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**PROCEEDINGS OF NATIONAL SEMINAR ON**  
**"VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST WOMEN IN**  
**RURAL INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PREVAILING**  
**SUPERSTITIONS IN NORTH EASTERN REGION"**



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# Globalisation and Gender Inequality... from the North Eastern perspective: A study of Easterine Iralu's 'A Terrible Matriarchy'

Nandini Baruah,  
Asst. Professor  
Golaghat Commerce College

## ABSTRACT

*This paper attempts to examine the issues related to gender in the Naga society. First it constructs the conceptual and theoretical framework of gender and empirically analyses it by noting the cultural life of Naga women, traditional law of inheritance and exclusion of women in politics and religion. The paper also makes an attempt to focus on how the process of globalization has affected the Naga women's lives. The issues related to gender inequality are discussed from the lens of cultural changes, empowerment etc. Undoubtedly globalization has changed the garb in to a more fanciful one, but Naga women are still the disadvantaged. They have began their journey of challenging the patriarchal system but the strong issues of power relations and sexuality are not largely viable in the study of Naga women owing to cultural, social and religious aspects. In order to discuss this novel which has been chosen is Easterine Iralu's "A Terrible Matriarchy". In this novel the protagonist who is a girl of only five years has been sent to her grandmother to learn the customs of the society in order to become a good wife.*

*The study is based on secondary data collected from various sources such as books, journals, internet etc.*

**KEYWORDS:** Globalization, Gender inequality, Matriarchy etc.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The purpose of this paper is to study some generic questions of gender inequality and effects of globalization on Naga Women. Even if little progress has been made through globalization, it is difficult for women to combine the obligations of work with those of family, child rearing and domestic chores.

In spite of having the tag as classless and casteless society the Nagas too consider an honour to be born as a man. The traditional culture and custom still demand Naga women to be obedient, humble and also perform the role of a wife, mother, child bearer, food producer and household manager. However they have been deprived of inheriting ancestral property nor allowed to participate in decision making bodies such as the village assembly, village council etc. Even in eating habits, women are not expected to eat the choicest portion of the meat. In the past women were not allowed to participate in wrestling and it was also forbidden for women to touch arms belonging to men. But things are getting better. Now a days women choose armed

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