

# Present status of Girl Students in Higher Education and scope for further improvement: A Case Study of Gujarat

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Abstract

As per AISHE report, Gujarat has secured 19th position out of 29 states of India in terms of GER in higher education. Present GER of Gujarat is 20.7 per cent in which boys partake 22.9 and girls 18.3 per cent. Therefore finding the ways to improve overall GER in Gujarat is an area of research along with how to improve Girls enrolment in higher education. Present study focuses on present status of girls in higher education and thus showing distribution of girls in various disciplines of higher education and the possibilities to widen the choice factor consequently expanding job opportunities for girls. The study shows district-wise, subject-wise and category-wise enrolment of Boys and Girls at all levels, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in higher education.

Keywords—girls; participation; enrollment; higher education;

## I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the most powerful factor which can bring positive change in the society. It provides wings to an individual at both levels; imagination and reality. As almost half of population consists of Girls in the human capital, higher education among girls plays a vital role in socio-economic development of a nation. Fortunately, India is progressing in improving overall literacy rate. As per 1961 census, the literacy rate of girls was 15.35per cent and of Boys was 40.40per cent which has gradually increased to 65.46 per cent for girls and 82.14 per cent for boys as per 2011 census. It is also interesting to know that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India as per Niti Ayog<sup>[1]</sup> at Primary level is 118.62 per cent in 2011 and GER of boys and girls at secondary level as per MHRD<sup>[2]</sup> is 79.16 % and 80.97% respectively and GER of boys and girls at Senior Secondary level is 55.95% and 56.41% respectively. And if

we look at GER at higher education level in India as per All India Survey of Higher Education report (2015-16)<sup>[3]</sup> it is 24.5 per cent for both consisting 25.4 percent for boys and 23.5 percent of girls.

## II. POSITION OF GUJARAT

As per AISHE report, Gujarat has secured 19th position out of 29 states of India in terms of GER in higher education. Present GER of Gujarat is 20.7 per cent in which boys partake 22.9 and girls 18.3 per cent. Therefore finding the ways to improve overall GER in Gujarat is an area of research along with how to improve Girls enrolment in higher education. Present study focuses on present status of girls in higher education and thus showing distribution of girls in various disciplines of higher education and the possibilities to widen the choice factor consequently expanding job opportunities for girls. The study shows district-wise, subject-wise and category-wise enrolment of Boys and Girls at all levels, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in higher education. As main focus of study is girl's enrolment in higher education in state of Gujarat, let's see position of Gujarat in India.

Figure-1 shows that Gujarat is significantly trails behind many states of India. Tamilnadu has GER which scales upto 44.3 percent. Himachal Pradesh, Panjab, Kerela and Goa have more number of participation of girls in comparison to boys in higher education. While Uttarakhand, Haryana and UP have almost equal number of participation of boys and girls in Higher education. Among UTs Chandigarh has highest GER consist of 70.4 percent of girl's participation and 48.4 percent of boy's participation. While studying girl's participation in higher education in various districts of Gujarat, some eye-opening facts come up.

### A. District-wise enrolment of Boys and Girls at all level in Gujarat

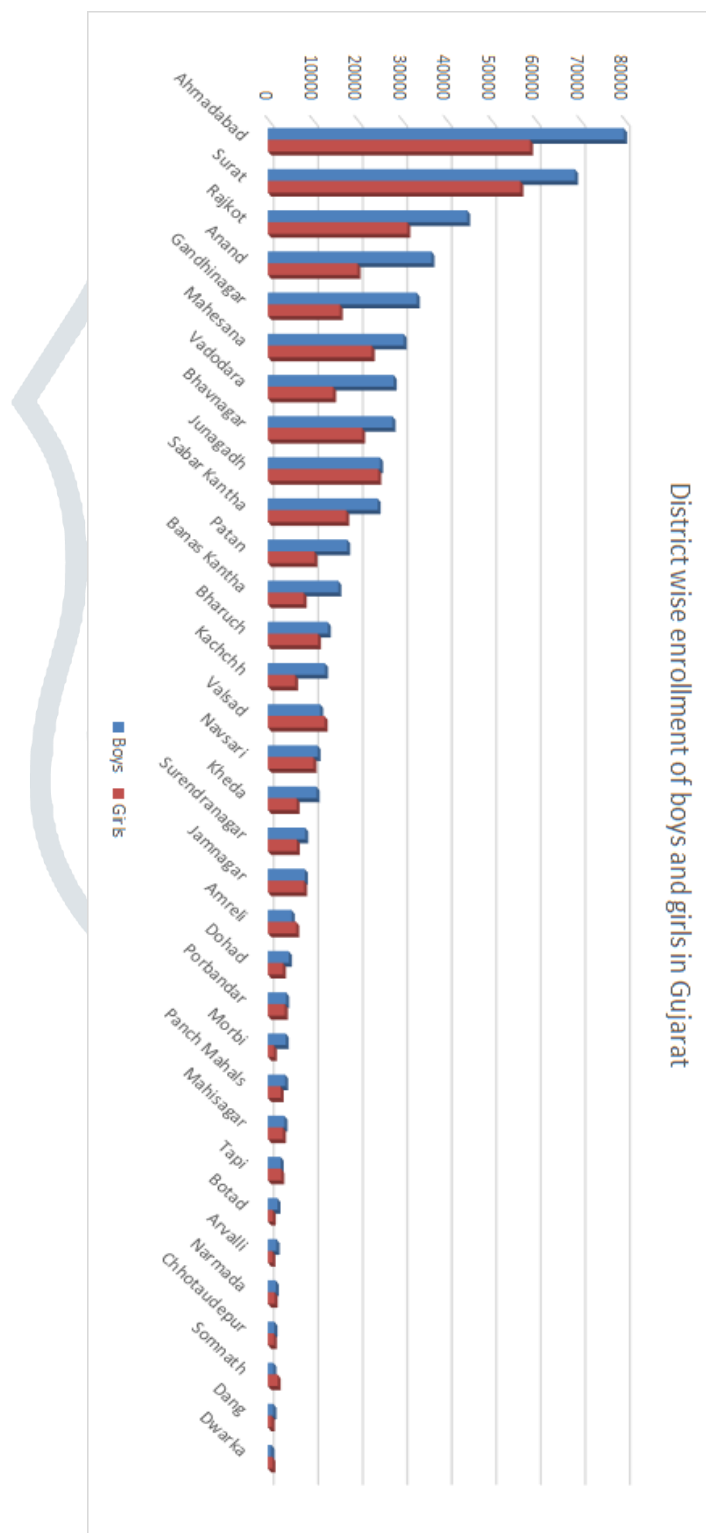
Following figure-2 shows that Ahmedabad district has highest number of enrolment followed by Surat, Rajkot, Anand and Gandhinagar. Though density of population is higher in Ahmedabad, the graph is also suggestive of student's preference to study in big cities. The graph also shows that Junagadh and Jamnagar districts have almost equal number of participation of boys and girls in higher education. While Amreli, Valsad, Tapi, Gir Somnath and Dwarka show more number of girls enrolled in comparison to Boys students. Whereas Anand, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, Morbi, Botad, Arvalli and Kuchchh shows wide gap between boys and girls enrolment.



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

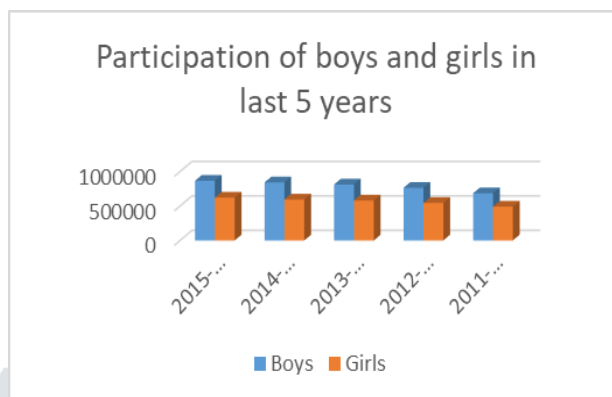
Fig. 1

Following figure-3 shows participation of girls and boys in higher education in last five years. The graph shows positive growth in the number of girls and boys enrolling in higher education. But still Gujarat is far behind in GER in comparison to other states.



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.2

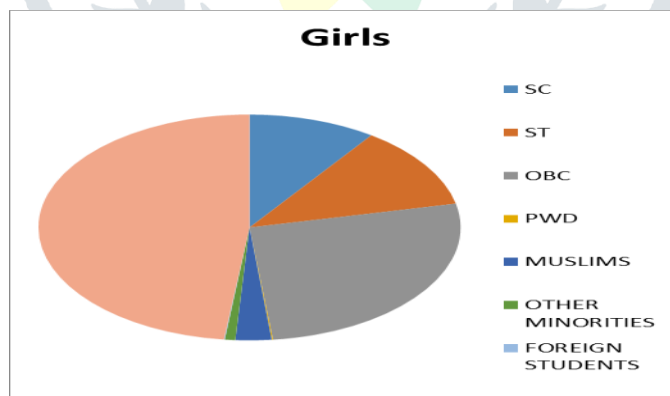


Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.3

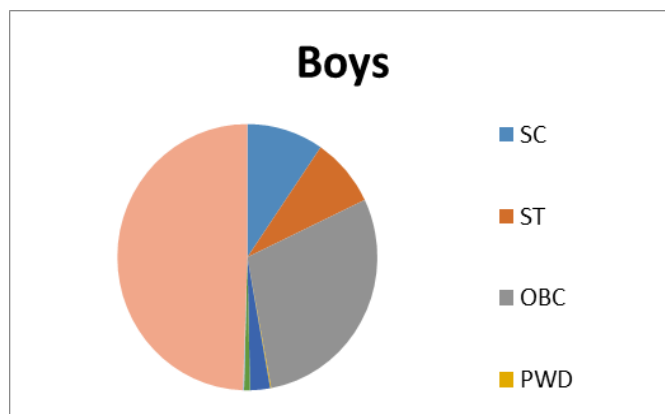
*B. Category-wise enrolment of Boys and Girls in various disciplines*

The figure-4, 5 and 6 shows category-wise enrolment of Boys in Girls in all subjects at all levels. It reveals that even in open category there is a vast gap between boys and girls enrolment. The pie chart shows category-wise distribution of girls and boys.



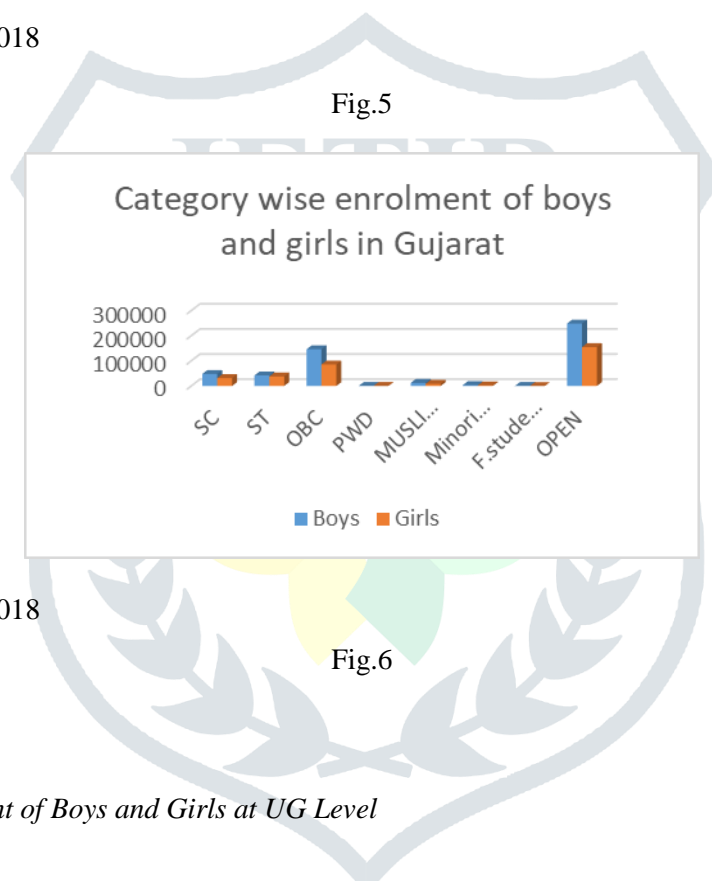
Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.4



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.5

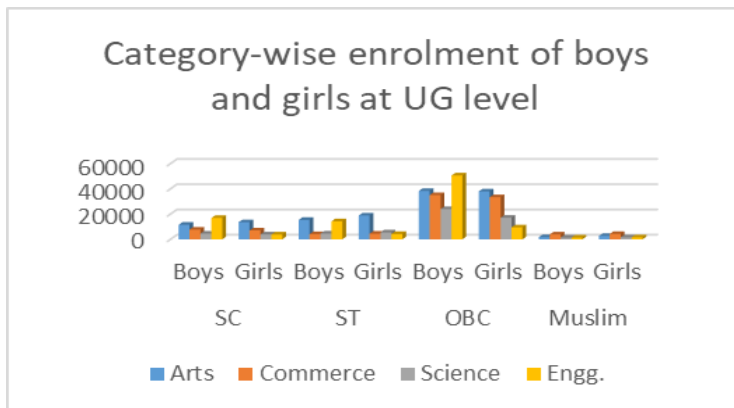


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Fig.6

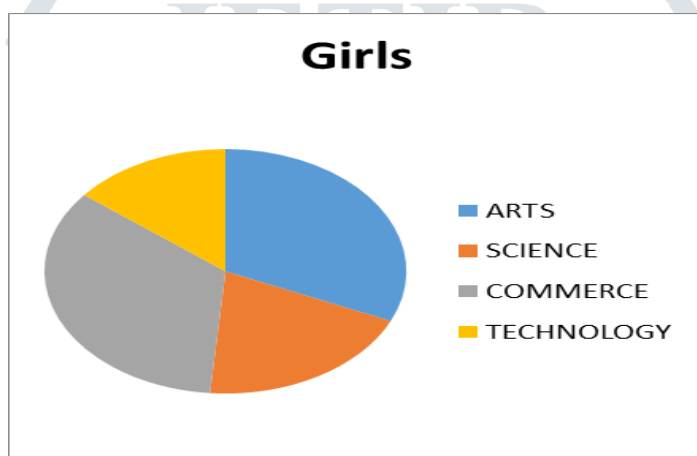
*C. Discipline-wise enrolment of Boys and Girls at UG Level*

Number Figure-7 shows category wise participation of boys and girls in various disciplines. It very distinctly shows that girls are enrolling more in arts, commerce and science subjects in all the categories while in Engineering and Technology girls participation is less in all the categories. That shows girls are sub standardized at every level, everywhere. Figure 8and9 shows distribution of girls and boys in various disciplines.



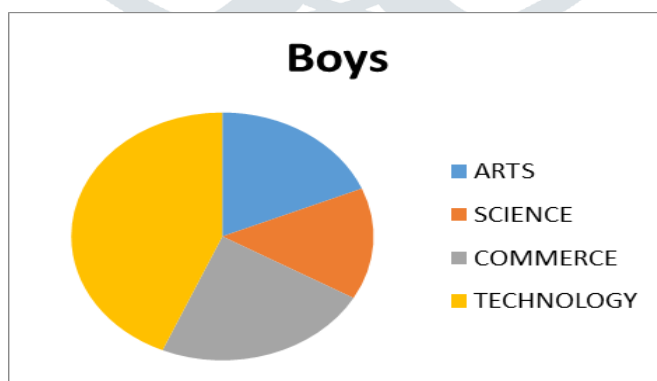
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Fig.7



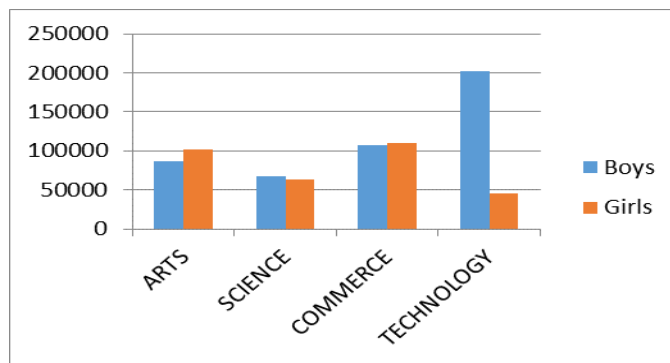
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Fig.8



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.9

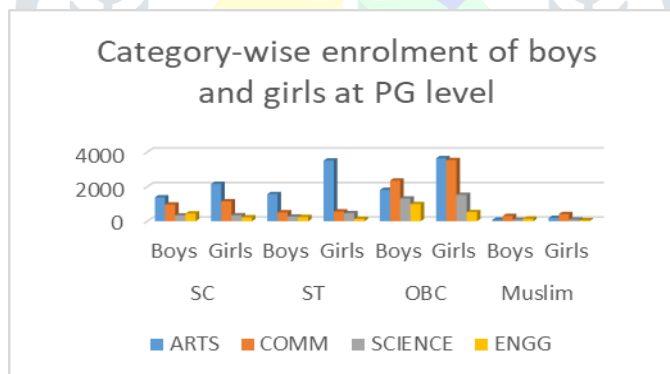


Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.10

Above figure shows that at undergraduate level number of girls are more in Arts related subjects than Boys. In the science stream girls are almost equal in comparison to boys. The graph also reveals that the second preferable area of girls is Commerce related subject while the number of girls is quite less opting for engineering and technology in comparison to boy’s students. It questions traditional mindset of the society. While boys students are more inclined to engineering related subjects than other subjects.

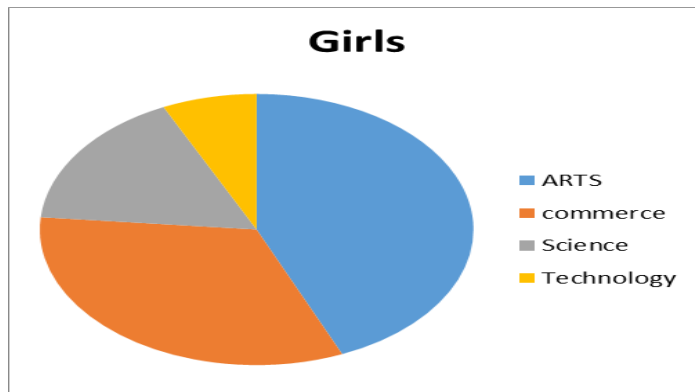
*D. Discipline-wise enrolment of Boys and Girls at PG Level*



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

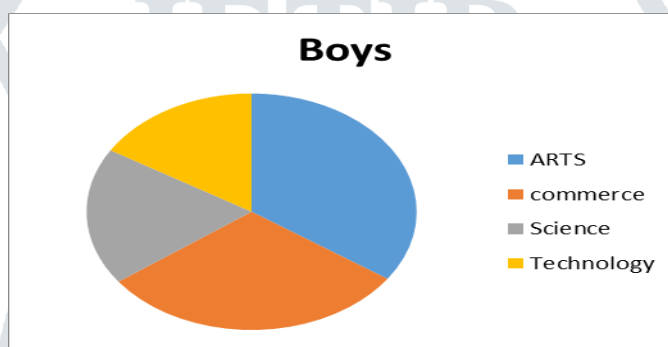
Fig.11





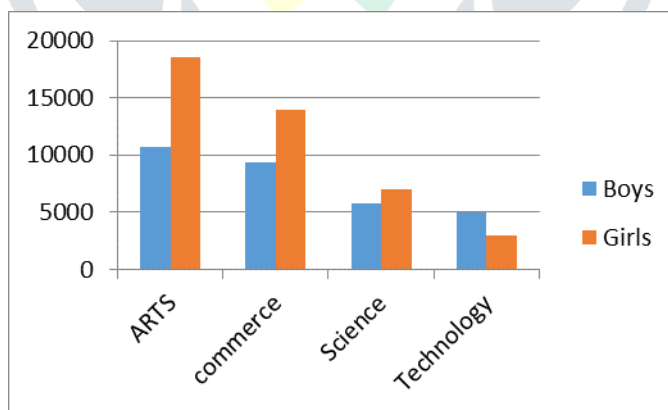
Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.12



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.13



Data as per AISHE on 3/3/2018

Fig.14

At Postgraduate level, girls are conspicuously more in all the dominant fields like Arts, Commerce and Science but in the field of technology girls are less in number because they are less in number at UG level too.

### III. OBSERVATION

1. Overall GER of India is 24.5 in which Boys consist of 25.4 per cent and girls consist of 23.5 per cent whereas overall GER of Gujarat is 20.7 percent in which boys partake 22.9 percent and girls 18.3 per cent.
2. GER of Gujarat is trailing behind in comparison to other major states.
3. Anand, Gadhinar and Morbi districts of Gujarat show vast gap between boys and girls enrolment.
4. The study shows that girl students are more attracted towards non-professional courses like Arts, commerce, and Science. But there is positive growth in the enrolment of girl students in medical science. The participation of boys is more compared to girls in professional courses.
5. Reason of discrepancies among girl and boy students enrolment can be-
  - Socio-religious-economic back ground
  - Geographical and resource back ground of certain districts
  - Late entry of students compare to advance cities
  - Lack of focus effort for strengthening primary and secondary education

### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The study shows that GER of Gujarat is very low in comparison to other states of India so district-wise planning is required for improving GER at higher education level.
2. Secondary education needs to be improved in rural and backward area to reduce the dropout ratio so that enrolment in higher education can be improved.
3. Number of institutes of higher education shall be increased in rural and backward area.
4. Hostel facility shall be made available for girls in higher secondary and higher education to facilitate them and to reduce travelling time.
5. Category-wise improvement in enrolment is also needed. SC, ST, OBC and other economically backward girl students should be incentivized for improvement in GER.
6. There is a need to implement focused efforts to improve overall participation of students in professional courses as participation of students in professional courses is very low in comparison to other disciplines.
7. More girls oriented skill development programs in higher education needs to be started to attract more participation of girls in professional courses.
8. Need to widen the platform to expand awareness regarding skill based education and professional courses.

### References

- [1] <http://niti.gov.in/content/gross-enrolment-ratio-primary-level#>
- [2] <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157926>

- [3] [http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/statistics/AISHE2015-16.pdf](http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/statistics/AISHE2015-16.pdf)
- [4] <http://aishe.nic.in/aishe/home>
- [5] <http://niti.gov.in/content/gross-enrolment-ratio-higher-education#>

