

CHAPTER-VI

MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Education is very essential for human beings. It is education which helps an individual to develop personally, socially, vocationally, economically and at the same time helps to face all the problems in his/ her life. It plays a significant role in improving women's status and well-being in the society, developing their ability to make decision and widen their choices and become self-reliant. Therefore we can say that education helps an individual to develop himself or herself in various areas. The present chapter deals with the major findings of the study.

6.1. Major findings of the study:

The major findings of the study are:-

1. The study reveals that all the respondents (400) have completed their primary education and have got themselves admitted into middle school and 4 respondents discontinued their education after achieving their middle school pass certificate and 396 respondents have appeared in HSLC examination and 200 respondents discontinued their education after passing HSLC examination. Rest 196 respondents have gone for HS course and 20 respondents did not go for further studies after obtaining HS pass certificate. Then 176 respondents appeared in Degree course, out of which 130 respondents are satisfied with their graduation degree and discontinued their further education and remaining 46 respondents have completed their post graduation degree in different fields. It can be mentioned here that though the number of educational institutions are less yet Manipuri women are pursuing education. It is therefore discernible that the educational status of Manipuri women in the Cachar district of Assam is improving.

2. Regarding professional and vocational education the study shows that very less number of Manipuri women (3.91%) has attained B.Ed. degree and 50.00%, 16.40%, 14.84%, 10.94% and 3.91% of the respondents are having the skill in weaving, knitting, tailoring, computer course, beautician course respectively.

3. So far the reason behind acquiring education is concerned, the study shows that 32.00% Manipuri women are interested in acquiring education just to enhance their educational status in the society, 31.75% Manipuri women have expressed their interest in acquiring education to elevate their social status, 20.00% and 16.25% Manipuri women are interested in acquiring education just to secure a job and for gathering knowledge respectively.

4. With regard to factors that facilitate in attaining education of Manipuri women the study indicates that 39.25% respondents have agreed with the fact that they have attained education due to congenial environment; 32.00% respondents have admitted that their present educational status is due to their parental eagerness; teachers inspiration have helped 21.00% respondents to attain their present education and 7.75% have admitted that institutional facilities have helped them to achieve their present educational status.

5. As far as impediments in continuing education is concerned, the study shows that 44.00% Manipuri women did not succeed to continue their education due to domestic problem; financial hardship has made 35.75% Manipuri women to discontinue their education; due to lack of facility in schools/colleges 16.75% Manipuri women could not pursue further education and 3.50% Manipuri women fail to continue their education due to their parents' ignorance.

6. The study indicates that there lies a difference between the educational status of Manipuri and non Manipuri women. The percentage of Manipuri women attained middle schooling is very less in comparison to Non-Manipuri women. In HSLC, HS and graduation degree the percentage of educational attainment of both the communities is not satisfactory. It is because there is less number of schools where students can get their education. Moreover the few schools which are available suffer from dearth of trained teachers, proper guidance, learning materials, and sound communication system. In the study it has been found that in each block there is only one college. Therefore it is obvious that most of the students cannot get the

opportunity of admission to these colleges and the worst sufferers are the girls. Due to bad communication, conservative thinking of parents towards girls' higher education, lack of institutional facility in the area, interruption in studies due to household work, looking after the siblings etc., they were not able to continue their higher education. Regarding post graduation courses it has been found that the percentage of Manipuri women is higher than that of Non-Manipuri women. The reason behind it is that the respondents who had completed their post graduation course are financially sound than that of other Manipuri families. Not only this, the families they belong to are also very much optimistic towards girls' education, therefore they get the support for completing their higher education.

7. The percentage of professional and vocational courses attained by the respondents of both the communities is very low. Only a few respondents of both the communities have attained B.Ed. degree as a part of their professional degree. Though there are different courses of professional and vocational training but both Manipuri and Non-Manipuri women don't get much opportunity in pursuing them. The reasons behind it are lack of professional training institute nearby, financial problem, communication problem, conservative nature of the society and lack of awareness about the professional and vocational courses. Vocational education is the only way of educationally backward people to get self employed. Vocational courses include tailoring, weaving, knitting, beautician, and computer courses. In weaving the percentage of Non-Manipuri women is less than Manipuri women. This is mainly because of the fact that Manipuri women are highly skilled in weaving. Weaving is the most important craft and almost every housewife is capable of weaving all clothes needed for the family. In knitting, tailoring, beautician courses the percentage of Non-Manipuri women is more than Manipuri women.

8. As regards the reasons behind acquiring education is concerned, the study shows that women of both the communities are eager to attain education in order to raise their knowledge and social status. Occupational purpose stimulates Non-Manipuri women more in acquiring education than Manipuri women. Gaining knowledge motivates Manipuri women more in acquiring education than Non-Manipuri women.

9. Regarding factors that facilitate in attaining education is concerned, the study shows that the percentage of parental eagerness in attaining education of both the

communities is equal. The percentage of congenial atmosphere that facilitate in attaining education of non- Manipuri women is greater than Manipuri women. In case of Manipuri women the percentage of teacher's inspiration in attaining education is greater than Non-Manipuri women.

10. The percentage of parents' ignorance and financial hardship as an impediment in continuation of education is more in case of Manipuri women than Non-Manipuri women. This is because some Manipuri girls sacrifice their chance of getting higher education in order to promote their brothers to pursue higher studies by engaging themselves in traditional works like weaving, embroidery and other business suitable for them. But the percentage of domestic problem as a cause of discontinuation of education is more in case of Non-Manipuri women 278 (69.50%) than Manipuri women 176 (44.00%).

11. Regarding pattern of family the study reveals that 19.00% Manipuri women live in nuclear family and 81.00% Manipuri women live in joint family and most of the respondents (92.00%) live in below poverty level. Though most of the respondents live below poverty level but the study indicates that they are conscious about schooling and education because 50.00% of the respondents are having HSLC qualification, 32.50% respondents are having graduation degree, and 11.50% respondents are having post-graduation degree.

12. As far as the factors determine the social status of Manipuri women is concerned, majority of the respondents (23.00%) admitted that their social status is determined by their own educational proficiency and 18.75% respondents admitted that their social status is determined by the educational and social status of their father. 17.25% respondents admitted that their social status is determined by the education of their husband.

13. In connection with occupational status of Manipuri women the study indicates that 30.85% respondents are engaged in Govt. service, 21.89% respondents are engaged in private job and 47.26% respondents are self employed engaged in weaving, agriculture and household products. Those who are not engaged in any job among them 46.73% are students and 53.27% are unemployed. Majority of the respondents (32.34%) are earning less than Rs. 5000/= per month and only 1.49% respondents are earning more than Rs. 40000/= per month. All the respondents who are earning

opined that they are not satisfied with their income. It is also seen that higher educated women have a lofty income and enjoy high socio-economic status in the society while less educated women have a less income and face low socio-economic status in the society.

14. As regards the reasons behind joining the job is concerned, the study shows that 65.09% Manipuri women joined in job to supplement their family income, 34.91% Manipuri women joined in job to fulfill their personal needs. The study also shows that most of the Manipuri women (35.85%) are motivated by their husband in joining the job, 30.19% Manipuri women have given credit to their parents for inspiring them in joining the job, 17.92% Manipuri women mentioned that they are motivated by themselves in joining the job.

15. In connection with decision making of the family most of the Manipuri women (46.00%) admitted that their parents are the key decision makers in their family, 40.00% of the respondents are of the view that their husbands are the key decision maker in their family and only 14.00% of the respondents have viewed that in all the cases decisions are taken by both the husband and wife.

16. The study also indicates that none of the Manipuri women are members of any social organisation, Gaon Panchayat, any board of central or state govt. but it is worth to mention that Manipuri women regularly take part in various social functions.

17. Regarding attitude towards education, the study reveals that women of both the communities have favourable attitude towards education which is evident from the result of attitude scale taken under study where the mean value of Manipuri women is 86.83 and in case of Non-Manipuri women the mean value is 85.11 which appears to be almost equal. However, the result of 'Z' test has shown that women of both the communities differ significantly in their level of attitude towards education. Thus, we can safely conclude that the extent and degree of favourable attitude is much greater among the women of Manipuri community than that of their counterparts.

18. Regarding attitude towards professional education, the study shows that in comparison to Non-Manipuri women, Manipuri women exhibit greater degree of favourable attitude. They are in favour of self employment which might help them to earn, so this has cost the rural women to possess favourable attitude towards

professional education. Moreover, the trends of professional education also help to develop positive attitude towards education.

19. Regarding attitude towards separate schools for girls, the study shows that though Manipuri women exhibit more concern for separate schools for girls, but due to changing family structures, influence of science and technology and modernization, positive attitude towards co-education is also developing among the Manipuri women of rural areas. Therefore, a favourable attitude towards the opening of co-educational institution rather than the schools meant only for the girls has also been found among the respondents.

20. In the present study, it has been found that women of both the Manipuri and Non-Manipuri communities have considered girls' education is vital in present society. They are of the view that educated women can not only be a productive member of her domestic life but can immensely contribute to the socio-economic development of the society. But in the study, it has been found that the degree of favorable attitude in relation to the expenditure for girls' education is slightly higher in case of Manipuri women. Women of both the communities neither think that girl child are liability for their family nor they create any financial burden in their family.

21. The study also shows that women of both the communities are in favour of providing all types or streams of education to girls. Girls should not be discriminated on the basis of choosing available educational options. They should not be restricted to choose a particular stream or course of study whether it is Arts, Science or Commerce. The seeds of academic freedom and equality of educational opportunity can only be germinated well if girls are given enough scope and space for attaining all types of educational experiences according to their abilities and capacities.

22. In the present study, it has been found that according to the women of both the Manipuri and Non-Manipuri communities, home science course should be introduced at the school level of education.

23. So far problems in attaining education is concerned, the study shows that due to co-educational school 4.00% Manipuri women always and 68.50% Manipuri women sometimes face problem; due to negative attitude of teachers towards girls 5.75% Manipuri women always and 40.50% Manipuri women sometimes face problem and

due to poor road condition and frequent occurrence of road accident 65.00% and 40.00% Manipuri women sometimes face problem in attaining education. Antisocial activities on the way to school creates a problem to 8.50% Manipuri women always and 75.00% Manipuri women sometimes face problem in this regard. Due to existing prejudices against women education 3.75% Manipuri women always and 75.00% Manipuri women sometimes face problem in attaining education. From the study it is also found that due to poverty of family/ parents 2.75% Manipuri women always and 70.00% Manipuri women sometimes face problem; 43.00% Manipuri women sometimes face problem in attaining education due to inability to bear the expenses of stationary, textbooks, and school fee.

6.2. Conclusion:

The Indian sub-continent is progressing at a great pace yet the worst sufferers in every sphere of life are the women. The area that is the matter of concern for the researcher is no different. In the research entitled 'Educational Status of Manipuri Women in Cachar District', the researcher has made an elaborate survey among the Manipuri as well as the Non-Manipuri women in the four blocks of Cachar district namely- Udharbond, Sonai, Lakhipur and Narsingpur. According to the study, the educational backwardness of rural people is due to their traditional attitude towards female education. In the survey it has been found that the educational situation which had prevailed two decades earlier has improved slightly. At present though all the Manipuri women have completed their primary schooling but they have not continued their education upto higher level. The reasons behind such problems are that in rural areas the number of educational institutions are insufficient and the existing institutions do not fulfill the needs of the people, poverty of the family, parents' ignorance towards female education and other domestic problems. The shift of medium of instruction from Manipuri to English in the higher educational institutions distracts many Manipuri women from continuing education. Beside these, there may be more factors like father's educational level, low income, family size and occupation, which affect the education of daughters. Only a few Manipuri women have been found to have opted for higher education and professional studies. This has resulted because of the parents who are more literate have more desire for their

daughter's education and also because of those Manipuri women who realized that they would progress in their life through education. Earlier the Manipuri society was more inclined towards traditional skills than education but now the scenario has changed. At present, the new generation is found more interested towards education along with the traditional activities. The Manipuri women are skilled in weaving, knitting and handicrafts which help them to be self-employed. It has also been noticed that higher education, self employment and govt. / private jobs have not only made women financially independent but also have improved their status in the family as well as the society. It has decreased their vulnerability and increased their self dignity. Therefore, the researcher believes that in order to make the nation prosper, the govt. as well as the society should take active steps towards the establishment of higher educational institutions, institutions of vocational training, and professional studies in areas where people are deprived of these facilities. The women constitute half of the population of our country and hence, empowering those means assuring that the whole nation is being empowered equally. This cannot remain an unachievable goal if each member of the society works towards it. It is the members of the society who should take active initiative for the removal of the barriers of women education. Each and every member of the society should be conscious about the social evils. All the members of the society should act in such a way so that there should prevail a congenial environment for women. A healthy positive social environment always proves fruitful for the spread of women education. There should be awareness programme in every village to aware the parents about the fact that both the boys and the girls are equal in every respect. So there should not be any discrimination between boys and girls regarding education. Presently more than 70 per cent people live in villages and most of them in general have a notion to keep their girls at home rather than to send them to co-educational institutions. The teachers should be in regular contact with the guardians to increase the ratio of the attendance of girls. It is only education which can bring socio-economic development of both the Manipuri and Non-Manipuri women. Both the Manipuri and Non-Manipuri women are in favour of education because they consider that education is a must for women in present socio-economic conditions. From the study, it appears that there lies a difference between the educational status of Manipuri and Non-Manipuri women in Cachar district but women of both the communities have positive attitude towards women education. So to conclude, we can say that in near future the Manipuri women will occupy an

excellent position in the field of education due to their positive attitude towards education.

6.3. Suggestions for further study:

Due to time constraints, financial constraints and also limitation of resources the study is confined to educational status of Manipuri women in rural areas of Cachar district. The researcher, therefore, suggests the following areas in this context which equally deserve for further studies.

1. A study on educational status of Manipuri women in Assam.
2. A study on higher education of Manipuri women in Cachar district of Assam.
3. Educational status of Manipuri women living in urban and rural areas of Assam: A comparative study.
4. A study on educational and occupational status of Manipuri women with other marginal communities in Barak Valley of Assam.
5. A comparative study on attitude of Manipuri women and other women of marginal communities towards education in Barak Valley of Assam.
6. A study on socio-economic status of Manipuri women of rural areas in relation to education in Assam.
7. A comparative study on the role played by Manipuri and Non-Manipuri parents in the education of their children.
8. A study on the effect of school- family- community partnership on the educational outcome of Manipuri children.