



Participation of Boro women and Garo women in Decision making in some economic activities of household: A study in two villages of Kamrup District, Assam

KEYWORDS

decision, independent, joint, men, women, Boro, Garo

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ABSTRACT

The practice or involvement of a person in decision making in a particular area reflects his or her position in concerned society on the concerned area of decision. The Boro women of the rural area of Kamrup District take active part in earning for maintenance of family. This paper is an attempt to focus on the participation of Boro women and Garo women in the matters of buying and selling associated to household campus and other economic activities.

Introduction

In India as in many other countries of the world women are regarded as inferior to men. In this regard various studies have been carried out by many scholars. Regarding the unequal status of men and women Roy (2010:101) stated that, "Almost in all societies, inequalities of women and men are part and parcel of an accepted male dominated culture and women are subjugated in all aspects of life till now". Along with many disadvantageous situations she enjoy very little or no freedom in her life and is deprived of various rights. In taking important decisions she is not consulted. It is found that majority of women living in rural areas of India live in such situation for whole life. However, the situations of women vary from society to society and it varies in different aspects of life. Buying and selling of various materials of household forms an important area of livelihood in every society in present day situation. Again, a person's participation in decision making signifies his or her position in concerned social level. Thus woman's participation in deciding various economic aspects can be used to understand the position of women in a society. The works related to subsistence pattern, buying and selling of objects etc. are some economic activities of a society and the study was conducted on these aspects.

Present Study

The patrilineal social system is considered to be a major ground for such situation of women in India. In matrilineal society the conditions of women are assumed to be better than the women of patrilineal society. Thus a study has been undertaken to highlight the situation of women in a patrilineal and a matrilineal society of tribal communities living in same area. The Boros and the Garos are two tribes of North East of opposite social structure. The Boros follow patriarchal social system while the Garos follow matriarchal social system. In Kamrup

District they are found to live side by side. Thus a Boro society and a Garo society from two villages of Kamrup district, Assam, are selected for study. The study was conducted in view of the women's participation on decision making in a few aspects of economic activities of both the societies.

Objectives

The principal objective of the study is to examine the involvement of women of both the societies in decision making in relation to their male counterparts and therefore it is aimed

- To show the occupational pattern of women in both the societies and to analyse the role of women in maintenance of household economies
- To investigate the participation of men and women in making decisions in handling of household purse in some particular aspects of buying and selling of household materials
- To investigate whether women take part in deciding matters of productive activities
- To show whether women take independent decision in any studied aspects and
- Ultimately to compare and analyse the results of the Boro and Garo societies to show women's decision making role in their respective societies.

Hypothesis

It is assumed that women are not free to take decision independently in both patrilineal and matrilineal societies.

Limitations

Economic activities of an agricultural society include lots of matters to study. However this paper includes only a few matters to understand women as decision maker.

Literary review

In recent time 'studies on women' is a great attraction for social scientists and scholars. The scholars and researchers have carried out lots of studies to explore women in different areas and from different angles. Participation of women in decision making is considered as an important criterion to realise a person's status in discussed field.

The book Status of women in Tribal Society: Arunachal Pradesh edited by Pandey (1997) includes 24 papers on the tribal women of Arunachal Pradesh. In these papers status of women were studied in domestic life, economic life, education, political life and recreation etc. independently.

Goswami and Goswami (2007) in their paper Status of Women in Tribal Society: Perception and Reality (A Micro Study) highlighted the perception and realities prevailed among the tribal and nontribal women of rural Assam. In this paper the study was conducted following quantitative method.

Jasmin (2008) in her paper A Comparative Status of Assamese and Neo Assamese Muslim Women of Morigaon District, Assam examined a comparative status of Assamese

and Neo Assamese Muslim women of Morigaon District, Assam. In her paper she had examined the role of women in decision making in the matter of political and social activities, economic activities and in education and family matters.

Methods

The study is based on the primary data collected through household survey and collection of opinion through pre-designed schedule. However, interview and discussion with the villagers and observation etc. are also adopted to collect other necessary information. The study was carried out in Bhogdabari village and in Singpara village from 2008 to 2012. The sample size of the informants is 100 men and 100 women of each village. There are all together 400 informants in the study. In the paper the term men and women are used to mean matured men and women who had wedded at least once in life.

The Study area

The Bhogdabari is a Boro concentrated village of Kamrup district, under Boko Development Block. It lies nearer to National Highway No 37 at the southern bank of mighty Brahmaputra. The nearest semi urban area, the Boko bazaar is at a distance of about 6 kms from the Bhogdabari village. The nearby villages of Bhogdabari are primarily Rabha and Boro inhabited. In Bhogdabari 92 Boro households inhabit homogenously. The population of the village is 496, where number of males and females are 251 and 245 respectively.

The Singpara is a Garo village of Gohalkona area. It lies within the area of Boko Development Block of Kamrup District. It is located at about 8 km far from Boko area, towards the southern border of the district. The Gohalkona is a Garo concentrated area although the area is inhabited by Rabhas and Boros also. The Singpara is inhabited exclusively by Garo people. There are 78 households in the village with a population of 204 males and 214 females, and altogether 418 persons in Singpara.

The people

The Boros are one of the major tribal communities of Assam. In Assam they are distributed primarily in Kamrup district, Goalpara, Udalguri, Kokrajhar and Darrag district etc. The Boros follow patrilineal, patriarchal and patrilocal social system. They are primarily monogamous, but polygyny is also found. They are Hindu by religion.

The Garos are a tribal community of North East India. The Garo hills district of Meghalaya is the primary habitation of the Garos. However, the Garos are found to be distributed in Assam also. In Assam their concentration is found in Kamrup and Goalpara district. It is a known fact that the Garo villages are distributed primarily in the southern part of the districts. The Garo societies are matrilineal, matriarchal and matrilocal by custom. The Garos of the study area are followers of Christianity.

Occupational pattern of the Boros

The Boros primarily live on agriculture. The survey report shows that in Bhogdabari 85(33.86%) males are cultivators. Among the females also 53(21.63%) are primarily cultivators. The occupational pattern (Table 1-A) shows that 4(1.63%) women of the village hold service while 12(4.89%) women practice weaving as means of earning. Poultry, piggy, cattle farming etc are means of earning for many women of Bhogdabari. Few women sell home-made liquor (joo) for earning. Thus table 1-A reflects the

Boro women's significant role in maintenance of family.

Occupational pattern of the Garos

The Garo people of Singpara are primarily wet cultivator. However garden cultivation is a common practice for them. They practice shifting (jhum) cultivation also. As revealed in household survey (Table 1-B), 30.88% (63) males of Singpara village are primarily agriculturist. Among the women 24.76% (53) holds agriculture as their prime occupation. Service is adopted by 14(6.54%) women and business is adopted by 7(3.27%) of Singpara village. As shown in table 1- B the Garo women are seen to be absorbed in other various occupations also.

Participation of a person in buying and selling of objects or transaction of money for buying and selling are some of the important matters to understand a person's position in the area of economy. In a household various types of materials are sold and purchased. In an agro based rural household land are one of such materials. Selling of major household products, buying of household valuables, day- to-day objects etc. are some common events of buying and selling under economic activities. In this paper it is attempted to investigate the involvement of Boro women and Garo women in making decisions in some economic matters of their agro- based rural society.

Materials

Table 1- A
Occupational pattern of the Boros of Bhogdabari village

Occupation	Men		Women		Total		
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.	
Agriculture	Primary	85	33.86	53	21.63	138	27.82
	Sec-ondary	11	4.38	9	3.67	20	4.03
Service	Primary	50	19.92	4	1.63	54	10.88
	Sec-ondary						
Business	Primary	7	2.78	1	.40	8	1.61
	Sec-ondary	3	1.19	3	1.22	6	1.20
Household work	Primary			61	24.90	61	12.30
	Sec-ondary						
Weaving	Primary			12	4.89	12	2.41
	Sec-ondary			5	2.04	5	1.00
Poultry & piggy	Primary			12	4.89	12	2.41
	Sec-ondary	3	1.19	52	21.22	55	11.08
Rice beer making	Primary			9	3.67	9	1.81
	Sec-ondary			10	4.08	10	2.01
Cattle farming	Primary						
	Sec-ondary			4	1.63	4	.80
Labourer	Primary						
	Sec-ondary	18	7.17	5	2.04	23	4.63
Rickshaw pulling	Primary	1	.39			1	.20
	Sec-ondary						
Other	Primary						
	Sec-ondary	16	6.37	1	.40	17	3.42
Student		88	35.05	63	25.71	151	30.44
Dependent		7	2.78	18	7.34	25	5.04
Children		13	5.17	12	4.89	25	5.04

Table 1-B
Occupational pattern of the Garos of Singpara village

Occupation		Men		Women		Total	
		Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Agriculture	Primary	63	30.88	53	24.76	116	27.75
	Secondary	11	5.39	4	1.86	15	3.58
Service	Primary	39	19.11	14	6.54	53	12.67
	Secondary			1	.46	1	.23
Business	Primary	9	4.41	7	3.27	16	3.82
	Secondary	5	2.45		.46	6	1.43
Household work	Primary			54	25.23	54	12.91
	Secondary			7	3.27	7	1.67
Weaving	Primary						
	Secondary						
Poultry & pig-gery	Primary						
	Secondary			2	.93	2	.47
Horticulture	Primary	4	1.96			4	.95
	Secondary	5	2.45			5	1.19
Craftsmanship	Primary	6	2.94			6	1.43
	Secondary						
Labourer	Primary						
	Secondary	11	5.39	6	2.80	17	4.06
Jhum & Muga cultivation	Primary						
	Secondary	7	3.43			7	1.67
Other/Sericulture	Primary						
	Secondary	2	.98			2	.47
Student		68	33.33	75	35.04	143	34.21
Dependent		5	2.45	4	1.86	9	2.15
Child		10	4.90	7	3.27	17	4.06

Table 2- A
Decision in transaction of family land in the Boro society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	12	12	12	12
Wife			4	4
Both husband and wife	81	81	75	75
Son	1	1	1	1
Whole family			1	1
Does not arise	6	6	7	7
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 2- B
Decision in transaction of family land in the Garo society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	21	21	6	6
Wife			14	14
Both husband and wife	63	63	68	68
Family members	6	6		
Clan men	3	3	1	1
Father			2	2
Father- in- law	1	1		
Mother			3	3
Daughter and son-in-law	1	1		
Does not arise	5	5	6	6
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 3-A
Decision of selling of major household products in the Boro society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	15	15	15	15
Wife	1	1	7	7
Both husband and wife	83	83	75	75
Son			2	2
Son and daughter-in- law	1	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 3-B
Decision of selling of major household products in the Garo society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	24	24	14	14
Wife	2	2	6	6
Both husband and wife	70	70	68	68
Parents- in- law	1	1		
Father			2	2
Son- in -law	2	2	4	4
Other			3	3
Any members of family	1	1	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 4-A
Decision of purchasing of household valuables in the Boro society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	13	13	9	9
Wife			6	6
Both husband and wife	86	86	80	80
Son			3	3
Does not arise	1	1	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 4-B
Decision in purchasing of household valuables in the Garo society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	26	26	20	20
Wife			4	4
Both husband and wife	52	52	65	65
Father- in- law	1	1		
Son			2	2
Son- in- law	3	3	5	5
Father			2	2
Whole family	11	11		
Does not arise			2	2
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 5-A
Decision of purchasing of day to day necessities in the Boro society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	10	10	8	8
Wife	5	5	10	10
Both husband and wife	82	82	75	75
Any one	1	1		
Son			4	4
Son and daughter- in- law			1	1
Whole family	2	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 5-B
Decision of purchasing of day to day necessities in the Garo society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	24	24	13	13
Wife	7	7	27	27
Both husband and wife	66	66	52	52
Son- in- law	1	1	2	2
Daughter	1	1	1	1
Father			1	1
Any member of the family	1	1	4	4
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 6-A
Decision taken on use of agricultural land in the Boro society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	31	31	23	23
Wife	1	1	7	7
Both husband and wife	66	66	64	64
Parents	2	2		
Son			4	4
Brother			2	2
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 6-B
Decision taken on use of agricultural land in the Garo society

Individuals	Men		Women	
	Numbers	p.c.	Numbers	p.c.
Husband	16	16	26	26
Wife			5	5
Both husband and wife	79	79	59	59
Parents			1	1
Son- in- law	2	2	4	4
Father			3	3
Father- in- law	3	3		
Mother			2	2
Total	100	100	100	100

Results

As appeared from table 2-A in Boro society in buying and selling of family lands a sizable section of men (81%) take decision in consultation with their wives. Similarly, a large section of women (75%) also expressed that they take part with their husbands in consultation of the matters like buying and selling of family lands. As found from 12% men as well as from 12% women's opinion, buying and selling of family land are decided by men only and thus it shows that in Boro society a small section of men individually decide these matters. Women's individual decision in transaction of land is appeared negligible as only 4% women exercise it.

As seen in table 2-B, among the Garos 63% men respondent and 68% women told about joint decision of husbands and wives in buying and selling of family land. The above matters are reported as individual decision of men by 21% men and 6% women respondents. Among the Garo women 14% have declared themselves as sole decision maker in the matter of household land transaction. About this matter 3% of women respondents pointed out to their mothers and 3% of men respondents reported to clan members of their wives.

Regarding the selling of major household products in Boro society table 3-A shows that in men's report 83% of them consult to their wives and only 15% of men decide such matters individually. Women respondent's opinion shows that 75% of them are consulted by their husbands while 15% women are not consulted by their discussed matter, rather their husbands decide these matters individually. In replying the discussed question only 7% of women recorded that they individually take decision in selling of major household products.

On the above discussed matter in table 3-B it is clearly seen that among the Garos 70% of men respondents as well as 68% of women respondents take decision jointly the with their spouses. Single decision of men in this matter is reported by 24% men and 14% women only. Single decision of women is seen very low, 2% in men's opinion and 6% in women's opinion. In negligible percentage of women's report, their fathers, son-in-laws and other members of the family are also told to be associated with selling of these products.

From table 4-A it is seen that among the Boros majority 86% men take their decisions jointly with their wives for purchasing of any household valuable. It is seen that only

13% men reported about their individual decision in the matter of purchasing of household valuables. On the other hand 9% women told that their husbands individually decide such matters while other 6% women reported about their own decision in these matters. As found in the report of Boro women, 80% of them take such decisions jointly with their husbands.

About the purchasing of valuable goods for household in Garo society (table 4-B) it is seen that 26% of men respondents could purchase these goods at their own decision. However 52% men expressed that buying of household valuables are decided jointly with their wives. About joint opinion of men and women were reported by 65% women also. In this matter husband's independent decision were reported by 20% women while women's own independent decision was reported by other 4% women.

As seen in table 5-A among the respondents of Boro society 10% men independently decide the matters of purchasing of day to day necessities of household. Husband's individual decision in same matter was reported by 8% women also. It is significant that joint decision of couple is reported by 82% men and 75% women respondent of Garo society. Among the women respondents 10% reported that they independently decide the matters of purchasing daily necessities of their household. Among men also 5% reported that their wives take such decision independently. Among the women respondents 4% answered that their sons take decision in these matters.

In purchasing of day to day necessities of household in Garo society, table 5-B shows that joint participation of both husband and wife take place among 66% of men and 52% of women respondents of the study area. Another 24% men and 13% women respondents told that males individually decide these matters. In men's report, only 7% women are told individual decision maker while women's opinion 27% of them are told free of taking decision without consultation to anybody.

On the use of agricultural land 31% men and 23% women respondents of Boro society expressed that male head of the household take absolute decision (Table 6-A). Another 66% of men and 64% of women respondents told that they decide the use of agricultural land in consultation with their spouses. In this matter individual decision of women has been reported by only 1% men and 7% women respondents. Again 2% men told that their parents take such decision. On this matter 4% woman depend on their sons and 2% women look for their brother's decision in the matter of agricultural land use.

Regarding use of agricultural land among the Garos, table 6-B shows that few men individually decide such matters. They are 16% and 26% in men's report and women's report respectively. Agricultural land use is told joint decision of both husbands and wives by 79% men and 59% women respondents. As seen in table 6-B, 5% of women respondents independently decide the matters of agricultural land use. Son-in-laws decide the use of agricultural land in case of 2% men and 4% women respondents of Garo society. Among them another 3% men expressed that their father-in-law take decision on the matter of agricultural land use, which is also established from the report of equal numbers of women.

Discussion

In an agro based rural society land is the prime source of

livelihood, even holding land is a matter of prestige for a family in a rural society. Actually, buying and selling of land is not a very common event in these families.

The study reveals that in a Boro society a very large section of women are consulted by their husbands when they sell or purchase any household land. However, only a small section of men independently decides such matters. In this matter only a negligible section of women take independent decision and they appear to be widows. Such record of participation indicates a very good status of Boro women in the matter of family economy.

Regarding the sell and purchase of household land among the Garos of study area discussion between husband and wife is a common event among a good section of men and women. It appears that independent decision of women is seen among a small section of women only. On individual decision of male some differences are seen in the opinion of men and women. As found from man's report, participation of all the family members or participation of clan members take place in case of a very small section of Garo household.

However, on the discussed matter joint participation of Boro women is more than the same of Garo women. Among the remaining section of Garos, women's participation could not be recognised clearly. They are seen either with family members, clan members or as lone decision maker.

In a Boro household major household products are the rice, master seed, betel nut, litchi, banana, jackfruit etc. and other vegetables. These are cultivated for consumption as well as for cash earning. Almost every household of the village sell some of these objects to manage family economy. Decision making role of women in selling of these materials may indicate a women's hold on economic activities of their life.

From the opinion of men and women of Boro society (Table 3-A) it reveals that a sizable section of men (83%) and women (75%) of take decision of selling major household products in consultation with their spouses. Few men (15% as recorded by men and 15% as recorded by women) take decision individually in this regard. Though only 7% women decide such this matters independently they can be not be neglected. From field visit and interview also it is found that the women of Bhogdabari are free enough in selling of their household products. They sell it usually at their requirement of money or at the maturity of products.

Among the Garos the major household products include rice, battle nut, orange, pineapple, banana etc. The battle nuts are usually sold in village market and the males are seen in selling these objects. Some businessmen from outside enter in the village and purchase these objects from village points. However some males and females carry orange, pineapple, banana, jackfruits etc. to market and sell.

As found from the opinion of men and women of the Garos a very large section of men and women jointly decide the matters of selling of major household products. A small section of men decide such matters individually. Few women also exercise their individual decision in this matter. However, hold of women's father, son-in-law or other members is also exercised in Garo families. During field visit also the researcher observed the independent exercise of decision of Garo women of the study area.

In the issue of selling major household products it appears that a very large section of Boro women participate with their husbands in making decisions. Similar participation is seen among the Garo women also, but as joint decision maker their percentage is found a bit less than the percentage of the Boros. Almost equal percentage of women exercises individual decision in both Boro and Garo society. Among the Garos the old widows like to leave this authority to their son-in-law and in young women's family her father exercise power in these matters.

T.V., radio, car, bike, tractor, bicycle etc. are considered as valuable objects in a rural family. It is assumed that these come to a household by the will of a male head of a household. Women's involvement in deciding such a matter is considered as an indication of good position of women in economic matters of a family.

In table 4-A it is reflected that among the Boros in purchasing of household valuables a sizable section of men (86%) and women (80%) participate with their spouses. Very few women individually decide such matters. It appears that all most all men are involved in this matter, either individually or jointly. However, a small section of men take decision independently in cases like purchasing valuable for own household. It is this matter women's involvement is sizable but less than the men of same society.

On the same matter among the Garos a good section of husbands and wives talk to each other when they purchase any valuables. However it appears that a considerable section of men individually decide these matters. Women's individual decision on these matters is very low or negligible.

After the analysing the report of both the societies it is found that joint decision of husband and wives are majority among the Boros than among the Garos. In Garo society men are more in taking individual decision than the men of Boro society. Among the Garos Son and son-in-laws get importance when the head of the family is single or aged women.

The day to day necessary materials of a household include varieties of objects. Usually these are thought to be less expensive than the other valuable objects. Among the Boros in purchasing of day-to-day necessities of a household participation of husband and wife are apparent in case of a very good section of men and women (Table 5-A). A small section of men and almost similar section of women of Boro society decides these matters individually. Thus it appears that regarding the decision making of the purchasing of day to day objects no prominent differences are seen between two genders among the Boros.

In a Garo society a good number of husbands and wives jointly decide the matters of purchasing of day-to-day material (Table 5-B) of household. However, a considerable section of each gender independently carries these matters. During field visit also the researcher noticed that many Garo women roam freely in market and purchase minor household objects.

In this matter joint decision makers are more among the Boros than among the Garos. On the other hand independent marketing is prevailed more among the Garo male and female than the Boros.

In the process of agricultural activities of a household vari-

ous matters rise to decide, such as type of crops to produce, plots to be used for different crops, use of plough, use of manure etc. Regarding such decisions it appears that in Boro society very large section of men and women consult to their spouses (Table 6-A). A good section of men among the Boros independently decide the matters of agricultural land use. The study reveals that in Boro society the widows or single women independently decide such matters though their numbers are very low. Also it is found that among the Boros a negligible percentage (2%) of widows leaves such matters to their brothers. In case of aged couples their sons take decision about the uses of agricultural land. In interview also such matters are stated by some women.

Among the Garos a large section of men and women talk to their marital partners when they go for any agricultural activities. Men as individual decision maker are majority in women's reporting than in men's reporting. Similarly husband-wife as joint decision maker is minority in women's report than the men's report. It is found that very few women decide these matters individually and they are single women or widows. However the report shows that few men take such decision individually as they are akin to some women as son-in-law or father. In case of some young couples, the women's parents, mother or father take such decisions.

The study shows that in case of good section of couple husband-wife joint decision is found in both Boro and Garo society. In both the societies negligible section of women independently decide the matters of agricultural land use.

Conclusion

From the occupational pattern it appears that both Boro and Garo women have enough contribution to the earning of household. Regarding the buying and selling of household land it appears that in the major financial matters of household like buying or selling of lands, selling of major household products, purchasing of household valuables a very large section of Boro women participate with their husbands in making decisions. In these matters a large section of Garo husbands and wives also decide jointly in consultation with each other. However as joint decision maker the Boros are majority than the Garos in these aspects. Also in these matters the overall involvements of men are more than the women in both the societies.

In minor financial matters a small section of men and women take decisions independently in Boro society. In Garo society also a good section of men and women take decision individually in purchasing of minor day-to-day objects. In this matter joint decision of husband and wife is found among majority of the Boros than among the Garos. In this matter the total involvement of men are almost equal with the involvement of women in Boro society. Among the Garos also almost equal numbers of males and females take part in purchasing of minor day to day objects of a household.

On the other hand almost all men of both Boro and Garo society are involved in deciding the matters of agricultural land use except few service holders who leave such matters to their wives. In both the societies a good section of women are consulted by their husbands in this matter. The study reveals that in all the above discussed matters the widows or single women of both the societies usually take decision independently and they are very few in numbers.

Among the Boros negligible section of widows leave such matters to their sons, while such matters are left to son-in-laws by very few Garo widows. It also appears that not only in a patriarchal society, in matriarchal society also a good section of men shoulder the responsibility to earn for the family and decide individually the matters of production.

Thus it can be concluded that in rural area of Kamrup district, in decision making of economic activities the Boro women have a very good participation though it is not equal to men. In minor monetary matters women enjoy more freedom than the major monetary matters. It appears that in production related matters women's participation is less than the other matters of investigation. In case of Garo society women's participation in decision making of major economic activities is slightly less than the Boro women of study area. In decision making of minor monetary matters and in agricultural land use, the Garo women are staying in similar position as with the Boro women. However, it can be concluded that regarding the decision making criterion the position of both Boro women and Garo women are very good in household atmosphere but not equal to their male counterparts. The matrilineal social system does not show any impact in exercising decision in economic activities among the Garo women. However few women of both the societies take decision independently in economic matters.

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