

Role of Women to Save the Environment with Reference to the Chakma Women in Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) Mizoram

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Abstract:

This abstract explores the interaction of women and the environment in given the unique context of Chakma women in the CADC in Mizoram, The study focused on the intricate relationship between women and their surrounding environment, considering the ecological and socio-cultural dynamic at play. Also, the study highlights the significant role Chakma women play in environmental conservation and sustainable resource management. The study sheds light on the empowerment of Chakma women as key agents in the preservation and protection of their natural surroundings as well. This study unveils the contributions and challenges Chakma women faced through an interdisciplinary lens.

Keywords: Women, Environment, Chakma, Mizoram, and CADC.

INTRODUCTION:

The Chakma Autonomous District Council, established to protect the interests of the Chakma community and provide them with a degree of autonomy, acknowledges the indispensable role of women in environmental conservation and sustainability. It stands as a vital entity in the broader landscape of governance within India, as well as a unique symbol of cultural diversity and environmental stewardship. Being in the northern region of India, the Chakma Autonomous Council represents the interests and aspirations of the Chakma community, a significant tribal group inhabiting the lush and verdant landscapes of Mizoram. In this context, we will explore the pivotal role that women play in shaping and safeguarding the environment within the Chakma Autonomous District Council, contributing to the sustainable development and ecological well-being of their mother lands.

For the development of any kind of natural resources both the man and women are equally responsible, women's participation in the management of natural resources not only is an equal issue but is a more efficient and time-tested way of preserving the biodiversity and the environment.

Women in the Chakma community have long been custodians of their environment, closely connected with the intricate balance between nature and culture. The Chakma women's relationship with the environment is deeply related in their traditions, beliefs, and practices. However, due to being illiterate and careless, they lose a rich heritage of ecological knowledge and conservation practices that have been passed down through generations. In the present time, most of the Chakmas women are not willing to practice such forest conservation. The harmonious coexistence of the Chakma people with their surroundings is a testament to the wisdom and stewardship of Chakma women.

This autonomous governance structure recognizes the importance of gender equality and inclusivity, fostering an environment where Chakma women can actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to the preservation and enhancement of their natural resources. But lack of understanding and literacy the Chakma women do not play their role smoothly.

This introduction will preoccupy further into the historical and cultural context of the Chakma Autonomous District Council and its relationship with environmental concerns. It will also shed light on how Chakma women are engaged in activities that promote ecological well-being, ranging from sustainable agriculture to the protection of forests and water resources. Moreover, in the present era, more than half of the Chakma women are literate and aware of the environment and sustainable development. This study will explore the step and their interconnection and opportunities faced by present working Chakma women in their quest to protect and nurture their environment in the face of contemporary environmental issues.

Through their commitment and resilience, Chakma women are not only shaping the destiny of their community but are also contributing to the broader discourse on sustainable developmental conservation.

Literature review:

The researcher reviewed a number of studies done in the related area of research. This section provides an overview of the studies that form the basic premises of the present study.

- Natural Resource and Sustainable Development by Kathy Wilson Peacock 2010: talks about the direct role natural resources play if appropriately channeled towards establishing sustainable development for downtrodden society.
- Environment – principles, and Application second edition by Chris Park 1997: this book deals with the changes the environment has undergone over the years due to the exploitation of man. The natural changes and unnatural changes in the environment have been dealt with in great detail.
- Raja Bhuban Mohan Roy (1919), himself a king of the Chakmas dynasty, published a book called Chakma Raj Bongsher Itihas (History of the Chakma Dynasty), and as the title of the book says, it describes the ethno-dynastic history of the Chakmas but needless to say it also failed to offer a concluding statement regarding its own origin.
- S. R. Maitri (2002) carried out a study on the Chakmas of Tripura entitled Ethnographic Study of the Chakmas of Tripura in which the author discussed and described the village, culture, economic structure, social and political organization, beliefs and practices, and mode rest and recreation of the Chakmas.

Scope of the Study:

The present study aims to find out how Chakma women are interconnected with the environment.

Objective of the Study:

1. To observe whether the Chakma women are interconnected with the environment or not
2. To find out that the Chakma women are involved in the environmental program and projects.
3. To observe the steps taken by the Chakma women to save the environment.

Hypothesis of the study:

H01, There is no significance difference between that the Chakma women are not interconnected with the environment.

H02, There is no significant difference between that the Chakma women are aware about environment.

H03, There is no significant difference between that the Chakma women play the role for save the environment.

Delimitation of the study:

The present study is delimited to Chakma's women who are living in CADC

Variables:

Independent Variable: Women and Environment

Dependent Variable: The attitude of Chakma women towards the environment.

Method: The descriptive survey method was adopted for the present study

Population:

There are only 276 women were selected for the present study

Sample:

For the present study, the investigator has used stratified random sampling from different village women in the CADC.

Tools used:

The investigator selected multiple-choice type questions and phone calls for interviews as prime tools for the present study.

Data Analysis:

Objective -1: To observe the Chakma women are interconnected with the environment or not.

Illustration No-1: **To observe the women's interconnection with the environment**

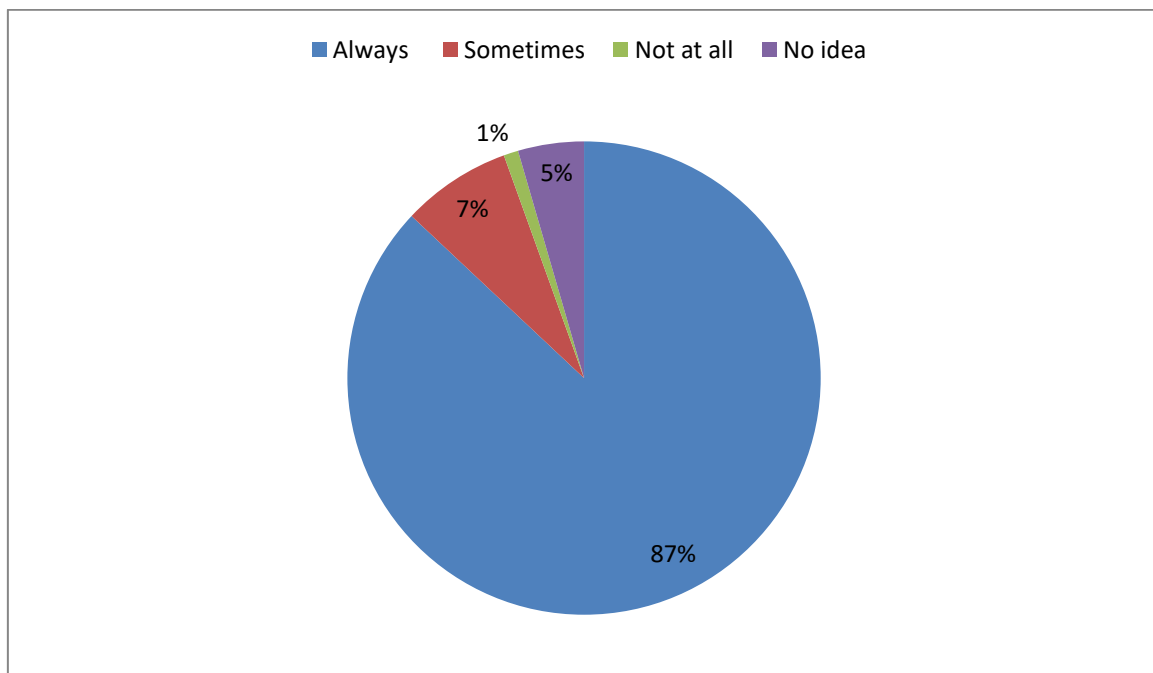
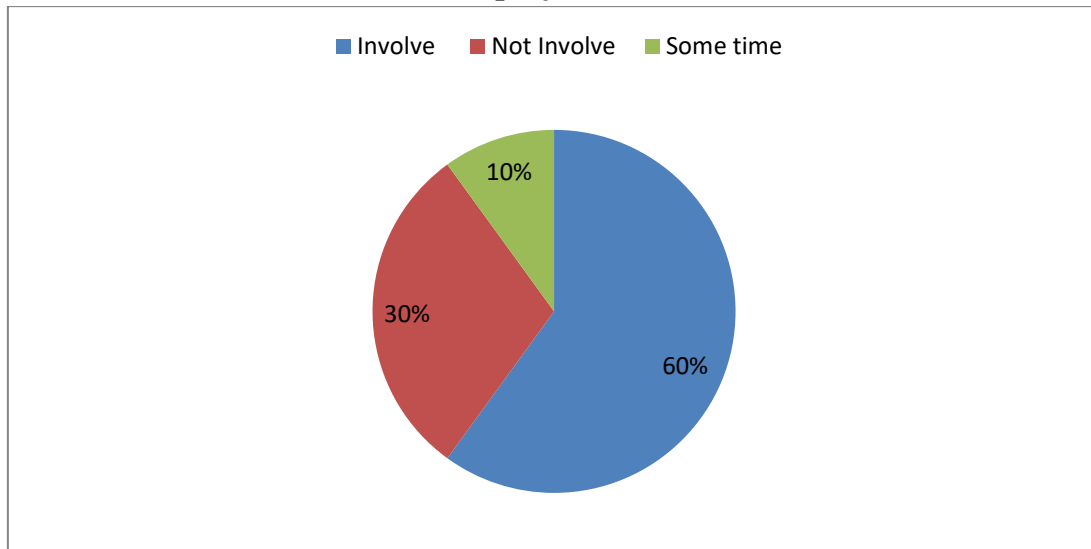


Illustration number two reflected that there are 87 percent of the respondents are always interconnected with the environment while 7 percent are respondents sometimes 1 percent respond not at all and 5 percent respond no idea.

Objective -2: To find out that the Chakma women are involved in the environmental program and projects.

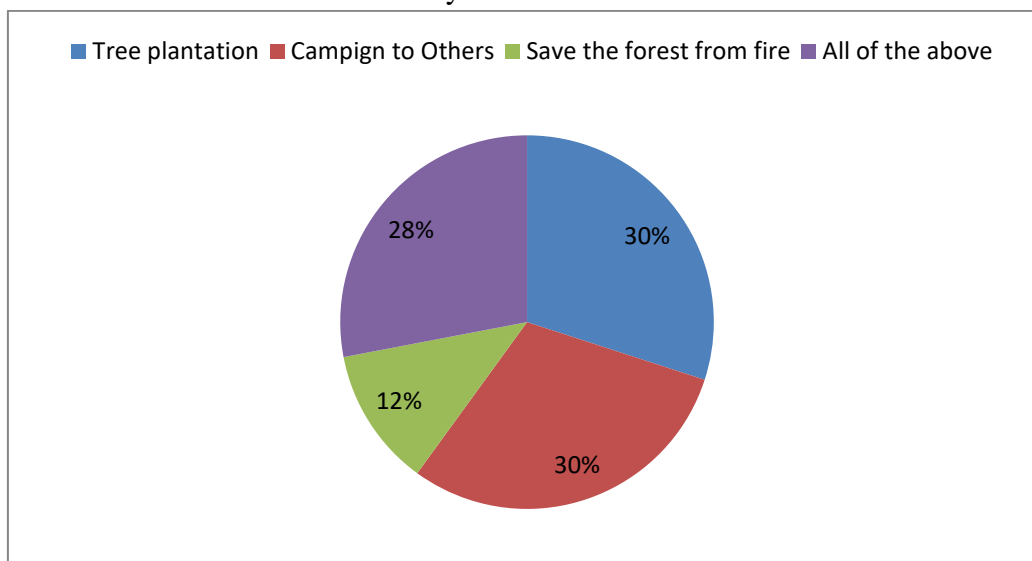
Illustration no 2: **To observe the Chakma women's involvement in environmental works and projects.**



There is 60 percent of respondents are involved in government environmental-related programs and projects 30 percent of respondents are not involved in such programs and projects and 10 percent of respondents are sometimes involved in that program and project.

Objective -3: To observe the steps taken by the Chakma women to save the environment.

Illustration no -3: To observe the stem taken by the women to save the environment



In the above illustration, we found that 30 percent of the respondents plant trees to save the environment, 12 percent save the forest from fire, 28 percent respond to all of the above, and only 30 percent campaign to others about saving the environment.

Findings:

After the observation of all the investigators they found are as below:

1. It is also found that the majority 87 percent of respondents are always interconnected with the environment.
2. 60 percent of the respondents are involved in the environmental-related government program and
3. It is also observed that all the respondents women have taken different steps to save the environment.

Conclusion:

In the course of this exploration into the interaction of women and the environment in the Chakma community especially the women, it becomes evident that these women play a crucial role in the preservation and sustainable management of their surroundings.

The Chakma women deeply interconnected to their cultural heritage and the environment, have shown a remarkable ability to adapt to the changing dynamics of their region. They are custodians of traditional knowledge, passing down invaluable insights and practices that facilitate the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources. Their approach to nature emphasizes the interdependence of human well-being and environmental health. The Chakma women in the Chakma autonomous district council are exemplary guardians of the environment in the CADC, Playing the significance of the interaction of gender and environmental issues. Their resilience, wisdom, and active engagement are essential components of sustainable development.

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