



# Gender discrimination in the Rural areas of Sehore District (with Special reference to Khati Jaati)

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**Abstract-** 'Gender' is a socio-cultural term referring socially defines rules and behaviour assigned to male and female in a society. Indians of 21 century feels so proud when it rejoice in celebrations of a boy is born, and if it is a girl, muted or no celebrations is the norm. Love for a male child is so much as it will increase the family and will maintain social order and rules in the society. Discrimination between a baby girl and boy starts as soon as birth is given. This study deals with gender discrimination in Sehore district of M.P. its various forms and its causes. Effects of gender discrimination and Importance of women in development, for reduction of discrimination among gender are also discussed in this paper.

**Keywords-** Gender Discrimination, Education, Empowerment, women, Development.

**Introduction-** Literally, the meaning of discrimination is an unfavorable treatment to anyone based on sex, race and so on. It is considered as an obstacle for the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Discrimination among gender is recognized as a form of inequality and issue for women around the world. It affects the mental health of women to participate freely and fully in society and in turn brings physical, psychological and mental harmful consequences. Half of the population of the world consists of female, whose large portion is still discriminated in different phase of life directly or indirectly, though there are some differences in each country, religion, society or ethnicity which are exception and gives equal rights to both gender.

Gender discrimination in the world can be seen in different religions, countries and communities. As indicated by Waltke, ancient Jewish prayed every morning saying “Thank you lord that I was not born a woman; Christian boys are taken to the special room of the church but the girls are not during the name giving ceremony; women are not supposed to be priest or father in temples and church. The situation of the gender discrimination has been worsened with the development of science and technology as it predicts the sex of a fetus before it turns to a baby. In 1978 and 1983, seventy eight thousand of fetuses were aborted in Mumbai, as they were known as a baby girl fetus (Bastola, 2007). There are different sets of behaviors for boys and girls to perform. Such discrimination has helped to establish the hierarchical relationship between men and women in the society and also helped to create many rigid gender norms that restrict women’s opportunities and stifle their development in the private and public sphere.



The unfortunate part of gender inequality in our society is that the women too, through continued socio-cultural conditioning and practises, have accepted their subordinate position to men. And they are also part and parcel of same patriarchal system which is practiced since past decades. Like male or even above them female plays important role in the family and national development. But her contribution is not recognized by the male dominant society. So the inequality or discrimination against women is at various levels in the society, either in home or outside home.

#### **India’s position on these indicators was as follows:**

Economic participation and opportunity: 134<sup>th</sup>

Educational achievements: 126<sup>th</sup>

Health and Life expectancy: 141<sup>th</sup>

Political empowerment: 15<sup>th</sup>

The above indicators shows the position of India on following above parameters. It can be noticed that as both genders are not given equal rights which can be noticed in every aspect. If both male and female are given equal importance in society it reflects the development and rising economy of the country.

#### **Research objective –**

1 To study the major reasons for gender discrimination in study area.

2 To study the effects for gender discrimination in study area.

**Research Methodology** - The study is designed as descriptive study based on sample survey. The main purpose of the study is to document the existing discrimination practices in khathi samaj of sehare district which is male

dominated society as perceived by women and also identify the factors responsible for discrimination. The survey was carried out in sehare district The study was confined to the 356 males and females whose belong to khathi samajh. The data was collected through personal interview method and Group discussion. The data was analyzed by using the statistical tools i.e. percentage, mean. Secondary data was collected through different journals, magazines and government report.

**Discussion** - Societal discriminations are often highlighted by media and NGO's as it becomes an issue for debate at the national level when the country's position at world level is noticed at falling position at international level. The debates are often discussed even in an informal and formal chat when opposite parties meet each other. Such informal chat facilitates to disseminate the issues widely in rural areas making women relatively more aware of societal discrimination. Similarly, there is a tendency of women to perceive the things culturally at the household level and do not consider the restriction as discrimination.

### **Responsible factors for discrimination**

The study analyzes the perceived factors responsible for discrimination. The study considers gender and customary practices as main factors responsible for discrimination. The discrimination in various aspects was analyzed along with the perceived responsible factors. The major factors responsible for gender discrimination are Education, Occupation, area, status of family. About of the respondent indicated that mobility is one of the aspects they feel discrimination and considers male as responsible for it. As it is a male dominated society, males often considered themselves as superior than women and put restriction to women. Generally, women are not allowed to move freely in the name of protection. There is also a tendency of males as husband they want women as wife to stay at home and offer their services for them.

**Causes of Gender Discrimination** – The root cause of gender discrimination in Indian society lies in its patriarchal system. According to the famous sociologists Sylvia Walby, patriarchy is “a system of social structure and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women”.

The causes of gender discrimination are -Educational backwardness, Caste, Religious beliefs, Culture, on the name of family history, Customs and beliefs, Races, Low income ,Unemployment, Society, Family situation and Attitudes.

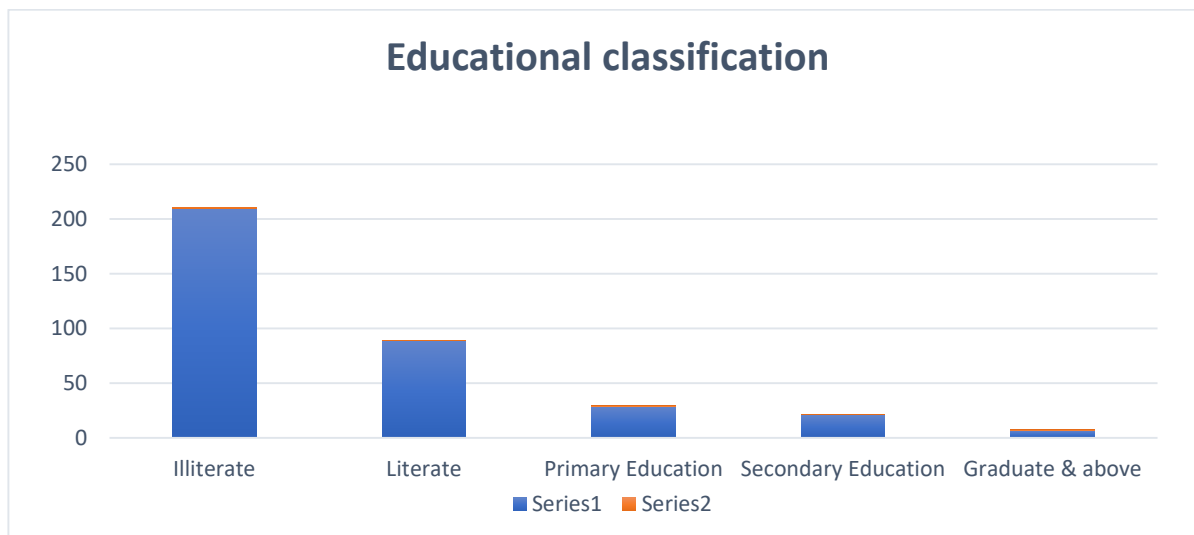
Data was collected through primary sources which clearly identifies the gender discrimination and also the factors which affect or causes disorder in society. Education, region, occupation, Type of family.

**Table 1 :Classification on the basis of education**

Classification of Education	Respondant	Percentage
Illiterate	210	59%
Literate	89	25%
Primary Education	29	8%
Secondary Education	21	6%
Graduate & above	7	2%
Total	356	100%

**Source: Data collected through primary sources**

The above table clearly shows that education is necessary for diminishing the social discrimination in society. As 59% of the respondent are illiterate and according to them female should not be educated as household work is done by females and they need not study girls or females are not allowed to out of their houses as they superstitious and believes that females should not study. Only 2% of the total samples believe in that both male and female should be educated so that social disorder could be ended.

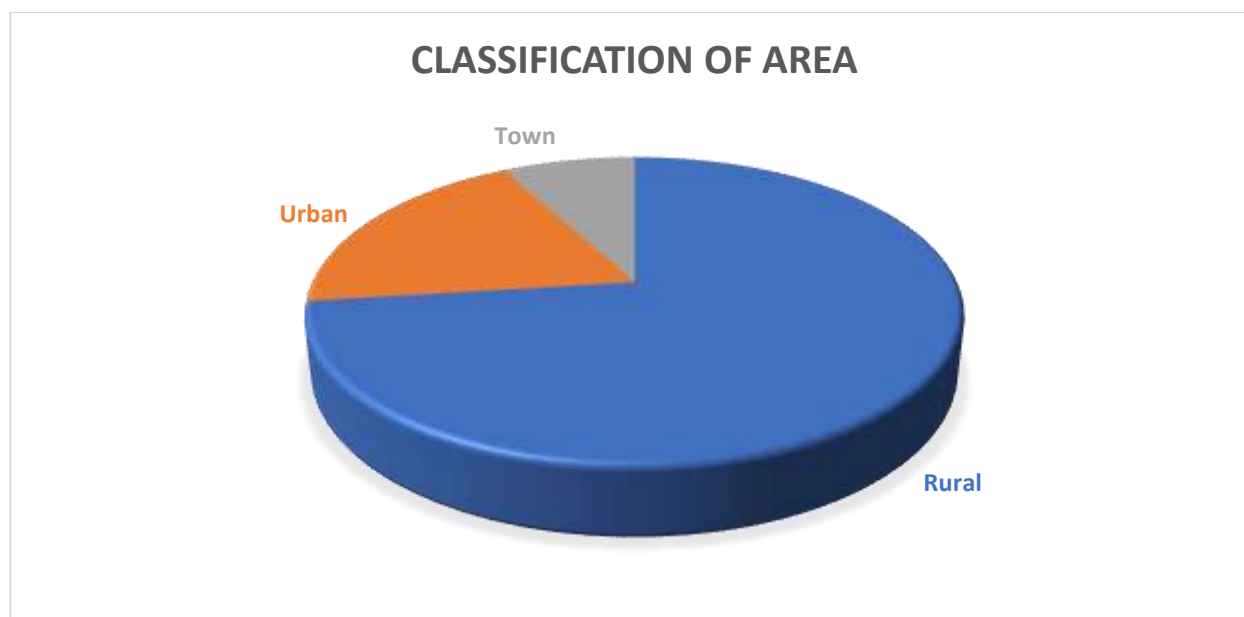


**Table 2 :Classification on the basis of area**

Classification of area	Respondant	Percentage
Rural	260	73%
Urban	68	19%
Town	28	8%
Total	356	100%

**Source: Data collected through primary sources**

The sample which were collected shows that the major respondent are from rural areas which is 73% of the total sample, are from the rural areas which shows that they are some how illiterate and involved in primary activities believing in superstitious and many more myths which effecys gender discrimination on large basis. 19% of the total were from the urban areas and 8% of it were from the town which shows that respondents from this area are literate but then also believes some how in inequalities and do not allow the females to move from houses or live independently which reflects gender discrimination.

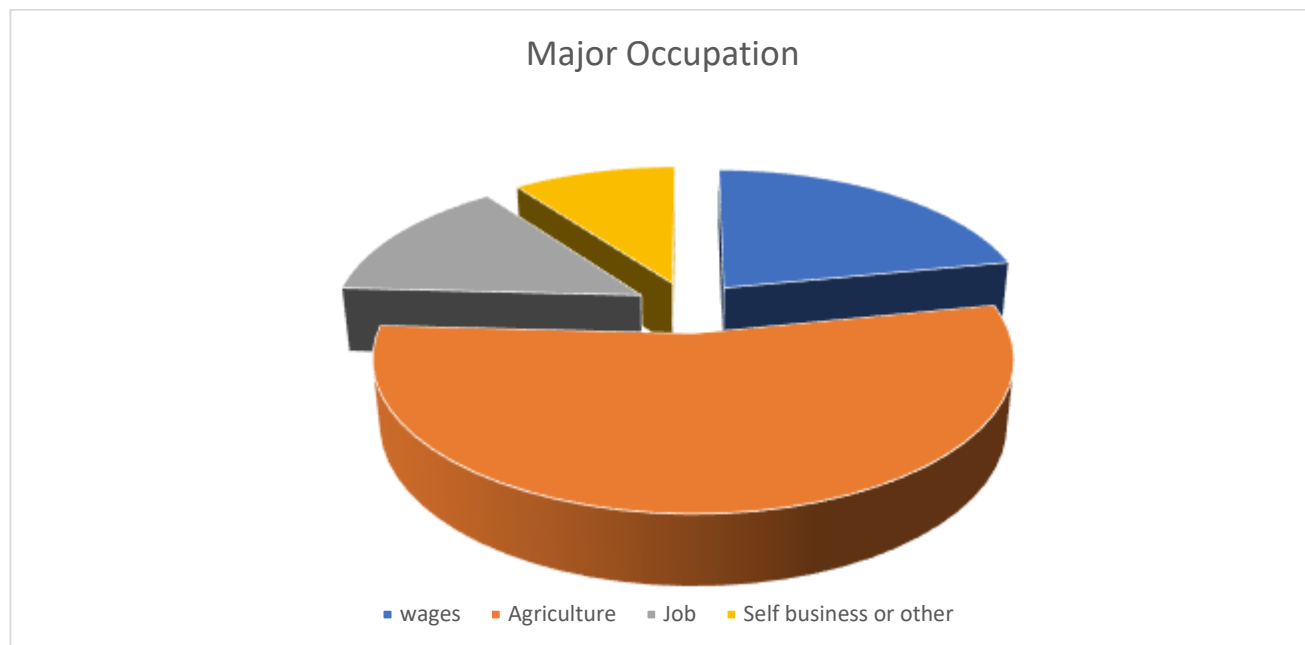


**Table 3 :Classification on the basis of Occupation of Family**

Classification of Income	Respondant	Percentage
wages	78	22%
Agriculture	192	54%
Job	50	14%
Self business or other	36	10%
Total	356	100%

**Source: Data collected through primary sources**

The above table indicates that the major respondents practices agriculture and works on wages basis which clearly shows that they are some how involved in primary sector and do not earn more. Only 14% of the respondents are involved in job and very few respondents are interested in business or service sector which indicates that the financial condition of the samples is not good or suffers from poverty.

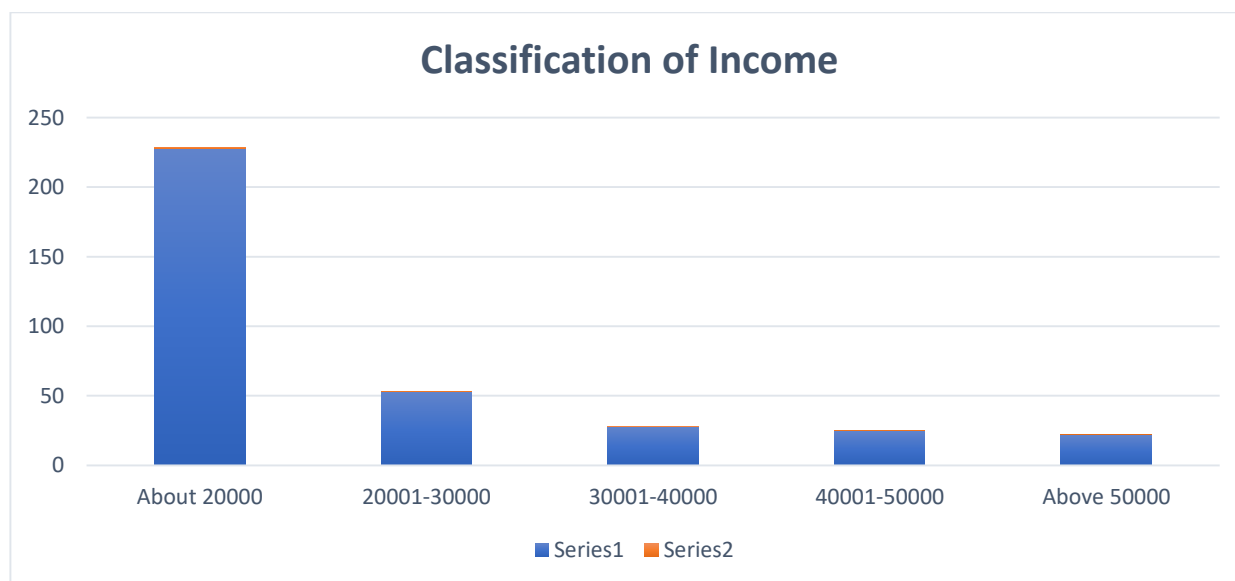


**Table 4 :Classification on the basis of Income**

Classification of Income	Respondant	Percentage
About 20000	228	64%
20001-30000	53	15%
30001-40000	28	8%
40001-50000	25	7%
Above 50000	22	6%
Total	356	100%

**Source: Data collected through primary sources**

The other important factor due to which social discrimination is practiced in the study area is the level of income. The income level of males in the area is not so much as basically primary activities such as farming, dairy, etc are practiced in the study area and also traditional agricultural practices are practiced by the people. About 15% of the total samples earn an average of 30000 and so on. Only 6% of the total population earn above 50000 as they serves tertiary sector. Sample earning above an average spent some part on education so that they can give their wards better living standard and can educate them.



## Conclusions

The study findings show that societal discrimination exists in male dominated society. Women are aware of discrimination practices at home and society as well. They perceive more discrimination practices at the societal level as compared to household level. The study revealed different types of discrimination practices at the household level. Women perceive discrimination in various aspects such as property, education, and mobility. The study findings suggest that the perception of discrimination varies between women as at many factors

together are effective. It is believed that property, occupation, education, income level help an individual to become an independent in a society. Women feel more discrimination in property, occupation and education since lack of such things makes them dependent in the society. Both married and unmarried women feel the discrimination in mobility, as there is a culture of not allowing women to move freely in the name of protection.

Women consider gender and customary practices are main factors responsible for discrimination. They perceive different members of the family such as husband, mother-father-in-law and others which are responsible for discrimination to some extent, women themselves were found to be responsible for discrimination as they perceive the things culturally and perform it accordingly accepting the gender based responsibilities without considering it as discrimination.

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### Acknowledgement-

Neetu Jalodiya is a recipient of Indian Council of Social Science Research Doctoral Fellowship. Her article is largely an outcome of her doctoral work sponsored by ICSSR. However, the responsibility for the facts stated, opinions expressed and the conclusions drawn is entirely that of the author.