

Women home- based workers in Assam

A SURVEY BY NORTH EAST
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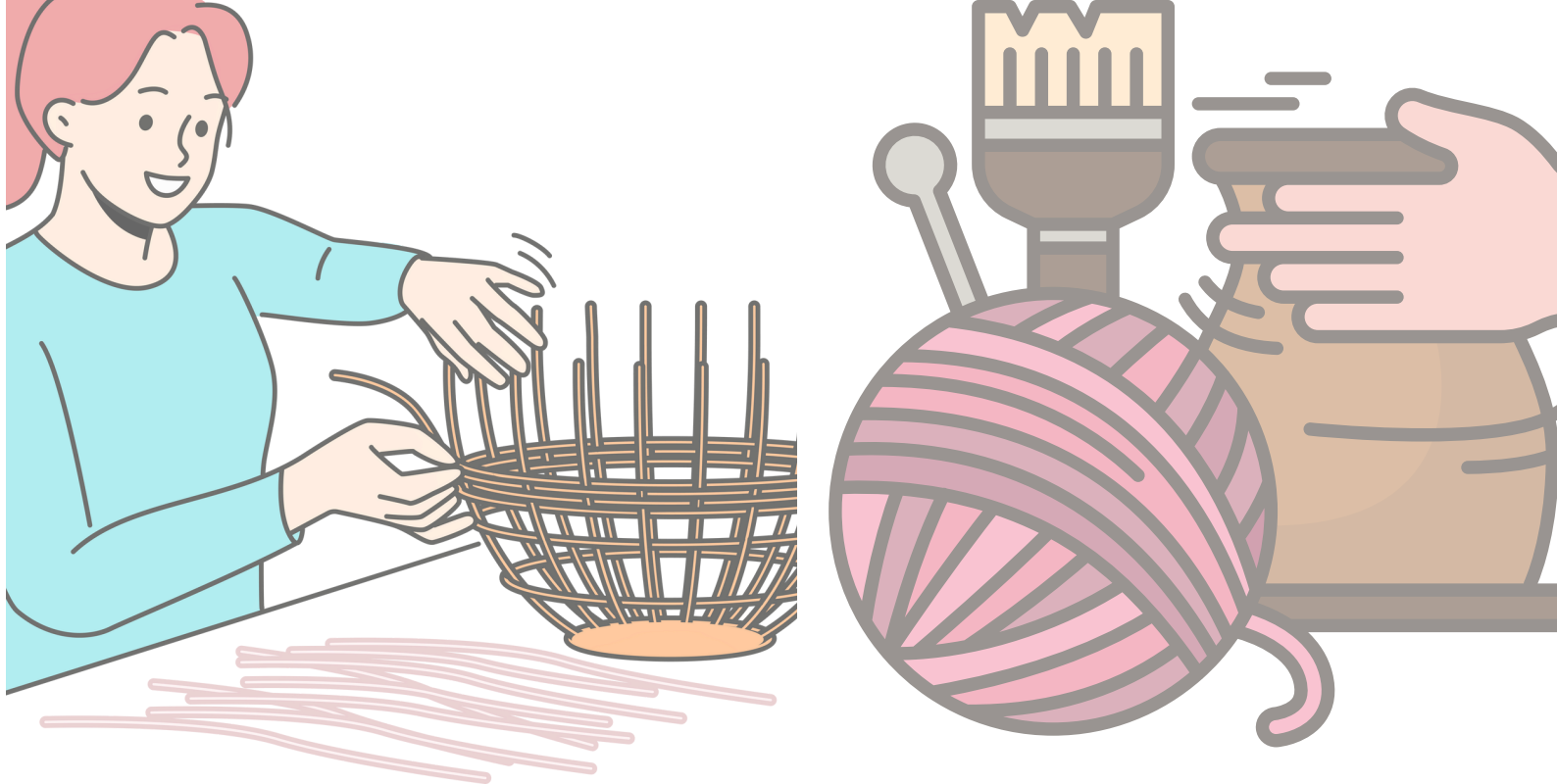
INTRODUCTION



India, a country rich in diversity and economic potential, is also home to a significant number of home-based workers. According to a statistical brief by the Global research-policy-action network women in informal employment, India is home to 41.85 million home-based workers, as of 2017-18, which accounted for 9% of total employment. However, despite the substantial contribution of home-based workers to the economy, the sector remains predominantly informal and largely overlooked.

In India, the status of women home-based workers is particularly concerning. Out of the 41.85 million home-based workers, approximately 17.19 million are women, constituting a significant portion of this marginalised workforce (Raveendran, 2020, Statistical Brief No. 23). Unfortunately, the conditions and recognition of these women remain poor, with limited access to social protection, fair or equal wages, and adequate working conditions. Their struggles reflect a broader pattern of gender inequality and economic vulnerability that needs to be addressed urgently.





Understanding and addressing the challenges faced by women home-based workers is of paramount importance to ensure their economic empowerment and well-being. By examining the specific circumstances surrounding their work, including the types of tasks performed, income levels, and social support networks, we can unfold the disparities they face and identify potential avenues for improvement.

This survey focuses on examining the status of women home-based workers in Assam, a region where their situation is no different. By taking a small sample from six districts with 180 women in Assam, we aim to gain insights into the unique challenges faced by women engaged in home-based work in this specific geographical context.



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