lead our society to the path of progress and prosperity very soon. They could successfully performed income generating activities and could lead children in the right path of life. In fact, women are the guiding light of children. Mahatma Gandhi, the father
of Nation observed in True Education that “The question of education of children cannot be solved unless efforts are made simultaneously to solve the women’s education.” Also, Dr. Radhakrishnan, the Second President of India has emphatically stated, “The position of women in any society is a true index of its cultural and spiritual level.” We have learnt that all the educationists and prominent figures of our nation know that the education of women is past and parcel for the development of a nation. By education, they meant ‘higher education of women’. An educated woman is the guiding light for children family members, society, state and the nation. Hence, it is rightly said ‘There is a woman behind the success of every man.’

The present study revealed that parents have equal favourable attitudes for the higher education of both their sons and daughter. Therefore, equal opportunity is provided to them to continue their study. But still the enrolment rate is little bit lower than that of male students. Therefore, there should be awareness programme, workshops, seminars and debates regarding women’s higher education so that more women students may enrol for higher education. Majority of the Manipuri women students do not face any social and academic problems during their higher education. Even though Government of India has introduced many schemes and special facilities for female students, still some of them face financial problem due to financial problems faced by their parents which affects to their daughters.

In order to make women’s higher education in Manipur best at National level, we, the people of Manipur should work together so that every
woman continue their higher education. Therefore, young women should be encouraged and motivated to pursue higher education without fail. Also, the Government of Manipur should introduced some attractive schemes like free tuition fee, special scholarship for women. And awareness should be given regarding the need and importance of higher education among women especially in the rural areas for more development of women’s higher education in Manipur.