



IMPACT OF EDUCATION WITH REFERENCES TO PONGCHING NAGA WOMEN

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Abstract

Women over the years have experience the nudge of modern impact which has given a productive outcome, education became the one paramount factor for the broad changes that has happen in the society globally therefore today many women have higher freedom of speech, authority and positive approach as compared to women of past few decades, this study enlightens about the Pongching tribal women and how education actively became the one important component for empowering them modern education has transferred valuable information to women of all ages, therefore sharing equal platforms with men.

Keywords: Education, Impact, Pongching, women.

Introduction

Half of the world population is constituted by women and women globally are impacted and strengthen with rise to education, education has performed the yardstick to drive the breezy road to success and accomplishment as smooth drive for women, education became the most powerful tool of empowerment for all women globally.

Mishra (2017:89) the National Policy of education (NPE) is a land mark in the approach to women's education. 'Education is considered as a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their lives'¹, (lasuh,2020:132) women's contribution through education brought tremendous changes in bringing evolution to human development, it was through the process of education that the traditional way of thinking towards women brought a transition in positive way. Empowerment of women was feasible through proper education and proper guidance where equality of gender not only became a topic to discuss and a phrase to put in words but the society started to practice this culture of equality and turning the table around. The discerning verity of changes in the society towards upward mobility from women was primarily seen after education becoming an essential asset to the society.

'Educated women can play a very important role in the society for socio-economic development. Education eliminates inequalities and disparities as the means of recovering their status within and out of their families. It is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity, development and welfare. Education provides more strength to women'²

History narrates that when the phrase of women appears the first concept that hit to every individual was women belong to the second category in their society, women had their equal share of tussle to break the ceiling which was not as easy snip task. (Sharma 1990:85), it was the bourgeoisie feminist movement involving middle class women who campaigned for extension of educational opportunities and voting rights and later property rights. Women in due course of time became valuable assets to their society globally and education effectively enhanced the road to women empowerment women were well updated and informed about gender equality, health care, economic development, social roles and status. women globally experienced the cognitive evaluation which spontaneously brought all women under one umbrella giving equal opportunity in all social activities with education as the driving force, this has massively impacted the Pongching community at large and Pongching women in particular, Pongching is a medium size villages located in the Eastern part of Nagaland in the heart of Longleng town the district headquarter for the Phom Naga people, the Pongching village constitutes of 371 families with a distance of 7km away from the district headquarter.

Early life of Pongching Women

(Vero:2020,10) women folks have had the tendency to confine themselves in their own convenient life styles because of less encouragement they get from the male folks to participate in any social activities, in many cases women do not get encouragement from male counterparts to socialize in the community. Girls are encouraged to involve themselves in household chores or stay limit within the family affairs without the chance to socialize, limiting their ideas to a narrow outlook.

¹ [http:// www.motherhooduniversity.edu.in](http://www.motherhooduniversity.edu.in)>...

² <https://core.ac.uk>>pdf



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Like any other tribal people of Nagaland the Pongching community also follows the patriarchal social system, where the father is consider the head of the family and the supreme power for any major decision for the family is determine by him³as such women imperatively becomes the subordinate where she continues to follow the ancestral practice by confining themselves in all the household chores like; cleaning, cooking, taking care of the cattle's, the children and most importantly contributing their bulk of strength in agricultural cultivation⁴. Narrowing down to the few decades it unfolds that the status of Pongching women was not satisfactory, girls and women were mostly seen in looking after their sibling and keeper of their house. From a very young age the girls are taught how to do the household chores, to serve the elders and guest which eventually became a part of their life incarcerate in their own convenient conventional social life which ultimately determines them to become only a housewife and to entirely depend on their spouses, in-laws and family for survival for their entire course of life.

Education

The last quarter of the nineteenth century and first quarter of the twentieth century saw tremendous changes in social stratification due to large number of Hindus taking to western education with eagerness, and qualifying themselves for the middle posts in the bureaucracy during the colonial period, tremendous changes too place in the south Indian states because of access to education by the lower caste group, and the 'non-Brahman' movement. This upset the equilibrium between the advanced castes and the backward castes in that part of the country, today we find that the elite is being recruited not only from the forward castes but also from the backward castes and classes in the cities, as well as the rural areas because of the spread of education (kuppuswamy:2006:41) Pongching village no doubt is located in rural area therefore the importance of education reach lately especially to obtain education for female child was difficult to project to the parents and people because of the social stigma and customs where every girl and women should be left at home for necessary chores which was performed from the time the village was formed, however education for the male folk was easily acquired therefore men have received the formal education earlier than women which benefited the male folk having privileged to become the chief in all social activities and authorize the village, the councils. However the advent of Christianity brought an enlightenment period among the Pongching community in 1947 with Longsen niken of Longla village from Change Community as the first missionary, the advent of Christianity witnessed phase of enlightenment where many of the evil practices, superstitious believes were eradicated and surpassing towards women was removed the life style of the people was successfully changed reshaping the social life but the process of change was slow when compared to other tribal people from neighboring area.

Nevertheless equality of education to both the gender made significance to the Pongching community after the period of enlightenment though it was a long duration to understand the essential of equal education yet they perceive the importance of female education and equality of gender, however even after the advent of Christianity for a longer period of time some of the old system of customary laws have been laid down, the structured of the society was reframed but the customary laws and conventional believes has been deeply rooted to the people that to erase became quite intricate because they have been living with this men made laws from the colonial period and therefore creating loophole for smooth operable towards the society especially concerning women, it was only during the late nineteenth century the Pongching people realize the impact of how education can transmute the life of the people considering that it can bring self- sufficiency to individual, family and especially in sustaining the economy. (vero2020:11) education is the foremost important for any societal progress, it is largely said that gender equality is achieved because there is no discrimination between boys and girls in giving admission in schools. Today the Pongching people consider education as one of the most important components to survive and pull through society's norms, there is freedom for both the gender to receive and admit themselves in any field of learning system, there is no discrimination to choose the profession of their own transitioning into acquiring more skills in different field. The literacy rate of the village schools notifies that more girl children are excelling in academic performance which shows the growth of empowerment. Henceforth this new introduction of education has drastically changed and elevated the occupational status of Pongching women. The village has two government schools comprising of two sector, sector A is government middle school which was established on 1961, sector B government primary school established on 1974 however due to more enrollment of students' sector b government primary school was upgraded to middle school in 2011 with one private school establish in 1988. With the fast movement of modernize society many of the Pongching families lives in towns and commercial cities for better employment opportunity and to provide the best education system for their children hence children are sent to best schools, colleges, universities and training centers, also parents living in village sends their children to towns and cities to acquire better education.

³Even today the village follows the same social system of patriarchal society.

⁴ Shifting cultivation is still practiced.



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Impact factor through Education

The impact of education among the Pongching women have massively elevated in the field of education where they have outstepped from their men, the education report of Pongching women delivers that women are engaged from Nursery till PhD both Arts and science stream, taking professional course in tailoring, nursing, music, stenography, hindi training, ITI, B.ed, Montessori teachers training, diplomas in different course of computerization. Many of the educated women are engaged in various government and non-government institutions and organizations. Today Pongching women actively participate exercising in almost all decision-making process for the family and for the society, there has been a massive progress of women contributing even in superior decision making especially in churches where their views and ideas are accepted equally with their men Pongching women are utilizing the freedom of speech and choice. (amer2015:37) women in Nagaland have been able to make a dramatic advancement along with men in all facets of public life however the political sphere remains an area where women have not yet gained any comparable status with their men. Pongching women are set free to participate in any activities they are seen especially participating in church activities however the conventional believes still holds them back to come for equal position with their men when it comes to participation in councils meetings which is considered a very big platform, however the enlightenment period with formal education brought divers changes among the Pongching community and one can contradict to the certainty that education has improved the social status of women which has helped to elevate the moral and social standards making them more superior than earlier times, with education Pongching women have engaged in various productive jobs working in both government and non-government institutions, engaged in different administrative departments, organizations, as teachers, lecturer, assistant professor, women leader, they have become an important figure sharing equal platform with men in most of the social activities also supplementing in the economic stability. With the transmission of modern education and broad views from the educated Pongching women, the Pongching women formed the self-help group in Pongching area to encourage the Pongching women and relinquish out from the constricted zone and utilize their skills and caliber which they are good at like dexterity, making necklaces, head gears, bracelets, knitting, weaving, cultivating organic products, furnishing their hands on finest items like making of artificial items from scratch, the objective of creating the Self-help group was to uplift and give a platform to those illiterate Pongching women so that they can live an independent life and be self-reliant women. The SHG have contributed selflessly in many factors like beautifying of the village and the church, donations when needed and in various different factors at present the Pongching women has a total of 11 different self-help groups who are not confined to their conventional zone but also contributing to the Phom area in general⁵ The Self-help group organize different camping to uplift the women also encouraging women from every corner. Out of the 11 self-help group, there are four groups which are actively running and participating in every given opportunity, they are organizing different programs like sales day and preparing of organic products⁶, these Self-help groups are- Ngahdang Self Help Group, Bhamkang Self Help Group, Leimeisham Self Help Group, Nyuthaila Self Help Group. This SHG at present is actively taking forward their women from all grounds and this was all possible because of the effort made by the educated literate women giving platform to every woman to strive and survive on their own skills and effort.

Women play important role in human well-being. There are many benefits in construction of a better society through contribution of women. In order to catch up with the fast-paced competitive world, women ought to have more education and be equipped with knowledge. In this way, women will play an efficient role within the family and in the society as a whole towards overall development such as , education, health, peace and non-violence.(lasuh2020:131), (kuppuswamy2006:19) the idea of progress and evolution is that changes in the characteristics feature of human society, the present observed condition of the society is presumed to be the result of change from the past,²⁴ it is recognized that the importance of the growth of knowledge leads to increasing skill and complexity of society, with the development of modern science, technology, and industry there is a definite change in the social life of mankind, it may be said that this faith in progress is a characteristic feature of the nineteenth century, the idea of progress assumed that each succeeding age in a society and each succeeding society in human history is “better” and “superior” to the preceding ages and societies. Today Pongching women are enduring the new phase of modern day society where they are fervently contributing towards the economy of their society and towards sustaining the financial stability of the family they now have become financially independent, the power of education have educated that education is the basic fundamental right each individual has and transferred resourceful skills, knowledge, potency of empowerment, equality, importance of economic stability, freedom of speech and choice. The present generation Pongching women are well educated, well-polished of societies norms, highly independent, their social status has helped reformed their roles, to live an independent and self-reliant life, they now have the right and authority to choose their profession either a bureaucrat or invest in professional activities, to be a housewife or any of their choices. Nevertheless, women who choose to be a housewife also invest their time in weaving and knitting this practice is considered as one of the oldest forms of education system during the forefather days which is still continuing and through this woman contributes to balance the financial strength.

⁵Interviewed Mrs L. Chinting Phom of Pongching village on September 2020, member of self-help group

⁶The five clans of the village also have their own personal clan of SHG.



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Conclusion

It can be concluded that Pongching women have experience the wave of education in ingenious and impactful way, modern education performed as an important and indispensable tool for women empowerment, Pongching women actively began participating in social activities making as an essential driving force in their society therefore one can come to conclusion that today education is performing as one of the most fundamental and resourceful roads to Pongching women for more empowerment.

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