

Women's Work and Economic Agency in Assamese Literature: Representations of Gender and Socio-Economic Transformation

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Abstract

Women's employment and economic autonomy are shaped by gender roles, family structures, patriarchal expectations and socio-economic conditions. This study examines Women's employment and economic autonomy in Assamese literature, with particular attention to gender relations and socio-economic transformation. A qualitative research design was adopted, combining analysis of selected Assamese literary works with semi-structured interviews with 10 purposively selected participants familiar with Assamese literature. The analysis focused on women's domestic, agricultural, informal and paid work; financial independence; control over resources; occupational choices; decision-making; gender norms; patriarchy; family relations; and changing socio-economic conditions. Thematic analysis identified four major areas: representations of Women's employment and gender roles, women's economic autonomy, gender and patriarchal expectations, and perceived gender-related and socio-economic transformation. Participants identified both traditional and changing representations of women and associated their engagement with literature with greater awareness of women's work, economic independence, gender expectations and social and economic roles. The study contributes to understanding Assamese literature as a cultural space for examining changing perceptions of women's work, agency and gender relations.

Keywords: Assamese Literature; Women's Work, Economic Agency, Women's Labour, Gender Relations, Patriarchy, Women's Empowerment, Socio-Economic Transformation, Gender Roles, Economic Independence.

Introduction

The role of women in households and economy is significant, but a large part of women's work still goes unnoticed. According to feminist literature, the gender-based division of labour is a product of social construction and tends to allocate more reproductive and domestic duties to women, and also give more importance to productive work which is remunerated (Boserup et al., 2013), (Borde & Malovany-Chevallier, 2010), (Elson, 1995). Furthermore, social reproduction scholars claim that domestic and care work that is not recognized maintains economic production (Federici, 2004), (Mies, 2014), (Bhattacharya, 2017). The situation in India implies the involvement of women in domestic, agricultural, and informal sectors although the labor of women is underestimated (Hirway, 2015), (Chen, 2001), (Mazumdar, 2011).

The economic status of women cannot, however, be measured solely through their involvement in waged work. Economic agency includes not only resource control but also financial independence, occupational freedom, bargaining power, and participation in decision making in the family (A. Sen & Sen, 1999), (Agarwal, 1997). All these aspects are influenced by patriarchy, class dynamics, family structure, and socio-cultural expectations. Therefore, an analysis of women's work together with economic agency gives a wider picture of how gendered power functions in society.

Literature is a significant medium to explore these relations since literature reflects and negotiates social relations. Literary criticism from the feminist perspective has studied how identities and roles of women have been created through the institutions of domesticity, marriage, work and patriarchy (Gilbert & Gubar, 2020), (Millet, 1970); (Showalter, 1999). Indian literary critics from the feminist perspective have stressed the need to look at women's relations within particular historical, social and regional settings instead of seeing women as a monolithic entity (Tharu & Lalita, 1993), (Mohanty, 2022).

Within this context, Assamese literature creates an important regional space for researching women's work and

economic agency. The social history of Assam has been largely formed by the dynamics of agricultural economy, plantation work, informal production, mobility, urbanisation and changes in family and community arrangements (Behal, 2014), (Baruah, 1999). Changes in these domains have affected women's activities and gender-based work organisation as well. Novels of Indira Goswami, Nirupama Borgohain, and Arupa Patangia Kalita describe women in different social, familial and economic settings, giving a lot to explore women's labour and agency.

While there is extensive scholarship on the portrayal of women in Assamese literature in relation to gender and identity, patriarchy, marriage, and rebellion, the connection between women's labor and economic empowerment is rather understudied (Sharma, 2011). The available studies pay little attention to paid and unpaid work in conjunction with financial autonomy, resource control, occupational freedom, and decision making, while class, family dynamics, and patriarchy play a role in the processes under consideration.

The present study attempts to fill this gap by developing an integrated reading of women's work, economic agency, gender relations and socio-economic transformation in some selected Assamese literary texts. Rather than simply locating women's labour as a background feature of fictional narratives, the study considers it as a significant site through which power and gender relations are produced and negotiated. It differentiates between labour, both paid and unpaid, and considers the effects of different forms of work on women's economic position. It also examines economic agency along four inter-related dimensions: financial independence, control over resources, choice of occupation and participation in decision-making. This allows us to look beyond whether women work and to whether their work provides meaningful control and bargaining power.

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Objectives

- To examine the representation of women's work and labour in selected Assamese literary texts, with particular attention to domestic, agricultural, informal and paid employment.
- To analyse the representation of women's economic agency in selected Assamese literary texts, with particular attention to financial independence, control over resources, occupational choices and participation in decision-making.
- To examine how gender norms, patriarchal structures, class, family relationships and socio-cultural expectations shape the representation of women's work and economic agency in selected Assamese literary texts.
- To analyse how representations of women's work and economic agency reflect changing gender relations and broader socio-economic transformations in Assamese society.

Review of Literature

Representation of Women's Work and Labour

(Waring & Steinem, 1988) argued that national accounting leaves out unpaid household and subsistence labour, so the majority of women's labour goes unnoticed in economic measures. (Folbre, 2001) shows that care work sustains families and markets yet is poorly rewarded, and (Razavi, 2007) describes a "care diamond" of families, markets, the state and communities, in which the burden falls on women where public provision is weak. (Standing, 1989) observes that the expansion of women's employment has often meant insecure and low-paid work. (Klasen & Pieters, 2015) link the urban women's labour force participation rate being stagnant in India to household income, education and social norms. Such studies imply that literary depictions of work may be subdivided into domestic, agricultural, and informal and paid labour, and inquire which of these, if any, the narrative has designated as "work". In the Assamese context, (Guha, 1988) Documents a plantation economy built on women's labour, laying the basis for considering how labour can be read in regional fiction. Recent fieldwork suggests that this genealogy persists,

(Konch & Saikia, 2025) Looks at the lived experiences of the daily lives of the women tea labourers, especially at the juncture of where the personal intersects with the political, and notes that these women are subjected to gender discrimination and violence along with their work.

Representation of Women's Economic Agency

(Kabeer, 1999) (define empowerment as the process by which individuals gain the capacity to make strategic choices about their lives, which is associated with power, agency and achievement). (Kabeer, 2005) Predicts that income can be significant only if it expand a woman's options at the household level. (A. K. Sen, 1990) Talks of the household as being a "field of joint conflicts", where bargaining power is based on contribution and outside options and being the sole breadwinner is not enough to determine greater control. For Nussbaum (2000), being able to decide about one's material environment including access to property and fulfilling work is a core capability. (Duflo, 2012) Argues that both development and empowerment strengthen each other but that the connection is not automatic. (Woolf, 2014) Opened the door to this issue in literary criticism when she claimed that women's independence is contingent upon having money and space of their own. These texts are useful for the study of agency across the four dimensions employed here: financial independence, control over resources, occupational choice, and decision-making.

Gender Norms, Patriarchy, Class and Family

(Hartmann, 1976) argues that patriarchy and capitalism reinforce each other, particularly through job segregation that keeps women in lower-paid work. (Kandiyoti, 1988) shows that women often accept constraints in return for security, a "patriarchal bargain", which explains why work does not always bring autonomy. (Kabeer, 1994) examines how households and institutions distribute resources and responsibilities unequally by gender. In the Indian context, (Sangari, 1989) analyse how material conditions and ideology jointly shape women's positions, and (Chakraborty, 2003) shows how caste and patriarchy together control women's labour and sexuality. (Rege, 2014) shows the importance of Dalit women's own accounts.

Within Assamese criticism, (Goswami, 2022) portrays widowhood and the decline of feudal structures that restrict women's lives. (Dhileep & Baisel, 2024) read Kalita's *Felane* and Phukan's *The Collector's Wife* through radical feminism, stressing patriarchal control, gender roles and violence.

Changing Gender Relations and Socio-Economic Transformation

The evolving economic role of women is intimately linked to broader socio-economic change. As shown by (Klasen & Pieters, 2015), economic development is not necessarily accompanied by reduced social restrictions in gender equality in the workplace. (Guha, 1988) explains in the context of Assam how colonial plantation development has changed the economic and social fabric of the region, while (Kalita, 2013) considers the experiences of women during the political and social turbulence related to the Assam language movement. In a similar way, (Singha, 2024) analyzes representations of gender roles among modern Assamese writers in the context of the Assam

Agitation and insurgency.

Changing gender relations in Assamese fiction are also reflected in depictions of female education, employment, marginality and resistance. (Hazarika, 2025) explores agency of women in changing socio-cultural environments. (Saikia, 2026) analyzes the depiction of widows, laborers and other economically marginalized groups in Goswami's works, addressing issues such as patriarchy, caste discrimination and economic exploitation. Despite the important links established between gender and socio-economic transformation according to what is been said, there is a link between how women's economic work and agency requires further investigation.

Research gap

The current body of research, then, offers strong theoretical and contextual foundations but leaves a specific gap at the complex relationship between women's labor, economic empowerment, and social and economic change in Assamese literature. To fill this need, the current research looked at how selected Assamese literary texts represent women's domestic, agricultural, informal and paid work; how such work influences financial independence, resource control, occupational choice and decision-making; and how these representations reflect changing gender norms, family relations and socio-economic conditions.

Methodology

Research Design

This research aims to examine how women's labor and economic agency are portrayed in selected Assamese literary texts by adopting a qualitative research design. Qualitative approach is suitable as it offers an opportunity for an in-depth understanding of women's experience, roles, choices and socio-economic conditions as represented in literature.

The study looks at several types of women's labor, including informal, agricultural, domestic, and paid labour, and dimensions of economic agency like financial independence, freedom to choose one's own career path, access to necessary resources, and a voice in policymaking. Meanwhile, it delves into the influence of gender norms, patriarchy, class, family relations and changing socio-economic conditions on women's work and economic agency. Qualitative information was also collected from 10 purposively selected participants in addition to textual analysis in an effort to get informed perspectives on the representation of women, work and economic agency in Assamese literature.

Data Collection

Semi-structured interviews with 10 participants were used to gather primary qualitative data. Semi-structured interviews were used because they provided everyone a chance to speak their views without fear of reprimand, and at the same time covered the major aspects relating to the research objectives.

Participants were asked to talk on their perception and interpretation of women's work, economic independence, gender roles and socio-economic change as reflected in Assamese literary texts.

The interview schedule covered the following areas:

- Representation of women's work and labour
- Domestic, agricultural, informal and paid work
- Women's financial independence and economic agency
- Control over resources and household decision-making
- Occupational choices and economic opportunities
- Patriarchy, gender norms and family relationships
- Class and socio-economic conditions
- Changing representations of women in Assamese literature
- Relationship between women's economic roles and social transformation

Interviews were conducted in such a way as to encourage to share their opinions using their own terminology. After obtaining participants' permission, we recorded their replies and transcribed them for analysis.

Sampling and Participants

The researcher used a purposive sampling method in order to identify respondents capable of giving an informed perspective about women's portrayal and economic empowerment in Assamese literature.

There were 10 participants in total who participated in this research. Participants were chosen on the basis of their awareness about Assamese literature and their ability to speak on issues concerning women, gender, work, family, and socio-economic situation.

Purposive sampling was used in this study because the study required that the participants be knowledgeable and experienced. Participants were selected from a relevant background of academia and literature.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria:

- Individuals with knowledge or familiarity with Assamese literature.
- Participants aged 18 years and above.
- Individuals able to discuss women's representation, gender and socio-economic issues in literature.
- Participants willing to participate in the interview.
- Participants who provided informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Individuals without sufficient familiarity with Assamese literature.
- Participants below 18 years of age.
- Individuals unwilling to participate in the interview.
- Participants who did not provide informed consent.

Sources of Data

This study makes use of data collected from a variety of primary and secondary resources. Main sources include qualitative data collected using semi-structured interviews with ten respondents. Assamese literary texts that are chosen also form the main body of textual data used for analysis of representations of economic agency of women. Secondary sources of data include books, articles from journals, research papers, theses, dissertations, and other scholarly writings on Assamese literature, women, feminism, economic agency, gender relations, and socio-economic changes. All of these sources were used as background materials for interpreting literary texts and interview data.

Data Analysis

The gathered data was subjected to thematic analysis. This analysis entailed an in-depth study of the chosen literary works and the interview transcripts for the purpose of developing a general understanding of the data. Pertinent statements, texts and responses to the research objectives were coded depending on the meaning and context of the text or response. Related codes were grouped together to form categories, out of which themes and sub-themes were formulated. The themes obtained from the literary works were compared to the responses of the ten participants in order to determine commonalities and important perspectives. Finally, the themes identified were interpreted in light of the research objectives and the gender roles and economic status in Assamese society.

The analysis was organised around four major themes:

Women's Engagement with Assamese Literature and Representations of Work and Gender

- Assamese Literature and Women's Economic Agency
- Gender, Patriarchy and Socio-Cultural Expectations
- Gender Relations and Socio-Economic Transformation

The analysis is centered on the way among which female characters are shown as being both victims and perpetrators of the constraints of society and the economy as well as agents making decisions and negotiating their duties. The answers of the 10 respondents served as the basis of interpretation of the selected literary works. They were not used for the purpose of statistical generalization but offered information necessary for the purposes of the study.

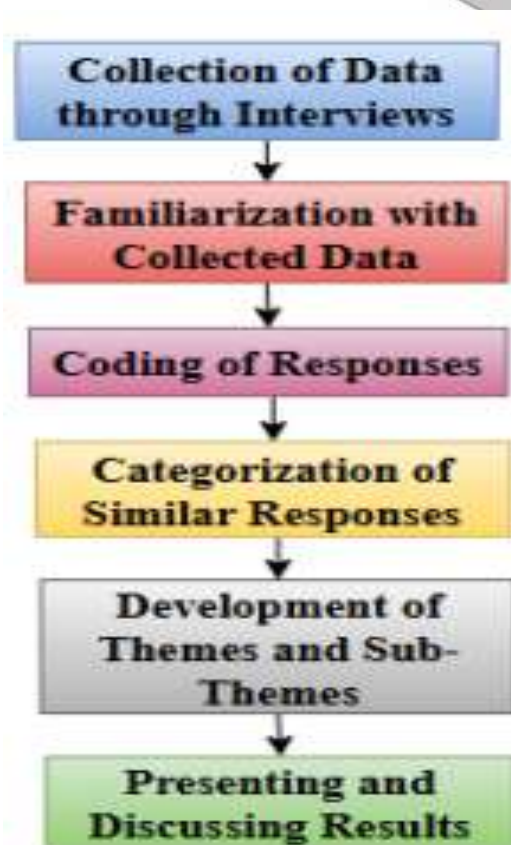


Figure 1 Process of Qualitative Analysis

Ethical Considerations

Principles of ethics were adhered to during carrying out the study. Every participant gave their informed consent after being briefed on the study's purpose. Everyone who was going to be interviewed gave their informed consent beforehand. All participants were required to maintain their anonymity. The participants were informed that they might withdraw from the study at any moment. All information gathered was only for academic use. The literary texts and secondary sources were also cited properly.

Results

The qualitative results from the semi-structured interviews that were carried out with 0 women who had meaningful engagement with selected Assamese literary works, including novels, short stories, poetry, songs and other literary forms. The analysis explores participants' perceptions of women's work and labor, economic agency, gender relations, patriarchal structures, socio-cultural expectations, and perceived personal and socio-economic transformation associated with their engagement with Assamese literature.

The interview the data was examined using a thematic analysis to uncover commonalities, encounters, and perspectives. across the participants' accounts. The findings are organized into four major themes corresponding to the four research questions.

The four major themes, their descriptions, and the corresponding sub-codes identified from the qualitative findings are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Themes, Description and Sub-Codes for Qualitative Analysis

Themes	Description	Sub-Codes
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Theme 1: Women's Engagement with Assamese Literature and Representations of Work and Gender	'Examines women's engagement with selected Assamese literary works and their perceptions of representations of women's work, labor, responsibilities and gender roles.'	'Engagement with Assamese literature; representation of women's work; domestic labor; paid and unpaid work; occupational roles; gender roles; women's responsibilities'
Theme 2: Assamese Literature and Women's Economic Agency	'Examines women's perceptions of economic agency in relation to their engagement with Assamese literature, particularly financial independence, occupational choices, control over economic resources and participation in decision-making.'	Financial independence; employment and income; occupational choices; control over resources; financial decision-making; economic independence; household decision-making
Theme 3: Gender, Patriarchy and Socio-Cultural Expectations	Explores women's perceptions of gender norms, patriarchal structures, family relationships and socio-cultural expectations as understood through their engagement with Assamese literature.	Gender norms; patriarchy; family expectations; family relationships; social restrictions; cultural expectations; women's social position; negotiation of gender roles
Theme 4: Gender Relations and Perceived Socio-Economic Transformation	Examines women's accounts of perceived personal, gender-related and socio-economic changes associated with their engagement with Assamese literature.	Changes in attitudes; aspirations; confidence and self-perception; educational and occupational choices; changing gender relations; social participation; economic perspectives; perceived socio-economic change

Theme 1: Women's Engagement with Assamese Literature and Representations of Work and Gender

This theme examines women's engagement with Assamese literary works and their perceptions of women's work, labour and gender roles. Assamese literature provides representations of women's everyday experiences, family responsibilities, social positions and changing roles within society. The analysis focuses on how participants engage with different forms of Assamese literature and interpret the portrayal of women's labor and gender norms in these works. The research question for this theme was aimed at understanding how women perceive representations of gender, work, and women roles through their engagement with Assamese literary works.

Q1. How do women describe their engagement with selected Assamese literary works and their perceptions of representations of women's work, labor, and gender roles?

Participants described Assamese literature as a source through which they encountered different representations of women's lives and responsibilities. One participant stated, "I have read many Assamese stories and novels where women's lives, family responsibilities and struggles are clearly presented" (P1). Another stated, "The literature indicates that women have an extensive contribution to the family both in housework and other things." (P2).

In this section, women's roles as defined in terms of sex were also discussed with regard to the conventional norms, "Many Assamese literature has the expectation that women will take care of the household and fulfill traditional family responsibilities." (P3). Alongside this, participants noted shifting portrayals of women, "Some of the newer works show women as educated, working and making decisions for themselves," said one participant." (P4). In the same vein, a different participant said: "Literature gave me insight that women are more than their housework, their views are equally important."" (P5).

Table 2 Women's Perceptions of Work, Labor and Gender Representations

Statement	Count
Assamese literature presents women's family responsibilities and	2

struggles	
Women's contributions through household and other forms of work	2
Literary works reflect traditional gender roles	1
Contemporary works present educated and working women	1
Women's aspirations extend beyond household responsibilities	1

Table 2, the responses from the participants (as measures of perceptions on the content of Assamese literature) indicated a worldview that represented women's lives in terms of family-related work, household work and other kinds of work and gender roles. In addition, it reflected responses that related to newer representations of women as educated, employed and aspirational to being involved in only household work. Overall, there was evidence of an understanding of the traditional as well as the newer representations gender roles in the workplace roles in Assamese literature.

Theme 2: Assamese Literature and Women's Economic Agency

This theme relates to women's perceptions of women's economic agency vis-a-vis their interaction with Assamese literature. In this theme I explored the ways in which participants perceive financial independence, economic decision-making and their involvement with economic assets through their interaction with Assamese literature. I also explored how the reading and viewing of literature which represent women as economically active and independent might influence women's conception of their own economic agency and independence. This theme was guided by the research question, 'How do women conceptualize the relationship between Assamese literature and women's economic agency.'

Q2. How do women perceive the relationship between Assamese literature and their understanding of economic agency, including financial independence, occupational choices, control over economic resources, and participation in decision-making?

Participants linked women's financial independence and economic participation with Assamese literature. One participant stated, "Some of the Assamese stories I have read show women earning their own income and becoming more independent in their lives" (P2). Another participant noted, "Literary characters who work and earn money made me think that women should also have their own financial independence" (P4).

Participants also explored their occupational choices and decision-making. One participant shared, Literature has shown me that women can choose their occupation and should be involved in decision-making for their lives." (P6). Consistent with this, another participant said, "Women who control their income will be more confident to take part in family decision-making" (P8).

Table 3 Participants' Perceptions of Women's Economic Agency in Assamese Literature

Statement	Count
Women's financial independence and earning capacity are emphasized	4
Women should have freedom in occupational choices	3
Women's income supports household decision-making	2
Women should have control over their own earnings	1

Table 3 indicates that participants most frequently associated Assamese literature with the importance of women's financial independence and earning capacity. Several participants also mentioned occupational choice, and fewer participants made direct reference to a woman's income concerning household decision-making and control over personal income. In general, participants appeared to have linked representations in literature with a variety of

aspects of women's agency in economic terms, namely, women's economic independence and occupational choice.

Theme 3: Gender, Patriarchy and Socio-Cultural Expectations

This category explores women's understanding of gender norms, patriarchal structures, family relationship and socio-cultural expectations as perceived by them through interaction with Assamese literature. The particular concern of this category was to explore how Assamese literature's portrayal of women and family life helped women to understand traditional gender roles and inequalities, and how it helped them to reflect on their changing understanding of the woman's situation. The overall research question of this section was to explore whether and how women thought that through interaction with Assamese literature, their understanding of gender norms, patriarchal structures, family relationship and socio-cultural expectations was enhanced.

RQ3: How do women perceive the role of Assamese literature in shaping their understanding of gender norms, patriarchal structures, family relationships, and socio-cultural expectations?

The participants explained that, in the case of Assamese literature, the stories enabled them to identify prevailing gender roles in the family and society. "Some of the stories that I read through Assamese literature helped me understand the overall sacrifice that women are made to feel they have to make." (P3). One more witnessed, "In some way literary works research us of how family choices can be modified by the heterosexual style received about what girl ought or should not do." (P5).

Participants identified literature as another place for reflecting on practices of patriarchy and for changing gender relations. As one participant explained, "Reading about women who question traditional roles made me think differently about gender equality" (P7). Equally, one respondent added, "Literature gave me the understanding that women ought to have some say in family matters and not be made to conform to one style of living." (P9).

Table 4 Women's Perceptions of Gender, Patriarchy and Socio-Cultural Expectations

Statement	Count
Assamese literature reflects traditional expectations placed on women	2
Literary works highlight women's adjustment and family responsibilities	2
Literature creates awareness of patriarchal practices	1
Literary representations encourage reflection on gender equality	1
Literary works highlight changing expectations about women's roles within families	1

Table 4 shows that participants identified traditional expectations, women's adjustment and family responsibilities as recurring aspects of gender relations represented in Assamese literature. Participants also referred to awareness of patriarchal practices and reflection on gender equality. Overall, the responses indicate that participants perceived literary representations as providing a basis for understanding traditional gender expectations, patriarchal practices and changing perspectives on women's roles within families and society.

Theme 4: Gender Relations and Socio-Economic Transformation

This theme examines women's perceptions of personal, gender-related and socio-economic changes associated with their engagement with Assamese literature. This segment of the analysis is interested in understanding in what ways the respondents indicated that their engagement with texts effected changes in their awareness, aspirations, attitudes towards gender relations and understanding of women's socio-economic roles. The research question for this segment was posed at the understandings of changes women felt towards engagement with Assamese literature.

RQ4: How do women describe perceived personal, gender-related, and socio-economic changes associated with their engagement with Assamese literature?

The participants felt that literature played a role in strengthening their inner selves and helped them reflect upon the different spaces women can occupy. "Reading Assamese literature motivated me to think more about the options I could have available to me, and the things I aspired for in my life," said one participant." (P2). Another said,

"the experiences of women characters really made me see gender relations differently and challenge some of the norms of traditional expectations." (P4).

Participants linked the use of literature to a general consciousness of women's social and economic standing. One commented, "Literature helped me understand that women can contribute to society through education, work and economic participation." (P6). Another participant noted, "The stories I read made me think about the independence of women and their involvement in family decision making process." (P8). Another participant stated, "I became more aware of how social and economic conditions can influence women's choices and opportunities" (P10).

Table 5 Women's Perceptions of Personal, Gender-Related and Socio-Economic Transformation

Statement	Count
Literature encourages greater personal awareness and reflection	2
Literary experiences encourage questioning of traditional gender expectations	2
'Literature increases awareness of women's social and economic roles	2
Women's independence and participation in decision-making are emphasized'	1
Literature creates awareness of social and economic constraints on women	1

Table 5 indicates that participants associated their engagement with Assamese literature with greater personal awareness, reflection on traditional gender expectations, and awareness the economic and social standing of women roles. Some participants also referred to women's independence, involvement in making decisions, and being aware of social and economic constraints. Overall, the responses suggest that participants perceived their engagement with Assamese literature in relation to changes in their personal awareness and understanding of gender and socio-economic issues.

Discussion

The findings indicate that participants perceived Assamese literature as a meaningful context for understanding women's work, economic agency, gender relations and socio-economic change. Theme 1 shows that participants recognized representations of women's domestic responsibilities, household and other forms of work, traditional gender roles, and emerging representations of educated and working women. This suggests that participants encountered both conventional and changing perspectives on women's roles through their engagement with literary works.

Theme 2 highlights economic agency, particularly financial independence, earning capacity and occupational choice. Respondents also mentioned control over income and decision-making about the household, suggesting that power over income was understood not only in terms of financial control but also autonomy and decision-making.

Theme 3 reveals participants' understanding of societal gender roles, women's accommodation to family and the patriarchy. Participants' answers reveal a changing understanding of gender equality and women's role within the family. Theme 4 expands these results by illustrating perceived personal, gender and socio-economic changes resulting from engagement with Assamese literature, including increased self-awareness, reflection on gender roles and awareness of women's socio-economic position.

Taken together, the findings suggest that participants interpreted Assamese literature as a space for reflecting on women's work, economic agency and changing gender relations. Nonetheless, the above reflects the perception of the sample, and should not be read to imply that literature has a direct causative impact on socio-economic change.

Conclusion

This study concludes that Assamese literature provides an important cultural space for understanding women's work, economic agency, gender relations and socio-economic realities. By examining women's engagement with

Assamese literary works, the study contributes to understanding how literary representations are perceived in relation to women's responsibilities, aspirations, economic independence and changing social roles. The study is useful for highlighting the relevance of literature in encouraging reflection on gender expectations throughout society, and the changing role of women. Researchers in the future may recruit participants from a wider range of women and combine textual analysis with empirical perspectives to further examine these relationships.

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