

### **Survey of Research on Women in Nagaland (2013).**

The opportunity for equal education for women in Nagaland presumably has led to women's assumption of a range of roles endowing them with greater skills and resources. Today, Naga women are evolving as successful academicians and are becoming more inclined towards research activities. Perhaps this could be the resultant factor of the demand and changing nature of academic roles and responsibilities and also the rising expectations of furthering one's academic career. Besides, Women's Studies gaining momentum as an independent and multidisciplinary research area and with more and more women entering into the foray of higher education, it necessitates a survey to be conducted on research works done on and by women. This study can be used as a yardstick to assess the potential as well as professional advancement of female researchers which would to some extent expose information on the debatable provoking myth "Women teach, Men think" which reflects an image of 'gender biased division' of roles in academia with female staff concentrated in teaching posited as the subaltern and the male in research endeavors.

The objective of the survey is to conduct an overview of available research works on women in Nagaland providing the status of research on different areas of women related topics and identifying research trends as well as research gaps. The study attempts to collate available information with the basic intent of tapping into less visible sources of information and to ensure that key information is available for ready reference for future scholars and researchers. Besides, documenting research works done on women related issues, a statistical data on women research scholars in higher education has been compiled. Further the survey is expected to generate and develop a support mechanism in terms of developing a database on research works done on women, which will also help in avoiding duplications. Highlighting and profiling research works undertaken on women is anticipated to encourage, inspire and increase women academicians and researchers as well as others who are interested in working on women issues.

In addition to profiling research works done on women in Nagaland specific, abstracts of PhD thesis done on Feminism have also been documented recognizing the relevance and the imperative application of feminist theories and concepts in women and gender research studies. This is done so to facilitate scholars intending for doctoral studies on women related topics.

**Objectives of the study:**

- To find out the extent to which the attitudes of the Ao people have been transformed from traditional to modern under the impact of education
- To study the influence of education on the social attitudes pertaining to five areas under study, namely education, marriage and divorce, religion, status of women, custom and tradition in Ao tradition.
- To compare opinions of people with varying educational background on some important social issues, namely, co-education, employment of women, free mixing of opposite sexes, Ao custom of marriage, family planning, choice of mate, religious beliefs and social evils.
- To study the effect of education on modernizing the women folk in Ao community

**MAJOR FINDINGS**

The survey is a compilation of research on women in Nagaland which covers diverse areas such as women in relation to education, sex trade, political life, decision making, customary practices, legal awareness etc. Findings of the study are discussed as below.

- The main concentration of research area on women in Nagaland as reflected in the thematic analysis has been in the areas of Education, Polity, Decision Making and leadership with limited touch on women's access to justice, economic independence

and women and religion. Whereas topics like Education, Polity, Decision Making and leadership are at 0.38%, the rest are at 0.19% with the exception of area study on feminism at 1.14%. It may be noted that none of the research topics scores above 1% which corroborate the fact that the pace on research in women studies is slow and therefore much is left to be researched on issues concerning women.

- Research on women in Nagaland is still very limited with many issues left unstudied. Most of the research areas reflected in the survey are tribe/ locale or subject specific leaving a wide scope for researchers to work on similar topics involving greater areas of study. For example, a topic area dealt upon in reference to women of a particular tribe or place in Nagaland can be studied upon pertaining to all other tribes as well which will also facilitate in comprehensive comparative studies and better analysis of the status of women as well.
- In studying the status of women in Nagaland pertaining to the various topics mentioned, the issue of gender differences and the factors which underscore women's subordinate position in our society remain poorly addressed.
- It is observed that some of the research projects are purely descriptive in nature with not much of depth or analytical and comparative studies made. It is also observed from research study point of view that few research projects had weak or no proper methodology followed risking the quality of the research work.
- Another concern is the paucity of statistical information on women or gender disaggregated data which is vital in enhancing, validating and corroborating analysis of studies undertaken. Statistical records are found in one of the research projects containing vital data: such a work must be updated lest it becomes obsolete. Therefore research works with updated statistical records and gender disaggregated data with corresponding in depth analysis is a crucial need in women and gender studies. Mention may be made here that an effort towards developing gender disaggregated data in

Nagaland University is being initiated by Women's Studies Center, Nagaland University, the project of which is nearing completion.

- An encouraging trend in academic research is that more scholars are taking interest on women issues through the studying of various aspects of feminism with 6 scholars out of 9 under Nagaland University delving into this area study between the year 2011-2012. It is hopeful that this trend will enthuse more researchers and scholars from all discipline to take up studies addressing women from varied aspects.
- From the year 1996 to August 2012, out of a total number of 135 PhD scholars under Nagaland University, Female scholars were found to be more under the School of Humanities and Education at 61.7% as against 38.2 % of male scholars. Women are still lagging behind in the field of Sciences. Overall the total female scholars stand at 38.5% out of the total of 135 scholars. Out of the total number of Ph D thesis, only 3 PhD research at a very low percentage of 2.2% has been done on Women in Nagaland.