

**How to Cite:**

Phukan, R. (2021). Empowering family with empowering women in empowering assam: A case study of orunodoi scheme in baksa district. *Linguistics and Culture Review*, 5(S1), 1554-1568. <https://doi.org/10.21744/lingcure.v5nS1.1804>

# **Empowering Family with Empowering Women in Empowering Assam: A Case Study of Orunodoi Scheme in Baksa District**

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**Abstract**---Women status and women empowerment these two words very interconnected to each other. Women empowerment can determine by in terms of socio- economic status which influence by an indicators like income, poverty, education, skill, employment opportunities and better health etc. In India, Assam is one of the better positions for women other than North-East state. Because of government always taking initiative and also implementing different types of schemes especially for women. In this paper presenting about the Orunodoi Scheme and their impact factor with implementation for family, women and Assam which is first introduced in October 2020 and but process starting from December 2020. So, only ten-month study highlights with the five objectives by the name of “Empowering family with empowering women in Empowering Assam”.

**Keywords**---Bar-chart, empowering, linear equation, Orunodoi scheme, women.

## **Introduction**

Empowerment means it control and choice of power in structures which is exist in worldwide nations and household communities. It's the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

Women's empowerment is the process of empowering women (Arain, 2015). It can be defined in their different ways of their effort and rising their status through education, literacy, social and awareness, training etc. It involves women right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home and the ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order nationally and internationally (Gbaguidi & Allagbe, 2018). So, the position of the women empowerment in the society is an important issue which draws the attention of the people all over the world (Bayeh, 2016).

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Manuscript submitted: 27 July 2021, Manuscript revised: 09 Oct 2021, Accepted for publication: 18 Nov 2021

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Employment can be a source of empowerment for women as it provides financial independence and thereby identity in the society and power structure in the family (Evans, 2008; Wu et al., 2013). So, in Assam, the government have been provided different types of schemes for women especially poor weaker section women like- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Women Helpline Scheme (WHS), Ujjwala New Scheme (UNS), Working Women Hostel etc. and including Orunodoi schemes also. The researcher felt how much important of women position in society by financially and how they have been getting financial support from the government and how the government the implemented scheme for women that have been presented and analysed in this paper (Mohan & Kumar, 2018).

### **Significance of study**

The economic development extend largely depends on its human resources. Women empower are also play a vital role of human resource development. It's not only India, but also Assam. Women are an integral part of each and every society. The position of the women in the society is an important issue which draws the attention of the people all over the world (Dwyer, 2000). The status and development of women in the society is determined by their economic and non-economic participation activities. In the poorer and weaker section family women income and hard work is very important. When we find out socio- economics factors child marriage, subjugation, after marriage and absence and divorce system etc is the main barrier. Social attitude and superstitions affect the female in all stages (Sudirman et al., 2021).

Social attitude and superstitions affect the female in all stages. They did not get much mobilization's scope because of conservative attitudes, part of religious, economic structure and also male dominating society (Rinartha et al., 2018). For these types of reasons Assam Government take various types of imitative for women empowerment especially Social Welfare Department, Assam provided different types of projects for women and child which would help for their right (Ravaldi et al., 2021). Various Self-Help Group formatted for economic condition improvement. In Assam Rural Health Mission introduced various types of schemes for women like Janani, Surakha Yojana, Mamoni, Majoni, Mamata and also Orunodoi. After all, women are enjoying equal status with man which one very important for their empowerment (Ahmed & Moorthy, 2021).

### **Limitation of study**

Orunodoi Scheme is very new scheme in Assam and it's launched only in 2020 and their target was for 33 district and in 2021 for 19.10 lakhs households, 90 lakhs population for 2277 Gaon panchayat, 229 block, 27727 villages, 100 urban area's beneficiary which is economically deprived family. But family female should be care taker of household. In this study only Baksha district have been considered which is location in lower Assam. Therefore, the study could not make a study on the overall influencing factor in the all 33 districts will be same and analysis are same. Because every district depends on awareness of family about the scheme and motivations and influencing factors which will be in different district in different level.

### **Research objective**

In the light of above background, the present paper attempted to the following objectives:

- To examine the applicable household who applied for the Orunodoi scheme with accepted and rejected the application and also respondent and non-respondents' sample which involved in the study.
- To examine the monitoring committee's services and the Sahayak's age with qualification.
- To examine the applying process of the scheme and who will be eligible for the scheme.
- To examine the reasons of beneficiaries rejected application forms and the beneficiaries age group
- To examine the location and gender priority of beneficiaries
- To examine the government motivational factors and awareness campaign of beneficiaries for the scheme.

### **Research Methodology**

Geographically the Baksa district total area 2457 sq.km., 5.86 s km is urban and 2451.14 sq. km is rural area. There is total 13 Block in district and 2,452 households are in urban and 189249 are in rural area. Educationally 7,977 literate people are in urban and 564,860 are in rural area.

The researcher is based on primary data. Primary data has been collected from gaon panchayat block office with the help of personal interview and considered 4 blocks out of 13 blocks namely Baksa, Brazali, Rangia and Tamulpur by taking the aid of questionnaire for the beneficiary. The questionnaire was framed and utilised to elicited information from the respondents along with personnel interview for the year December 2020 to September 2021. In this district total 26,187 both urban and rural family applied for Orunodoi Scheme, but only till now 15,500 applicants considered for scheme other have been rejected. In this study only 10 percent samples select by systematic random sampling and found 1550 beneficiaries. The study has been considered 1550 beneficiaries and send google form by mail that all beneficiaries. But only 600 beneficiary responds their mail and questions. Finally, these sample have been considered and to determine the degree of association, Cramer's co-efficient (Non-Parametric Test) was ascertained management of the samples.

### **Findings of the student**

#### **Observation of the application accepted and rejected of the applicant and respondents with non-respondents' samples of study**

Orunodoi scheme is very new scheme and this scheme basically provided for financially poor family which are economically deprived family. The preliminary selection of the beneficiaries would be done at the Gaon panchayat village council Development Committee (VCDC), Urban local Body (ULB) based on eligibility and ineligibility condition. In Baksa district total 26,187 household apply for Orunodoi

scheme. There have been only 15,500 applications accepted and 10,187 applications have been rejected due to this scheme only below 2 lakh per annum income household and applicable household was without any female member in family in Figure 1 Pie chart presented accepted household and non-accepted household.

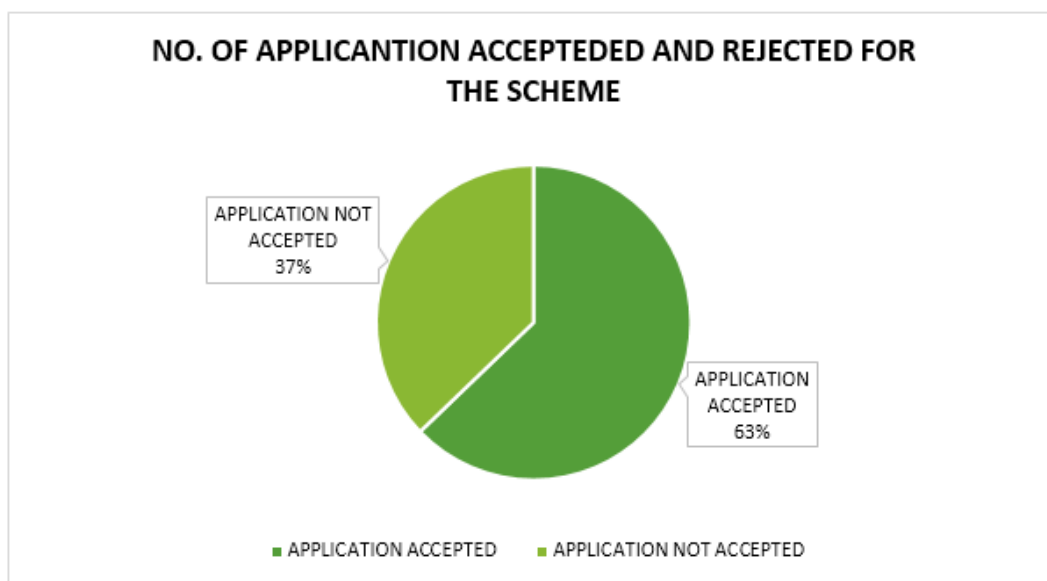


Figure 1. Pie chart

Table 1 represented the respondent's and non- respondents' family numbers.

Table 1  
Number of household respondents/ non respondents

Sr. No	Nature of Household	No of households				Total Samples	% age of samples
		Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur		
1	Respondents' household	150	150	150	150	600	38.71
2	Non-respondents' household	245	230	200	275	950	61.29
	Total	395	380	350	425	1550	100

\*Data from field survey

Table 1 represented the respondent's and non- respondents' family numbers. The study observed out of total 1550 family which have been considered for the study, but there are only 600 samples or 38.71 percent have been responds the email, others 950 samples or 61.29 percent have been not response due to maximum family people are unknown how to do check mail and how to do fill up google forms, so they would not response their question. Another point maximum household staying in rural areas so the network problem is very frequent and the researcher also could not connect with them for personnel interviews.

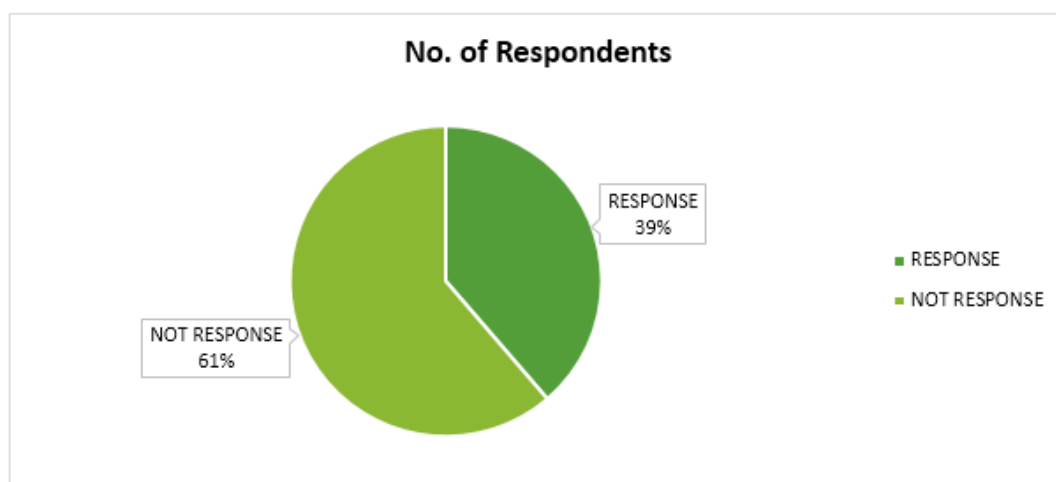


Figure 2. Pie chart

### Observation of the monitoring committee and the Sahayak of the scheme

On the district level of monitoring, the following member who monitor the progress of the scheme:



Figure 3. Member of monitoring committee of scheme

For the beneficiary of applying process at the preliminary stage the beneficiaries they have been apply for the benefit from the scheme to the Village Council Development Committee (VLDC) or Gaon Panchayat (GP) or Urban local Bodies (ULC) as per their eligibility criteria. After receiving application, the candidate will

select by the Member of Secretary and checklist will be compile to the LAC level. In LAC level criteria wise the checklist would be prepared by VCDL/ ULB/GP and the DLMC (District Level Monitoring Committee). The district-level monitoring committee will be responsible for finalizing the list (Koszyán & Katona, 2018). They have been checking the applicant's name and the details as like bank account name, IFSC code, candidate valid id proves (Aadhaar card, PAN card) which link with bank account. These all have been checked by the Finance department, because beneficiaries amount to do transferred direct to their accounts. This process of validation can be done with the help of Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) which is present in the Finance Department of the Assam Government and can be done through the web portal. Table 2 and 3 presented the qualification of Sahayak and block wise appointed Sahayak and their age group.

Table 2  
Qualification of Sahayak

Sr. No	Qualification	Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur	Total	% age of total
1	B.A with computer	1	2	1	2	6	18.75
2	B. Com with computer	3	4	5	3	15	46.32
3	B.Sc with computer	4	2	2	3	11	34.38

\*Data survey from field study

Table 3  
Age group of Sahayak

Sr. No	Age group	Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur	Total Sahayak	% age of total
1	18 - 25	2	3	2	1	8	25.00
2	26 - 35	6	5	6	7	24	75.00
	Total	8	8	8	8	32	100.00

\*Data survey from field study

From the survey total 32 Sahayak appointed in district. Out of 32, 46.32 percent their qualification has B. Com with computer in diploma and its followed 34.38 percent have been BSc with computer diploma. In this district total 32 Sahayaks appointed for all block and their responsible & duties would be for all block equally, only block wise the beneficiaries will meet to their particular Sahayak. Which will appointed under that particular block. So, they have been responsible not only for four blocks, but also responsible for all 13 blocks equally. All the Sahayak, their qualification is graduate with diploma in computer which is eligible required for their appointment (Nagasawa et al., 2013). But all these have been appointed fixed time period for two months and their salary also fixed Rs.15000/- only.

In case of age group of Sahayak 18 to 35 years. There have been 75 percent of Sahayak age group 26 to 35 age. Sahayk, they given their opinion due to unemployment reason and collective experience for other works, so in this age group came forward for any type of works, though these position of works very temporarily required.

**Observation the applying process of the scheme and who will be eligible for the scheme**

Application Procedure of Assam Orunodoi Scheme offline. Beneficiaries can download it from official site and they can download the form. After fill the form all document must submit with attested and all documents are mandatory which are required with the form. Application can-do only permanent resident of Assam and their income must less than 2 lakh per annum. And application must submit before the last date of registrations in respective department. So, applicant must be well aware of the application criteria. Table 3 presenting number of beneficiaries which have been applicable for the scheme.

Table 4  
Number of beneficiaries & eligible of the scheme

Sr. No	Types of Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries					% age of beneficiaries
		Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur	Total	
1	Widows	35	40	50	25	150	25.00
2	Divorced female	15	20	30	25	90	15.00
3	Unmarried female	55	58	60	62	235	39.17
4	Separate family member	43	26	5	31	105	17.50
5	Disable and handicapped	2	6	5	7	20	3.33
		150	150	150	150	600	100.00

\*Data survey in filed study

According to the Orunodoi scheme is provided to which widowed, divorced, unmarried, separated, specially-abled women and the poor families candidates get the priority. From the survey in this district 39.17 percent of beneficiaries, they have been unmarried and its followed 25 percent samples which have been widow. Other 17.50 beneficiaries were separated from family member and only 3.33 percent beneficiaries have been disabled and physically handicap. So, the result shown that in the district progress scheme members they have been followed their rules and regulation and they only considered those candidates who are applicable for the scheme.

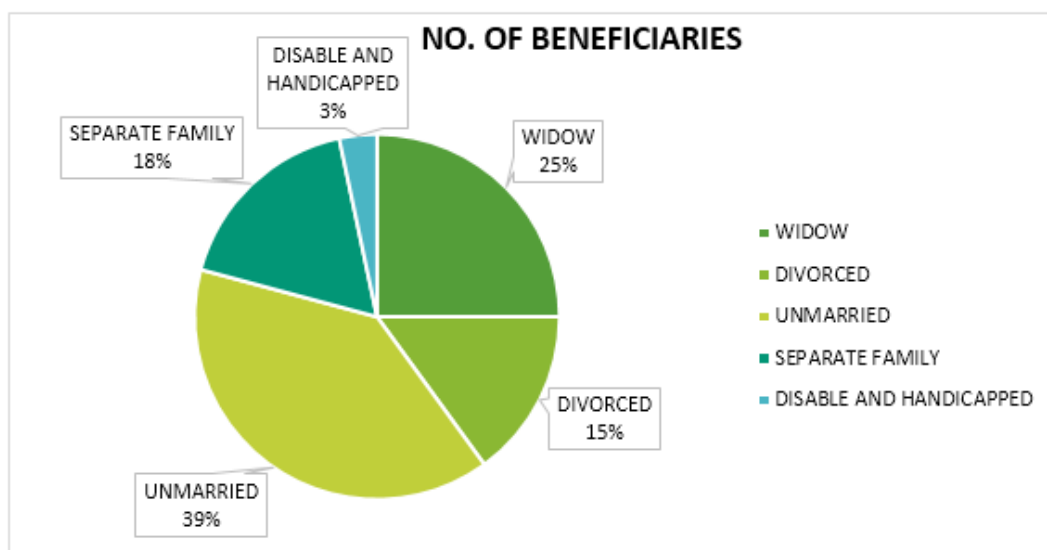


Figure 4. Pie chart

#### Observation the reasons of beneficiaries accepted/rejected application forms and the beneficiary's age group

In the scheme already mention some norm which have been provided for the beneficiaries that only female householder, widow, handicaps or disable person, unmarried, and separate candidate can apply, but some time the householder did not follow rule and regulation and they have been applied beyond rules. Table 5 presented the rejected application reasons of samples.

Table 5  
Number of rejected beneficiaries & reasons

Sr. No.	Reasons	Number of samples				Total	% age of samples
		Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur		
1	Government Employees	10	11	14	13	48	9.60
2	Does not have any female employees	15	28	24	20	87	17.40
3	Could not give valid Id proof	25	35	20	20	100	20.00
4	BPL card is not with them	30	45	49	24	148	29.60
5	Could not give address proof	20	31	43	23	117	23.40
	Total	100	150	150	100	500	100.00

\*Data survey from field study



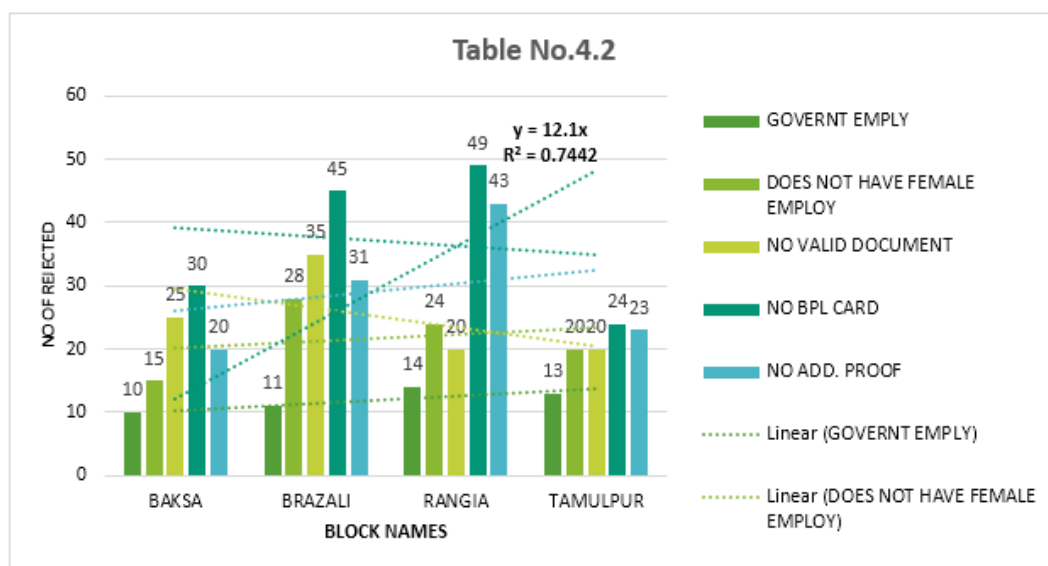


Figure 5. Bar chart

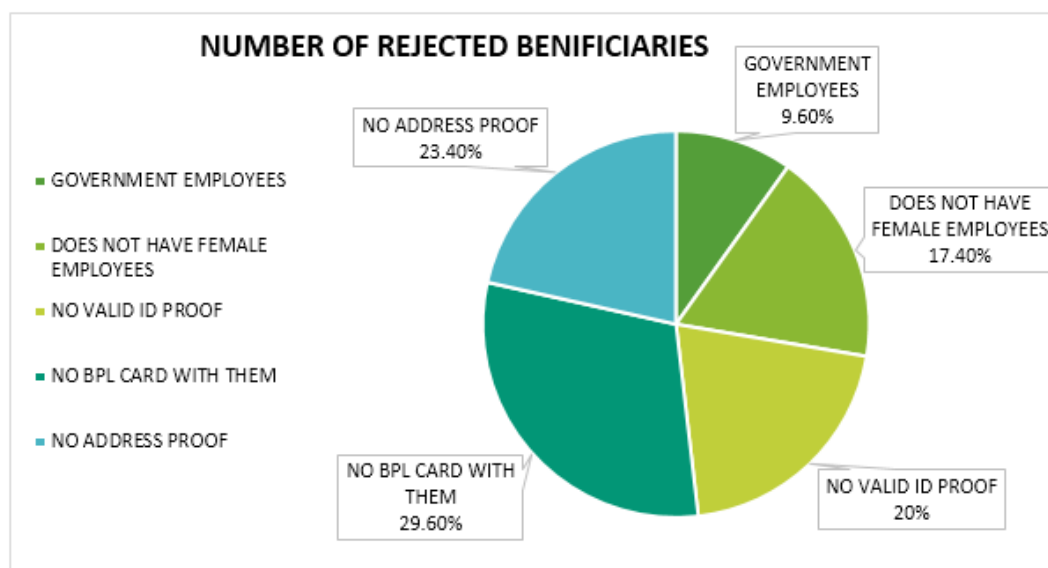


Figure 6. Pie chart

In this district total applicant was 26,187, but out of these 10,187 was rejected applicant. From these applicants 500 applicant selected for the study and found the reasons of rejection of application. Maximum 29.60 percent given their opinion, their rejected cause is they did not have BPL cards because of the reason they did not know how they can apply for the BPL cards and where they can apply for card. Its followed almost equally 23.40 percent of application rejected for the applicant due to they did not have valid Id proof and 20 percent, they could not give their proper address proof which is presented Table 5 Figure 5 and Figure 6 pie chart.

The age factor also another eligibility criteria of the scheme. Because, under the Orunodoi scheme only those applicants could apply which maturity of age 18 years and more than 18 years of the applicant. Table 6 and Figure 7 Bar chart presented the age groups beneficiaries of four blocks.

Table 6  
Age group of Beneficiaries

Sr. No	Age Groups	Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur	Total	% age of Beneficiaries
1	18-25	8	10	11	6	35	5.83
2	26 - 30	10	15	14	8	47	7.83
3	31 - 40	20	35	28	21	103	17.17
4	41 -45	55	50	52	47	204	34.00
5	46 & above	57	40	45	58	200	33.33
	Total	150	150	150	150	600	100.00

\*Data survey from field study

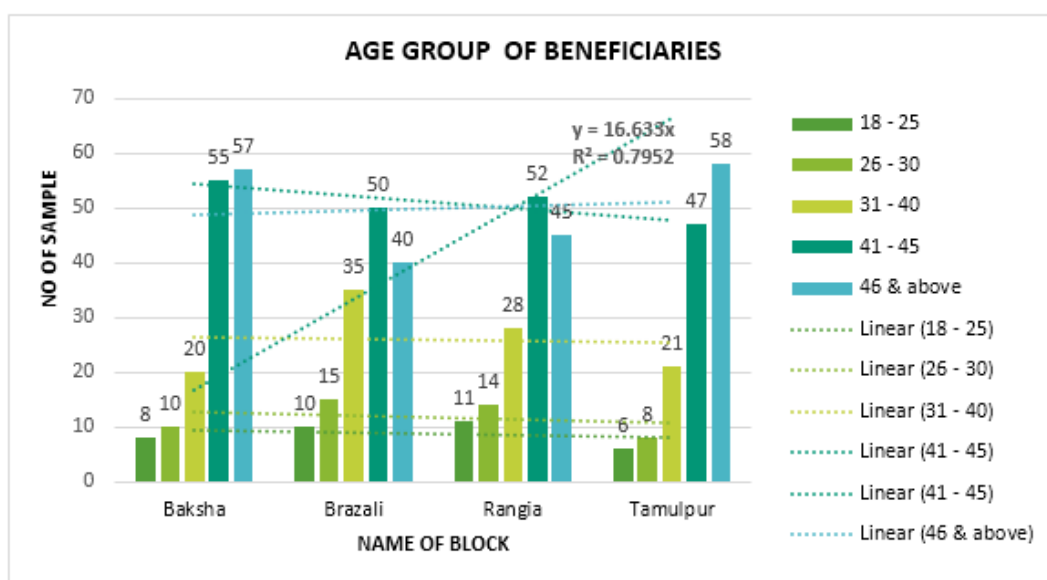


Figure 7. Bar chart

From the survey maximum 34 percent of beneficiaries have been 41 to 45 age group and it's followed by 33.33 percent of beneficiaries 46 and above age group. Due in these age group maximum women widow, divorcee and separate from family member. And only 5.83 percent of beneficiaries have been 18 to 25 age groups. Because of these age group of beneficiary's minimum number of households, they did not suffer from daily wages and they are not deprived from income. From bar chart the survey found the linear equation and R square vales of variable is 0.7952. The survey result found the R square value is also high, so

the significance of variables dependence each other and the age of the beneficiaries is acceptable (Delfour et al., 1981).

### **Observation of the location and gender priority of beneficiaries**

In Orunodi scheme the beneficiary's location and gender of applicant is very important. In this scheme first priority gave to adult female householder. Table 7 and 8 presented gender identity of beneficiaries and location of beneficiaries.

Table 7  
Gender identity and location of beneficiaries

Sr. No	Beneficiaries gender identity/location	Baksa	Brazali	Rangia	Tamulpur	Total	% age of sample
1	Male	20	30	10	15	75	12.50
2	Female	130	120	140	135	525	87.50
3	Rural	90	85	100	90	365	60.83
4	Urban	60	65	50	60	235	39.17

\*Data survey from field studies

Above table showed that 87.50 percent beneficiaries female and only 12.50 male. So, it showed the female have been more priority in the scheme. Though scheme have been given first priority female householder, but male householder also applied for this scheme, in that case nominated female head not matured, till to age of 18 years and those family belongs from poor family and did not having ration cards and National Food Security Scheme card for free rice and rations. Another opinion gave by beneficiaries that they are physically handicapped, disable and separate from family and also, they have been faced by financial problem, that's way they have been applied for this scheme.

The Survey found location of beneficiaries, maximum 60.83 percent of beneficiaries, they have been from rural areas and 39.17 percent of beneficiaries have been from urban areas. Though the maximum of beneficiaries belongs from rural areas, but still all rural areas people did not know about the Orunodoi scheme due to the scheme newly launched and secondly all rural people, they did not have knowledge about the process of application and criteria of scheme. From the observation of gender identity female are more applicable for this scheme.

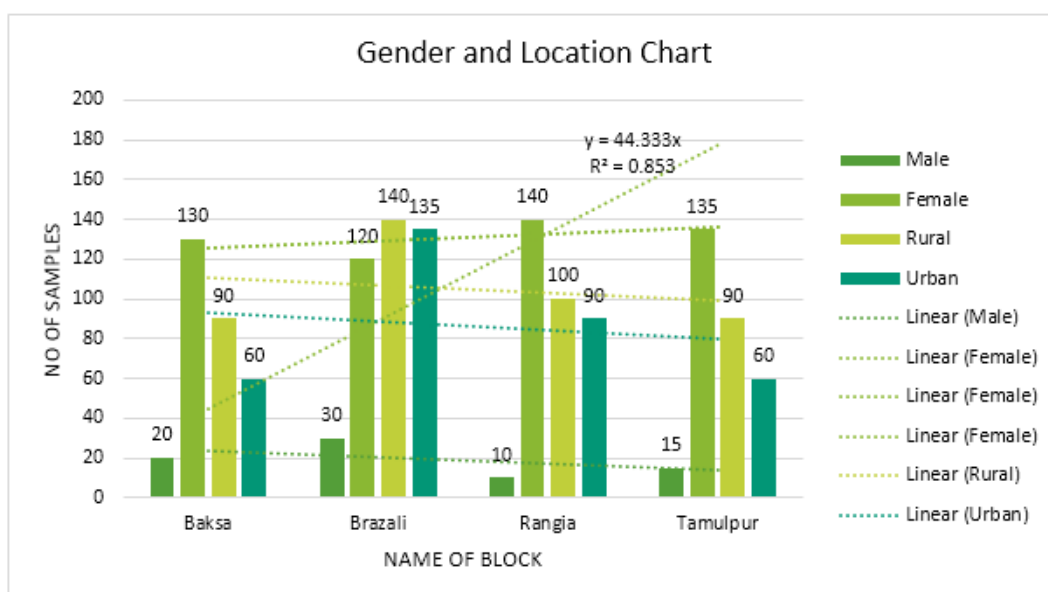


Figure 8. Bar chart

Calculation of the linear equation and R square value is 0.853, so the significance of variables is also very highly significant and the reason of location and gender of female variable is acceptable.

### Observation of the government motivation factors for beneficiaries

Orunodoi scheme have been introduced in last 2020, and it's very new and all rural and urban people are also not aware for the scheme. Even people are did not known about how and where should go for apply (Saadatmandi & Dehghan, 2010). For this reasons government adopting various type of sources for the beneficiaries such as printing poster, audio, visual, social media and also various type of awareness campaign with nukkat drama process etc. Table 8 presented motivation factor for beneficiaries with number of beneficiaries.

Table 8  
Motivation factor with number of beneficiaries

Sr. No	Motivational Factors	Baksa	Brajali	Rangia	Tamulpur	Total	%age of sample
1	Printing poster	60	70	60	64	254	42.33
2	Audio	35	30	35	36	136	22.67
3	Visual	25	20	20	22	87	14.50
4	Social media	20	25	20	20	85	14.00
5	Street play	10	5	15	8	38	6.33
	Total	150	150	150	150	600	100.00

\*Data from field survey

From the survey, out of 600 respondents, 254 sample or 42.33 percent of beneficiaries have been motivated by printing poste. Its followed 136 or 22.67

percent respondents motivated by audio advertising like FM radio, Amazon Music, Apple Music etc. Only 6.33 percent of respondents motivated by Nukkat drama or street play which beneficiaries from urban areas. Because other beneficiaries they gave their opinion, rural beneficiaries, they did not know about street play and the monitoring committee also not go to rural area to play nukkat drama. Figure 9 -Bar chart presented the motivation factors and find out the linear equation line and R square value.

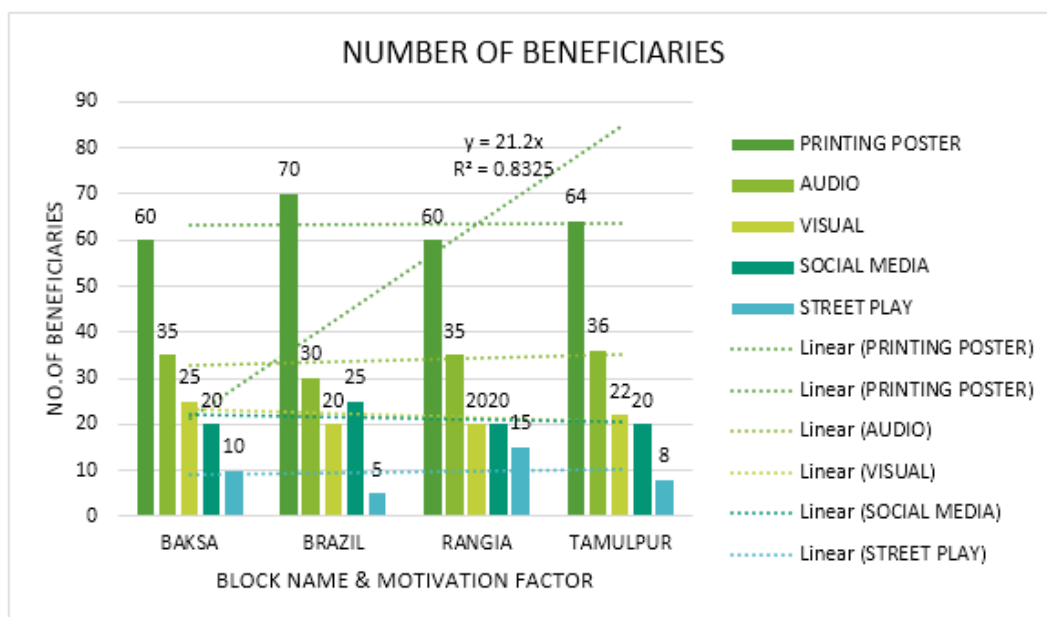


Figure 9. Bar chart with linear equation & R value

From the calculation of linear equation and non-parametric value of R square is 0.8325 which one highly significance. So, the variables of printing & poster motivation factor are highly motivated to the beneficiaries and the beneficiaries are also highly influence for the scheme.

## Conclusion

Assam Orunodoi Scheme launched especially for women which one deprived from their financial right. In every month Rs 830 per month will be give to the beneficiaries for some daily uses' commodities like rice, sugar, medicines, and other pulses including fruits. Fund will be transferred by Finance department, Assam government in every month beginning of the day to the beneficiary's accounts. The beneficiaries accounts have been deals with Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, SBI Bank, UCO Bank, Central Bank, PNB and Bank of India etc. From the scheme, all women of Assam especially rural widow, unmarried, separated from family member, physically handicap and disable women getting lots of benefits. After the scheme launched at least these women should not face problem for their life survive. The government also announced the amount 830 to increase to Rs 3000 per month also. Government has also dedicated portal where they get

information easily about the scheme. So, after all the Orunodi scheme is empowerment scheme for Assam, Assam women and Assamese family.

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