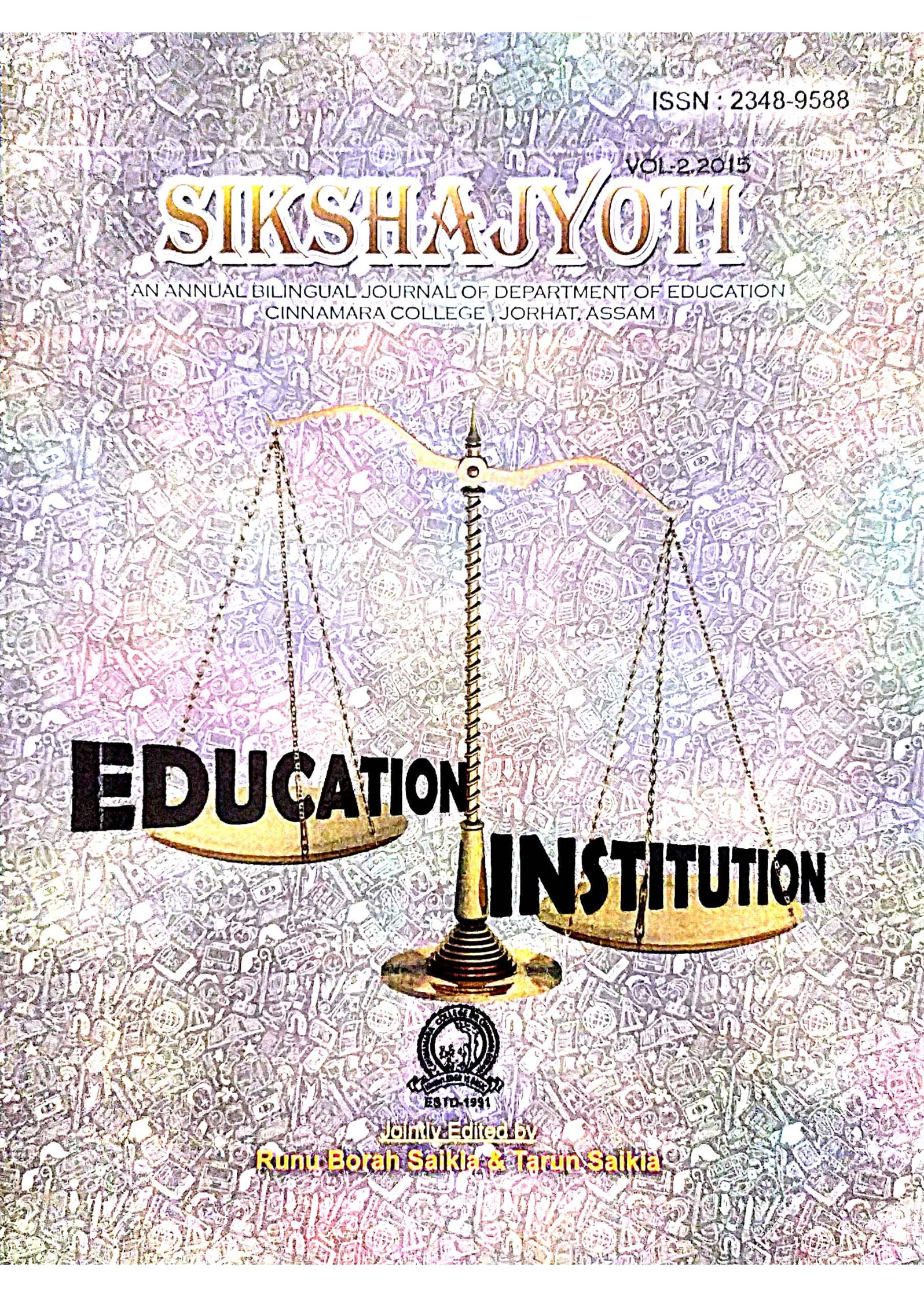


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Jointly Edited by

**Runu Borah Saikia & Tarun Saikia**

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# Role of Jan Shikshan Sansthan in the Economic Empowerment of Women of Dakuapara Village Under Boko Development Block, Kamrup, Assam

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**Introduction:** A nation marches towards progress with the help of participation of the both men and women. Women play a vital role in all-round progress of a country as they play multiple roles like mother, sister, wife etc. yet the real life scenario remains that gender discrimination is prevalent in every sphere of life. The contributions of women are not given due recognition in the family and society which has hindered social progress in many ways.

It is true that the status of women in a society is a significant reflection of the level of social justice in the society. Women status is often described in terms of their level of income, employment, education, health, fertility as well as their role within their family, in the community and society. Empowerment is a meaningful step in this direction.

## 1. Women Empowerment : The Concept

Empowerment is a process of acquiring a knowledge and awareness which enable the women to move towards life with greater dignity and self assurance. It is a process that enables a powerless woman to develop autonomy, self control and confidence with a group of women and men a sense of collective influence over oppressive social condition (Antrobus, 1989). The International women's conference of 1985 defined women Empowerment as a "redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women" According to Gangrade women's empowerment means equal status to women, opportunity and freedom to develop one self empowerment has been defined as a change in the context of women's life which enables them to increase capacity to lead a fulfilling human life. It gets reflected in external qualities such as health, mobility, education and awareness, status in the family, particularly in their role in decision making and also at the level of material security. It also includes internal qualities such as self awareness and self confidence.

The govt. of India launched a number of programmes and schemes for women's welfare and development after the independence. In many of these programs, welfare measures are mingled with purely economic activities for the betterment of living condition of rural masses particularly the women folk. Besides government agencies some voluntary organizations and NGOs have been working in national and International levels in empowering the women. In respect of Assam, Assam Mahila Somata Society, Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Assam, Santi sadhana Ashram, Kasturba National trust, Assam Sector, Prayas, Jan Shikkshan Sansthans etc. are

working in this field. Like other Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) of different states of India, JSS, Kamrup has also been working in a major way in Kamrup District of Assam.

## 2. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Kamrup:

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Kamrup was established in 2003 under the aegis of Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Assam. It is an Institute of People's Education (IPE). JSS, Kamrup aims to promote educational, Vocational and occupational development of illiterates, neo-literate and semi-literate persons. It not only provides vocational trainings but also other trainings including awareness programmes for the benefit of trainees. It has been offering various courses for skill up gradation. In a short span of eight years, this government sponsored organization has been striving hard to ameliorate the conditions of the underprivileged, Particularly women in the spirit of NGOs with a missionary zeal.

JSS, Kamrup has been working in 17 blocks of Kamrup District namely- Boko, Chamaria, Chhaygaon, Rampur, Bongaon, Chayani Borduam, Hajo, Chandrapur, Goreswar, Bihdia, Rani, Dimariya, Sualkushi, Bezera, Kamalpur and Rangia.

JSS, Kamrup has taken up a number of activities and programmes viz-cutting and tailoring, weaving, traditional weaving, motor driving, food processing, artificial flower and doll making, candle making, embossing, painting, beauty culture and health care etc. to develop the occupational skill, awareness and promote continuing education among the underprivileged particularly of the weaker section of women. Since its inception JSS, Kamrup has provided vocational training to more than 30,000 beneficiaries making them self-sufficient. They are engaged in many models like self-employment, wage employment, some are though not earning but supplementing their domestic income in indirect way. Besides these training programmes JSS, Kamrup conducts some other activities such as literacy Programmes including Total Literacy Campaign (TLC), Post Literacy and continuing Education, Aids awareness and Life Enrichment Education (LEE). Right to Information Act, 05, Panchayatiraj Awareness, women and children health, nutrition, National Integration, Right and Duties of Indian Citizen, Eradication of Superstition, Environmental education, consumer Awareness Eye care, Sanitation, Breast Feeding, First AID etc. As a result more women are able to take part in socio-political and cultural field. As they are economically sound in comparison to their earlier position they are now able to take part in decision making process not only in their family but also social life.

## 3. Significance of the study:

The Indian Society is confronted by the illiteracy, ill health and backwardness of varied nature. The situations continue to dominate, both the rural and urban sectors along with gender discrimination. Though women render the most vital services to society by playing multifaceted role like mother, sister and wife, they are being neglected and their contributions are not recognized in the family and even in society which hinders social progress to certain extent. We must provide equal opportunity to all for the progress of a nation. For that gender discrimination must be eradicated to foster egalitarian, humane and truly civilized society. Women empowerment is a meaningful step in this direction. Empowerment of women is essential as their value system leads to the development of a good family, good society and ultimately good nation. In this regards the role of JSS, Kamrup is worth mentioning particularly empowering the women of Dakuapara village economically.

## 3. Study area:

The investigator selected Dakuapara village for study. The village is situated within Boko

Development Block under Kamrup district of Assam. It stands on the Southern part of mighty river Brahmaputra and falls within the jurisdiction of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council. The NH 37 runs across the village from East to West .It is about 50 km West from Jalukbari, Guwahati. The villagers belong to different communities like ST,SC,OBC and General. They are basically living a moderate life but still the women folk of the village is economically very poor and needs their upliftment.

#### 4. Design of the study

##### 4.1 Objective:

1. To Find out the role of JSS, Kamrup in the empowerment of women.
2. To find out the role of JSS, Kamrup in enhancing economic empowerment particularly women of Dakuapara village under Boko Development Block.

##### 4.2 Problem of the study:

In this paper the investigator has made an attempt to focus on the economic empowerment of underprivileged women of Dakuapara village Development block and the present study has been stated as- " Role of Jan Shikshan Sansthan in the Economic Empowerment of Women in Dakuapara Village Under Boko Development Block of Kamrup, Assam"

**4.3 Method:** Considering the nature of the data and the purpose of the study the investigator used descriptive survey method.

##### 4.4 Sample:

For the purpose of the study first of all a list of vocational training programme executed by JSS, Kamrup, Assam during 2007-12 were collected from the office of JSS, Kamrup. Then the investigator selected 52 beneficiaries from one vocational training programmes by using random sampling method. Regarding the selection at beneficiaries, only those beneficiaries were considered who have been recognized as deprived and underprivileged group of the society. Most of them belong to ST, SC, OBC and women. Their education status is from class II to class XII. Table-1 shows the details of caste ,educational status of sample beneficiaries.

**Table 1:** Details of caste and educational status of sample beneficiaries

Category	ST	SC	OBC	General	Literate	Illiterate	semi-Litera	Total
Cutting and tailoring	20	12	—	20	39	05	08	52

" Semi -literate: Those persons who are able to write and read but have not completed primary education and eligible to class III standard.

**4.4 Data:** The study is based on primary and secondary data.

**4.5 Tools:** The investigator developed an attitude questionnaire to collect data. The attitude questionnaire consisted of 6 statements and aimed to assess the economic empowerment of the beneficiaries of cutting and tailoring.

The attitude questionnaire was design following Likert method. Though JSS, Kamrup provides more than 12 vocational training programmes in this locality only one training programme viz. cutting and tailoring was selected for the study.

##### 4.6 Delimitations:

- (i) The study is confined to the girl and women aged 15 to 35 years.
- (ii) The present study is confined to economic empowerment.
- (iii) The study is limited to literate, semi-literate and illiterate women only

**5. Analysis of data:**

The investigator personally visited the selected vicinity and approach the concern respondents and collected data through a self constructed attitude questionnaire. In the present study high score on the attitude scale indicates the presence of a positive attitude towards economic empowerment of women. The Higher the score presumably the better will be attitude towards women empowerment .The low score indicates unfavorable attitude towards empowerment. The results in this study have been interpreted accordingly. Table-2 shows the Attitude score of beneficiaries towards economic empowerment of cutting and tailoring.

**Table-2** Attitude scores of beneficiaries towards economic empowerment of cutting and tailoring

Sl. No.	Statement	Highly favourable	favourable	unfavourable
1	Helps to be self-reliant	8(15.38)	35(67.31)	9(17.31)
2	To acquire knowledge of small scale industries	10(19.23)	10(19.23)	32(61.54)
3	Understand dignity of labour	10(19.23)	32(61.54)	10(19.23)
4	To promote work spirit	16(30.77)	28(53.85)	8(15.38)
5	Understand team and we feeling	14(26.92)	24(46.15)	14(26.92)
6	Understand leisure time activities	14(26.92)	28(53.85)	10(19.23)
7	Regarding small savings	14(26.92)	28(53.85)	10(19.23)

Figure in the brackets are percentage values

Table 2 reveals that 15.38 % respondents trained in cutting and tailoring have highly favourable attitude towards self-reliant. Similarly 67.31% respondents have favourable attitude. On the other hand 17.31% respondent have unfavourable attitude towards economic empowerment. The combine percentage including highly favourable and favourable attitude shows that 92.69% respondent have favourable attitude leaving 17.31% in unfavourable category.

It is seen from the Table 2 that 19.23% respondents trained in cutting and tailoring have highly favourable and favourable attitude towards small scale industries and 67.31% respondents have unfavourable attitude.

Table 2 reveals that 19.23% respondents trained in cutting and tailoring have highly favourable attitude towards dignity of labour. Likewise 61.54% respondents have favourable attitude. The

combine percentage including highly favourable and favourable attitude shows that 80.77% respondent have favourable attitude leaving 19.23% in unfavourable category

From the above Table 2 it is reveals that 30.77% respondents have highly favourable attitude towards work spirit and 53.85% respondents have favourable attitude. The combine percent including highly favourable and favourable attitude shows that 84.62% respondent have favourable attitude. The remaining 15.38% respondents are in unfavourable category.

It is evident from Table 2 reveals that 26.92 % respondents trained in cutting and tailoring have highly favourable attitude towards team work and we feeling. Similarly 46.15% respondents have favourable attitude for the same. The combine percent including highly favourable and favourable attitude shows that 73.07% respondent have favourable attitude leaving 26.92% in unfavourable category

It is observed from above table that 26.92 % respondents have highly favourable attitude towards team work, we feeling and small savings and 53.85% respondents have favourable attitude for the same. The combine percentage including highly favourable and favourable attitude shows that 80.77% respondent have favourable attitude. The remaining 19.23% are in unfavourable category.

**Table 3** shows the monthly income of the beneficiaries of cutting and tailoring.

**Table 3** monthly incomes of the beneficiaries of cutting and tailoring.

Rs 3000	Rs 4000	Rs 5000	Rs 6000	Rs 7000 & above	Total
19(36.53)	15(28.85)	4(7.69)	8(15.38)	6(11.54)	52(100)

Figure in the brackets are percentage values

It is observed above Table 3 that 36.53% respondent, trained in cutting and tailoring have been able to earn Rs. 3000 per month, 28.85% earn Rs.4000. Likewise only 7.69% respondent have been able to earn Rs.5000 whereas 15.38% able to earn Rs.6000 per month. Similarly 11.54% respondents are earning Rs.7000 per month.

It is noteworthy that the above income of the beneficiaries were found during the time of investigation. The beneficiaries reported that after the training their income has increased they enjoy satisfactory status in the family and society. The beneficiaries further reported that the above incomes are countable after using the domestic purposes and day to day life. Also it is the income of leisure activities.

## 6. Findings:

On the basis of the above analysis the following findings have been obtained.

(i) A majority (92.69%) of respondent trained in cutting and tailoring have favourable attitude towards self-reliant which indicates that JSS, Kamrup has been playing a major role in enhancing economic empowerment among the women.

(ii) Likewise a large number (80.77%) of beneficiaries have favourable attitude towards dignity of labour, leisure time activities and small savings. It shows that this training has been playing a vital role in enhancing economic empowerment among the women.

(iii) 84.62% and 73.07% of respondents trained in same have favourable attitude towards work spirit, team work and we feeling respectively which indicates that this training has been playing an effective role in enhancing economic empowerment to particularly ST, SC, and women as well as illiterate.

### 7. Suggestion:

The study was conducted on 118 beneficiaries who were trained in five vocational programmes rendered by JSS, Kamrup, Assam. The findings reported in this study are significant but it has few limitations also. The investigator from her experience in conducting the study would like to recommend the following for further research by other investigators.

- This study can be replicated on a large sample to examine the role of JSS, in enhancing economic empowerment.
- An analytical study of various JSS may be conducted
- Role of JSS in developing SHG among the women may be examined.
- The contribution of the JSS towards national economy may be assessed

### 8. Conclusion:

To sum up we can assert that no remarkable progress is seen in the society until and unless women are provided scopes for development. The extensive role of women begins with the family and expands to the different organs of the society in building up a healthy and civilized nation. Therefore it is impossible to imagine the progress of a nation without the contribution of women. Therefore in order to build up healthy and stable society the services of the women should be duly acknowledged and should be saved from all kinds of discrimination and exploitation. Empowerment is a way of improving life and it is a means of social equity, justice, peace and harmony among the people. Empowerment is a continuous process where various factors work together when making a person empowered. It requires prolonged devotion, sincerity, self-confidence and self-determination. JSS, Kamrup contributes in building-up confidence among deprived section of women by making themselves self-dependence and self-conscious there by enriching the socio-economy and political status of the people. From that point of view, the role of JSS, Kamrup in enhancing economic empowerment of women folk is praiseworthy.

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