



## Women Work Participation Rate In North East India: Levels And Patterns

### KEYWORDS

Census, Work participation rate, North East, Socio-economic

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**ABSTRACT** *In recent years, women are playing an important role in economic development. But the work participation rate of women in India is still lagging behind their male counter part. The present study tries to examine the level and pattern of work participation rate amongst different states of North Eastern India. The study is based on Census data. The finding reveals that the work participation rate varies significantly with respect to the eight states of North Eastern India with Nagaland (44.7%) the highest and Assam (22.5%) the lowest value in 2011.*

### INTRODUCTION:

The economic analysis of female work participation was first introduced by Mincer (1962) and Cain (1966). Since then a number of researchers have been working in this fascinating area of human research. The study of female work participation rate play a very significant role in determining socio-economic development and growth of a country. It also has a strong bearing effect on poverty reduction. Female work participation rate shows the supply of labour in the economy and the composition of the human resources of the country. The analysis of the female work participation rate is helpful in determining employment policy and policy formulation for human resource development. In this regards, Reena and Aviral (2012) reveal that women workforce and labour force participation has declined in recent years and the gap between female and male work participation ratio has increased in India. It has also been observed that because of highly educated society and sincere freedom of women in decision making, the women work participation in regular jobs is high in developed southern states of India as comparison to the northern states of India. Naqvi and Shahnaz (2002) have analyzed the effects of various demographic, socio-economic, and human capital related factors on women participation in economic activities. The findings indicate that marital status, primary education, number of children and female head of households are inversely related with women's participation in economic activities. Dev (2004) examines that large size of family is expected to reduce work participation rate for females and in rural areas, schooling shows a negative relationship with work participation rate for females while land size has a positive relationship with work participation rate. This study is an effort to analyse the levels and patterns of women work participation rate in eight states of North East India (including Sikkim) viz., Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam.

### Materials and Methods:

The present study is based on the secondary data provided by the Census of India for the last four decades say 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. For the present analysis, women's work participation rate (WWPR) is computed as the percentage of total female workers to total female population. The variability in the women's work participation rate according to various states of North East India as well as four decadal years has been calculated by using

F-test. The statistical inference is drawn through SPSS vs 19.

### RESULTS:

The women, work participation rate according to eight state of North East India during the four decadal years is depicted in table-1. The fluctuation in women's work participation rate (WWPR) is observed in one decadal year to another. It has been observed that the lowest WWPR (19.8%) is found in India during 1981 and the highest say 25.6 % during 2001 whereas for the North Eastern States as a whole the highest WWPR (31.9%) is observed during 1981 and the lowest rate (24.3) during 1991. According to 2011 Census, Nagaland has the highest WWPR of 44.7% followed by Sikkim (39.6%), Manipur (38.6%), Mizoram (36.2%), Arunachal Pradesh (35.4%), Meghalaya (32.7), Tripura (23.6) and Assam (22.5%). In 2001 and 1991, Mizoram ranks first in WWPR with 47.5% and 43.5% respectively and the lowest has been recorded in Assam (20.7%) and Tripura (13.8%) during the same periods. In contrast, in 1981, Arunachal Pradesh has the maximum value of WWPR say 37.7% and the minimum value is found in Tripura (12.8%). As 1981 Census was not held in Assam, data is not available. Among the States of North Eastern India, the WWPR for Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur decreases with the passage of time i.e. one moving from 1981 to 2011. In contrast, the WWPR increases in Tripura during the same period. In Mizoram, the WWPR increases from 37.7% in 1981 to 47.5% in 2001 and again decreases to 36.2% in 2011. In Sikkim and Nagaland, the WWPR is the highest in 2011 as evidenced by 39.6% and 44.7 % respectively and the lowest figures of 30.4% and 38.0% in 1991. Meghalaya has the highest WWPR (37.5%) in 1981 and the lowest (32.7%) in 2011. The WWPR in Assam during 1991-2011 are 21.6%, 20.7% and 22.5% respectively. By utilizing F-test, the variation in the WWPR according to four decadal years is found to be insignificant as advocated by F-value (0.22,  $P > 0.05$ ). It means that the WWPR of North Eastern India is uniformly distributed for the last four decadal years which may also be detected in Figure -1. On contrary, the WWPR varies significantly with respect to the eight states of North Eastern India which is witnessed by the F-Statistics (20.87,  $P < 0.01$ ).

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

The women's work participation rate is very poor in India. The gap between male and female work participation rate

is still high. The same view was observed by Reena and Aviral (2012) while studying the data on National Sample Survey. The study present also suggests that there exists a significant variation in WWPR across the states of North Eastern India. In all the four decadal Census viz. 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011, the WWPR of Assam and Tripura are found to be below the National level whereas all the other six states are much above the all India level. Mizoram (47.5) and Nagaland (44.7%) have the highest WWPR 2001 and 2011 respectively while Assam has the lowest of 20.7 % and 22.5% in 2001 and 2011. As female work participation rate play a very significant role in determining socio-economic development and growth of a country, the Government should take necessary step to improve the position of women in North Eastern India.

**Table 1: Women work participation rate of North Eastern States of India**

India/ NE/ India	Years			
	1981	1991	2001	2011
India	19.8	22.3	25.6	25.5
NE	31.9	24.3	24.8	26.1
Sikkim	37.6	30.4	38.6	39.6
Arunachal Pradesh	45.7	37.5	36.5	35.4
Nagaland	43.2	38.0	38.1	44.7
Manipur	39.5	39.0	39.0	38.6
Mizoram	37.7	43.5	47.5	36.2
Tripura	12.8	13.8	21.1	23.6
Meghalaya	37.5	34.9	35.1	32.7
Assam	NA	21.6	20.7	22.5

F(WWPR, statewise-wise)=20.87, P<0.01; F(WWPR, year-wise)=0.22, P>0.05

Source: Census of India 2011, Series 1 , Primary Census Abstract, Data Highlights, India.  
 Census of India 1991, Series 1, Final Population Totals, Brief analysis of Primary Census Abstract, Paper-2 of 1992. Census of India 1981, Series 1, Comparative Primary Census Abstract, 1971 & 1981, Paper-2 of 1986.

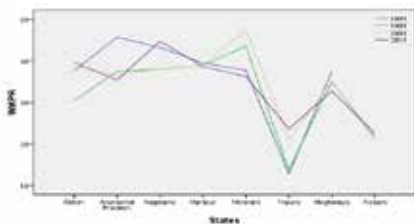


Figure 1: WWPR of states of North Eastern India during 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011

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