6.1 INRTODUCTION:

This chapter deals with conclusion and suggestion of the present study. A very brief account of the entire investigation is discussed in the present chapter. Along with conclusion some recommendations and implications of the study are discussed here.

Human Resource and specially the womanpower need to be assigned a key role in any developmental strategy. Trained and educated on sound lines, they become an asset in accelerating economic growth and in ensuring social change in desired directions, as education develops basic skill and abilities and fosters a value system conducive to national development goals'[1]. There is a growing awareness among nations that women need to play a significant role in all aspects of development process. At the international level, the recent resurgence of feminism has led to greater attention being paid, within the United Nations and associated agencies, to the importance of women in development planning. One outcome of this new awareness has been an increased emphasis upon women's education and empowerment.

In India, in course of history the role of women has changed from time to time depending upon the economic conditions and political structure of society. In the Vedic literature we find that one of the remarkable features of ancient India was the high level of culture and social status which women then enjoyed. The Vedic women were allowed access to different branches of knowledge. There are evidences to suggest that the gifted ones among them often took part even in religious and philosophical discussions.[2]

Unfortunately the succeeding ages saw a slip-down in the field of women education. Opportunities for formal education was almost denied to women due to child marriage, purdah system, and enforced widowhood etc.[3] With the impact of modern education and social reformation movement in India, large number of social evils have been eliminated from the society which have gone in favour of women education. One of the most important aspects of modern education, in fact, is the education of women. Education in general and girls' education in particular was viewed desirable for wealth creation and national development. Almost all national policy documents in India have stressed the need to increase the number of girls' enrolment in primary education. Constitutional provisions indicate that there is no discrimination against girls as citizens of India, rather,

ensures equality of the sexes. Certain articles of the Constitution as mentioned in the previous chapter provide for positive action to promote women's status and eliminate inequalities. Many developing countries are allocating a quarter of their national budget to education, and some of them even more. But, despite the immense sacrifice that are being made, these efforts must be kept up unceasingly and it should never be thought that the goal has been reached.[4]

Results of the present study highlight some important issues which are built on ideas examined in the literature review. Presently girls have been performing so well in various examinations at different levels. Still education for girls in rural setting and sometimes in urban slums is a waste among some parents due to socio-economic condition of family, lack of school facilities, and parents' illiteracy etc. All these factors inspire the investigator to investigate on this topic.

6.1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The present study has been entitled as: "SCHOOL EDUCATION OF THE GIRLS IN NAGAON DISTRICT"

6.1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The main objectives of the present study were:

1) To study the participation of girl children age group 5 to 16years in education programmes.
2) To find out the available programme of girls education in addition to existing programme of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.
3) To study the various facilities available for girls education.
4) To study the community participation for the girls education in the district.
5) To study the problems of girls education in Nagaon district.

6.2 METHODOLOGY OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

In the present study descriptive survey method was applied because it helps to know what existed at the present by determining the nature and degree of existing conditions. This method is concerned with the present and attempts to determine the states of the phenomenon under investigation. The present study is

an ex-post facto type where the variables are neither controllable nor alterable[5]. So it was only an attempt to report what had happened and happening in current condition of the study area. The variables investigated under present study were participation, facilities, programmes and problems. The present study intended to investigate the progress and problems of girls' education in Nagaon district. In the present study the sample has been confined to 50 schools and the number of students has been confined to 455 from these schools. Out of 50 schools 20 were girls' and 30 co-educational institutions. Accordingly out of 455 students 298 from rural and 157 were from urban schools and 179 were male and 276 were female students. Thus stratified random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the sample. For collecting data descriptive survey method was applied. To fill up the questionnaires, the information schedule and the problem check list the investigator met the sampled students and schools. To know about the participation of community in different school activities some questions were included in the information schedule and investigator met 10 parents, 5 from rural and 5 from urban areas. The opinions of parents were collected by providing an interview schedule.

6.3 ANALYSIS OF DATA:

The data collected through different tools are, after collection, has to be processed and analyzed in accordance with outline laid down for the purpose at the time of developing the research plan. This is essential for a scientific study. The term analysis refers to the computation of certain measures along with searching for patterns of relationship that exists among data-groups. The data needs to be analyzed and interpreted for drawing sound conclusions and valid generalization.[6]

The information schedule has 42 items from different areas containing different information. The problem check list contains 42 problems related questions in different sub areas. The interview schedule has seven items regarding girls' education. After administration of the questionnaire, the responses were verified by the investigator, used the relevant statistical techniques. To summarized and interpret the raw scores, most of the information were calculated in terms of percentage.

6.4 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

Major findings according to the specific objectives of the present study are as follows:

6.4.1 It is noticed from the investigation that in the session 2012-13 total number of girl students enrolled in 50 schools of Nagaon district was 7347. The percentage was found to be 33.81%.

6.4.2 The enrolment of SC, ST and OBC students in the district in the session 2012-13 were found to be 12.13%, 6.8% and 8.62% respectively.

6.4.3 During the study, the most appealing factor detected was the condition of school buildings. All the 50 schools were functioning in their own buildings.

6.4.4 Mid-Day-Meals, is one of the most ambitious schemes of the Government for universalization of primary education. But only 64.6% girls get the benefit of the scheme.

6.4.5 The present study revealed that 60% girl students get free uniform from Government scheme.

6.4.6 To reach the goal of universalization of primary education Government promises to provide free text books. Only 43.7% girls get the benefit of free text books at proper time.

6.4.7 Only 38.2% girl students were awarded on the basis of attendance percentage which was implemented by the Central Government in Third five year plan (1961-66).

6.4.8. Being the precursor to the world of evolving modern technologies, computers were installed in most of the schools as various computer literacy programmes. 86% schools in the district were found under this scheme of education.

6.4.9 During the study, the most appealing facility found was infrastructure. All the 50 schools were functioning in their own building.

6.4.10 It was found from the study that 86% schools in the district have the provision of co-curricular activities and students get encouragement from their authority to participate in such.

6.4.11 The provision of free health check-up facility was very disappointing in the schools visited. Only 24% schools in the district provide free health services to their students.

6.4.12 The present study revealed that 84% schools were found with toilet facility but only 38% were found toilet with running water.

6.4.13 Almost all school visited constituted different school committees with Government nominees and local people. But co-operation of parents and other community persons was found to be 52% in the district.

6.4.14 The study also revealed from the interviews with parents teachers and Government officials that all most all the community personals were affirmative towards girls' education.

6.4.15 Poverty of the parents was found to be one of the major problems hindering the growth of girls' education in the district. In the present study it was found that among the sampled girl students, parents are involved in different occupation, 33% in agriculture, 34.1% in business, 20.7% in Government services, 5.1% in private sector, 4% daily labour and 3.3% jobless.

6.4.16 From the present investigation it is found that after six decades of independence, 6% parents in Nagaon district are still unwilling to send their daughters to school.

6.4.17 Parents literacy is one of the major factors for the development of girls' education. But in the present study it is found that only 42.9% parents are literate, 47.9% of parents are partially literate and 9.2% parents are found to be totally illiterate.

6.4.18 Another problem that implicit in contributing to the number of school children is the issue of sibling care. A substantial 24.6% which almost accounts for a quarter of the total have to look after their younger siblings at home and this makes them miss their classes very often.

6.4.19 One of the major problems that influence girls' enrolment and retention in school is the distance of school from their home. The present study revealed that 24.8% of girls surveyed still have to traverse 3 km or more to reach school.

6.4.20 In the present investigation 48.8% of total sampled girl students of Government and provincialised schools informed that regular classes were not held due to various reasons like absence of teachers, flood, bandh by different organizations. Also it was found that examinations like

HSLC, AHSEC or entrances and Government interviews interrupt normal classes.

6.4.21 The student teacher relationship which can create a congenial atmosphere in the school lags behind. It was found in the present study that 89.5% girl students faced the problem of conversing with their teachers.

6.4.22 The present study revealed that after so many Government efforts and social awareness programmes a nominal number of parents still compelled their children to perform house hold activities at the time when they should have been at school. The percentage of such girl students was found to be 5.7%.

6.5 CONCLUSION:

Developing countries are committed to achieve education for all, and quality education through a decent Educational system from Pre-Primary to Higher Education, virtually within a short span of time. The base of the Pyramid of Educational system is the School Education from Pre Primary to Secondary Education. The present study intended to investigate about the existing condition of girls' education in Nagaon district, its problems and available facilities. In India, the birth of a girl child is still not welcome, despite a decade devoted to women and a year to the girl child. The beliefs handed down the generations are so deep rooted and so strong that it is futile to expect them to be removed in such a short period[7]. When investigating about the relevant aspect like participation of girls in school education it was found that in spite of conscious and repeated policy proclamations for girls education it was very low. In the academic session 2012-13, it was found to be 33.81%.When the enrolment of girls is compared with the total enrolment, one finds that the girls' enrolment falls very short of equaling that of boys. On enquiry with the authorities it was revealed that the general decrease in the enrolment was due to drop out. But the school and district authorities informed that enrolment of girls has actually improved in the past few years even though marginally.

Some programmes which directly or indirectly support to girl child educational development are-DPEP, MS, NPEGEL,SKP,KGBV,JSS, MDMS, CIIL, KVs, NVs, and NIOS. On the basis of the result of the present study it was

observed that programmes like MS, NPEGEL, JSS, MDMS, NVs and NIOS programmes were implemented in Nagaon district. These schemes have been implemented in Educationally Backward Blocks where the level of female literacy is below and the gender gap is above the national average[8]. The present study revealed that 86% schools in the district availed the benefit of ICT scheme at schools.

Besides these programmes the Government of Assam has provided bi-cycles for all girl students studying in class VIII-X from August 2013. Another most attractive post-matric award for all students under SEBA, who score above 60% marks in HSLC examination, is popularly known as 'Anundoram Borooah Award.'

Concerning the government facilities, the present study revealed that the infrastructure facility like school building, playground, toilet facility and library facilities were satisfactory in the sampled schools. But on the other hand running water, health check up, field-trips, safe drinking water and well equipped science laboratory facilities were found to be not at all satisfactory. To nurture the scientific temperament of students only 26% sampled schools provided scientific laboratories.

The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Indian Constitution have served as a breakthrough towards ensuring equal access and increased participation in political power structure for women[9]. The PRIs and the local self Government will be actively involved in the implementation and execution of the National Policy for Women at the grassroots level. The involvement of voluntary organizations, associations, non-government organizations, women organizations as well as institutions dealing with education, training and research will be ensures in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and review of all policies and programmes concerning girls' education[10].

In the present study it was found that in rural areas panchayat and block officials are involved in different developmental work and monitoring government policies. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Nagaon has also worked at grass root level to enhance girls' education. Besides these parents-teacher associations, school committees like examination committee, disciplinary committee, administrative committees etc. parents and community personals

were found to be involved from different levels of communities. But involvement was not satisfactory at all, only 38% people were found involved in this respect.

One of the most important objectives of the present study is problems of girls' education in the district. In the present study problems were studied in five different heads and most of the problems were found common with other studies Khalid (1996)[11], Bamora (2010)[12], Nayar (1992)[13] and Devi 92014)[14].The major problems of girls education in the study area were poverty, parents illiteracy, lack of awareness towards girls' education, unequal distribution of government facilities, socio economic condition of parents, distance of school from home, lack of involvement of local people in education etc.

6.6 IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

Every effective research study possesses some sort of implications on the basis of findings of the study. The present study will have the following implications:

6.5.1 Participation of girls' in education is a very important requirement to achieve the constitutional goal. The present study revealed that only 33.81% girls were enrolled in the session 2012-13. This study will help different persons, agencies and concerned organizations to create more awareness regarding girl education.

6.5.2 The present study reaffirmed that government of India has implemented lots of programmes for enhancement of girls' education. But unequal distributions of programmes were found along the district. So the present study will help the concerning authorities to give attention in this regard.

6.5.3 The government facilities are more or less available in all government and provincialized schools. The present study revealed that in some areas facilities are not provided at proper time. In some specific areas it was found that facilities were given in latter part of the session which is mostly essential in the beginning of the session. The present study will help all concerned, particularly administrators of education field to make the facilities available at the beginning of the year.

6.5.4 The present study revealed that all most all schools visited, constituted different school committees with government nominees and

local people. But co-operation of parents and community persons were found very nominal, though parents, teachers and community persons were very affirmative towards girls' education. Community involvement is an important factor for the enhancement of girls' education. This will have social implications as it will help parents and public to develop awareness about the participation of parents and members of the society in school activities and thereby enhance the development of girls' education.

6.5.5 From the very beginning of India's independence the Government of India has implemented various provisions for the spread of girls' education in our country. Even after so many government efforts still girls education is suffering from multifarious problems. The preset

Study revealed that even after six decades of independence some parents are not concerned about education of their daughters though the number was found nominal. The result of the present study confirmed that more efforts and involvements should be given by government, non-government organizations and community to remove the barriers. The study will help all those concerned people to make a favourable attitude to create positive awareness towards girls' education.

6.7 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following recommendations are formulated on the basis of the findings of the present study.

6.6.1 The present study revealed that enrollment of girls in school was not satisfactory in the academic session 2012-13, so more initiatives should be taken by the concerning authorities to enroll more girls in primary education, and should try to retain them till X^{th} standard of school education.

6.6.2 All the Central Government programmes especially for girls are not well executed in the district. Proper prompt steps should be taken by the concerning authority and State Government to improve the present scenario.

6.6.3 Though the present study has found various important facilities in the schools most of the concerning authority informed, that the facilities

were not provided at proper time. This type of inconvenience creates more drop out in primary level of education. So attention should be made to make it regular and should maintain time.

6.6.4 Attention should be made to remove the rural/urban inequality in distribution of the government facilities.

6.6.5 Though the present study has found that a nominal number of community persons were involved in education yet most of the schools did not get the co-operation of such people, so provision should be making to involve more people at grass root levels.

6.6.6 Attention should be paid to reduce the rural/urban imbalance in solution of problems of girls' education.

6.6.7 More attention should be given towards adult literacy to create awareness about girls' education.

6.6.7 Social awareness should be enhanced through seminars, workshop and talks in rural areas.

6.6.8 As the socio economic condition is associated with girls' education so more efforts should be made to raise the socio-economic status of girl students.

6.6.9 Parents and community members should be involved in ensuring girls' enrolment, regular attendance and good academic performance.

6.6.10 More awareness programmes on gender issues are to be organized at village level, district and state levels.

6.8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY:

The present investigation was carried on, with certain limitations. The result and discussion of the study revealed a number of fields where intense research is needed to enhance girls' education. Further research may therefore be carried on the following areas:

6.7.1 Studies may be taken up to identify the areas where educational growth of girls has not taken place as desired even if provision is universal and causative factors may be investigated.

6.7.2 Comparative studies of participation may be taken up with other educationally backward areas.

6.7.3 Studies regarding impact of SSA scheme and ICDS on educational growth of girls at school level may be taken up.

6.7.4 Case studies of those girls who avail privileges and incentives as those belonging to underprivileged classes may be taken up.

6.7.5 A study of girls' educational inequalities arising out of basic economic inequality may be taken up.

6.7.6 A study of girls' educational benefits in productivity gains may be taken up.

6.7.7 A study of problems of primary and secondary school girls in disturbed and flood affected areas in Assam may also be taken up.

6.7.8 The other under privileged classes not included in this study like ST, SC and handicapped girls may be brought under study.

6.7.9 There is urgent need for conducting research on gender differences on participation in school girls among SEBA and CBSE schools.

6.7.10 Comparative study of boys and girls at school level with respect to psychological variables may be taken up.

6.7.11 Studies of the customs and practices in Assam and their impact on girls/women education may be taken up.

6.7.12 Influence of household activities in relation to school performance: A comparative study of boys and girls may also be taken up.

6.9 CHAPTER SUMMARY:

This chapter contains the summary and conclusions of the entire investigation on the basis of interpretation and analysis of data. This study intended to study the present condition of school education of the girls in Nagaon district. The review of related literatures provide the theoretical framework of the present study and on the basis of that theoretical framework, the entire investigation was done. 50 schools were selected for the collection of data and 455 students were selected by following stratified random sampling technique. After collection of data, these were organized and analyzed in simple statistical method. Descriptive as well as simple percentage and graphical representation were applied in the present study. It was revealed after analysis of data of the present study that from the very beginning of independence the government of India has taken various initiatives for girls' education. But unfortunately girls are

lagging behind to achieve the goal which was formulated by the Constitution of India. The data of the present study revealed that enrolment of girls in the session 2012-13 was not satisfactory. All the government schemes other than SSA are not well implement in the district. The state government has taken some initiatives to enhance the growth of girls' education. It is also revealed that government has provided various facilities but distributions of facilities are found unequal between rural and urban areas. Though local people were found involved in school activities yet the number of participants are found very nominal in number. The present study revealed that like other parts of the country Nagaon too have multifarious problems associated with girls' education. This chapter concludes with the implications of the finding, recommendations, and recommendations for further study.

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