

“A Study On Reproductive Health Care Among The Tea Tribe Labour Women of Amguri Tea Garden Sivasagar District of Assam”

Author Name & Designation

Ms. Priyanka Gayan

M . A in Sociology

Gauhati University

Author Address

Namti Bangali Gayan Gaon

785684, Sivasagar, Assam

gayanpriyanka02@gmail.com

Abstract :

Background: Reproduction is the law of nature and the most important part of women's life. The knowledge of reproductive health care is essential for every women. Tea tribe women are more busy in their daily work in the tea garden. They spent most of the time in the workplace. They are less educated than other women's in the society. This paper tries to understand the knowledge of tea tribe women regarding reproductive health care. The researcher also focus on how aware they are of their reproductive health care facilities provided by the tea estate and government.

Method: The present study is descriptive in nature. The study was done on 50 labour women of Amguri Tea Garden of Sivasagar district in Assam. Pre designed semi structured interview schedule used as a tools of data collection.

Results : Out of 50 respondents majority (80%) were unaware about proper age of puberty and menopause. Only 10% respondents have knowledge about reproductive health related diseases.

Conclusion: Present study showed reproductive health care related education and awareness play key role in maintaining healthy reproductive health among the tea garden labour women.

Key Words : Reproduction, reproductive health care, tea tribe, labour, women,

1.Introduction :

Reproduction is the only one aspect which made distinction between men and women. Reproductive health care refers to the comprehensive medical services and education provided to individuals to ensure their optional reproductive health. This includes a wide range of services that encompass sexual health, family planning, pregnancy care, fertility services and treatment for reproductive health issues. Reproductive health care aims to provide individuals with the information, resources and support they need to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and to access the care they need to achieve their reproductive goals. Reproductive health care plays a crucial role in promoting the health and well – being of individuals and communities.

Women constitute half of the total population of the society. No society can progress without the improvement of women. Women health care is the most important aspect for their life. They are suffering various pain and difficulties in her reproductive life. Women should have access to quality maternal healthcare services before, during and after pregnancy to reduce the risk of complications. Access to comprehensive reproductive health care is essential for women to make informed decisions and take control of their reproductive health.

The tea industry in Assam is a popular and important industry. The tea tribe people constitute a large portion of the total population in Assam. Tea tribe women plays an important role in the tea industry. The industry will never be complete without their involvement and contribution. Most of them are illiterate or educationally backward. They are facing various problems in their daily life. The tea tribe women faced various challenges regarding reproductive health care services. In this paper researcher tries to discuss tea tribe women's knowledge and awareness towards reproductive health care services.

Tea tribe peoples are an integral part of the social life of Assam. These tea tribe people were actually called tribal in Assam. There are more than 100 tea tribe communities with different cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic heritage. These tea tribe people from Assam were brought from different parts of India during the British rule in 1860 – 69. However, they have now become an important part of the social life of Assam. Tea tribe workers are currently the indispensable and promising labour force of the tea industry in Assam. During British colonial period, people from Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other states of India were brought to Assam as labourers for tea cultivation.

These workers cleared the dense forests of Assam and started tea cultivation. These people who left their state, homes and relatives to establish the tea industry in Assam were called 'Kulis'. They are the ones who have made Assam green with tea plantations despite enduring inhuman persecution under the shadow of the British.

Each ethnic group of the tea tribe has its own society. Every society has its own social system, rights, rituals and festivals. These include the Chaotal Samaj, Kurmi Samaj, Kharia Samaj, Ganj Samaj, etc. These people who come to Assam from Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar etc with poverty have big hearts. Therefore, the workers have united with hundreds of communities and formed a great nation. Assam has become green because of the hard work of simple, generous people with green minds like the green leaves of the tea tree.

The British brought people from lower and Dalit communities from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madras, Chotanagpur, Chhattisgarh etc. to Assam to work in the tea plantations. These tea tribes are living in almost all the districts of the geographical map of Assam. Every tea plantation across Assam is created and nurtured by the labour of the people of the tea tribe community. In addition, many former tea tribesman leave the garden work and work in rural areas such as villages and slams. These people have also moved out of the gardens. These people are inhabited on the southern and north bank of the Brahmaputra river and also the hilly districts of Assam. They lived in Udalguri, Darrang, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji district on the North bank of Brahmaputra river and Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Tinsukia, Choraideu district on the South bank of Brahmaputra river. They also lived in Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Goalpara district of lower valley and Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

2. Objective of The Study:

There are two main objective of this paper-

- The first objective is to explore the knowledge and awareness towards reproductive health care among Tea Tribe women.
- The second objective is to understand the reproductive health care services received by the Tea Tribe women.

3. Methods:

The present study is descriptive in nature. The study was done on 50 labour women of Amguri Tea Garden of Sivasagar district in Assam. Pre designed semi structured interview schedule used as a tools of data collection. The subjects were taken by using the simple random sampling method. The analysis was carried out to explore the distribution of several categorical and qualitative variables.

3.1 Research Design: A research design is a plan that helps in collecting and analyzing data in a scientific manner. The research of this study used a descriptive design.

3.2: Research Approach: The analysis will be descriptive in its approach. The present study will have a qualitative approach to help understand and interpret the social status of tea garden labour women.

3.3 Methods of Data Collection and Data Analysis: The method of data collection consists of structured interviews of women and non-participant observation. The unit of analysis are women and total sample size 50. Data was analysis through description and explanations methods.

3.4 Sampling: Sample refers to the representative unit of the universe. In this study the selection process is called 'sampling technique'. Researcher must prepare a sample design for obtaining a sample from a given population. In this study 'infinite universe' has been taken because the population of the tea garden is known. The families of the tea garden is taken as "sample unit". In the present study initially probability sampling method has been used because in this study every item of the universe has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample. Simple Random Sampling method of sample selection is used which gives each possible sample combination an equal probability of being chosen. In this study 50 tea garden women to be used as sample.

3.5 Universe of The Study: In this study the universe is all the women workers of the tea garden of Sivasagar District, Assam. There are 85th tea garden in Sivasagar district. In this study researchers universe is all the female population of Amguri tea garden. From this universe the researcher drew a sample, the object of the study. The sample have been drawn by selecting the women of the respective tea garden.

3.6 Ethical Consideration: All study instruments will be pre-tested and modified to ensure that questions are posed in a culturally appropriate manner. Every participant will be informed about the nature of the study.

3.7 Time Plan:

Task	Planned start	Planned completion	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Advanced Literature Study	25 / 01 / 2024	5/01/2024	*											
Area Selection	6/01/2024	27 / 01 / 2024	*											
Literature Review	28/01/2024	5 / 02 // 2024	*	*										
Finalizing research problem	6/02/2024	12/02/2024		*										
Planning Research design	13/02/2024	20 / 02 / 2024		*										
Further Literature Review	21/02/2024	1/03/2024		*	*									
Field visit/Data collection	2/03/2024	20 / 03 / 2024			*									
Data completion/ Analysis	21/03/2024	28 / 03 / 2024			*									
Prepare Draft Chapter	29/03/2024	10/04/2024			*	*								
Finalize Research Paper	11/04/2024	20 / 04 / 2024				*								
Proof reading	20/04/2024	23 / 04 / 2024				*								
Completion of paper	12 / 06 / 2024					*								

4. Result :

In this study the respondents have study in terms of their knowledge regarding reproductive health care through interview schedule and personal interview. Considering the objective of the study, the respondents were asked question regarding medical facilities provide by the tea garden for their reproductive health care, proper knowledge of puberty and menstruation, use of sanitary napkins and contraception, also asked them questions regarding sexually transmitted diseases and knowledge about reproductive right. There are the results which received on the time of field study-

Table 3.1: Proper Knowledge of Puberty and Menopause

SI no	Proper Knowledge of Puberty and Menopause	Number of the respondent	percentage
1	Yes	10	20%
2	No	40	80%
	Total	50	100%

From the table 3.1 it is found that out of the total respondents only 20% women have proper knowledge of puberty and menopause. Others are not aware about this knowledge of reproductive health care.

In the study observed that only 30% women are used napkins. Most of the women do not use sanitary napkins. They used cloths which are unhygienic for reproductive health care.

SI no	Use of Contraception	Number of the respondent	percentage
1	Yes	3	6%
2	No	47	94%
	Total	50	100%

Table 3.3: Use of Contraception

Table no 3.3 found that only 6% women are used contraception and most of the women do not use the contraception for unwanted pregnancy.

Table 3.4: Facing problems during maternity period

SI no	Facing problem in the time of pregnancy	Number of the respondent	percentage
1	Yes	25	50%
2	No	25	50%
	Total	50	100%

It is found that 50% respondents faced problems and complexity during their maternity period. They faced pregnancy related issues because of early child marriage. Most of the tea garden women workers married early age.

SI no	Use of Napkins	Number of the respondent	percentage
1	Yes	15	30%
2	No	35	70%
	Total	50	100%

Table 3.5: Response Regarding HIV/AIDS

SI no	Knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Number of the respondent	percentage
1	Yes	5	10%
2	No	45	90%
	Total	50	100%

It is found that only 10% respondent have knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Most of the women have no proper knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

Table 3.6: Knowledge of Reproductive Rights

SI no	Knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Number of the respondent	Percentage
1	Yes	0	0
2	No	50	100%
	Total	50	100%

Table 3.6 found that all of the respondents are not aware about Reproductive Rights. They are unaware about the different policies and scheme of government regarding reproductive health care.

The medical of the tea garden provide 24 hours treatment facilities for their workers. There are ambulances are available in every time for workers help. One doctor, one GNM and two ANM are present everyday in the medical. CIBINET machine and Oxygen facilities also available in the tea garden medical. In the time of pregnancy the hospital provides all care for the tea garden women. All medical care and medicine are provide free of cost. Every Thursday the doctor checked the pregnant women in the dispensary. The dispensary was more clean as well as behavior of the staff is more polite towards patients.

Discussion:

In the present study an attempt has been made to understand the level of awareness of the tea garden women regarding reproductive health. Under the concept of women reproductive health, attainment of puberty, menstruation, pregnancy etc. are important. Proper knowledge of puberty, safe and hygienic practices of menstruation, healthy pregnancy are essential for every women. Mostly women faced problem relate to unhygienic menstruation, unwanted pregnancy, complicacy in pregnancy. Tea garden women were mostly uneducated. They are faced various reproductive health issues in their daily life. They are always busy in the tea garden work as well as household work.

The tea garden women are uneducated so they have no proper knowledge about reproductive health care services. They used napkins because its provide from Tea Garden Medical. They faced various problems during the pregnancy and delivery time. Most of them are worked in the company tea garden where they reside. The residential condition of them are unhygienic. Due to this condition tea tribe women faced various health related problems. Most of the respondents are illiterate so they are unaware about reproductive health related disease such as

HIV/AIDS. Most of them are married at early age. Reproductive health care related knowledge and awareness are very poor among the tea tribe women.

All scientific enquiries are subjected to some limitations. In this project we have faced various difficulties to complete the project. The findings of the study are subjected to the following limitations:

- The study area was confined to a tea garden. The result of the study are applicable only to similar kind of situation analysis.
- There is another limitation of the study is limited access to information which hampered to study different aspect and analysis.
- The information given by the respondents might be biased because some of them might not be interested in providing correct data.
- Some of the information given by the respondents is not suitable to classify or to analyse.

5. Conclusion :

The tea garden women are the prime work force of the tea industry. They worked 8am to 4pm everyday in the tea garden. They worked as primary worker in the tea garden. Most of them are uneducated and illiterate. They faced problems every sphere of their daily life. Reproductive health care related issues are one of the core problem for them. This findings of the study suggest that though the women of the Amguri Tea Garden have no sufficient knowledge about reproductive health care and its related health issues. From the study it was reflect that proper knowledge and awareness of reproductive health care was missing among them because of poor socio-economic conditions, lack of education and lack of knowledge regarding government rights and policies of reproductive health care. In this regards, social organization and NGO, the government should pay attention to them in proper education, genuine socialization, cultural advancement, economic self -reliance etc and help them to live a beautiful life in this world. First of all, they have to attention to their educational improvement only then we can expect a healthy and sound tea tribe society.

5.References :

Article:

Akhtar, S.M : '*Emigrant Labour for Assam Tea Gardens*'.(1939) .Digital Library in India.

Bhadra, Mita: '*Women Workers of Tea Plantation in India*'(1992). Heritage Publisher, New Delhi-6

Rose, N : Reproductive Health Awareness among the Tribal Women in Manipur, Concept Publisher.

Books:

Kurmi, Sushil : 'Asomor Chah Sramikar Avadon'(assamese,2007)Guwahati Prakashan Parisad- 781021

Saikia, Biswajit : 'Tea Garden Community and Adivasi Assertion in Assam, Manipur Research Forum (2009)

Boruah, Pradip: 'The Tea Industry Of Assam Origin and Development', EBH Publication(2009)

Website:

National Health Mission: Maternal Health Care

<https://www.nhm.gov.in/nrhcomponents/rmnch-a/maternalhealth/background.html>

(Accessed on 3rd June. 2024, 4pm)

National Health Mission : Reproductive Health Schemes

<https://nhm.assam.gov.in/schemes/pradhan-mantri-surakshit-matritva-abhiyanpmsma>

(Accessed on 3rd June. 2024, 4pm)

National Health Mission :Reproductive Health Mission

<https://nhm.assam.gov.in/schemes/janani-suraksha-yojana>, (Accessed on 3rd June. 2024, 4pm)

World Health Organization : Definition of Reproductive Health

<https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/infertility/definitions> (Accessed on 3rd June 2024, 4pm)

Appendix:

I. Interview Schedule:

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Name of Interviewer : Priyanka Gayan

MA in Sociology

Gauhati University

**Research Topic : "A Sociological Study On Reproductive Health Care Knowledge
Among Tea Tribe Women in Amguri Tea Garden of Sivasagar District"**

Name of the Tea Estate: Amguri

Dist: Sivasagar

P.O:

Pin:

Date:

Name of the Respondent:

1. Age : 20 – 30/ 31 – 40 / 41 – 50 / 51 – 60 / above 60

2. Educational Status : HSLC / HS / BA / MA

3. Occupation :

4. Marital Status Married / Unmarried / Widow

5. Religion : Hindu / Muslim / Christian / Sikh

6. Caste : General / MOBC / OBC / ST / SC

7. Do you have any children? Yes / No

8. How many children you Have? 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / More than 4

9. Is there any health centre in your tea garden? Yes / No

10. What kind of health Centre Provided by estate?

**11. Whether medicine is Available in the Health centre? Available / A Few Available /
Not Available**

11. Who stays for treatment in the hospital? Doctor / Nurse / Compounder

12. Is ambulance is available here? **Yes / No**
13. Do you know the proper age of puberty? **Yes / No**
14. If you know which is the proper age? **8 – 10 / 10 – 12 / 12 – 14 / 14 – 16**
15. Do you use sanitary napkins during periods? **Yes / No**
16. Do you know the proper age of menopause? **Yes / No**
17. If you know which is the proper age? **40 – 45 / 45 – 50 / 50 – 55**
18. Are you face any problem during the pregnancy time? **Yes / No**
19. Do you go to medical for regular check up? **Yes / No**
20. Where do you give birth the baby in home or in hospital? **Home / Hospital**
21. Do you know about contraception? **Yes / No**
22. If yes have you ever used contraceptive pills? **Yes / No**
23. Do you know how to use contraceptive pills? **Yes / No**
24. Are you aware about HIV / AIDS? **Yes / No**
25. What is HIV / AIDS ? **Virus/ Bacteria / Germs / Disease**
26. HIV / AIDS transmitted through? **Blood / Sperm / Breast Milk**
27. Do you know about reproductive right? **Yes / No**
28. Do you think that the right to safe and healthy pregnancy is under reproductive right? **Yes / No**
29. Do you aware about the reproductive health related scheme provided by government? **Yes / No**
30. Are you a beneficiary of this scheme? **Yes / No**
31. Do you receive benefits from government? **Yes / No**

Signature of the Respondent