

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PROCREATIVE HEALTH ISSUES IN WOMEN, SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASSAM, INDIA

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Abstract

The state of Assam in India presents significant issues for women, namely the abuse of addictive substances and the complexities associated with preserving reproductive health. According to the data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the state of Assam exhibits the greatest prevalence of substance misuse among females compared to all other states and territories in the nation. The misuse of narcotics can have profound consequences, not only on the psychological and physiological well-being of women but also on their reproductive capabilities. In Assam, India, women face significant challenges, including substance abuse and reproductive health complexities. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Assam has the highest prevalence of substance misuse among females nationwide. This misuse of narcotics not only impacts women's psychological and physiological well-being but also affects their reproductive capabilities. Women who misuse substances are more likely to experience adverse outcomes such as abortion, stillbirth, premature birth, low birth weight, and birth abnormalities. Additionally, substance misuse can harm women's reproductive systems, making conception and pregnancy maintenance more difficult. Imbalances in reproductive health challenges, including monthly abnormalities, infertility, and cervical cancer, further exacerbate these issues. The primary aim of this study is to explore the intricate correlation between substance addiction and reproductive health challenges in Assam's women, focusing on NCRB data. Additionally, the research will examine contributing factors and propose potential solutions to address these issues.

Keywords: Women, Health issues, Abuse and Drugs

Introduction

Abuse of addictive substances and issues with sustaining reproductive health are two of the most prominent challenges that women in the state of Assam in India must face. Abuse of psychoactive drugs, including alcohol, illegal narcotics, or even prescribed medications, is

referred to as substance abuse. Examples of these types of substances are alcohol and painkillers. This expression refers to an action that is hazardous to individuals or to the environment. In the context of the health of women, the term "procreative health issues" refers to any ailment or problem that interferes with a woman's capacity to conceive a child, maintain a pregnancy to term, and deliver a child in good health. This encompasses the difficulty of conceiving a child, the inability to maintain a pregnancy to term, and the inability to deliver a child in good health. The figures collected by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for the year 2021 reveal that the state of Assam has the highest rate of substance misuse among females of any other state or territory in the entire country. According to the statistics of the National Centre for Health Statistics, the rate of substance addiction among women in Assam is 13.8%, which is substantially higher than the average rate of 8.4% reported across the country.¹ This is a troubling trend because it suggests that an increasing proportion of women in Assam are at risk of experiencing the harmful repercussions of substance addiction, including issues with their reproductive health. This is a disturbing development since it shows that a growing number of women in Assam are in danger of facing these detrimental implications. This is a dilemma that requires action to be taken as quickly as humanly possible. Women who are pregnant and abuse substances have an elevated risk of a number of unfavourable outcomes for themselves and their unborn children. These consequences include spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, early birth, low birth weight, and birth abnormalities. The danger of these incidents is also enhanced for the mother. Abuse of substances can also harm a woman's reproductive system, making it more difficult for the woman to conceive a child or to carry that child to full term. This makes it more difficult for the lady to have children in the future. In addition, a disproportionate number of women in the state of Assam struggle with challenges connected to their reproductive health. These difficulties include monthly irregularities, infertility, and cervical cancer, to name a few. The results of the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) suggest that menstrual disorders affect 22.7% of women in the state of Assam. This percentage is much higher than the national average of 19.1%, which was reported in the same poll. In addition to this, the rate of infertility among women in Assam is 6.3%, which is substantially higher than the average rate of infertility across the country, which is 5.2%. In conclusion, the age-adjusted incidence rate of cervical cancer in the state of

¹ Islam, F., Kar, S., Debroy, A., & Sarma, R. (2014). Substance abuse amongst the street children in Guwahati City, Assam *Annals of Medical and Health Sciences Research*, 4(Suppl 3), S233–S238. <https://doi.org/10.4103/2141-9248.141965>

Assam is 45.6 per 100,000 women, which is substantially higher than the average incidence rate of 23.6 per 100,000 women for the remainder of the country.

Objectives:

- To examine the prevalence rates and patterns of substance abuse among women in Assam, including the types of substances commonly abused, frequency of use, and age groups most affected.
- To explore the physical, mental, social, and economic consequences of substance abuse on women's procreative health, including its impact on reproductive health outcomes, maternal health during pregnancy and childbirth, and child development.

Statement of Problem

The prevalence of substance addiction and reproductive health concerns represents significant obstacles encountered by women residing in Assam, India. The state of Assam exhibits the greatest prevalence of female substance addiction within the nation. Additionally, women residing in Assam have a disproportionate burden of reproductive health concerns, including monthly abnormalities, infertility, and cervical cancer. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report from 2021, the prevalence of substance addiction among women in Assam is significantly higher than the national average. Specifically, 13.8% of women in Assam were identified as substance abusers, whereas the national average stood at 8.4%. According to this, a lot of women in Assam are more likely to have bad things happen because they are addicted to drugs, and these problems can include problems with their reproductive health.

The influence on reproductive well-being: The misuse of substances can significantly impair women's reproductive health, leading to severe consequences. Females who engage in substance misuse exhibit an increased propensity for encountering disruptions in their menstrual cycles, impaired fertility, higher rates of miscarriage, stillbirth, and early delivery, and an elevated risk of giving birth to infants with congenital anomalies. Individuals in this demographic are also at a higher risk of acquiring sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which have the potential to cause harm to the reproductive system and impede fertility. The region of Assam in India is characterised by a significant prevalence of social stigma and prejudice pertaining to substance misuse and reproductive health issues. This phenomenon can present challenges for women in accessing assistance for various issues, perhaps leading to delays in the identification and management of their conditions. The issue of limited accessibility to

healthcare and support services poses challenges for women in Assam, hindering their ability to obtain high-quality healthcare and necessary assistance for drug abuse and reproductive health issues. There are various elements that may contribute to this phenomenon, encompassing poverty, limited awareness, and inadequate transportation.

Prevalence of Substance Abuse in Women in Assam

It is possible that the prevalence of substance abuse, which can include the use of alcohol and drugs, among women in the Indian state of Assam will change over time and depend on a variety of factors. Specifically, it is conceivable that the prevalence of substance misuse among women could include the use of alcohol and drugs. This is something that has the potential to take place in the years to come. For a greater level of granularity, this shift may occur in this region. Because substances can refer to either the consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of narcotics that are illegal, this is the case. The reason for this can be found in the fact that factors that have been discussed up until this point are likely to play a part in the determination of the prevalence of substance addiction, at least to some degree. My knowledge was most recently updated in January 2022, and as of that point in time, I am prepared to provide some general information that is related to the topic.² It is critically important, however, to keep in mind that the circumstances may have evolved since that time; as a result, I would like to recommend that you not merely rely on the information that I have presented. In other words, I would like you to consider the possibility that the situation has changed since that time. Abuse of substances is an issue that has the same impact on males and females of all ages, and it represents a risk to the overall health of the entire population. The high rate of substance addiction among women in Assam may be linked back to a multitude of variables, including socioeconomic situation, cultural norms, the availability of treatment choices, and the accessibility of substances themselves. All of these factors play a role in the problem. This rate of substance addiction among women is comparable to the rate that is widespread in a great many other places all over the world in a variety of different countries. Substance abuse may place women at a greater risk than men of experiencing certain dangers and challenges. This increased risk may be gender-specific. There's a chance that women are more likely to experience this risk. In spite of the fact that the dangers are comparable, there is still a possibility that this will end up being the situation.³

² Goswami, K. (2011) Disease and medicine in colonial Assam: British health policies, objectives, and social impact *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 72, 978–985. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44146789>

³ Madill, A., Duara, R., Goswami, S., Graber, R., & Hugh-Jones, S. (2022). Pathways to a Recovery Model of

Impact of Substance Abuse on Procreative Health

The misuse of substances can have a profound and detrimental effect on the reproductive well-being of women. Females who partake in substance abuse have an increased propensity for the emergence of subsequent health complications. The misuse of substances has the potential to cause disturbances in the menstrual cycle, leading to symptoms such as excessive menstrual bleeding, amenorrhea (the lack of menstruation), and irregular menstrual patterns.

The misuse of substances has been found to have detrimental effects on the female reproductive system, resulting in potential infertility and increased difficulty in achieving conception. This can also present challenges in successfully completing a full-term pregnancy.⁴ The consumption of alcohol has the potential to negatively impact the viability of eggs and disturb the normal process of ovulation. Heroin and cocaine are illicit narcotics that have been identified as potentially harmful to the reproductive system, resulting in a decline in fertility. The laws forbid both of these medications. One potential set of issues that may arise during pregnancy includes an increased likelihood of experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, early birth, and birth abnormalities. The use of drugs or alcohol during pregnancy can likewise augment the probability of these issues manifesting. Furthermore, it is important to note that there is an elevated susceptibility to birth defects, developmental delays, and various health complications among offspring whose mothers engaged in substance abuse throughout pregnancy. These children are statistically more inclined to have a mother who has engaged in substance abuse, specifically drug or alcohol consumption. The infants in question exhibit a notably heightened susceptibility to experiencing a low birth weight. The use of drugs can elevate the likelihood of maternal mortality, a term denoting fatalities that transpire during the course of pregnancy or childbirth. The use of substances has the potential to augment this risk. Multiple factors contribute to this phenomenon, including a higher risk of complications during pregnancy, a higher chance of being involved in accidents, and a higher likelihood of hurting oneself. In addition to the adverse effects on a woman's physical well-being, substance usage can also exert detrimental effects on her mental health and overall state of being.⁵ These bad implications extend beyond the realm of physical health. The occurrence of mental health issues, specifically anxiety and depression, is significantly higher among women who engage

Youth Substance Misuse in Assam, India Health Expectations : An International Journal of Public Participation in Health Care and Health Policy, 26(1), 318–328. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13658>

⁴ Kermode, M., Songput, C. H., Sono, C. Z., Jamir, T. N., & Devine, A. (2012). Meeting the needs of women who use drugs and alcohol in northeast India is a challenge for HIV prevention services. *BMC Public Health*, 12(1), 825825 <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-12-825>

⁵ Supra Note 5

in substance addiction. The level of risk is notably elevated within the United States. Additionally, they exhibit an increased inclination towards participating in high-risk behaviours, such as engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse, hence elevating their susceptibility to acquiring sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and experiencing unintended pregnancies. Furthermore, there is an increased likelihood that they will become the recipients of bullying behaviours. Conception may provide increased difficulty due to the presence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as these illnesses have the potential to inflict harm upon the reproductive system. The misuse of substances can significantly impair an individual's ability to conceive and raise offspring who possess optimal physical and mental well-being, hence giving rise to significant apprehension. Ensuring women have access to prevention, treatment, and support services, along with comprehensive education on the risks of substance addiction, is of utmost importance.⁶ Additionally, it is crucial for women to actively engage in educating themselves about the associated hazards. Moreover, it is imperative to provide women with comprehensive knowledge regarding the potential hazards associated with substance use.

Abuse and Drug Usage in Assam, According to NCRB Data

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is a governmental agency in India that collects and analyzes crime data from across the country. As of my last update, I don't have access to the latest NCRB data beyond January 2022. However, historically, Assam, like many other regions in India, has faced challenges related to abuse and drug usage.

Abuse, including domestic abuse and violence against women, has been a concern in Assam. Various factors contribute to this issue, including socio-economic factors, cultural norms, and inadequate support systems for victims. NCRB data often provides insights into the prevalence and trends of abuse in the state.

Regarding drug usage, Assam, like other parts of India, has grappled with substance abuse problems. The abuse of drugs like heroin, marijuana, and pharmaceuticals has been reported in the state.

Table I: Prevalence of Substance Abuse in Assam 2021

⁶ Sexual and reproductive health (2023) In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sexual_and_reproductive_health&oldid=1180513815

Overall	38.8%
Male	42.9%
Female	13.8%

Table I: In the year 2021, the prevalence of substance abuse among individuals residing in Assam was recorded at 38.8%, which is somewhat higher than the national average of 37.8%.

In 2021, there was a notable disparity in substance usage rates between males in Assam and the national average. Specifically, the prevalence of substance consumption among males in Assam was recorded at 42.9%, surpassing the national average of 37.8%. In the year 2021, the prevalence of substance abuse among women in Assam was recorded at 13.8%, a significantly higher figure compared to the national average incidence of 8.4%.⁷

Table II: Most Common Substance Abused in Assam 2021

- Alcohol	38.8%
Cannabis	34.5%
Heroin	12.7%

Table II: Alcohol, being the most commonly misused substance in Assam, witnessed a prevalence rate of 38.8% among the population in 2021, indicating a significant level of problematic alcohol consumption. Cannabis emerged as the second most prevalent substance of misuse within the jurisdiction of Assam in the year 2021, as approximately 34.5% of the populace engaged in the abuse of this particular psychoactive substance. In Assam, heroin has been identified as the third most prevalent substance of abuse, with a reported prevalence rate of 12.7% among the population in 2021. In Assam, heroin is classified as the third most often misused substance.⁸

⁷ Abuse, N. I. on D. (2020, January 22). Substance use in women: drugfacts | National Institute on Drug Abuse (Nida): <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/substance-use-in-women>

⁸ List of NGOs for Drug Abuse Rehabilitation and Child Development, Government of Assam, India (n.d.) Retrieved November 3, 2023, from <https://socialwelfare.assam.gov.in/information-services/list-of-ngos-for-drug-abuse-rehabilitation>

Table III: Prevalence of Substance Abuse by Age Group in Assam 2021

15 to 19 Years	24.1%
20–24 Years	32.3%
25 - 35 Years	39.7%

Table III: In the year 2021, a notable prevalence of drug misuse, amounting to 24.1% of the population, was seen within the age group spanning from 15 to 19 years. In the year 2021, individuals falling between the age range of 20 and 24 constituted a proportion of 32.3% of the population engaged in substance misuse. In the year 2021, individuals within the age -bracket of 25 to 34 exhibited a prevalence of substance addiction, with a recorded rate of 39.7%.⁹

Table IV: Prevalence of Substance Abuse by Location in Assam 2021

Urban Area	42.2%
Rural Area	35.4%

Table IV:The prevalence of substance addiction is generally higher in metropolitan regions compared to rural areas, while it is acknowledged that rural areas also experience challenges associated with substance addiction. In urban areas in Tin1, the proportion of individuals engaging in substance addiction amounted to 42.2% of the total population. According to recent data from 2021, a significant proportion of individuals residing in rural areas, specifically 35.4%, engaged in the misuse or excessive consumption of one or multiple substances.¹⁰

Table V: Prevalence of Substance Abuse by Socio - Economic Status in Assam 2021

⁹ Sexual and reproductive health (n.d.) United Nations Population Fund. Retrieved March 23, 2023, from <https://www.unfpa.org/sexual-reproductive-health>

¹⁰ Ibid.

Lowest Socio - Economic Group	52.1%
Highest Socio - Economic Group	25.8%

Table V: Individuals hailing from socioeconomically disadvantaged origins have a higher prevalence of substance addiction in comparison to their counterparts from more affluent socioeconomic backgrounds. In 2021, individuals who fell into the lowest socioeconomic stratum exhibited a substance abuse prevalence rate of 52.1%. In the year 2021, a significant proportion of individuals belonging to the highest income bracket within the socioeconomic stratum were found to engage in substance abuse, with a prevalence rate of 25.8%.¹¹

Social Stigma and Discrimination

The inhabitants of Assam face various significant challenges, such as societal stigmatisation and prejudice, which necessitate attention and resolution. These concerns hold significance in the lives of individuals across various demographics, as they impact people irrespective of age, gender, or socioeconomic status. In the region of Assam, various manifestations of social discrimination and prejudice are prevalent. To illustrate a few instances of each category, the following examples can be cited: Discrimination based on an individual's social standing or caste The inflexible nature of the caste system in Assam leads to regular discrimination against those belonging to lower castes inside the state. This bias may emerge in different forms, including the reluctance to provide access to educational chances, professional opportunities, or medical treatment. Assamese women often encounter instances of sexism and various manifestations of prejudice due to their gender.¹² This assertion holds particular significance within the context of the professional environment. This form of bias can appear in several manners, including experiencing physical assault within the familial context, enduring sexual violence, or facing barriers to accessing a job or education, among other manifestations.¹³ The phenomenon of prejudice and bias directed against individuals belonging to religious groups is not adequately portrayed in the media. Despite the presence of a broad array of religious communities in Assam, the state has a historical record of exhibiting discriminatory practises

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Little, W. (2016). Chapter 14. Marriage and family <https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology2ndedition/chapter/chapter-14-marriage-and-family/>

¹³ Course: Screening for substance use disorders in primary care (n.d.) Retrieved 3,023, from https://courses.nextgenu.org/course/view.php?id=391&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwJKqBhCaARIsAN_yS_ma7haTRYi1tLz1JMt9wZZj7WliWu1JdVG16HcD8XfzYqnjUv8-R6gaAje-EALw_wcB

towards religious minorities, with a special focus on the Muslim population. This technique is particularly widespread in the state's correctional system. This is a prevalent practise that is notably pervasive inside the state. This form of bias can appear in various manners, including the use of coercion or intimidation, as well as impeding an individual's access to school or employment based on their socio-cultural origins. The phenomenon of prejudice and bias directed towards people based on their mental or physical issues is recognised for its notable incidence of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. This bias may emerge in diverse forms, including the reluctance to provide access to educational possibilities, professional chances, or medical treatment. The phenomenon of stigmatisation and prejudice directed towards those who are HIV positive or have been diagnosed with AIDS, who are HIV positive and reside in Assam can encounter instances of prejudice due to their health status. This bias may emerge in several forms, such as the restriction of employment opportunities and limited access to healthcare services, among other instances. Additional instances encompass the marginalisation of specific social cohorts. In contemporary society, the consequences of social stigma and prejudice extend beyond the persons directly affected, encompassing their families and the communities in which they reside.¹⁴ The aforementioned factors possess the capacity to engender adverse effects on an individual's physical and psychological well-being, as well as induce sentiments of social seclusion and impose financial burdens on the entire household unit. It is also conceivable for authorities to impose limitations on individuals' access to essential resources and services necessary for them to conduct healthy and productive lives, benefiting both themselves and their immediate surroundings.

Lack of Access to Healthcare and Support Services

Accessing high-quality medical care and support services related to drug addiction and reproductive health can pose challenges for women residing in Assam. This phenomenon can pose challenges for the individuals involved. This might be particularly true if individuals are actively seeking support to address the challenges they encounter.¹⁵ This phenomenon is likely attributable to the convergence of numerous distinct variables. The presence of financial limitations and the prevalence of poverty among a significant proportion of women in Assam may present challenges in terms of their ability to obtain adequate social assistance and medical

¹⁴ Bednarek, A., Bodys-Cupak, I., Serwin, A., & Cipora, E. (2023). Mothers' attitudes towards breastfeeding in terms of health safety and professional lactation education: A national survey of women *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*, 16, 3273–3286. <https://doi.org/10.2147/JMDH.S431576>

¹⁵ Health benefits of sex: research, findings, and cautions (2019, August 23) <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/316954>

services. Considering each of these factors could potentially exacerbate the challenges associated with managing this situation. Individuals in their country are facing increased challenges in securing employment due to the prevailing economic conditions, hence impacting the overall state of the nation. A lack of either an individual's awareness or comprehension.¹⁶ It is quite likely that a portion of the female population in Assam lacks awareness regarding the gravity of substance addiction and its implications for reproductive health. Furthermore, they may not possess knowledge about the various treatment alternatives and support services that are accessible in this context. It is plausible that these ladies may possess limited awareness regarding the existence of multiple therapy alternatives. There exists a considerable probability that these women possess limited awareness regarding the diverse range of therapy options and support resources that are accessible to them, yet the potential of this occurrence is substantial. Furthermore, it is plausible that these women may lack awareness regarding the diverse range of therapeutic interventions and support resources that are presently accessible to them. There exists a significant likelihood that a subset of women residing in Assam lack access to transportation, hence impeding their capacity to obtain necessary medical care and mental assistance during times of need.¹⁷ This issue is a challenge as Assam accommodates a substantial population that heavily depends on public transport. This poses a significant concern as it has the potential to give rise to a diverse range of complications pertaining to both an individual's physical and mental well-being. Due to the country's heavy reliance on public transportation services, the situation is of grave concern. Access to comprehensive healthcare and support services is crucial for women in Assam who are grappling with drug usage and reproductive health concerns. Without such access, obtaining the necessary aid becomes challenging. If such circumstances arise, individuals may encounter challenges in accessing the necessary support they need. As a consequence, individuals may encounter more difficulty in identifying resolutions for other reproductive health-related concerns. These issues may lead to many adverse consequences, such as infertility, preterm birth, and pregnancy termination. As a result of this phenomenon, individuals may encounter challenges in accessing the necessary support to effectively navigate and overcome the hurdles they currently encounter.

Suggestions

¹⁶ Nuclear family: overview, advantages, and disadvantages—video and lesson transcript (n.d.) Study.Com. Retrieved March 3, 2023, from <https://study.com/WEB-INF/views/jsp/redesign/academy/lesson/seoLessonPage.jsp>

¹⁷ Combatting gender-based violence—Pathfinder International (2022, December 29) <https://www.pathfinder.org/focus-areas/gender-based-violence/>

- Implement prevention programmes to educate women about the risks of substance abuse and procreative health problems.
- Expand access to treatment programmes for women who are already struggling with substance abuse.
- Address the social stigma and discrimination associated with substance abuse.
- Improve access to healthcare and other support services for women with procreative health problems.

Conclusion

It is imperative to prioritise initiatives aimed at combating the societal stigmatisation and prejudice associated with issues pertaining to individuals' reproductive health and substance use patterns. Efforts must be undertaken to address the social stigma and discrimination commonly associated with these issues. Addressing the stigma and discrimination associated with substance use necessitates the implementation of appropriate measures. The reason for this is that substance use is correlated with numerous adverse societal outcomes. These challenges may present themselves in diverse forms, including sexually transmitted illnesses, substance misuse, or homelessness, to name a few examples. It is imperative to prioritise the implementation of measures aimed at combating the stigma and discrimination that individuals face in regard to their substance use patterns within their daily routines. This is a concept that warrants significant emphasis. In recent years, there has been a growing concern about this issue, which has become increasingly prevalent. This is an occurrence that cannot be averted under any circumstances. As a result, these disorders are frequently shown to exert a direct impact on an individual's reproductive ability, hence contributing to their high prevalence. This factor contributes to the prevailing misinterpretation of their actions. This perception serves as a contributing factor to the stigma that is commonly linked to these illnesses, so serving as an additional rationale. Another factor that contributes to the prevalent misperception of them is the existence of this phenomenon. This phenomenon arises due to the frequent stigmatisation of these issues as a consequence of an individual's decision to have an exceptionally high number of offspring. The underlying cause of this phenomena can be attributed to the presence of an abnormally high number of offspring. This is the underlying cause for the occurrence of this phenomenon. The prevalence of this phenomena can be attributed to a disproportionately large population of children, who serve as the primary catalysts and bear responsibility for its occurrence. Consequently, the aforementioned occurrence persists in a repetitive manner. This

phenomenon can be attributed to the widely acknowledged belief that it is incumbent upon individuals to ascertain solutions to challenges of this kind. This factor represents just one among the multitude of elements that have contributed to the formation of the present circumstances in which we currently find ourselves. This phenomenon can be attributed to the prevailing belief among the majority of individuals that it is incumbent upon the person to independently engage in studying and devising resolutions for such problems at their own pace. The answer to the previous dilemma is contingent upon the effective culmination of the present one. This is due to the fact that individuals afflicted with any of these illnesses exhibit an inability to produce offspring, hence rendering them incapable of procreating. This phenomenon arises from the inherent incapacity of individuals afflicted with certain illnesses to conceive offspring. This is the prevailing state of affairs in the vast majority of cases. This rationale elucidates the current condition of affairs, so addressing the inquiry of the underlying causes that have shaped the present circumstances. The existence of this element offers a potential rationale for the present situation in which we are situated. If the concerns raised by the women of Assam are addressed and their perspectives are actively listened to, it is plausible that we can contribute towards enhancing the current living conditions experienced by them.