

# Gender Access Pattern of Education in Rural Area: A Cross Sectional Study of Barak Valley of North- East India of Elderly People

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## Abstract

Gender is socio-structural phenomena in terms of male and female. Education is totally of development or progress of an individual's mind, body and spirit. Ageing is age grouping and age status which refers to loss of charms in old age. Gender and ageing are intermediated by education. Education is rapidly changing the society in terms of status of women and men, women's education, women's empowerment, reducing gender equality and age barriers. The research signifies the development of rural periphery of North East India like two Villages namely Bhakatpur and Singari under Silchar Block of Cachar District in the state Assam. Here, education develops people's intellectual power, community education and personal education in terms of reducing gender equality, empowerment and ageing constraints. The research uses descriptive research design. By using random sampling method, sample of 100 individuals is drawn out of total individuals in 12 Goan Panchayats in rural areas of Silchar Block of Cachar District, Assam.

The paper tries to analyze age barriers and gender constraints in the society which is observed in certain community like Bishnupriya Manipuri and Bengali of Silchar Block of Cachar District that can be reducing through various activities practiced in the society such as community program, socio-cultural, health and heigenic program, education and pension scheme program etc.

## Introduction

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The paper tries to analyze age barriers and gender constraints in the society which is observed in certain community like Bishnupriya Manipuri and Bengali of Silchar Block of Cachar District that can be reducing through various activities practiced in the society such as community program, socio-cultural, health and hygienic program and education and pension scheme etc.

Gender is primarily used to refer to the social and cultural aspects of sexual difference (Glover David and Kalpana Cora 2007) is the conglomeration of characteristics that are perceived to make a difference between males and females that provides an understanding how men and women are socially constructed and how those constructions define and redefine social activities. Gender ought not to be a constructing as a stable identity (Butler 1990).

In the 1995s, one of the social responsibility or liberal educational services as part of residential program or as part of self-contained isolated classrooms within a school". A special curriculum is also framed to design for students with special needs which focus on vocational training. This vocational training is being pertaining to provide priorities to those students who are not engaged for getting job in job market. In 1975, All Handicapped Children Act has declared which show the development of Education (Bhat 2006).

Every society has its own concept of ageing, age-groupings and age status (Mohanty1989). Through the process of socialization, the society enshrines the transmission of social and cultural values from one generation to the next that enables its members to get necessary skills, values and norms etc. This process varies considerably within and between cultures. Old age is the end phase of the human life cycle. In recent time, Social Scientists hold that social ageing primarily concentrates on socio-cultural obligations, mutual love and affection (Vijoy Kumar 1991).

Surveying the issues of the impact of education on gender on the basis of ageing pattern between urban and rural communities, ageing and gender are the social concerns running all through discourses on inequalities and social justice. In the present scenario, the issue of gender access to education and ageing pattern access to education in rural settings of two communities of two villages of Silchar Block of Cachar District in North-East India.

The paper tries to understand patterns of gender access to education in the context of age barriers and impact of education for reducing gender constraint and age barriers.

### **Methodology**

The study bases on primary data collected from individuals in Silchar Block of Cachar district, comprising both urban and rural areas. Individuals are the units of data collection. These individuals are constituting of communities such as Bishnupriya Manipuri, Bengali (Hindus), etc. of rural area. To select a sample of units for data collection, the Gaon Panchayat (GP) wise polling station lists for rural areas also prepared for Panchayat election 2012, is procured. From the lists of rural individuals, the aged individuals are identified for drawing a sample. In Silchar town there are 12 GPs in rural area in all. By using random sampling method, a sample of about 100 individuals (elderly people) is drawn from two villages very near to Silchar Town out of the total individuals from the rural areas. These villages such as Bhakatpur and Singari are selected where elderly people are homogeneous. These villages are selected because it is more developed than other villages of Ambikapur GP. It is neighboring villages of the town where the issues are more reflective in the society.

**Human Rights Education for Reducing Elderly Problem**

Human Rights are the basic rights of the human being. These are the rights that everyone has equally by virtue of humanity. The term “Human Rights” is used since World War II that occupied the importance in contemporary debates and became universal phenomena. After the adoption of Human Rights (Universal declaration of H.R. 1948 by the United Nations). United Nation defines that Human Rights are those rights that are inherent in our state of nature and without which we cannot live as human beings (On line Source). Today, Human Rights includes civil and political rights or public liberties, economic, Social and Cultural needs particularly in terms of development relating to environment, self-determination and education (On line Source). Human Rights Education for reducing elderly people is related with organisation, orphan caring and activities for children etc. In the following table Orphan Caring have both users and non-users consisting of both male and female users of elderly people. The orphan caring exposure of the members in the households of elderly people is given in the following table -

Table 1: Users and Non-users of Orphan Caring  
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Community Group	Exposure of Orphan Caring						Grand Total (%)		
	Users (%)			Non-Users (%)					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bishnupriya Manipuri	54 (54)	30 (30)	84 (84)	10 (10)	6 (6)	16 (16)	64 (64)	36 (36)	100 (100)
Bengali	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the period from 1st Dec 2020 to 3rd Jan 2022.

Data reveal that more than half of the elderly male from Bishnupriya Manipuri community group is accessing to orphan caring, followed by no elderly male from Bengali Community. One tenth of male of elderly people from Bishnupriya Manipuri is not busy with orphan caring is followed by less than one tenth of female elderly people in non-users.

Thus, it determines that majority of the male of elderly people from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community group are busy with orphan caring. On the other hand, from Bengali Community, no male of elderly people and female are practicing. So, it is found that there is more engagement in domestic work and less opportunity among females and males of Bengali Community group to access orphan caring etc.

**Ways to Reduce Elderly Problem through Peace Education**

Originally, it is from the Latin word “pax” which means a pact, a control or an agreement to any dispute and conflict between two people, two nations or two opposite groups of people. Peace Education is associated with friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. Peace is not only meant for the absence of conflict, but also for a positive, dynamic participatory process where the issues are addressing and conflicts solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation (<http://www.youtube.com>). It can be assembled that when considering spirit, understanding and co-operation (mind, body and intellect as Gandhiji and Swami Vivekananda) (Samuel Ravi 2015).

Peace is concerning when the capacities of the people are opening to resolve their conflicts without violence and can work together to improve the quality of their life irrespective of any age from childhood to old age. In the following table Peace Education (meditation program) has both users and non-users consisting of both male and female of elderly people. The meditation Program exposures of the elderly members of the households are given in the following table –

**Table 2: Users and Non –Users of Meditation Program  
(Percentage in Parenthesis)**

Communi ty Group	Exposure of Meditation Program						Grand Total (%)		
	Users (%)			Non-Users (%)					
Bishnupri ya Manipuri	Male N = 45	Fem ale N = 20	Total N = 65	Male N = 15	Fem ale N = 20	Total N = 35	Male N = 60	Fem ale N = 40	Total N= 100
	35 (35)	10 (10)	45 (45)	8 (8)	10 (10)	18 (18)	43 (43)	20 (20)	63 (63)
Bengali	10 (10)	10 (10)	20 (20)	7 (7)	10 (10)	17 (17)	17 (17)	20 (20)	37 (37)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the period from 1st Dec 2020 to 3rd Jan 2022

Data reveal that more than two fifths of male of elderly people from Bishnupriya Manipuri are accessing meditation program followed by one tenth of female of elderly people from Bengali community. In case of female of both the communities, one tenth of female from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community and Bengali Community are practicing meditation program (with the help of Art of living, Bramhakumaris program). More than one tenth of male from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community are practicing meditation Program followed by less than one tenth from Bengali Community. In case of non-users, one tenth of both elderly male and female are not doing meditation program of both the community group.

It is found that more elderly male are practicing meditation program from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community that support their good health free from High Blood Pressure and Hyper Tension, Stress, Anxiety etc.

**Ways to Control Elderly Problem through Health Education**

Health Education is a combination of learning experiences that designed to help communities and individuals and to improve their health by increasing knowledge or influencing their attitudes. According to J. F. Wiliam, “Health is the quality of life that enables the individual to live most and serve best”. According to Prof. Grout, “Health education is the translation of what is known about health into desirable individual and community behavior pattern by means of education process.” (<http://www.youtube.com>). It is an important basic need to improve the quality of life that reflects on elderly people to reduce their problem. Health education includes exercise, sports and games, football, ludo club etc. In the following table, Health Education (exercise) has both users and non-users, comprising of both gender from

Bishnupriya Manipuri and Bengali Community group. The distribution of the exposure of the members of the elderly people of the household are given in the following table -

**Table 3: Users and Non-users of Exercises  
(Percentage in Parentheses)**

Community Group	Exposure of Exercises						Grand Total (%)		
	Users (%)			Non-Users (%)					
Bishnupriya Manipuri	Male N = 27	Female N = 33	Total N = 60	Male N = 21	Female N = 19	Total N = 40	Male N = 48	Female N = 52	Total N = 100
	17 (17)	20 (20)	37 (37)	10 (10)	12 (12)	22 (22)	27 (27)	32 (32)	59 (59)
Bengali	10 (10)	13 (13)	23 (23)	11 (11)	7 (7)	18 (18)	21 (21)	20 (20)	41 (41)

Source: Field Survey Conducted During the period from 1st Dec. 2020 to 3rd Jan 2022.

Data reveal that below two fifths of female of elderly people are doing exercise from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community followed by above one tenth of female from Bengali Community group by practice. And below one tenth of male from Bengali Community group are doing exercise by training. Near two fifths of elderly female from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community group are practicing exercise followed by more than one tenth of elderly female from Bengali Community Group are practicing exercise by training. Tenth of male from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community group followed by over tenth of elderly female from Bengali Community group are non-users of exercise.

Thus, it is found that more elderly female from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community are performing exercises by practice at home .They are getting instruction from elderly male in the family who has knowledge about exercise by training. The distribution of the exposure of the members of the elderly people of the household are given in the following table -

**Table 4: Users and Non-users of Kitchen Garden  
(Percentage in Parentheses)**

Community Group	Exposure of kitchen Garden						Grand Total (%)		
	Users (%)			Non-Users (%)					
Bishnupriya Manipuri	Male N = 45	Female N = 20	Total N = 65	Male N = 10	Female N = 25	Total N = 35	Male N = 55	Female N = 45	Total N = 100
	30 (30)	20 (20)	50 (50)	10 (10)	-	10 (10)	40 (40)	20 (20)	60 (60)
Bengali	15 (15)	-	15 (15)	-	25 (25)	25 (25)	15 (15)	25 (25)	40 (40)

Source: Field Survey conducted during the period from 1st Dec 2020 to 3rd Jan 2022.

Data reveal that over two fifths of elderly male from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community are accessing kitchen garden activities such as plantation of small medicinal-value plant (Nennam Leaf, Pudina leaf (Mint leaf), Cabbage, Cauliflower, Tomato, Beans and Rajma Seeds etc. Tenth of male from elderly people are not doing activities on kitchen garden activities from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community Group are non-users. On the other hand, no elderly male are doing activities in kitchen garden from Bengali Community group and no elderly female are doing activities in kitchen garden from Bishnupriya Community group are non-users of kitchen garden activities. Two fifths of female from Bengali Community group are not doing kitchen garden activities are non-users.

Thus, it is found that more elderly males are practicing kitchen garden activities that reflect the good utilization of leisure time for elderly people.

### Findings

The major findings of the study are:-

- (a) The study determines that majority of the male of elderly people from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community group are busy with orphan caring. On the other hand, from Bengali Community, no male of elderly people and female are practicing. So, it is found that there is more engagement in domestic work and less opportunity among females and males of Bengali Community group to access orphan caring etc.
- (b) From the study it is found that more elderly male are practicing meditation program from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community that support their good health free from High Blood Pressure and Hyper Tension, Stress, Anxiety etc.
- (c) It is found from the study that more elderly female from Bishnupriya Manipuri Community are performing exercises by practice at home. They are getting instruction from elderly male in the family who has knowledge about exercise by training.
- (d) It is found from the study that more elderly males are practicing kitchen garden activities that reflect the good utilization of leisure time for elderly people.

### Conclusion

Education is intermediated by gender perception like gender inequalities of elderly person of both two villages are increasing fast. Now-a-days, the rural sector becomes urbanized and marketwise as per Govt. circular from Central/State Ministry and district official level. So, education occupies a significant role which is embracing gender empowerment and reducing age barriers.

### Reference:

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