



Women's Organization in Nagaland: A Study

¹ Lamine Apollo Kongsai

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Political Science
& Public Administration, Annamalai University
Cell No; 8248752162.
alengkongsai@gmail.com

Co-Author

² Dr. S. Suchitra Varma

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
& Public Administration, Annamalai University.
Cell. No: 9600646913.
suchitracdm@gmail.com

Abstract:

The women's organizations are in varied network the Indian state of Nagaland, which is located in the country's northeast. The women's groups are essential to the advancement of women's rights, the advancement of gender equality, and the resolution of the many social, economic, and political challenges women confront in the region. The primary goals of Nagaland's women's organizations are to improve the status of women in society, increase opportunities for women to advance in their chosen fields, and ensure that women have a voice in policymaking at all levels. These groups fight for a world where women are treated equally and may achieve their full potential in the workplace and in society at large. Women's groups are unique in that they focus on helping women become economically independent through programs that increase their knowledge and abilities. They have been instrumental in helping women in both rural and urban communities improve their standard of living through projects such as weaving cooperatives, handicraft production, and agricultural training. This research article is based on secondary sources. The methodology undertaken is descriptive analysis. The objectives are the first is about empowerment of women through various organizations, the second one is about gender equality and the third one is a livelihood for women by state organizations.

Keywords: Empowerment, Livelihood, Equality, Development, Gender Equality, Organizations

Introduction:

Women's organizations are societies or clubs that work to advance women's causes. Women's organizations are essential in advancing the causes of gender parity, women's empowerment, and the resolution of difficulties unique to women. They want to make the world a better place by ensuring that women everywhere are given the same rights and opportunities as men. UN Women is the United Nations' specialized agency for advancing gender parity and women's empowerment. UN Women is an international organisation with the mission of empowering women and achieving gender parity in all spheres of society, including politics, economics, and social development. Numerous women's organizations exist across the globe, each with its own unique mission and purpose. Some of these groups focus on a regional or national scale, while others aim much higher. Reproductive rights, violence against women, economic and political empowerment, political representation, education,



healthcare, and other concerns may be on the agenda. These groups are committed to eradicating the discrimination and inequality that women still experience in today's society. The National Organisation for Women (NOW) is a powerful illustration of a women's organisation. The NOW was established in 1966 and has been a driving force in the American feminist movement ever since. NOW focuses on issues such as reproductive rights, violence against women, economic fairness, and parity for women in positions of power are all areas that NOW works to advance. UN Women, an arm of the United Nations, works to promote gender parity and the advancement of women. Through policy advocacy, programme implementation, and capacity-building activities, UN Women aims to enhance women's rights around the world. They aim to ensure that all women have access to healthcare and education and work to eliminate discrimination against them. Furthermore, there are a great many grassroots women's organisations working on a regional or national level to help women with local problems. Oftentimes, these groups cater their services, programmes, and campaigns to the specific requirements of their designated demographic. They exert tremendous effort to change conventional wisdom, combat discrimination against women, and open doors of opportunity for women to succeed in all walks of life. In sum, women's groups are crucial to achieving global progress towards gender parity and enhancing women's agency.

In the present study, a descriptive and analytical method is used by the researcher. Secondary data were sourced from research journals, articles, and a thesis related to women empowerment and gender studies, magazines, and government documents were also referred. The first objective is to understand the empowerment of women through various organizations, and the second objective is about gender equality, followed by livelihood for women through state organizations.

Women's groups in Nagaland are extremely important to the advancement of women and gender equality there. The social, economic, and political obstacles that women confront are all areas that these groups want to improve. The Naga Women's Union (NWU) is a powerful women's group in Nagaland. NWU was founded in 1982 with the goal of empowering and protecting Naga women. Women's health, education, economic independence, and political representation are all key areas of concentration for the group. Women who have been victims of domestic violence or other forms of discrimination can seek help from NWU's counselling and legal services. The Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) is another powerful group of women. Since its inception in 1984, NMA has worked tirelessly to promote global stability, social fairness, and individual liberties. The association's actions were crucial to peace and healing in Nagaland. The National Mori Assembly (NMA) is dedicated to ending discrimination against and violence against women. The Eastern Naga Women's Organisation (ENWO) is another group that works to help women in Nagaland's eastern part overcome specific difficulties. Education, health care, economic empowerment, and the protection of cultural traditions are important goals of ENWO. These Naga women's groups have done a lot to promote equality and independence for women in the state. The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) Women's Wing is another powerful group striving to improve the status of women in Nagaland. One of the major student organisations in the state, NSF, has a specific department devoted to resolving problems associated with gender. The Women's Wing plans events to educate the public on issues of sexism and the rights of women. It also works to advocate for better policies and engage with the government in order to effect change for women in Nagaland. Women plays a critical roles in Nagaland's society,



whether at home, in the workplace, or in politics. Women play a crucial role in, passing on the knowledge and experience of their ancestors from one generation to the next. However, like other regions around the world, they have had to overcome certain difficulties and constraints that have limited their involvement in many areas. In this research article, we'll learn about the varied experiences of women in Nagaland through the lens of the organisations they've founded to promote social change towards a more fair and democratic society for all. It will emphasise the tremendous changes they have driven thus far and those they hope to accomplish in the future. These women's stories of empowerment are distinguished by resilience, fortitude, and solidarity, and they are not only transforming their own lives but also making an everlasting mark on the future of Nagaland. It involves making sure that women have equal access to resources like healthcare and education, as well as working to increase their economic autonomy. In addition to combating discrimination and violence against women, these groups work to increase the number of women in positions of power.

Women's Empowerment through Organizations: Gender equality and women's empowerment are two causes that women's groups work tirelessly to advance. These groups strive to make the world a better place for everyone by helping women overcome obstacles and empowering them to reach their full potential. Education, health care, financial independence, civic engagement, and social justice are all major points of emphasis. Women's organisations use projects and programmes to combat prejudice based on gender and encourage women to realise their full potential. Multiple women's groups in Nagaland have been pushing for gender parity and women's empowerment for years. The challenges of education, health, economic empowerment, and social justice are just a few that these groups hope to tackle on behalf of women in the state. Their activities and programmes work on making Nagaland a more welcoming and equal place for women. The Naga Women's Union (NWU) is a powerful group representing Naga women. NWU has been a pioneer in the fight for women's rights and empowerment since its founding in 1982. The group's mission is to ensure that all people enjoy the same rights and opportunities regardless of their gender. Campaigns, workshops, and training programmes are held by NWU to inform women of their rights and give them the tools they need to become financially secure.

The Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) was established in 1984 and is another influential group in the Naga community. Women and children in Nagaland face a number of socioeconomic problems, many of which are addressed by NMA. The group is always speaking out against discrimination, violence, and other breaches of human rights. In addition to advocating for changes in the law to better safeguard women's rights, NMA also offers support services to those who have experienced domestic violence. The group also provides financial aid to girls from underprivileged backgrounds so that they can complete their education and become leaders in their communities. The Women Welfare Organisation (WWO) is another important group in Nagaland that is helping to advance women's rights. WWO was founded in 1997 with the mission of empowering women business owners through training and education. Microfinancing is another service offered by the group to encourage female entrepreneurs to take the plunge. WWO works together with governmental bodies and other interested parties to promote legislation that helps women gain economic independence. Women in Nagaland are also supported by the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) Women's Wing. The National Student Federation (NSF) is one of the most numerous student organisations in the state, and its Women's Wing works to abolish discrimination against women in the workplace and advance gender parity in higher education.



In order to educate students on the importance of promoting gender equality and women's rights, the Women's Wing often hosts events like lectures and workshops. They also advocate for policies that will make schools safer for female students. In order to have greater influence and reach a wider audience, these organisations partner with government agencies, civil society groups, and international organisations. Their work has been essential in making Nagaland a more egalitarian place for women and girls.

Gender Equality through Empowerment: Progress towards gender equality has been made in Nagaland, a state in northeastern India, thanks in large part to the efforts of women's groups there. To combat discrimination against women and acts of violence against women, these groups are indispensable. This in-depth reply will investigate the efforts of women's groups in Nagaland to advance gender parity, as well as the obstacles they've encountered and the changes they've brought about. The efforts of women's groups in Nagaland have been crucial in raising public understanding of gender inequality and advancing the cause of gender parity. Education, health, economic autonomy, political engagement, and social welfare are just a few of the many fields in which they have been involved. These groups give women a place to air their grievances, learn from one another's experiences, and collaborate on solutions to the problem of gender inequality. Another crucial organisation in Nagaland that is working to advance gender parity is the Nagaland Women Commission (NWC). The Nagaland Women Commission (NWC) was set up under the Nagaland Women Commission Act (2006) to protect the interests of women there. The commission looks into allegations of discrimination and violence against women and then acts accordingly. NWC also hosts awareness programmes, seminars, and workshops to inform women of their legal protections and rights. However, women's groups in Nagaland have made tremendous progress towards their goal of gender parity despite these obstacles. They have effectively fought for policy changes to preserve women's rights, educated the public about gender issues, and strengthened the position of women through programmes that improved their employability. Women's political engagement rose as a result, as did their access to education and healthcare, and the rate of violence against women dropped.

The quest for gender equality by these women's organisations is met with a variety of obstacles. The profoundly ingrained patriarchal mentality that still prevails in most parts of society is one of the most significant obstacles. Opportunities for women are frequently constrained by stereotypical gender norms, which also slows down their advancement. Women's organisations have been working persistently to fight these standards and advance the cause of creating a society that is more accepting and equitable. Women's organisations in Nagaland have additional challenges as a result of limited resources and funding. The successful operation of many of these organisations is contingent on receiving financial support in the form of grants and donations. Their capacity to carry out long-term programmes and initiatives is frequently hampered by the absence of dependable financial sources.

The following are some alternatives women's organizations in Nagaland can work towards gender equality:



Empowerment through education: Women's organisations can help girls and women get an education. Some ways to achieve this goal are through the establishment of educational programmes, scholarships, and workshops.

Economic Empowerment: These groups can help women achieve economic security. This can be accomplished by providing opportunities for people to acquire marketable skills, start their own businesses, and gain access to financial tools.

Political Participation: For gender equality to succeed, women must be encouraged and supported to take active roles in political life. To encourage more women to pursue political careers, women's groups can provide opportunities for training, mentoring, and advocacy.

Cultural Sensitivity: There is a need for women's organisations in Nagaland to strike a balance between maintaining cultural heritage and promoting gender equality due to the prevalence of traditional and cultural values in the region. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary to network with influential community members to advance inclusive gender perspectives.

Healthcare and Reproductive Rights: For gender parity, it is essential that women have access to reproductive healthcare and legal protections. Women's groups can promote healthcare access and raise public awareness through campaigns.

Livelihood through Organizations: Women's organizations in Nagaland, a state in northeastern India, do important work towards achieving gender parity, empowering women, and expanding economic opportunities for them. These groups aim to make Nagaland a better place for everyone by tackling the issues that women experience specifically. The Women Development Department (WDD) of Nagaland is a government agency that strives to advance gender equality and improve the lives of Naga women. The department's primary goals include empowering women economically through education and training in business and entrepreneurship, as well as providing them with access to capital. WDD works with other parties to foster an atmosphere that encourages the advancement of women. Another crucial body whose duty it is to protect women's rights and interests in Nagaland is the Nagaland Women Commission (NWC). The Nagaland Women Commission (NWC) was set up in 2006 to ensure that women have a voice in politics and are protected from discrimination. The commission provides services to survivors of assault, harassment, and discrimination based on gender. These groups take several different approaches to fostering economic independence for women in Nagaland. Self-help groups (SHGs) are being encouraged as a means for women to band together, share resources, and start businesses. SHGs allow women to gain economic independence by providing a setting for them to learn new skills, gain access to loans, and connect with new markets. The economic development of the area benefits from the work of these communities, which engage in industries such as weaving, handicrafts, agriculture, and food processing.

Additionally, women's groups in Nagaland run workshops and seminars to educate and empower women in fields including business, leadership, and economics. Particularly in rural areas where opportunities are few, these organisations work relentlessly to provide women with skill development training, access to financial resources, and assistance for entrepreneurial endeavours.



These groups help women earn an income and contribute to the well-being of their families through activities including weaving, handicrafts, and agricultural projects. They encourage women to think for themselves and build their self-esteem, which is crucial for the development of Nagaland's economy. Women's organisations are advancing the state's economy and its residents' quality of life by reducing inequalities and supporting growth that benefits everyone. These efforts to strengthen women's capabilities give them the resources they need to become economically independent. As an added bonus, these groups connect women entrepreneurs with one another and offer guidance from experienced businesswomen. Several programs and policies have been adopted by the government of Nagaland, in conjunction with women's organizations, to improve the economic status of women. The Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) is one such initiative that seeks to alleviate poverty by bolstering the economic security of underprivileged rural residents, with a special emphasis on improving the position of women. Women working in agriculture, livestock raising, and other rural enterprises benefit from this mission by receiving financial aid, skill training, and access to new markets.

Conclusion:

The main purpose of Nagaland's women's organizations is to provide a forum for women to raise issues, exchange information, and collaborate on approaches to resolving those issues. Women are able to open up about traumatic experiences, including domestic violence, prejudice, and a lack of access to education and healthcare, in a supportive environment. They bring attention to these issues and rally governmental and social support by talking about them. In the state of Nagaland, women's organizations such as the Naga Women's Union, the Naga Mothers' Association, and the Women's Wing of the Naga Students' Federation play an important role in the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality. Women's organizations address the difficulties that women in the state face and work towards the creation of a society that is more inclusive and equitable by means of the numerous projects and advocacy efforts that they undertake. Additionally, these women's organizations serve as platforms for networking, collaboration, and collective action among women. They provide a space where women can come together to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and collectively address common challenges. Through these networks, women are able to amplify their voices and influence decision-making processes at various levels. They enable women to become economically independent and active participants in decision-making processes through their advocacy activities, capacity-building programs, and engagement with the government and other stakeholders and they have been extremely helpful in tackling a variety of challenges that women experience, including but not limited to domestic violence, discrimination, and a lack of access to education and healthcare services. They have been successful in raising awareness, delivering support services, and advocating for changes in policy that are favorable to women as a result of their work. The result of their labour is a society in Nagaland that is more equal and welcoming to people of many backgrounds.

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