

**Name: Ms. Shougrakpam Umabati Devi**

**Subject: Sociology**

**Supervisor: Prof. Mohini Anjum**

**Topic: Education, Employment and Empowerment of  
Meitei Women in Manipur**

#### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this study is to examine the intergenerational changes of the Meitei women from paternal and maternal grandmothers to mothers and daughters in terms of making decisions of their own to show how much they are empowered due to their education and employment. The present study looks into the trends of the Meitei women towards education and employment. It also aims to find out the importance of education and employment for Meitei women. The study analyzes the intergenerational changes from paternal grandmothers (fathers' mother, i.e., patrilineal side) and maternal grandmothers (mothers' mother, i.e. matrilineal side) to mothers and daughters of the Meitei women. By doing so, it will give who amongst them are able to live a better quality life due to attainment of education and employment. The study also explores the changes of Meitei women's education and employment. It also analyzes whether education and employment will lead to more empowerment by enhancing their ability to make decisions of their own.

The present study is conducted in the areas of education, employment and empowerment of Meitei women in Manipur. For this purpose, 400 respondents were selected for the study consisting of 100 paternal grandmothers (fathers' mother), 100 maternal grandmothers (mother's mother), 100 mothers and 100 daughters. The respondents were selected on a purposive sampling method. Eight case studies are discussed in this thesis, to know who amongst the grandmothers(both maternal and paternal), mothers and daughters are able to live a better life and make decisions of their own for more empowerment as a result of education and employment.

In the introductory chapter, it gives the background of the study. In the second chapter, the thesis discussed historical background of Meitei women. The third chapter focuses in general the history of women's education, employment and empowerment of women in India.

In the fourth chapter, broad socio-economic profiles were provided of the three generations of Meitei women that includes of paternal and maternal grandmothers, mothers and daughters. The data reveals that (i) decisions taken alone by the women are the highest among maternal grandmothers and lowest in mothers' generations. (ii) decisions by the husband are the highest for paternal grandmothers and lowest in mothers' generations (iii) Combined decision making by both husband and wife is very high among all the two generations, the highest among paternal grandmothers and maternal grandmothers is in the case of expenditure on food, highest among mothers on children's education.

In fifth chapter, to support the findings from the field, some case studies are provided that include all the three generations. In all this case studies, details accounts of socio-economic, political and religious role of the women are given keeping in mind the importance of education, employment and decision-making. The case studies of the paternal and maternal grandmothers reveal that most of them were illiterate. It was due to their parents' financial constraints and did not give much importance of education. Most of the paternal and maternal grandmothers were engaged in weaving as their main occupation. Some of the mothers sells fruits and cloths and weaves to earn some money for her family needs. Most of the mothers are engaged in government jobs. In the case of daughters, most of them are student and few of them are employed.

In the last chapter, it analyses the main variables that were highlighted while discussing the statistical information and the cases of the Meitei women in Manipur. So, the study shows that there is a remarkable progress of education from the paternal grandmothers and maternal grandmothers to mothers and to daughter's generation of the Meitei women. This study shows that to empower women to be independent in order to make decisions for their progress, employment is necessary. The study shows employment has remarkably increased from paternal /maternal grandmothers to mother's generation of the Meitei women. It is due to their education and the support given by their family for obtaining jobs. So, education and employment are very much co-related.

It reveals that majority of the employed mother took decision along with their husband in construction of house, buying movable/immovable property and children's education. The mothers and daughters are less involved in the household activities as compared to the paternal/maternal grandmothers. So, this feature suggests that the mothers and daughters lead more enjoyable life than the paternal/maternal grandmothers. The study shows that because of education and employment the ability to make decision that leads to empowerment has increased from grandmothers to mothers' generation.