

Economic Contribution of Rural Women through Self-Help Groups: A Case Study in Chandrapur Block of Kamrup District of Assam

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Abstract—International Day for rural women is being celebrated on 15th October every year to honour rural women for their relentless contribution towards improving rural economy and eliminating poverty to a certain extent. Chandrapur Development Block has a geographical area of 90.85sq km with a total population of 70,489 out of which 36731 are males and 33758 are females respectively. This block has 4 Gaon Panchayats with 52 villages and out of them 45 are inhabited. There are 956 Self Help Groups under 54 Village Organisations. The members of the Self Help Groups help in contributing a substantial amount towards family income by engaging in different livelihood practices like poultry farming, piggery farming, mushroom cultivation, making different products from jute etc. They also help in generating employment opportunities to the other members of the society by involving them in their livelihood activities. But unfortunately their economic contribution is not fully recognised in our society. This study was undertaken to understand the role of Self Help Groups in improving the economic condition of rural women and thereby helping them in contributing towards family income. The study is based on primary data collected from the members of SHG with the help of a questionnaire with open ended and close ended questions and personal interview as well as secondary data. Through this study, it was found that the SHGs have played a pivotal role in enhancing rural economy and also creating employment opportunities for rural women thereby making them self reliant and economically independent.

Keywords: Rural women, SHGs, livelihood activities, rural economy.