

STUDY OF GENDER ECONOMICS IN SOUTH INDIA

Name of Author: -Mrs. Rupsa Ghosh

Designation: - Assistant Professor

Department: - MBA

Institution: - New Horizon College of Engineering, Bangalore

ABSTRACT

In India the study of gender economics is an emerging and much talked about area. Gender economics basically is a fusion of economics, gender studies and sociology. The paper focuses on the application of a facet of the study of gender economics in the context of the south Indian states. The paper primarily focuses on the areas of gender equality, sex ratios, female employment growth which in return bears a positive correlation with the social development and economic growth of the states.

KEYWORDS

Gender economics, women empowerment, economic growth, female employment rate

INTRODUCTION

Gender Economics looks at the way gender influences economics, and the way economic decisions influence gender. The economic scenario of a country is not devoid of the effect of gender roles. Gender economics studies deals largely with the growth and development of a country with special emphasis on the inequality aspect. **“It’s about dissecting and creating a new discourse around economic theory that fuses Economics, Gender and Sociology.”** (Susanne Moore 2013)

Gender inequality in India refers to health, education, economic and political inequalities between men and women. Gender inequalities, and its social repercussions, impact the India's sex ratio, women's health and longevity, their educational attainment, and economic conditions. India struggles with the gender inequality issues which are again inter-linked with economic growth and access to educational resource opportunities. Gender inequality exists in the form of socially constructed, predefined gender roles firmly anchored in India's socio cultural fabric that has deep cultural and historical roots. Socio cultural influences and beliefs have spillover effects across all domains, including the organizational workforce, and social and political contexts. This unquestionable influence is still accepted as the norm within the societal and familial periphery.

The study focuses on the southern states of India and analyzes the sex ratios, the female employment percentage and the economic growth of these states and tries to find out a relationship between these attributes.

In recent years, there has been an emerging realization that economic development and sustainability goals cannot be fulfilled unless gender inequalities are removed and women are empowered to choose and decide about their own welfare, have decision making rights which in return increase their employability.

OBJECTIVES

The study aims at the following objectives:-

- The study helps to emphasize the need for the study of gender economics with respect to the Indian economy.

- The paper shows the relationship between socio-economic development and gender inequality.
- The paper aims at a descriptive analysis on gender studies and its relationship with economic growth with special emphasis on South India.

METHODOLOGY:

1. Research type and general goal

- The proposed research study is applied descriptive and experimental. The proposed research study is developed from both quantitative and qualitative point of view.
- The primary objective of this study is to analyse the need of gender studies in economics and how the population in south India shows gender inequality in spite of the economic development.

2. Type of data.

- The secondary data has been used in our study.
- The sources of secondary data are reports of the National Family Health Survey II 1998-99, Employment statistics reports 2018, GDP growth reports.

3. Population and sample:

- Population of South India
- In our study we have considered both the urban and rural female population of South Indian States.

4. Methods and techniques:

- In this research paper, we have used the statistical tools like Mean, Standard Deviation, correlation co-efficient.

5. Statistical processing of information:

- In this paper, we have used MS –EXCEL package for analyzing the data and we have represented the results in the form of tables and bar charts.

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

In this study I intend to analyze the sex ratio, female employment statistics and growth rates related to the female population of South India specifically for the states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

State / Union Territory (U.T.)	Sex Ratio 2011	Sex Ratio 2001	Change 2001 - 2011
Andhra Pradesh	992	978	+14
Karnataka	968	964	+4
Kerala	1,084	1,058	+26
Tamil Nadu	995	986	+9

Table 1.1

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males. As per Census 2011, Sex ratio of India is 943. Among states, Kerala has highest sex ratio of 1084 females to 1000 males and Haryana has the lowest sex ratio of 879 females per 1000 males.

Studies are done to measure women's empowerment in the midst of social development in four southern states of India, namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. The required data relating to the selected variables are taken from the published reports of the National Family Health Survey II 1998-99. Comparing the indices for each state, Kerala has better social development and women's empowerment. However, in Tamil Nadu, females are more empowered compared to the state's social development. Karnataka is comparatively well off in social development but not in women's autonomy. In Andhra Pradesh, both are less remarkable. In conclusion, greater attention is to be directed in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to improve the conditions of females than the socioeconomic development of the state in general.

Empowerment is both a means to an end and an end in itself. The focus on empowerment has given a new emphasis to the building of economic and social capabilities among individuals, classes and communities. It is theories of social change in particular, a change from a hierarchical to and egalitarian type of society. It is based on democratic society, which is based on recognition of equal rights to all individuals in its place. Empowerment appears to be an alternative path for dismantling the old structure and putting new one in this place. Empowerment is to change the society through re-arrangement of the power. So there is a need for empowerment through civic, political and social rights of citizens. Gender empowerment measure is a measure for women development. It measures gender inequality in a society. India ranks 86 out of 175 countries in the world, as far as gender empowerment is concerned. The measure indicates whether women are able to actively participate in economic and political life. It measures the gender inequality in basic capabilities of women. It focuses on gender inequality in the key areas of social economic political scenario. The lack of access to land, credit, better employment opportunities, acts as barrier for women in the path of economic freedom and empowerment. Poverty is more among women as compared to men.

The following table shows the percentage of working female population in the different south Indian states over the years :-

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT/ All India	2012-13	2013-14	2015-16
1	Andhra Pradesh	44.9	49.6	47.0
2	Karnataka	32.2	34.5	33.3
3	Kerala	20.3	27.8	23.7
4	Tamil Nadu	35.0	39.6	39.3
5	Telangana	0.0	52.1	42.7
	All India	25.0	29.6	25.8

Table 1.2 Source: E&U Surveys of Labour Bureau

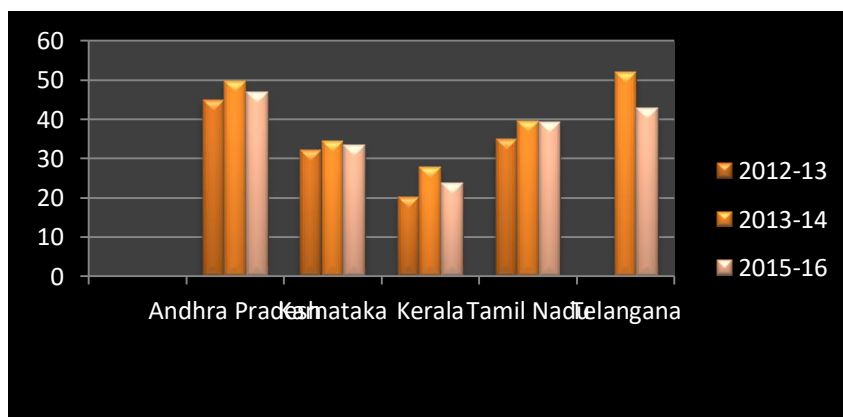


Fig 1.1

The above figure 1.1 shows the trend of the growth of the female employability in the different states of South India. The inconsistent growth rates show high gender gaps in the employment sectors of these states. Andhra Pradesh however shows a relatively consistent growth in women employment rate as compared to others.

	STATES	GDP share (2016-17)	Female employment statistics
1	Andhra Pradesh	4.54%	47.0
2	Karnataka	7.52%	33.3
3	Kerala	4.05%	23.7
4	Tamil Nadu	8.27%	39.3
5	Telangana	4.29%	42.7

Table 1.3

The female employment statistics in the above table 1.3 shows that out of all the south Indian states Andhra Pradesh shows a high percentage of female employment. The growth of the economy has a positive correlation with the female employment rate. The GDP growth rate of the states and the female employment statistics shows a positive correlation of 0.020045. The correlation coefficient is therefore positive but not very high.

CONCLUSION

Empowerment of women is the means and end for the development of a society or an economy at large, since it enhances both the quality and the quantity of human resources available for development. There are several vital reasons for evaluating, promoting and monitoring the level of women's empowerment. Women's status and their empowerment can play a decisive role in the success of many development programmes and bring about positive social changes in the growth and development of a country. The gender gap is a result of gender inequality which is deeprooted in social stratification based on the roles and responsibilities assigned to men and women in the society. This is a primary reason why India's economic growth is restricted by widespread gender inequality, violence, and cultural norms that devalue women's roles in society and in the workforce.

The paper analyzes the sex ratios, the female employment percentages and growth rates in the southern states of India. Although the economic growth rate and women employment rate shows a positive correlation yet the correlation coefficient is not much high. Thus it signifies that women empowerment definitely helps in economic growth and sustainability but the gender bias does not necessarily decline the economic improvement and growth. Therefore it demands for some more strong radical and rapid social progress that can effectively make inroads into the pernicious effects of patriarchy.

Some of the significant government initiatives in the path of achieving gender equality is the Government of India's MUDRA scheme to support micro and small enterprises and direct benefit transfers under the Jan Dhan Yojana seeks to empower women. Women entrepreneurs account for about 78 percent of the total number of borrowers under

MUDRA. The goal of women empowerment is prominent through different government schemes like micro credit lending schemes. Women participation plays a lion share in SHG credit linkage programmes.

If the growth in GDP is not accompanied by gender equality and results in a wide gender gap then the nation cannot reach sustainability. Gender economics highlights the need of gender balance in order to maintain a long term and sustained economic growth. Therefore the area of gender economics actually emphasizes on bridging the gender gaps in the economy and ensure a better and more sustainable growing economy .

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