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TITLE OF THE PROJECT- Women in Economic Sector in Assam for the year 2019-2020

The project has been sponsored by Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), Delhi. Amount of ₹ 1.4 lacs for the year 2019-2020

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

The project entitled, “Women in Economic Sector in Assam” explores the status of women in the economic space of the field areas. The project was carried out in selected weekly markets (Hats) in Upper Assam, Lower Assam, Middle Assam and markets in border areas as well. The study emphasizes upon the visibility of women in the market but as well brings to light the various challenges which come their way in establishing a space of their own in the market situation. It was observed that women did not even have access to basic facilities when at work, for instance, there were no provision of toilets for women. Which had adverse effects in their health.

OBJECTIVES:

- The primary objective of the project was to explore the role and participation of women in market.
- To draw a relationship between the participation of women in market and their earned economic independence.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

- Field visits were carried out to understand the participation of women in the local market.
- The women participants were interviewed and their experiences were recorded.

FINDINGS

It was observed that women from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh do not invest any capital instead they are producers and bring their own home-produced products. In the Assam Arunachal border area, women from Arunachal Pradesh are seen as vendors in markets. The Bodo women vendors sell wild vegetables as well as vegetables produced by themselves. It was observed that women were more active in the market. All the vendors were mostly women. Women there play the role of both home maker and bread winner as is evident in the narratives of the women vendors. Moreover, as the women of the tribal areas are not

highly educated, they have no alternative than being a mere vendor. However, it is observed that women belonging to caste community are not seen as vendors in the market place but they do entrepreneurship in different ways, like some have their own shops (jewellery, cloth, sweets etc.) and some takes order of food items at home and deliver to the customers. Many women were also engaged in small scale weaving industry, jewellery producing, restaurants, ethnic

