

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT: A PARADIGM SHIFT IN BODO ECONOMY**

ANSUMOI BASUMATARI,  
Asstt. Professor  
Rangapara College, Rangapara.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Economy plays a vital role in the growth and development of a community. All round development of a community in social, economic, cultural, political, educational is characterised by the economic activity and life style of a community adopts. It also manifests in cultural milieu of the society. Bodos are basically rural agrarian community and they have a very close contact with nature. They are predominantly dependent on agriculture. Bodos started cultivation in the north eastern part of the Indian sub continent since time immemorial. Scholars and historians cannot decipher as to how and when Bodos migrated or settled to these areas and started cultivation.

The Neolithic site in present Dima Hasao district which is known to be Daojali Hading is the evidence that growing of grains and cultivation were found in this part of the region which is predominantly inhabited by the people of Bodo groups. Findings of polished stones and kitchen items such as grinders, pestles, mortars etc. in the site are the evidence that people were involved in cultivation.

The agricultural implements and techniques continued to be traditional, outmoded till the last few decades and therefore there is no much improvement in the economic condition of the Bodos. The economic condition of a handful of people improved in the sixties mainly due to education and after introduction of Bodo medium in Schools in 1963 which paved the way for large scale engagement of Bodo medium teachers for Bodo medium education. There is no denying of the fact that Bodo medium education produced lots of educated Bodo youths who joined various services other than cultivation. The Bodo medium education paved the way for production of many doctors, Engineers and employment in various central and state services which again helped their children to pursue good and high education.

However the resurgence in the growth of education amongst the youths has been retarded due to Bodoland movement launched spearheaded by ABSU in 1987 where many students joined the movement leaving their studies in the back burner which took the toll of academic career of many of the Bodo youths. After the signing of the 1st Bodo accord in 1993 , movement for separate state of Bodoland and education of the youths went on side by side during the last 3 decades and now so many Bodo youths have taken high education from college and universities, Now we see many youths passing out from IITs, Engineering colleges , Medical colleges, Agriculture , IIMs , ITs software techniques and by now many Bodo youths acquired Doctorate degrees and entered in many colleges and universities as teachers, professors doctors and engineers.

Entrepreneurial activities and entrepreneurship development amongst the Bodos could be witnessed during the last three decades, these are mainly in weaving, handloom, tea, fisheries, piggery, paddy and organic cultivation of vegetables, horticultural fruits etc.

Now we see many Bodo youths and women engaged in small business like grocery, vegetables meat in each and every chowk and market place.

There is no denying of the fact that Bodo medium Education produced lots of educated Bodos youths who joined various services other than cultivation. The Bodo medium Education paved the way for production of many doctors, engineers and employment in various central and State Services which again helped their children pursue good and high education.

However the resurgence in the growth of education amongst the youths has been retarded due to Bodoland movement launched and spearheaded by ABSU in 1987 where many students joined the movement leaving their Studies in the back burner which took the toll of academic career of many of the Bodo youths. After the Signing of the 1st Bodo accord is 1993, movement for separate State of Bodoland and education of the youths went on side by side during the .last 3 decades and now so many Bodo youths have taken high education from College and Universities, Now we see many youths Passing out from ITTs, Engineering Colleges, Medical College, Agriculture, IIMs, ITs Software Techniques and by now many Bodo youths acquired Doctorate Degrees and entered in many College and Universities as Teachers. Professors, Doctors and Engineers.

Entrepreneurial activities and entrepreneurship development amongst the Bodos could be witnessed during the last three decades, there are mainly in weaving, handloom, tea, fisheries, piggery, paddy and Organic cultivation of vegetables, horticultural fruits etc.

Now we see many Bodo youths and women engaged in small business like grocery, vegetables, meat in each and every chowk and market place.

#### **HANDLOOM SECTORS:**

In handloom sectors we see many Bodo women and youths taking up weaving activities by setting up weaving centres. There weaving centres basically produce Dokhona, Fassa, Gamsa, Sador, Aronai, Traditional Jackets, Caps etc. Amongst these Dokhona, Fasra, eri jakets. Aronai are much in demand in the market.

Boro women are traditionally weavers. There was an age old belief that those women who did not know the art of weaving found difficult to be worried off.

Eri silk worm weaving and spinning of eri Silk by Bodo Women has been continuing since time immemorial. Weaving of eri clothes called Sima or Sador for their household. As Bodo inhabited areas are fertile and eri plant is grown everywhere, eri Silk worm rearing can be taken up by any Bodo women easily. There is tremendous potentialities for taking up this and national/international markets. These are few entrepreneurs in this area who have made noticeable progress in production. Product diversification and Marketing.

#### **TEA PLANTATION:**

Another most potential economic and Entrepreneurial activity taken up by Bodo youths is tea plantation and production of tea. There are plenty of small and medium tea growers in almost all the districts of BTR. Although those growers for supply and sell of tea leaves, yet they have been making considerable progress in tea field and accordingly making handsome profits business. The Organic tea and green tea produced by those growers are much in demand in the local and international markets. By growing tea, many youths have self employed and developed their economic conditions.

#### **PIGGERY:**

Bodo youths engaging in piggery and the important entrepreneurial activity given the demand for pork and traditional foods in the market and hotels and restaurants.

This business has a huge prospects which will go a long way given the food habits of the people of the area.

**POULTRY FARMING:**

Poultry farming is another activity where many Bodo youths have made considerable profits and it has generated not only self employment but also economic development in their families.

**ORGANIC FARMING:**

Some of the educated youths have also started Organic farming for paddy, Vegetables, horticultural fruits, etc. the Organic Joha, Bora, black rice are very much in demand in the markets, Large Scale production of these rice may facilitate the supply to national and international markets, Again this will necessitate establishment of big rice mills and factories.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

There are several other activities with tremendous potentialities and prospects for taking up entrepreneurial ventures by the Bodo youths, in the present BTR areas especially in tourism, hospitality, business and other allied activities.

Beginning from Sonkosh- Jamduar to Dikrai – Sijousa areas, BTR areas along the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh in the north BTR area is sifted with idyllic natural beauties, forests, Jungles, Wildlife Sanctuaries, rivers, Streams river lets, fresh and crystal clear waters, flora and fauna have naturally grown beautiful potential tourist spots and could be developed even more attractive tourist Spots. There are plenty of Scopes that Bodo youths could make a mark in the field of tourism and hospitality business.

It is encouraging that there are up coming Bodo entrepreneurs who are running hotels, Dhobas, Restaurants in the towns and cities and along the National High ways. Establishment of tourist resorts and Hotels by Bodo Youths is another bold step in their direction.

**RESOURCES :**

(Taken from various ground level sight visits, personal experience, and from some Journal, Magazine & Books etc. )