

# A Study on the Role of Women in Garo Tribal Society

**Sumi Thakuria**

Research Scholar, Assamese Department  
Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Vishwavidyalaya, Nagaon ( Assam)

**Abstract:-** Women are the main ornaments of a society. The place of men in society is the same place as that of a woman. In a society where there is equal rights between women and men, we can call it a healthy society. Women provide the fulfillment for the creation of a society. Therefore, the tribal people have always given high status to women. The Garos are one of the various tribes living in North East India where the role of women is advanced in all aspects. Therefore, the Garos are called the matriarchal tribe.

The Garo women play a special role in managing everything from raising the family to managing everything. Our research will try to discuss the role of women in the life of the garo society.

**Keywords:-** Tribe, Garo, Women, Society.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Women are an integral part of a society. Society is made up of men and women. Women are not lagging behind in any way. Women are as advanced as men in earning money, running a house, and raising children. It is also seen in the case of Garos living in north India that Garo women are expert in all aspects. The garo women carry out all the work of weaving yarn, making paddy, collecting firewood, selling vegetables in the market for the purpose of feeding their families. This paper attempts to discuss the role of women in the life of the Garo tribal society.

## II. PURPOSE OF STUDY

The main objectives of analyzing the role of women in garo social life are:

- To discuss the place of women in a garo society.
- To discuss the aspects in which women in garo societies are given priorities in some directions
- To discuss how garo women can work as much as men do.

## III. METHOD OF STUDY

Information has been obtained from various individuals along with the method of field study as the main material while preparing the research paper. Books, magazines, etc. have been used as minor content. On the other hand in the contemporary discussion of the paper the help of descriptive and analytical methods has been taken.

## IV. MAIN TOPIC ANALYSIS

The Garos are one of the various ethnic groups living in the North East of India. The Garos are a tribe that is different from other tribes settled in a matriarchal society.

A society is formed by the combination of men and women, but women play a major role in Garo society. Garo women do household chores, earn a living and raise their children. Because of the matriarchal society, while Garo women marry and they do not go to their husbands' houses. The husband should come and stay at the woman's house. In addition, children take their mother's surname.

All daughters inherit all the mother's movable and immovable property. There is no right for sons and children. Garo women also know how to handle household chores. The Garo women are skilled in weaving clothes, spinning, raising goats, pigs, chickens, collecting firewood from the mountains, gathering vegetables, selling vegetables in the market, growing rice, harvesting crops, etc. Despite all these things, women constantly try to satisfy everyone in the family. Garo women carefully perform the duties of raising their children, providing proper education, and helping their husbands. Garo women from low-income families have also tried to do everything with great difficulty. Garo women are also pioneers in agriculture along with the men, women go out to the mountains in the morning to cultivate jhum. Women clear forests to cultivate jhum, spray good seeds on paddy fields etc. Again, women do the same amount of work as men in harvesting, threshing, and bringing rice from the mountains during the ripening season. Apart from these, the Garo women, despite tying their children in back, take the lead in the work of fetching firewood from the hills, growing vegetables, selling vegetables in the market, etc.

Garo women take care of all the household chores and are involved in social activities. Women also take the lead in any disaster in someone's home, the birth of a child or auspicious rituals. When a person dies, women take responsibility for purifying the body before burial. The woman of the deceased should take responsibility for this work. All the work related to childbirth is done by women. In Garo society, only women have the right to make all decisions in marriage. The marriage course is completed only if the woman of the house decides to marry with the consent of the family.

Every village of the Garos has a Nokma (Chief). This Nokma could only be a woman. It was only under the leadership of Nokma that the people of a village lived peacefully. On the day of the Nokma election, every woman dresses beautifully in their traditional costumes.

Since the Garo society is a mother centric society, women are ahead of men in all aspects. In today's society, there are various incidents happening about women: Indecent gestures indecent behaviour, rapes etc. are seen to be less in the garo society. The main reason for this is that the garo women are mentally or physically very strong.

In case of wrongdoing, not only all the perpetrators are informed, but all are punished accordingly. He lets the oath to be made so that no man would look misbehavly at the woman in future. Men are always aware of such harsh guidelines. So the place of women in the garo social system is ahead of men. The contribution of rural women in all fields is very high because of the management of the matriarchal society system.

## V. CONCLUSION

A woman is the main force of a society. Women are needed as much as men are needed to form a society. Note that women are more supreme in all activities. In order to maintain the supremacy of women, first all women need to be educated. Because no woman will be able to come forward to rule the society if she is inside the house. Now girls from Garo society are also seen stepping out with the same education as boys. By receiving appropriate education, through family support, becoming economically independent, black women can be seen to be making progress.

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