5.1 INTRODUCTION:

This chapter deals with the research findings of the present study. The general purpose of a research is not to convince the readers but to let them know what has been done, why it was done and what results were obtained. Therefore, every purposeful research ends with specific findings. In the present investigation, the main purpose was to study the participation of girls in school education in Nagaon district. Some other important objectives were associated with school education of girls in the district. These are programmes, facilities, community participation and problems of girls' education in Nagaon district. All these objectives were investigated in a very systematic and organized way with the help of different research tools. The collected data were analyzed and the results of the investigation found out. The findings of the investigation concerning the specific objectives are as follows:

5.2 FINDINGS RELATED TO PARTICIPATION OF GIRLS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION:

5.2.1. Out of 50 schools visited 21 were established during the period of 1961-1970.

5.2.2. It was found that out of the 21 schools established in Nagaon district during 1961-1970, only 7 were girls' schools.

5.2.3. Out of 7 girls' schools, 4 (57.14%) schools in Nagaon sub-division, 2 (28.5%) in Kaliabor sub-division and 1 (14.82%) in Hojai sub-division were established.

5.2.4. It was noticed from the investigation that in the session 2012-13, total number of students enrolled in the 50 schools of Nagaon district was 21,733 out of which 7347 (33.80%) were girls.

5.2.5. When the enrolment of girls is compared to the total enrolment, one finds that the girls fall very short of equaling that of boys.

5.2.6. In Nagaon sub-division the percentage of enrolled girl students in that particular session was found to be 61.88%.

5.2.7. In Kaliabor sub-division enrolment of girls was 28.87%.

5.2.8. In Hojai sub-division the girls' enrolment was the lowest of all, a mere 14.23%.

5.2.9. The statistics of the girls' participation in school indicated that the enrolment of girls in the entire district is not uniform.

5.2.10. The enrolment of the SC, ST and OBC students in the district were found to be 12.13%, 6.86% and 8.62% respectively.

5.2.11. The number of female teachers in the district is very encouraging. In Nagaon sub-division the number of female teachers were found to be 64.04% while in Kaliabor and Hojai sub-divisions it was 44.49% and 38.91% respectively.

5.3 FINDINGS RELATING TO AVAILABLE PROGRAMMES OF GIRLS' EDUCATION IN ADDITION TO EXISTING PROGRAMME OF SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN:

5.3.1. The Infrastructure Development Scheme of MHRD was found to be most appealing feature of the schools in the district. All the 50 schools were functioning in their own buildings.

5.3.2. The programme of ICT at school was also found to be encouraging. The 86% of the sampled schools were found to be equipped with this programme.

5.3.3. In the three sub-divisions, Nagaon, Kaliabor and Hojai the implementation of the scheme was found to be 83.3%, 90% and 90% respectively.

5.3.4. In Nagaon sub-division 4 schools out of 30 use both projected and non-projected teaching aid/material to impart education in a lively and encapsulating form.

5.3.5. The implementation of Central Government scheme for construction and running of girls' hostels for Secondary schools was found to be disappointing. Out of the 50 schools only 4 in the entire district have hostels for girls.

5.3.6. Mid-day meals scheme was found to be running, and 64.6% girls are benefitted from it.

5.3.7. The post-matriculation award named "Anundoram Barooah Award" is awarded to all the students who score 60% marks or above in HSLC since 2005.

5.4 FINDINGS RELATING TO FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION:

5.4.1. In the case of the essential facility like sanitation, it was found that 94% schools have sanitation facility.

5.4.2. 84% of the sampled schools were found with toilet and lavatory facility. Regarding the toilet facility for girls it was found from investigation that the private schools had better toilet facility with running water in comparison to other schools.

5.4.3. The running water facility in the schools visited was found to be only in 38% schools. Remaining 62% schools have hand-pump sets.

5.4.4. In Nagaon and Kaliabor sub-divisions the percentage of schools with running water was found to be 43.30% and 60% respectively but in Hojai sub-division none of the schools visited has this facility.

5.4.5. Most of the schools in urban areas did not have playground.

5.4.6. In Nagaon sub-division it was found to be 80% and in Hojai it was 90% and in Kaliabor all the schools visited have spacious playground.

5.4.7. Only 16% schools availed the indoor game facility. In Hojai sub-division not a single school was found with this facility.

5.4.8. The availability of separate common room for teacher was found mostly in the affirmative, 98% schools providing this service for teachers.

5.4.9. The criteria on of well equipped science laboratory recorded a poor out come in the district. It was found to be only 26% in the district.

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

5.4.11. Bus facilities in the visited schools showed a poor outcome. Only 4% schools providing this facility and this 4% come from private school only.

5.4.12. Out of 50 schools visited only 62% has safe drinking water facility. The remaining 38% schools do not have the provision of safe drinking water, which is dark mark in maintenance of hygiene.

5.4.13. Scouts and guides are compulsory subjects in all schools for physical, social and intellectual well being. But in real practice on 22% school visited have appointed physical instructors.

5.4.14. The provision of free health check-up facility was also very disappointing in the schools visited. Only 24% schools provide its students this health service. In Hojai sub-division not a single school was found with this facility.

5.4.15. Out of 50 schools visited only 66% have library facility for students.

5.4.16. The state Government has provided a scheme of field trips by providing grants. But only 28% schools got the benefit of this facility of the state Government.

5.5 FINDINGS RELATING TO COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

5.5.1. Almost all schools visited have 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.

5.5.2. The community involvement in the developmental work of school education is now globally accepted aspect. In the present investigation it was found that only 38% schools get the opportunity of co-operation of local people in different activities.

5.5.3. In Nagaon sub-division, parents' co-operation was found to be 60%, in Kaliabor, it was 50% and in Hojai sub-division, it was only 30%.

5.5.4. 18% schools visited, faced the problem of student indiscipline in various school activities especially at the time of examination.

5.5.5. In Nagaon sub-division 10%, in Kaliabor 10% and in Hojai sub-division 50% schools faced the problem of student indiscipline.

5.5.6. Regarding the examination committee, it was found that only 38% schools constituted committee with local people at the time of examination.

5.5.7. In Nagaon sub-division, it was found to be 33.33%, in Kaliabor 60% and in Hojai sub-division, it was only 30%.

5.5.8. The study also reveals from the interviews with parents, teachers and Government officials that almost all the community personals were affirmative towards girls' education.

5.6 FINDINGS RELATING TO THE PROBLEMS OF GIRLS' EDUCATION:

5.6.1. The present study revealed that out of 455 students 28.87% students were found to be absent from their schools due to different problems. In case of girls it was 19.56% and in case of boys the percentages of absentees were 16.2%. In rural-urban comparison it was found that 26.71% students in rural schools and 24.84% in urban schools were absent from school.

5.6.2. The investigation revealed that the overall literacy percentage of the parents of 455 students is 42.9%. 9.2% parents were totally illiterate and 47.9% were partially literate. In rural areas the illiteracy of parents was found to be 11.4% and in urban areas it was 5.1%.

5.6.3. Distance of the school from home was found to be a major problem for girls. Almost one fourth, i.e.24.8% of girls surveyed still have to traverse three kilometers and above to reach school. The percentage of students whose school is approximately half kilometer was 25.1.% while who have to traverse almost one kilometer and two kilometer were 30.3% and 19.8% respectively.

5.6.4. Poverty of parents is a major problem of girls' education. 30% of parents in the present study were struggling with poverty. 3.3% parents were found to be jobless.

5.6.5. The present study revealed that in rural areas 91.9% students got encouragement from their parents towards education. But still 8.1% students did not get any kind of motivation from their parents. But in urban areas, 98.1% students got encouragement from parents and 1.9% were still deprived of such type of encouragement.

5.6.6. 11% students out of 455 do not get the advantage of electricity in their home and large section at their schools too.

5.6.7. Another problem that is implicit in contributing to the number of school children is the issue of sibling care. Out of 455 students surveyed, 24.6% revealed that they had to look after their young siblings at home and this made them miss their classes very often. When 10.05% boys were found engaged with their younger siblings at the same time 78.3% girls were taking the responsibility to look after their younger siblings at the time of study.

5.6.8. The present study revealed that out of 455 students 161 students (35.4%) did not get the benefit of free mid-day meals of Government scheme. 39.3% from rural and 28% from urban population did not get the benefit of MDMS.

5.6.9. 43.7% students out of 455 did not get the benefit of free text books. The rural-urban percentage was found to be 39.3% and 28% respectively.

5.6.10. In the present study it was found that only 38.2% girls get the benefit of attendance scholarship. In rural schools, it was found to be 32.2% and in urban it was 36.20%.

5.6.11. In the present study it was found that 89.5% students faced the problem to converse with their teachers. In rural schools it was found 66.44% and in urban it was 63.39%. In male-female comparison only 5.6% male students were found with this problem while 74.63% female were affected by the problem.

5.6.12. Present study revealed that a substantial number of girls faced the problem of parents' non co-operation in study. Due to socio-economic problem 9.42% girls were compelled by their parents to

engage in different house hold and money generated activities at the time of study. In case of boys, it was found to be 5.58%.

5.7 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

5.7.1. 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%.

5.7.2. The enrolment of SC, ST and OBC students in the district in the session2012-13 were found to be 12.13%, 6.8% and 8.62% respectively.

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

5.7.4. Mid-Day-Meal 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.

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

5.7.6. 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.

5.7.7. 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).

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

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

5.7.10. 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.

5.7.11. 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.

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

5.7.13. Almost all schools 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.

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

5.7.15. 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, each one parent is involved in different occupations, 33% in agriculture, 34.1% in business, 20.7% in Government services, 5.1% in private sector, 4% daily labour and 3.3% jobless.

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

5.7.17. Parents literacy is one of the major factors for the development of girls' education. 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.

5.7.18. Another problem hindering to the increase in 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 young siblings at home and this makes them miss their classes very often.

5.7.19. 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 kms or more to reach school.

5.7.20. In the present investigation 48.8% of total sampled girl students of Government and provincialized 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 examination like HSLC, AHSEC or entrances and Government interviews interrupt normal classes.

5.7.21. 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.

5.7.22. 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%.

5.8 CHAPTER SUMMARY:

From the above discussion it can be summed up that after six decades of independence progress of girls' education especially in Nagaon district is found to be very slow. The present study revealed that in the academic session 2012-13 the enrolment of girls' in the district was 33.81%. When the enrolment of girls is compared with the total enrolment, one finds that the girls fall very short of equaling that of boys. The programmes like SSA, ICT, MDMS, quality improvement in school, SPQEM, IDMI etc. were well implemented in Assam. In Nagaon too all these seven programmes were found to be implemented. Post Matric scholarship and award, bi-cycle for girls are some schemes which are provided by the state Government. Various Government facilities like sanitation, drinking water, health check-up etc. are more or less present in almost all schools but not in a very healthy get-up. 84% schools have toilet facility but only 38% of schools have running water. 62% schools have safe drinking water. Only 24% schools in the district provide free health service to their students. The present study revealed that only 52% schools get the benefit of co-operation from parents and local people. The major problems were found to be poverty, parents' illiteracy, distance of the schools from home, lack of awareness of the parents, inequal distribution of house hold course, conversation between teachers and girl students etc.

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