



DISPARITIES IN SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN HARYANA: ISSUE AND CHALLENGE

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Abstract: *The changing status of women is directly linked to the social development of the society. The state has achieved rapid growth in social and economic indicators, even after that there exist disparities in status of women. Disparities in social status of women are a matter of deep shame and cause of great concern. The position of women in Haryana is no better than their counter parts in rest of the country. The declining sex ratio is a matter of great concern as it will lead to serious demographic imbalance and adverse social consequences in near future. In the state unequal share of power and benefits indicated the disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and labour work participation in favour of male relative to female. The present paper examine the inter district regional disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and female work participation and programmes launched by the government to improve the sex ratio, literacy rate and for women empowerment in Haryana. The result of the study indicated that there are large disparities showed in sex ratio, literacy rate and work participation compression to male in Haryana. High level of literacy and educational achievement leads to equal status of male and female and this make the women economic empowered. The state government has been implementing various schemes for the socio-economic advancement and development of women in the state to eliminate all types of discrimination against women and the girl child and ensure empowerment and gender justice for them.*

Key Words: *Disparities, Decline Sex Ratio, Literacy, Work Participation, Empowerment, Programmes*

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INTRODUCTION:

Kofi Annan said “When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life” (Gender Composition Sex Ratio, Census of India 2011). India is a country of diversity with not only in terms of economic, social and cultural but also in terms of gender difference across states. In every field women are confronted with many challenges and suffer from many disadvantages as compared to men in the areas of education, work participation and violence against women. The changing status of women is directly linked to the social development of the society. The state has achieved rapid growth in social and economic indicators, even after that there exist disparities in demographic indicators because of lack of medical and education facilities. The position of women in Haryana is no better than their counter parts in rest of the country. World Development Report 2012: ‘*Gender Equality and Development*’ revealed that “The ratio of female to male child mortality in Haryana is worse than any country in the world”. Female foeticide is perhaps one of the worst forms of violence against women where a woman is denied her most basic and fundamental right i.e “the right to life” (Rani.G, 2014). Change in sex ratio largely reflects the socio-economic and cultural pattern of a society in different ways. The declining sex ratio is a matter of great concern as it will lead to serious demographic imbalance and adverse social consequences in near future. In the state unequal share of power and benefits indicated the disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and labour work participation in favour of male relative to female.

It is important to identify the specific areas of the state where the problem is particularly alarming. It needs to be tackled with appropriate, effective and sustainable measures. The issues must be identified, the sanctity of girl child right to birth and life must be recognized, the mind-set needs to be changed, legal measures need to be evoked, the underlying causes have to be traced and eliminated, before we can reverse this process. Thus the foregoing analyses represent the inter district disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and female work participation and programmes launched by the government to improve the sex ratio, literacy rate and women empowerment in Haryana.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The specific objectives of the present study are following:-



1. The paper examine the inter district regional disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and female work participation in Haryana.
2. To examine the programmes launched by the government to improve the sex ratio, literacy rate and for women empowerment in Haryana.

The required secondary data has been collected from the various issues of Statistical Abstract of Haryana, from 1991, 2001, and 2011. The required secondary data has been analyzed with the help of some necessary statistical tools such as tabular analysis, averages and percentage to draw relative inference. In the paper, there are two sections: First section deals with trends of inter district regional disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and female work participation in Haryana and second section deals with the programmes launched by the government to improve the sex ratio, literacy rate and women empowerment in Haryana.

Section: I

Results and Discussion:

DISTRICT WISE DISPARITIES IN SEX RATIO IN HARYANA:

Sex ratio is an important social indicator to analysis the condition of women in society. Determinants of changes in sex ratio vary from sex differentials in mortality, sex selective migration, sex ratio at birth, and at times, sex differentials in population enumeration. However, the high incidence of induced abortions and sharp decline in the child sex ratio in the last decade clearly proves the practice of female foeticide. The increasing incidence of female foeticide has led to a drastic decrease in the number of girls to boys in India in the 0-6 age group. The practice of eliminating female foetuses is believed to be one of the main reasons for the adverse child sex ratio. Pre-birth elimination of females (PBEF) seems to be more prevalent in urban areas than in rural areas, but the gap is rapidly decreasing because of easy availability of sex determination tests in the society. The situation is reached at the place where the registration of pregnancy is compulsory under a proposed law. The registration will be made mandatory with in the first three month of pregnancy. The declining sex ratio is a matter of great concern, as it will lead to serious demographic imbalances in female population in Haryana. The following table shows the district wise disparities in sex ratio in Haryana.



Table-1

District Wise Disparities in Sex Ratio in Haryana from 1991 to 2011

Districts	1991	2001	2011
Ambala	903	868	885
Panchkula	839	823	873
Yamunanagar	883	862	877
Kurukshetra	879	866	889
Kaithal	853	853	881
Karnal	864	865	887
Panipat	852	829	864
Sonipat	840	839	856
Rohtak	849	847	867
Jhajjar	861	847	862
Faridabad	828	836	873
Palwal	N.A	N.A	880
Gurgaon	871	850	854
Mewat	N.A	893	907
Rewari	927	899	898
Mahendragarh	910	918	895
Bhiwani	878	879	886
Jind	838	852	871
Hisar	853	851	872
Fatehabad	877	884	902
Sirsa	885	882	897
Total	865	861	877

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2011.

The issue of declining sex ratio in Haryana has become a study in contrast with no possibility of arriving at the general conclusion. The grim picture of unfavorable sex ratio prevents at district level. The table (1) shows that none of the district in the state has a sex ratio is higher than the national average. As a matter of fact the district with the highest sex ratio is Mahendergarh (910) in 1991 but now the district has the lowest 895 sex ratio in 2011 and Rewari district has 927 in 1991 and 898 in 2011. The sex ratio decline in these districts rapidly and indicated the grim picture and unfavorable condition of female in Haryana. Now the fact shows that Rewari is the only district in Haryana recorded sex ratio less than 800 females and neighboring district Mahendergrah is placed second with 819 females. The alarmed at a depressing ratio of 776 female against 1000 male in Rewari district (The Tribune). On the other hand sex ratio had improved in some districts, in Mewat the sex ratio



is 907 in 2011 and in Fatehabad district it is 877 in 1991 and 902 in 2011 which is the higher than average sex ratio of Haryana during 2011. The scenario is equally appalling at district level with some districts showing a positive picture of sex ratio.

DISTRICT WISE DISPARITIES IN FEMALE LITERACY RATE IN HARYANA:

Literacy is the second key indicators of social development in the analysis. Progress of any state or region reflects with literacy status of the population. It is constitute a necessary condition for development of society, economic progress and transformation of the state. The gap between male and female literacy is a sensitive indicator of social discrimination. But on the other hand gender gap in education occurs when there are systematic differences in schooling levels between men and women. It is a useful measure for providing evidence of the disparities exists between the genders in terms of access to school. The disparities in literacy existing among male-female are most drastic in nature and are results of our countries old discriminatory social ideas. According to the census 2011, in Haryana, the literacy rate has increased 67.91% (2001) to 76.64% in 2011. There is significant improvement in female literacy but there are disparities in the level of literacy, today situation of women and girl's education is one of the critical areas of concern in Haryana. The following table shows the district wise variation in educational status of female literacy rates.

Table-2

District wise Disparities in Female Literacy Rate in Haryana from 1991 to 2011

Districts	1991	2001	2011
Ambala	56.78	68.48	75.5
Panchkula	56.17	68.98	75.99
Yamunanagar	50.16	64.08	71.38
Kurukshetra	46.56	60.76	68.84
Kaithal	28.78	47.6	59.24
Karnal	41.92	58.42	66.82
Panipat	42.78	58.48	67
Sonipat	45.74	61.65	69.8
Rohtak	48.25	63.19	71.72
Jhajjar	46.12	59.88	70.73
Faridabad	42.12	56.8	73.84
Palwal	N.A	AN.A	54.23
Gurgaon	34.94	48.29	77.98
Mewat	N.A	AN.A	36.6



Rewari	46.34	61.25	69.57
Mahendragarh	36.75	54.61	64.57
Bhiwani	35.07	53.5	49.24
Jind	29.86	48.97	60.76
Hisar	33.41	52.09	62.25
Fatehabad	29.77	46.4	58.87
Sirsa	34.02	50.31	60.4
Haryana	40.47	56.31	65.94

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2011.

The table (2) indicates the lowest literacy rate was observed in Kaithal(28.78), Jind (29.86), Fatehabad(29.77) and Sirsa (34.02) whereas the highest literacy rate was observed in Ambala (56.78), Rohtak (48.25), Sonipat(45.74), Rewari(46.34) and Faridabad (42.12) during 1991. The census data of 2011 indicated that the lowest female literacy rate was observed in Mewat (6.6), Palwal (54.23), Bhiwani (49.24), Fatehabad (58.87) and Sirsa (60.4) and highest in Rewari (69.57, Mahendergarh (64.57), Faridabad (73.84), Gurgaon (77.98), Rohtak (71.72) and Ambala (75.5). The literacy rate of female increase in 1991 to 2011 but not yet. The overall female literacy rate is (40.47) in 1991, (56.31) in 2001 and (65.94) percent during 2011. This percentage was less than male literacy in Haryana. On the other hand, it is observed that sex ratio and literacy are negatively correlated to each other. This reveals in the recent figures published in "The Tribune". In all conditions poor sex ratio is often blamed on illiteracy but this does not seem to hold true in Haryana. In the state the district with poor literacy levels have indicated the highest sex ratio as per 2011 census. Mewat district has worst in literacy rate of (36.6) percent but has the highest sex ratio of 907 female per 1000 males in Haryana. The sex ratio is a way above the overall figure of 877 for the state. The districts Fatehabad , Palwal and Sirsa have the lowest literacy rate but their sex ratio is highest in the state. While Fatehabad has the lowest female literacy rate (58.87) percent and sex ratio is 902 females and Palwal which has poor literacy rate of (54.3) percent has 880 sex ratio per thousand males in 2011. This indicates the situation of disparities in declining sex ratio and low literacy status of female in the state.

DISTRICT WISE DISPARITIES IN FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE IN HARYANA:

Women who constitute half a human population have been discriminated, harassed and exploited irrespective of the country to which they belong, unmindful of the religion which they profess and oblivious of the time frame in which they live. Discrimination in all other



spheres of life is reinforced by economic deprivation, which is the general lot of women. This, in turn, perpetuates their low status, which leads to further discrimination resulting in a vicious circle which is difficult to break. Such as, in the allocation of social, economic and their reproductive roles, female are deprived of opportunities for access to education, training, skill development, decision making both at personal and social levels. Females are deprived of opportunities of meaningful participation in public life. Diver of economic development over the past century has increased the role of women in work participation. But the state reflects the discrimination and gender bias position of female. There is need of empowerment which increase female labor force participation, reduced discrimination and wage differentials that encourage greater effort, and improved advancement practices that promote women participation. As the 2012 World Development Report highlights, “empowering half of the potential workforce has significant economic benefits beyond promoting just gender equality”. But disparities in work opportunities between male and female in Haryana indicated the wide variation which indicated the female contribution in development has comparative to male population is half. The following table shows the district wise variation in female work participation rates in Haryana.

Table-3

District Wise Disparities in Female Work Participation Rate in Haryana from 1991 to 2011

Districts	1991	2001	2011
Ambala	3.53	9.96	14.0
Panchkula	6.14	17.92	22.0
Yamunanagar	2.75	11.38	12.0
Kurukshetra	3.99	21.31	20.3
Kaithal	8.74	25.73	21.7
Karnal	5.84	18.9	20.2
Panipat	7.43	25.73	20.3
Sonipat	12.98	30.4	25.2
Rohtak	10.42	27.71	21.2
Jhajjar	13.97	35.78	23.4
Faridabad	8.91	21.91	17.7
Palwal	N.A	AN.A	22.0
Gurgaon	15.46	27.79	20.6
Mewat	N.A	N.A	22.5
Rewari	11.61	36.81	30.3
Mahendragarh	15.9	38.23	31.2



Bhiwani	17.42	35.4	30.9
Jind	12.81	34.77	29.6
Hisar	14.44	33.17	29.4
Fatehabad	9.58	34.32	28.6
Sirsa	13.75	30.59	26.4
Total	10.76	27.31	23.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2011.

The table (3) explains the district wise female work participation in Haryana. It is interesting way of looking at the male and female participation rate. The districts Ambala (3.53), Yamunagar (2.75), Panipat (7.43), Faridabad (8.91) and Fatehabad (9.58) shows lowest female participation and in Gurgaon (15.46), Mahendergarh (15.9), Bhiwani (17.42) and Hisar (14.44) have shown the highest growth in female work participation in 1991 in Haryana. This affirms that the state has made an outstanding progress in net gain to female work participation rate but still there are wide disparities in female work participation. The educational facilities were increased by the government. The literacy rate affects the work participation of female. During 2011 the lowest work participation was observed in Ambala (14), Yamunagar (12), Rohtak (21.2), Fatehabad (28.6) and Sirsa (26.4) and highest in Rewari (30.3), Mahendergarh (31.2), Bhiwani (30.9), Jind (29.6) and Hisar (29.4). The overall figures of the female work participation was (10.76) percent during 1991 and (23.7) percent in 2011. The overall work participation rate has increased that shows a positive aspect of raising the work participation but it is less than male. The district Rewari after Mahendergarh has highest female work participation rate because the literacy rate is highest in these districts. The participation of female in economic activities, particularly outside the home is often considered as an important enabling factor in the economic and social independence of females. Not only can employment be a source of empowerment but it has also help to give female a sense of self worth. It makes clear that work opportunities have not been equally distributed among male and female in Haryana. There is need to encourage the women for education and make her empower in the society.

Section: II

INITIATIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE THE DISPARITIES IN STATUS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:

This, however, is not to say that the Government of the State is making no efforts to improve the situation of female. The numbers of innovative schemes have been launched by



the Government of Haryana for improving the status of women in the State as well as generally for improving the socio economic conditions. There is great need to stop the declining sex ratio, increase the literacy rate and improve the work participation conditions of women in Haryana. The government has taken several initiatives to remove the problem. The schemes promotes the need for gender equality and bring out how neglect of girls and discrimination throughout her life cycle leads to an equal status in the society. It also aims to break myths about role of men and women, so that negative attitudes and behaviours of society could be change through enhance the female literacy and make empower. The government has taken several steps to improve the sex ratio, female literacy rate, female work participation and for empowerment of women. The State has been implementing various schemes for the socio-economic advancement and development of women in the State to eliminate all types of discrimination against women and the girl child and ensure empowerment and gender justice for them. The State's first priorities are to arrest the declining sex ratio and to address the problem of female foeticide, reduce malnutrition among children and enhance socioeconomic status of women.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao: The year 2015 could not have begun on a better note that express concern for the girl child. The concern arises from the unabated decline in the child sex ratio. The Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, has launched the national initiative of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme from Panipat in Haryana. The essence of the initiative is embedded in the message: 'Let her live, let her grow'. The prime objective of the programme is to bring about a change in people's mindset towards the girl child on or after her birth. "Preventing determination of sex, female foeticide, ensuring safety of girls, their best possible care and providing quality education constitute integral part of this programme. Dwelling on the scheme, Mr.Manohar Lal CM of Haryana said that national level media and multi-sectoral campaigns would be carried out in the districts which have adverse child sex ratio and awareness tours would also be conducted. The 12 districts of Haryana where BBBP would be implemented are: Mohindergarh, Jhajjar, Sonipat, Rewari, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Karnal, Yamunanagar, Kaithal, Bhiwani and Panipat which have lowest sex ratio in Haryana. The issue of declining child sex ratio is a major indicator of women disempowerment. It begins before birth, manifests in gender biased sex selection, elimination and continues in various forms of discrimination towards girl child. There are



wide variations seen in sex ratios across different regions of the country. The welfare measures give the direction for protecting the lives of down trodden daughters of country.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana: The Central government launched the 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' (girl child prosperity scheme). Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a small deposit scheme for girl child launched as part of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign. An account can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl till she attains the age of 10 years, with a minimum deposit of Rs.1000 in any post office or authorized branches of commercial banks. The subsequent deposit should be in multiples of Rs.100. Documents relating to child's age proof and address proof of parents or guardians should be submitted while opening account. Interest rate will be 9.1 per cent for financial year 2014-15 and it will be calculated on a yearly basis and credited into account i.e. compounded every year up to completion of 14 years from date of opening the account. The account would remain active for 21 years from the date of opening of the account or marriage of the girl. Partial withdrawal of 50 per cent of the balance would be allowed after the girl has attended 18 years to meet the requirement of higher education or marriage expenses. The scheme is open for girl child below 10 years, the Government has given a relaxation of one year for those opening accounts till December one this year which means those born on or after December 2, 2003 and those born on or after December 1, 2004 are eligible to join this scheme in this year.

Aapki Beti Humari Beti: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched "Aapki Beti Humari Beti" Scheme on the eve of International Women's Day i.e. 8 March at Panchkula district, Haryana. The scheme would be implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas of the State Haryana. It will include the families having first girl child born on or after January 22, 2015 under Scheduled Caste (SC) and Below Poverty Line (BPL). They would be eligible to receive 21,000 rupees. Likewise, all the second girl child of all families who are born on or after January 22, 2015 will get 21,000 rupees. Families with twin girls or multiple girls will get 21,000 rupees per girl child. Haryana CM launched the scheme by giving away a cheque of 21,000 rupees each to the mothers of six girl children born on or after January 22, 2015. A special budget provision would be made for this scheme in order to generate an environment which provides equal opportunities to the girls. To combat the problem of decline child sex ratio in the State CM Manohar Lal Khattar also launched 'Haryana Kanya Kosh' for the welfare and development of girl child and women in the State. 'Haryana Kanya



Kosh 'is established to provide financial assistance on the birth of first girl child. The girl child belonging to the families of poor and scheduled castes will be provided financial assistance from this fund. Haryana CM said that earlier, financial assistance was provided on the birth of second daughter under Ladli scheme. Now, the scope of this scheme has been widened and the first daughter would also be covered under it. He said that this financial assistance would be given on the birth of daughters to all the families belonging to poor and scheduled castes. To promote girls' education, scholarship on meritorious basis would be given. He said that by 2016, all schools would be equipped with desks and chairs to ensure that no child has to sit on floor to get education.

The Ladli Scheme: This scheme was launched in 2008. The Scheme aims at curbing female feticide and improving the social State of the girl child by supporting education and protecting them from discrimination. The scheme was sponsored by State bank of India, in this scheme the account in the name of a girl child will be opened with a deposit of 10000 and subsequently Rs 5000 will be deposited with the girl's Admission to classes. This money is given to her name and it can be utilized for the marriage of the girl which is considered by some parents as burden in the society.

Dhanalakshmi Scheme: This scheme was launched in 2008. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for child with insurance cover. It is aimed at providing cash transfer to the family of the girl child on fulfilling certain specific conditions such as birth and registration, immunization etc.

Apni Beti Apna Dhan: This scheme was launched in 1997. Apni Beti Apna Dhan scheme was another unique scheme initiated by the Haryana Government with a view to stem the declining sex ratio. Under this scheme, a girl child born to parents living below the poverty line is provided a Gift Certificate upon her birth which can be cashed upon her attaining the age of 18 years, provided she remains unmarried. As the scheme is yet young and the beneficiaries are to attain the age of 18 years, it is too early to assess its impact.

CONCLUSION:

The paper concludes that without the improvement in social condition of the women country can't get success. The first step to get success there is needed to create awareness to make women empowered. Now in this time of globalization development in each sector has been take place but the condition of women is same as it was in the past. The result



indicated that there are large disparities showed in sex ratio, literacy rate and work participation compression to male. In the state continuously declining child sex ratio reveal the imbalance and adverse social causes and consequences in the society. People need to understand that the son and daughters have equal in the society and stop son preferences. For this there is need to increase the educational status and work conditions for female. High level of literacy and educational achievement leads to equal status of male and female and this make the women Economic empowered. The state government has been implementing various schemes for the socio-economic advancement and development of women in the state to eliminate all types of discrimination against women and the girl child and ensure empowerment and gender justice for them. Thus effective policy and programmes were started by the government to encourage them to people leave the negative attitude towards girls and understand their value. Disparities in social status of women is a matter of deep shame and cause of great concern, we let work to remove this menace from society and balanced demographic structure within the country could be achieved otherwise the distortion will be seen in near future.

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