

women are now free to conduct their family devotion. They are free to pray and lead in prayer in public worship services and speak or preach in women meetings and conferences. They conduct their own meetings. Their decision and proposals are accepted and respected by the church and the community at large. Qualified women would also be accepted for theological training.

5. Women in Educational Life

Right from early period, the Hrangkhols were not much inclined to female education. By and large, people's attitude to providing education to girls is useless for the family structure. It belongs to a patriotic lineage called 'Patung'. In this regard male education is much stressed rather than female education. Thus, parents employ their daughters only in agricultural work and domestic affairs.

Before the advent of Christianity people did not feel the need for education and development. When Christianity came to stay among the Hrangkhols and western(English) system of education is introduced in the tribal backward communities as well as in the country, a tremendous transformation took place in their outlook in social and religious life, as well as in their concept of education. The modern system of education in the country has opened a wide vista for the people to view things and re evaluate them in the light of their new knowledge.

When India got its independence in 1947, the process of democratisation through adult suffrage began in right earnest. This gradually enhanced the new sense of value and participation in social and political life of the Hrangkhol community including women. The establishment of educational institutions by the government from Lower Primary Schools in almost all the villages having more than fifteen families in each village has further sped up the process of liberalisation, and parents began to discover the value of the girl child in the family. It became increasingly