

An Overview Of Weaving:- Bodo Women In The Present Context.

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Abstract: The Bodos are the early settler of the North-east India basically of Assam and the Bodos are also inhabitants of neighboring country outside of India like Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh etc. The Bodos are most rich in their cultural activities. The weaving is the integral part of Bodos or women folk of the Bodo society. The women folk of the Bodo society are very expert in their weaving and the weaving is the small scale industry of the Bodo society. They weave their essential clothes in the loom with beautiful designing. In the present perspective, they also earn money with selling their weaving clothes and make strong their family economy. The beautiful design clothes of women folk of the Bodo society not only popular among them but also getting memorable in other community also. Today their weaving activity comes to in commercial purpose and every woman have known to weave clothes very beautifully.

Key words: Bodo women, Weaving, Economy condition, Art of weaving, small scale industry, Role in Society, Modernization.

1.0 Introduction:-

The Bodos are the early settler of North-east India basically Assam and also inhabitants of neighbouring country like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh. Racially the Bodo belongs to the Mongoloid stock of the Indo-Mongoloids or Indo-Tibetans. The Bodos are most adventurous in their cultural activities. Hence, the weaving is an integral part of the Bodos or women folk of the Bodo society. The human being saves to himself from the shameless and to see himself beautifully and to protect themselves from the cold day, fashioned or wearing the wooden shin or animal's skin from the early period. But today it become in the form of cloths and it is takes place in the Bodo society. Generally the women folk of the Bodo society know to weave the cloths or every women folk know the art of weaving, which is learning from the childhood to the elder member of the family. The weaving cloths of the Bodo women classified into two types as male and female cloths. But the women folk of the Bodo society weave all the required cloths both male and female. They are very expert in weaving the clourful clothes irrespective of male and female. The women folk of the Bodo society weave their cloths with mixing variety design and colour. E.g. **Gamsa**(for male), **Dhokona**(for female), **Langa** (for female), **Aronai**, **Rege-regang**, etc. in where they are making variety design on cloths. They design on their weaving cloths different design. E.g **Dowtu godo**, **Farow megon**, **Mufur afa**, **Hajw agor(hill design)**, **Dhorai mwkreb**, **Thaigir bibar**, etc. In the changing perspective the design and technology are changed in weaving. At present the Bodo women weaving their cloths with modern technique. So, the weaving colourful cloths of Bodo women are not only popular among the Bodo society but also getting memorable among the other community. Rev. **Sidney Endle** puts as "one of the chief industries, a very profitable one among the Kacharis, is that of the culture of the silk worm known as eri and the manufacture of the eri cloth.

"1 Bodo women are expert weavers and without the knowledge of weaving Bodo women can hardly be given in marriage. She is called in the Bodo society **Aluri** (Unknown weaving art). The Bodo women weave the domestic requirement cloths from their family handloom and with designing artistic dresses.

1.1 Objectives of the Study:-

- 01) To search the value of beautifully design cloths of the Bodo women.
- 02) To analyze the development of economic means of beautifully design cloths of Bodo women.
- 03) To weave as a technique of Modern technology.
- 03) To highlight the cultural integrity among the Bodo women.

1.2 Data and methodology:-

The present study is based on primary data and secondary data. The primary data have been collected from the visit of the weaving centre from different region and analyzing with descriptively. The secondary data have been collected from through the reviewing books, Magazines, Journals and printed materials etc.

1.3 Weaving and Bodo women:-

The weaving is the great handcraft of Bodo women or without weaving the domestic work is not completed in the Bodo society. The weaving of Bodo women is reflecting the traditionally spinning of Eri pupa and weaving the cloths. The **eri cloth** (Endi in Bodo) is made from a special type of thread which is not available in the open market and it is made by the Bodo women from the Eri cocoons. When the Bodo women weave the cloths it isn't known but they are very expert in weaving the cloths. The Bodo women completed in a night the weaving cloths to dress to the hero's which are most proudful and esteemed. Generally, handloom, the weaving art is most important for them.1] Endle, Rev. Sidney, " The Kacharis," pp-7 Besides them weaving their cloths they are also weaving the male's cloths. E.g. for males **Gamsa**, **Fali**, **Alon**(to wear Body), and for females **Langa**, **Dokhona**, **Fasra**, **Dokhona Thoasi**, and **Simaji**, **Eri** cloths (for wearing in the winter season) are weaving, the Bodo women with maxing the variety colour. But in the present perspective the traditionally spinning method don't seen in weaving of the Bodo women. Today's, Bodo women are not accustomed

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with habit of weaving system also. So, they weave their important cloths from the readymade yarn of the market. About the weaving of the Bodo women **R. M. Nath** puts as "they reared silk cocoons and spun fine yarn out of them and made lustrous cloths dyed with blue, red and yellow pigments. The Bodo words '**Halali**' means lustreemitting, and the Chinese traveller to Assam in the seventh century A.D. Hieun Tsang prized very much a Halali coat made with Bodo silk and presented to him by the king of Assam."²

1.3.1 Art of weaving and Bodo women:-

For the weaving cloths the Bodo women first spinning the Eri cocoon and made the yarn from the Eri cocoon. The spinning of Eri cocoon is a traditional method of Bodo women and it is a very laudable process. The important things in the spinning of Eri cocoon are **Thaokri**, **Fitwb gon**(cocoon stick), **Khurwi**(water pot), **Fomfla/Somfla**, etc. and the Bodo women made by themselves all those important things. After spinning the Eri cocoon the Bodo women making different colour and weave the variety cloths. E. g. Black, Green, Red, and Yellow are the most popular colour for the Bodo women. The Bodo women making different colour from the fruits, tree etc. e.g. they make black colour from mixture of **Silikha** (myrobolan) and **Thaisri**(hog fruit), for the Yellow colour the Bodo women mixing skin of Jackfruit or Kernel of Jackfruit and **Deoa**(a kind of tree jackfruit family/ Artocarpus). After making the different colour the Bodo women dry it under Sun and they weave beautiful designing cloths. But at present the tradition, technique/method are not seen among them or they weaving their cloths buying silk warm yarn from the bazaar. The Bodo women are very expert in putting designing on their weaving cloths. The Bodo women are able to put design very simply on their colourful cloths the shape of dreams, the beauty of nature, the shape of birds, the shape of animals, insects, and flowers etc. Hence, on their weaving cloths the beauties of nature reflect and the cloths are named by as natural title. E. g. **Agor bwrai**(old design), **Hajw agor**(Hills design), **Thaigir bibar**, **Maoji agan**(footprint of cat), **Farwo magon**(eye of fowl), **Mufur Afa**, **Daorai mwkreb**, and **Lao begor** etc. The Bodo women weave the cloths and design it colourfully. The Bodo women weaving the clothes with adjust in their skin colour to see pretty or charming themselves. So, in a Bodo family have seen handloom for weaving the clothes of Bodo women is a traditional part and in the early period the Bodo girls learn to weave the cloths or learn to weave **Sudam Si/ Golpatta/ Dikhata**(a kind of cloths which are very small size) as usual. It is great pride and mentionable of Bodo women for their weaving culture. They take it above the work culture and developing the family's economic condition too. 2] Nath, R.M., " The Back-ground of Assamese Culture," pp.-16 (2)

1.3.2 The implements of weaving and Bodo Women:-

In the Bodo family where weaving matter, each and every family has a loom and they collected the essential implements ingredients of loom from the nature. Generally, the important implements of loom **Sal**, **Gandi**, **Makhu**, **Jenthwr**, **Musra**, **Swrkhi**, **Uga**, **Gonsa**, **Hisan Khuntha**, **Sal gon**, **Nw Hasung**, **Khilabari**, **Rasw** etc. are made by wood, bamboo and cane. They made **Sal**, **Gandi**, **Makhu**, **Jenthwr**, **Musra** etc. by the wood, and **Swrkhi**, **Uga**,

Gonsa, **Hisan Khuntha**, **Sal Gon**, **Nw hasung**, **Khilabari** etc. are made by the bamboo and cane. The Bodo women made all those implements of weaving by herself and if they will not able to make then they take the help of male expert member.

1.4 The economic means of weaving and Bodo women:-

The agriculture is the main means to develop of the economic towards of the Bodos. The Bodo society depends on the agricultural activities for their economic development. But the Bodo women also play a great role in their family economy or development of the family in economic sector. The Bodo women not only co-operate in agricultural and allied activities but they also busy themselves in different economic activities. Weaving is the most peculiar and essential activities of Bodo women in economic condition. The women folk also try to develop their family economy with the help of weaving. In the early period, weaved the Bodo women weave beautiful cloths only for dress but at present they weave these cloths not only for the business purpose but also for the development of economic condition of the Bodo women. Once they achieve accesses to the market, they have now realized that it is a good source of income and commercial benefit in these types of productions of cloths. As the Bodo women have expertise in the art, they have now modified it to suit the needs of different class of customers and users. The new products include **shirting**, **caps**, **Necktie**, **woolen shawl**, **towel**, **Aronai** etc. with variety design and colour. In the process, the Bodo women complete the entire works right from purchasing of the raw materials to sale the finished products. Rarely, they take any assistance from the men folk. Moreover, while doing this they never forget to do their normal household works. The Bodo women are co-operative to the male member in the agriculture and allied activities beside women folk are weaving the cloths in their loom breakup the time and chances and this types of weaving activities is helping the family economy of the Bodo society. At present, the weaving of the cloths of Bodo women is highly demandable in market. The attractive colourful weaving cloths of Bodo women are memorable in other community also today. The "**Aronai**" weaving by the Bodo women is most popular in national level too. Weaving, not only become Bodo women's domestic handworks but also today commercial success. The Bodo women for develops the weaving activities form Self Help Group (SHG) as government rules and regulation to aid assistance and they are introduce weaving centre with modern technology.

1.4 Conclusions & Findings:-

The weaving art of Bodo women is a part of material culture. From when the Bodo women learn to weave the cloths it is not possible to say or to save them and protect too cold they are wearing the weaving cloths from the early period. Each and every women folk of Bodo society are known to weaving art. Hence, the unknown Bodo women are called in Bodo society as "**Aluri**". In Bodo literature traditionally phrase -"Don't cry for the lost of crops in a year Cry if women don't know how to work". Generally, in Bodo society in past time a women if she doesn't know to weave the cloths she doesn't get married or if she wants to marry she must be expert in working everything. In early time the

Bodo women weaving the cloths only for the wearing but at present they also weave the cloths for the purpose of business and it is a good sign for the economic side progress. Because for the all round development of the society we need to develop in education, socio-economic, cultural activities etc. The weaving is the small scale industry among the Bodos and it helps the development of economically poorer section of society or with the help of weaving their talent is seen. The Bodo women have a big contribution to the family economy development. The Bodo women work with and outside the family/alone in all areas for family's economic interest. Along with normal household work as housewife, they work almost equally with the male members in all agricultural and allied activities attached to the family. The women folk of the Bodo society have accepted certain traditional economic activities in a business manner so their economic condition can be improved. In addition of these, the weaving is one of source of earning the money among the Bodo women. The Bodo women have started the weaving activities in a commercial manner and in addition to these, a very few of them have also started small shops in market areas. To assess the economic role of Bodo women on a changing perspective the Bodo women have adopted these avenues of income generation so that women's dependency factor can be reduced and at the same time financial solvency can be brought for the whole family. Such a situation has brought the women to the forefront, that is, the public domain and society has now felt their presence in changing status with a new role.000 (3)

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