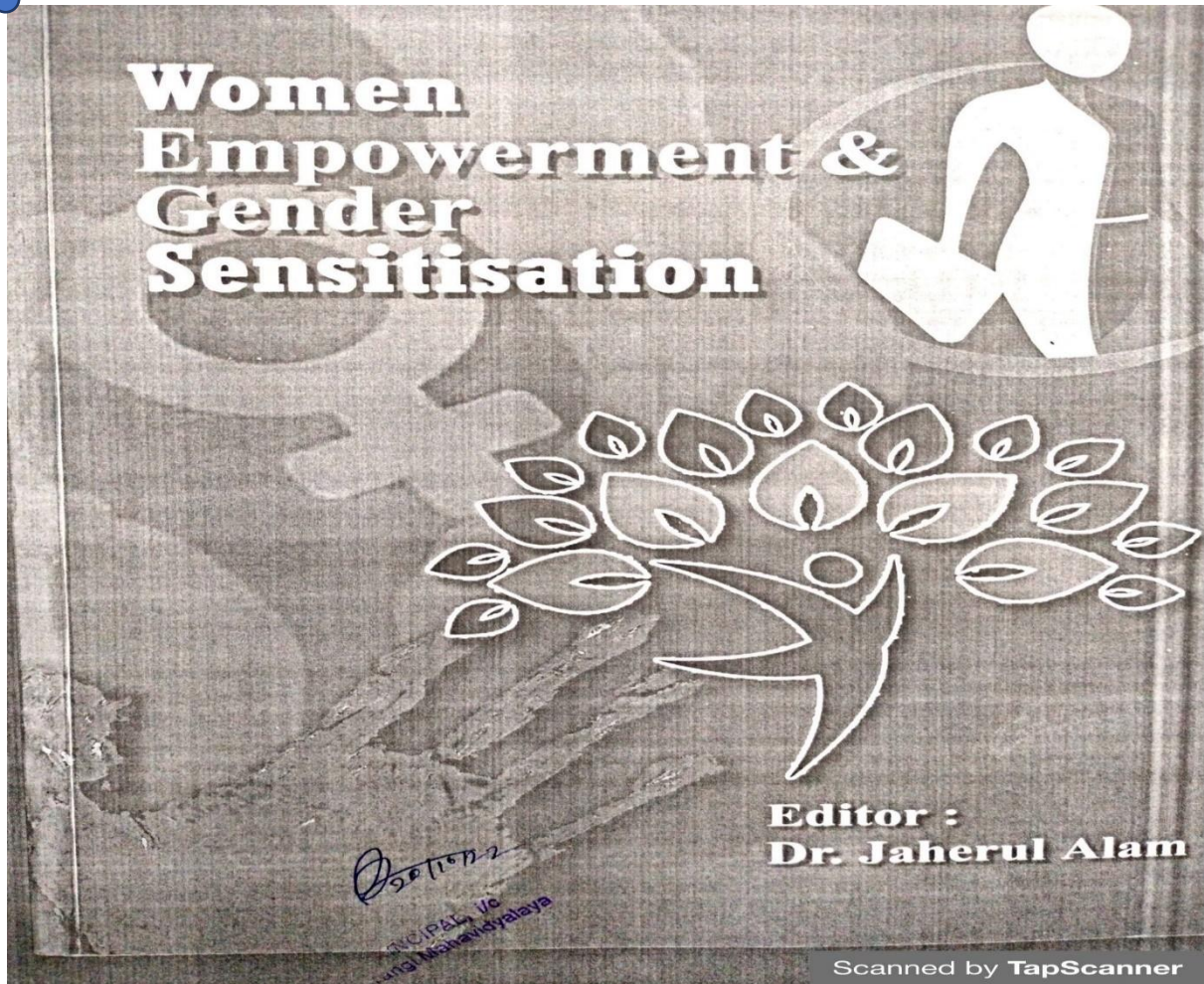


2019-20

Articles / Chapters published in Books

1. **Dr.Kakali Borah.**

Political Empowerment of Women and their participation in Political Field through SHGs with a special reference to on four selected SHGs under West Development Block, Bokakhat within Golaghat District.



K. Mahanta
PRINCIPAL, i/c
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**Political Empowerment of Women and their
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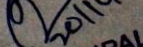
Dr. Kakali Borah

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Abstract:

The empowerment of women is an important key to human liberation and an essential pre-condition for the development of a community and a nation. The term empowerment has been defined in the Oxford Dictionary as a "Process of enabling". The concept of women's empowerment appears to be the outcome of various debates and discussion generated by women's movement throughout the world particularly by the third world feminists. In 1952, the United Nation adopted a resolution aimed at granting and protecting women's right all over the world. Empowerment, particularly women's empowerment has been defined as the process whereby poor women can develop capacities to challenge the traditional society where they live in, control the social injustice and discrimination and can take strong step against gender discrimination which they think to be unjustified.

Economic empowerment is undoubtedly the key to their progress and it may lead to all other kinds of empowerment including political empowerment. In India, economic and political empowerment became effective only after the formation of SHG under SGSY which lunched on 1st April 1999. A Self Help Group is a registered or may be unregistered group of rural poor who have volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. Political participation on the hand is a process by which people participate in decision making or formation of policies of the government.


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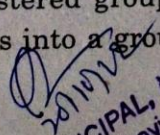
Keywords: Empowerment, SHGs, Political Participation, Democracy, Awareness.

Introduction:

The empowerment of women is an important key to human liberation and an essential pre-condition for the development of a community and a nation. Empowerment is a process, where women organize themselves to increase their own self-reliance to assert their right to make choices with regards to their lives, control of resource and make them more active in the society. The term empowerment has been defined in the Oxford Dictionary as a "Process of enabling"¹. The United Nations defines, "Empowerment" as a fact of human development, along with co-operation, equity, sustainability and security. Kabeer (2001) defines, empowerment as "the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously defined to them"². Thus, from the above definition it is clear that empowerment is a means of creating a social transformation. It strengthens the ability through acquiring knowledge, power and experience.

The concept of women's empowerment appears to be the outcome of various debates and discussion generated by women's movement throughout the world particularly by the third world feminists. In 1952, the United Nations adopted a resolution aimed at granting and protecting women's right all over the world. The United Nations declared 1975 as the International Women's year and 1975-85 as the women's Development Decade. Empowerment, particularly women's empowerment has been defined as the process whereby poor women can develop capacities to challenge the traditional society where they live in, control the social injustice and discrimination and can take strong step against gender discrimination which they think to be unjustified.

In India, women's empowerment can be possible in some extent with the formation of Self Help Groups. A Self Help Group is a registered or may be unregistered group of rural poor who have volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They


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