



Women's status in Haryana: A district level analysis

Manisha Kumari¹, Sanjay Kumar²

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Government College for Women Ateli, Haryana, India

² Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Government College for Women Ateli, Haryana, India

Abstract

Haryana is one among the progressive states of India. But at various parts we see that this progress is not achieved. The status of women is studied from various viewpoints. Women's position is defined as 'the extent of control that a person has over her life, derived from the access to social, economic, health resources and political power and autonomy enjoyed in the process of decision making'. The past and present position of women in society is also the collective result which indicates whether they have been subject to discrimination or not. The present paper studies women's position in spatio-temporal dimensions of the state. This paper is based on the secondary data of 2001 or 2011 largely obtained from census enumeration. The analysis reveals that spatially the situation of women has deteriorated over time as greater number of districts joining the category where women are in vulnerable position.

Keywords: Status, discrimination, position, spatial and vulnerable

Introduction

The status of women in a region refers to the position of women in a society in relation to men. The position of women is the collective result of past and present position of women in the society which indicates whether they have been subject to discrimination or not. Although the progress of society is also a result of women's contribution, yet it is unfortunate that because of centuries of indolence, ignorance and conservation the actual and potential role of women in the society has been ignored. Though, there have been cases of women predominance in different ages and in different societies, it has been evinced that no society in the world has provided equal status to men and women. Women have exploited and controlled by deprived of educational opportunities, employment and economic dependency.

Geographically, men and women share the same space, yet they are not treated equally in the world. In reality there exists inequality in women's access to education, healthcare, physical and financial resources and opportunities in political economic, social and cultural field (Das, 2013) [3]. The decision making power of women members of the Self Help Group of Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. The author found that there is significant relationship between education, caste, marital status and in experience with the decision making empowerment of women but no significant relationship of age, occupation and nature of family with the decision making empowerment of women in Self Help Groups (Rosita, S. 2014) [10]. In every field women are confronted with many challenges and suffer from many disadvantages as compared to men in the area of education, work participation, health, economic condition and violence against women (Nisha, Lekhraj and kumar, 2015) [9]. The status of women in Haryana was analyzed by comparing two census enumerations 2001 or 2011 in Haryana. The authors found that during 2001 Faridabad, Gurugram and Kaithal districts are the most endanger districts and by 2011 Mahendergarh, Hisar, Jhajjar and Rohtak districts are showed poor women status while Panchkula, Sirsa and

Kurukshetra districts are the better performing districts in the state (Rajeshwari and Sigh, B. 2015) [12]. A district level analysis has been made to discuss the inter-district disparities in the women status in Haryana. The author made a comparison of two time periods 2007-08 and of 2015-16. The analysis reveals that most of the districts have experienced considerable change in women status in Haryana (Jyoti, 2022) [6].

The reality of women's status on the basis of socio-economic conditions has put them in the most disadvantaged and deprived communities of the world. Some issues like women's participation in workforce, their percentage in education and purdha (veil) system have through light in the contribution to the social degradation of women in Haryana. In the state the status of females is low with high discrimination. The reflection of patriarchy (son preference) or male dominancy and its effects on society can be seen through some effective indicators like overall sex ratio, child sex ratio, literacy rate among females and crime against women. In the present paper, inequality in status of women in Haryana has been studied on the basis of these six major indicators.

Objective of the study

The main objective of the present study is to analyze the inter-district disparities in women's position in Haryana by taking a number of social, economic and demographic parameters. Temporal situation of women's in the state is also analysed for the period of 2001 or 2011. Attempts were also made to find out the spatial regions where women's position has improved or has deteriorated.

Data base and methodology

To examine women's position in society a cumulative study of past and present is required. To study the women's status in Haryana the secondary source of data is used. The data is mainly collected from census of India 2001, 2011, DLHS-2 and 3 Survey, NFHS-4, NCRB and Haryana Statistical Abstract (various years).

Data analysis and interpretation

In the present paper an attempt has been made to discuss the inter-district disparities in women’s position in Haryana. In the present paper we calculate composite index of women status with the help of Kendall’s ranking method, ordinal rank has been given to the districts. Various indicators like overall sex ratio, child sex ratio, married girls below 18 years; female literacy rate, women work participation and crime against women have been used to identify the stages of women’s position.

Spatio-temporal pattern in sex ratio and child sex ratio:

Sex ratio and child sex ratio are generally used tools for cross sectional analysis to measure gender balance, which shows women’s position in a society. It was scientifically accepted fact, that naturally there have been about 105 boys born for every 100 girls. It means that naturally more male babies are born as compared to female babies. But because female babies are biologically stronger than male babies, so by the age of one year they are almost equal to male number by infancy. Now, if we found drastically low sex ratio in a

population it reveals and indicates towards their sex selective biasness. Researchers have linked this situation with son preference, biasness against girls in healthcare, nutrition, food allocation and so on to explain the declining sex ratio.

The overall sex ratio of Haryana during 2001 to 2011 shows an increase of 16 points. It may however not be considered that status of women has increased substantially. Rather, this increase is largely due to increase in female life expectancy during this time period which has led to more female population in older ages and thereby increase in sex ratio. This is also in case of child sex ratio where we found improvement of 11 points during 2001 to 2011. It is a positive improvement, but still nowhere closing the gap. In 2001, 13 districts were having child sex ratio less than state average. While in 2011, the number of districts was 11 which had child sex ratio lower than state average. The spatial pattern presented with the data is that in southern districts of Haryana or in the districts adjoining National Capital Region have joined the categories of lower child sex ratio.

Table 1: Composite Index of Indicators Showing Status of Women (Using Kendall’s Ranking Method, 2001 and 2011)

S.No.	Overall Sex Ratio		Child Sex Ratio		Female Literacy Rate		Married Girls in Below 18 Years		Women Work Participation Rate		Crime Against Women		CI	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	DLHS-2	DLHS-3	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Districts	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	DLHS-2	DLHS-3	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Ambala	8	9	20	17	2	3	19	20	21	20	15	19	85	88
Bhiwani	6	8	4	10	14	14	2	5	4	1	1	1	31	39
Faridabad	4	13.5	1	7	4	4	5	4	16	19	18.5	18	48.5	65.5
Fatehabad	19.5	2	7	5	19	19	12	12	6	6	13.5	2	77	46
Gurgaon	7	20.5	14	11	1	1	1	8	11	12	20.5	6	54.5	58.5
Hissar	15	13.5	5	6	15	15	4	6	7	2.5	5.5	16.5	51.5	59.5
Jhajjar	16	18.5	16	20	10	7	13	10	3	10	17	16.5	75	82
Jind	14	15.5	8	8	17	16	9	3	5	2.5	5.5	3	58.5	48
Kaithal	13	10	18	12	18	18	6	14	12.5	11	11	4.5	78.5	69.5
Karnal	10	7	12.5	14	11	11	15	13	17	16	10	11.5	75.5	72.5
Kurukshetra	9	6	21	16	9	10	18	18	15	13.5	13.5	7	85.5	70.5
Mahendergarh	1	5	10.5	21	13	13	3	2	1	4	2.5	8.5	31	53.5
Mewat	3	1	3	1	21	21	DNA	1	19	18	20.5	4.5	DNA	DNA
Palwal	12	11	2	2	20	20	DNA	DNA	14	17	18.5	10	DNA	DNA
Panchkula	21	15.5	6	3	3	2	17	19	18	9	16	13.5	81	62
Panipat	19.5	18.5	12.5	9	12	12	7	9	12.5	13.5	12	20	75.5	82
Rewari	2	3	10.5	19	7	9	14	11	2	5	2.5	11.5	38	58.5
Rohtak	17	17	17	15	6	6	8	7	10	15	8.5	21	66.5	81
Sirsa	5	4	9	4	16	17	11	15	8	7	7	13.5	56	60.5
Sonapat	18	20.5	19	18	8	8	10	16	9	8	4	8.5	68	79
Yamunanagar	11	12	15	13	5	5	16	17	20	21	8.5	15	75.5	83

DNA: Data Not Available

Sources: Census of India 2001 and 2011, District Level Household Survey-2 and 3, National Crime Records Bureau 2001 and 2011.

Spatio-temporal pattern in married girls below 18 years

Early marriage often accompanies early pregnancy with young unprepared mothers being saddled with responsibilities beyond their capacities. Pregnancies at young ages are more likely to result in underweight babies, stillbirths, especially where mothers suffer from poor health and deficiency (Rustogi, 2004) [11].

The DLHS-2 and DLHS-3 data shows that despite the largely stipulated minimum age of 18 years about one fifth of girls still get married before attaining this age in all the districts of Haryana. The percentage of married girls below legal age at marriage in Haryana was found during DLHS-2 and DLHS-3. The percentage of girls married below 18 years was 27.8 in DLHS-2 and in DLHS-3 it was calculated a marginal increase with 28 percent. But the matter of

concern was the spatial variations when we found that there were nine districts where more than 28 percent females get married below 18 years of age by 2007-08.

Spatio-temporal pattern in female literacy rate and women work participation rate

For the overall development of region women education is considered very important indicator. According to Ruby, 1990 and Suguna, 2011 women education not only improve quality of life not only inside home but outside, also as it influences infant mortality, in reducing growth rate of population, in improving girls age at marriage, in their own health and sanitation etc. Census defines literacy as the ability to read and write and it is also the first step towards formal education. The fact which is positive in a sense is

that the female literacy rate among women shows an increase of nine points, although when we compare it with the economic development, it not seems good. And one more point is in the spatial variation in female literacy when we look at district wise data of Haryana and northern and eastern districts have show high female literacy rate and the trends almost same with adjoining NCR area.

However we talk about the economic development of Haryana state or also seem an increment in women literacy rate but when we talk about the women work participation rate the data reveals a harsh reality. The data shows that the women work participation rate was about 28 percent in 2001 and by 2011 it has declined to 17percent (a decrease of 11 points) meaning thereby that work opportunities have shrunk more for women, leaving them more vulnerable to sustain their livelihood. The low participation of women in workforce indicates towards women excision in the economic development and also points towards their limited status.

Spatio-temporal pattern in crime against women

The prohibited social incident or a type of blunder either carried out by an individual or a group of people is termed as crime. In a society crime is a socio-cultural variable to measure the status of women. It reflects the feeling and reality of safety of women in a society. As we found that there in the state exists patriarchal social system women are viewed as the property of men. Crime against women as obtained from NCRB has been presented in table no.1. In 2001 crime against women was higher in northern and southern districts of the state and central and western districts are relatively in better situation in this context. However in 2011 the picture is changed completely, where all districts except Bhiwani showing a low rate of crime against women.

To give equal weightage to all the variables Kendall's rank method was used by which one can also identify area or region where women show most vulnerable position and where they are relatively better placed. Analysis has been made by assigning rank to each district. One major limitation of this method is that it ignores the difference between two districts and places the other just next to it. While standing with these limitations an attempt has been made to find out the status of women in 2001 and 2011. In 2001, Kurukshetra, Ambala and Panchkula districts shows most vulnerable districts having poor status of women. In 2011, Ambala, Panipat, Jhajjar and Rohtak districts showed vulnerable position of women's. On the other hand the better performing districts were Bhiwani, Fatehabad, and Jind. While studying the facts it seems that the status of women in the state is an issue of concern in the state.

Conclusion

The analysis on the above indicators of the present study clearly reveals that there exists spatial variation in the status of women in Haryana. As we talk about the first indicator which is sex ratio and child sex ratio we find that the data shows unfavorable situation towards females. In case of child sex ratio district Mahendergarh shows lowest position not only in the state but also among the 640 districts. Although the sex ratio shows some increment over a period of ten years, yet one cannot say that their status has increased. This increase is largely associated with the increase of life expectancy of women and in child sex ratio

improvement is largely due to reduction in excess female mortality after infancy. Similarly, there is little improvement or you can say no improvement in percent girls married below 18 years of age. In case of crime against women it shows that it was shockingly increasing during 2001-2011. The overall status of women as obtained by ranking all the six indicators reveals that the position of women in the state is needed to focus.

References

1. Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, Directorate of Census Operations Haryana, Chandigarh, 2001.
2. Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, Directorate of Census Operations Haryana, Chandigarh, 2011.
3. Das Ira, 'Status of Women: North Eastern Region of India Versus India', International Journal of Scientific and research Publication, 2013:3(1):1-8.
4. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), District Level Household and Facility Survey (DHLS-2), 2002-04: India, Haryana: Mumbai: IIPS. 2004.
5. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), District Level Household and Facility Survey (DHLS-3), 2007-08: India, Haryana: Mumbai: IIPS. 2010.
6. Jyoti, Status of Women in Haryana: A District Level Analysis, International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research and innovations,2022:10:(2):103-107.
7. National Crime Report Bureau (NCRB), Crime in India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 2001.
8. National Crime Report Bureau (NCRB), Crime in India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. 2011.
9. Nisha Lekhraj, Kumar R. 'Disparities in Social Status of Women in Haryana: Issue and Challenges', International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences, 2015:4:(7):198-211.
10. Rosita S. 'Decision Making Empowerment of Women Though SHGs', International Journal of Research and Development-A Management Review,2014:2(4):15-19.
11. Rustogi P. 'Significance of Gender-related Development Indicators: An Analysis of Indian States' Indian Journal of Gender Studies, 2004:11(3):291-343.
12. Rajeshwari, Singh B. Status of Women in Haryana: A Spatio-Temporal Study. Eastern Geographer,2015:21(1):503-512.