



EMERGING FEATURES OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN KARNATAKA – A REGION-WISE COMPARISON

Economics

Swetha S

Research Scholar, Department Of Economics & Co-operation Manasagangothri University Of Mysore, Mysuru.

Dr. D S Leelavathi*

Professor, Department Of Economics & Co-operation Manasagangothri University Of Mysore, Mysuru. *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Now a days, industrialization and urbanization are increasing rapidly and at the same time there is an increase in poverty and unemployment. Because of these reasons, women's life style in many developing countries is undergoing a significant change. Women from the female headship are now assuming the role of the main carers, educators, and even household income earners. There is a change in the structure, feature and trends in female headed households and very importantly there is a significant difference in the emerging features of female headed households between rural and urban regions. Hence, the present paper made an attempt to analyse the emerging features of female headed households and it also evaluate the various problems of female headed households in Karnataka. Here the paper has used secondary data of 2011 Census for the analysis. Finally, the paper concludes that, there is a difference between rural and urban regions in emerging features of female headed households like, assets and basic facilities of female headed households. And presently, many problems have been associated with women with female headship like, poverty, incomelessness, insecurity, unemployment and problems for future generation. The government should implement proper policy and programmes in order to improve the status of female headed households which leads to improve the gender sensitization and development.

KEYWORDS

Region-wise, Rural, Urban, Female Headed Households And Women

INTRODUCTION

The concept of targeting female-headed households in pursuit of reducing poverty and social disadvantage is controversial and lacks rigorous evidence. Women are usually the primary earners in female headed households and they face gender discrimination with respect to education, earnings, rights, and economic opportunities. There are issues relating to identifying the actual head of the household and that female headship is not always correlated to poverty. Now a days, industrialization and urbanization are increasing rapidly and at the same time there is an increase in poverty and unemployment. Because of these reasons, women's life style in many developing countries is undergoing a significant change. All over the world, in terms of family life, women are slowly and steadily shifting away from joint families to a longer duration of singleness. As a part of change in life style different from the traditional role, women are now assuming the role of the main carers, educators, and even household income earners. One of the major changes today is the structure of the household. In many developing countries like India, households can be classified into two categories by gender of the household head. One is male headed households another one is female headed household.

According to the recent Census of India data, 2011, there are about 27 million female headed households in India which represent nearly 10.9% of all household. The percentage of FHH in NSSO 68th round Employment & unemployment Survey is almost 11% of all households. In Karnataka also, the structural changes have taken place in households due to various development processes in both rural as well as urban areas. The emergence of female headed households is a recent phenomenon and for the first time in 2011 census they are enumerated. In Karnataka the total number of FHHs is 19,65,022 where as in Rural area 12,62,994 and in Urban there are 7,02,028. Top Five Districts of FHHs in Karnataka are Bangalore (12.04%), Belgavi(6.39%), Mysuru (5.56%), Tumkur(4.99%), Dakshina Kannada(4.91%). Likewise bottom five districts of FHHs in Karnataka are Kodagu(1.16%), Bangalore rural(1.55%), Yadgir(1.77%), Bidar(1.80%) and Chikkaballapura(1.85%). Hence, in this paper, a modest attempt has been made to analyse the emerging issues of female headed households like assets and basic facilities have been analyzed comparatively between rural and urban areas of Karnataka. Because, it has proved from the past studies that, there is a difference between rural and urban female headed households in socio-economic status.

With this background, the present study tries to analyze the status of female headed households in Karnataka and it has also made an attempt to examine the various facilities like; drinking water facilities, assets, access to banking services, cooking fuels and other household

amenities of female headed households in Karnataka and also tries to find out the unique problems of female headed households in the State.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives of the present study are;

- To examine the features of female headed households in Karnataka comparatively between rural and urban areas.
- To analyse the various problems of female headed households in Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY

The present paper has been prepared on the basis of secondary data collected from Census of India 2011. The study has used simple percentages and tables to present the work scientifically and systematically. Here the paper has been made region-wise comparison of emerging features of the female headed households in Karnataka.

EMERGING FEATURES OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN KARNATAKA

A woman's choice of heading her own household is affected by her own characteristics and features (such as age, marital status, income, and occupation), the characteristics and socio-economic circumstances of her natal home and a variety of other factors affecting household formation and dissolution. The following analysis provides detailed information about various features of FHHs like, specified assets, availability of bathing & toilet facility, availing of banking service, ownership status of houses, type of fuel used for cooking of female- headed households, type of house structure and sources of drinking water facility in female-headed households in rural and urban Karnataka.

Table 1: Region-wise female Headed Households in Karnataka (%)

Regions	Frequency	Percent
No. of FHHs (Total)	1965022	7.3
No. of FHHs in Rural	1262994	64
No. of FHHs in Urban	702028	36

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 1 represents the percentage share of region-wise number of female headed households according to 2011 Census in India. In Karnataka, the total percentage of FHHs is 7.3% whereas, in rural area, around 64% of the households are female headed households. The percentage share of FHHs in urban area is 36%. It is very clear in the above table that, majority of the female headed households has located in rural areas compared to urban areas.

Table 2: Region-wise Female Headed households having each of the specified Assets (%)

Assets	Karnataka	Rural(%)	Urban(%)
Radio/Transistor	17.62	54	46
Television	49.30	48	52
Computer/Laptop	9.29	36	64
MobilePhone/Telephone	59.24	55	45
Bicycle	22	66	34
Scooter/Motor cycle	14	42	58
Car/Jeep/van	3.16	31	69

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 2 clearly illustrates the percentage of FHHs having specified assets in both rural and urban areas of Karnataka in the year 2011. As per the given table out of total female headed households, 54% of the FHHs are having radio facility, 48% of the FHHs are having Television, 36% of the FHHs are having computer/laptop. Whereas, 55% of the FHHs are having mobile phone, 66% of the FHHs are having Bicycle, 42% of the FHHs are having Scooter/Motor cycle and 31% of the FHHs are having Car/Jeep/Van in rural areas of Karnataka. Similarly in urban areas, 46% of the FHHs are having radio facility, 52% of the FHHs are having Television, 64% of the FHHs are having computer/laptop. Whereas, 45% of the FHHs are having mobile phone, 34% of the FHHs are having Bicycle, 58% of the FHHs are having Scooter/Motor cycle and 69% of the FHHs are having Car/Jeep/Van in urban areas of Karnataka.

It can be observed that the percentage of FHHs having radio is high in rural area when compared to urban area because, in rural area radio has been playing a very important role in communicating the information needed for individual's everyday lives. Further, the percentage of FHHs having mobile phones is very high in rural area when compared to urban area. The mobile phone used by rural women has the benefit of addressing locally relevant information and issues. Due to the SHG bank linkage programme the mobile is directly linked with the beneficiary bank account. The accessibility of specified assets is very high in urban FHHs compared to rural FHHs.

Table No: 3. Female Headed Households by Availability of Bathing & Toilet Facilities (%)

Bathing & Toilet Facility	Karnataka	Rural	Urban
Bathroom	71	44	56
Toilet facility within the premise	45.4	39	61
Not having Toilet facility within the premise	54.5	85	15

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 3 represents the region-wise number of FHHs by availability of bathing and toilet facility in Karnataka in the year 2011. According to the above table 71% of the FHHs in Karnataka are having bathing facility. Whereas 45.4% of the FHHs are having toilet facilities within the premise in Karnataka, in rural area 39% of the household are having such facility and in urban area this percentage was 61. Similarly, 54.5% of the FHHs don't have toilet facilities within the premise in Karnataka, in rural area 85% of the household don't have such facility and in urban area this percentage was 15.

It has been noticed from the above table that the percentage of FHHs having bathing and toilet facility are very low in rural area compared urban area. Because, especially in rural area most of the FHHs have been facing income problem and another reason is that, majority of the FHHs are unaware of about such facility due to illiterate.

Table No: 4 Female Headed Households Availing of Banking Service(%)

	Karnataka	Rural	Urban
Banking Service	52	62	38

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 4 represents the region-wise number of FHHs by availability of banking service in Karnataka during the year 2011. According to the above table 52% of the FHHs are having banking services in

Karnataka. Whereas in rural area 62% of the FHHs are having banking service and urban area this percentage was 38%. The percentage of availing banking service is very high in urban areas compared to rural areas because of SHG bank linkage programmes.

Table No: 5 Region-wise Ownership Status of Female Headed households (%)

Ownership Status	Karnataka	Rural	Urban
Own	79.8	73	27
Rented	17.1	25	75
Any other	2.9	63	37

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 5 clearly exhibits the region-wise house ownership status of FHHs in Karnataka during the year 2011. As per the given table, out of the total FHHs 79.8% of the FHHs are having own houses in the State, whereas in rural areas 73% of the household have own houses and in urban area this percentage was 27. Likewise 17.1% of the FHHs have been living in rented houses in Karnataka, in rural and urban area this percentage was 25 and 75 respectively. Further, 2.9% of the FHHs have been living in other type of houses in the State, in rural and urban areas this percentage was 63 and 37 respectively.

It can be observed from the above table that, the percentage of FHHs having owned houses is very high in rural area compared to urban area. Because, usually rural people are living in their own houses since their birth. But in urban area, majority of the people migrated from rural areas. Hence most of these people have been living in rented houses.

Table 6: Region-wise Type of Fuel Used for Cooking in Female Headed households (%)

Types of Fuel used for Cooking	Karnataka	Rural	Urban
Fire-wood	65.8	83	17
Crop residue	3.01	86	14
Kerosene	5.63	11	89
LPG/PNG	24.19	23	77
Electricity	0.10	38	62
Biogas	0.59	60	40
Any other	0.08	43	57

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 6 shows the region-wise types of fuel used for cooking in FHHs. As per the given table 65.8% of the FHHs have been using fire-wood in Karnataka, whereas in rural area 83% of the FHHs and in urban area 17% of the FHHs are using fire-wood as cooking fuel. Likewise 3.01% of the FHHs have been using crop residue as cooking fuel in the State, in rural and urban area this percentage was 86 and 14 respectively. Whereas, 5.63% of the FHHs have been using kerosene as cooking fuel in the State, in rural area 11% of the FHHs are kerosene users and in urban area this percentage was 89. Likewise, percentage of FHHs using kerosene as cooking fuel is very high in urban area because most of the urban poor have been using kerosene as cooking fuel which is available in PDS(Public Distribution Shop) system for fair price.

Likewise 24.19% of the FHHs have been using LPG/PNG as cooking fuel in Karnataka, in rural and urban area this percentage was 23 and 77 respectively. The percentage FHHs using LPG/ PNG is very high in urban area because the central government established new scheme "Ujjwala" this scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL household. The scheme will free, the women in urban areas from the curse of smoke while cooking. It will also reduce the time spent on cooking, urban people have easily access to this program because they are educated but in rural area, they have less accessed to such program due to illiteracy and lack of awareness.

Similarly, only 0.10% of the FHHs have been using electricity as cooking fuel, in rural area 38% of the FHHs and in urban area 62% of the FHHs have been using electricity as cooking fuel. Likewise 0.59% of the FHHs have been using biogas as cooking fuel, in rural area 60% of the FHHs and 40% of the FHHs have been biogas as cooking fuel in urban area. Whereas 0.08% of the FHHs have been using other type of cooking fuel and in rural and urban area this percentage was 43 and 57.

Table 7: Region-wise Female Headed Households by Type of House Structure (%)

Type of Structure	Karnataka	Rural	Urban
Permanent	60.7	60	40
Semi – Permanent	31.7	86	14

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 7 illustrates the region-wise female headed household by type of structure of houses in Karnataka during the year 2011. According to the table, 60.7% of the FHHs are permanent houses in the State and 60% of the FHHs are having permanent houses in rural areas, and 40% of the FHHs are having permanent houses in urban area. Similarly, 31.7% of the FHHs are having semi- permanent houses in the State, 86% of the FHHs are having semi- permanent houses in rural area and in urban area this percentage was 14. As per the above analysis, the rural female headed households are having highest permanent and semi-permanent houses because the people from rural region have been living in their own houses since their birth but in urban areas, most of the people are migrants.

Table 8: Region-wise Sources of Drinking Water Facility in Female –Headed households (%)

Source of Drinking Water	Karnataka	Rural	Urban
Tap Water from treated source	38.8	38	62
Tap Water from untreated source	26.4	83	17
Covered Well	1.1	65	35
Un- Covered Well	10.2	79	21
Hand Pump	5.8	90	10
Tube Well/ Borehole	14.1	79	21

Source: Census of India 2011

The table 8 represents the region-wise FHHs by drinking water facilities in Karnataka during 2011. As per the given table, 38.8% of the FHHs have been using tap water from treated source in Karnataka, out of that 38% of the FHHs in rural area have been using the same and in urban area this percentage was 62. Whereas, 26.4% of the FHHs have been using tap water from untreated sources in the State, in rural and urban area this percentage was 83 and 17.

Similarly only 1.1% of the FHHs have been using covered well for drinking water in Karnataka, in rural area 65% of the FHHs and in urban area 35% of the FHHs have been using covered well for drinking water. Whereas 10.2% of the FHHs have been using drinking water from un- covered well in the State and in rural and urban area this percentage was 79 and 21 respectively. Likewise 5.8% of the FHHs have been using hand pump for drinking water in Karnataka and in rural areas majority of 90% of the FHHs have been using hand pump and in urban area only 10% of the FHHs have been using hand pump for drinking water. Whereas 14.1% of the FHHs have been using tube well/ borehole for drinking water in Karnataka in rural and urban areas this percentage was 79% and 21% respectively.

It can be identified that, majority of the FHHs have been using tap water from treated source in urban area because the ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) provide such facilities properly. Hence, the percentage of FHHs which has been using covered and uncovered well, Hand pump & borehole is very less in urban area. But in rural area, percentage of FHHs which has been using tap water from treated source is very less. Hence, they have depend upon other sources like well, Hand pump and borehole.

THE PROBLEMS OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN KARNATAKA

The emerging female headed households have been facing many problems and challenges. These female headed families have directly linked with the feminisation of the poverty and also deprived from incomelessness. The problems associated with the female headship families become the significant challenge for gender sensitization in many ways. Most of the female headed households have been struggling with the poverty and economic insecurity. Because they don't have proper source of income for their livelihood. Hence, poverty is one of the major problems of female headed families in the State.

Because of this poverty and incomelessness many of such families don't have assets and there is a huge difference in asset holding compared to male headed households. Further, Individual women have no place in the political institutions of the village, and this is most clearly made women as politically powerlessness. A particularly pressing problem for female household heads is their vulnerability to poverty and this vulnerability was a major factor in causing the disintegration of the family. Many women either lost their children, or left them alone on their own accord or sent them to their fathers. Along with the above problems, lack of future plans, socio-economic and cultural constraints, lack of protection, advice and problems of next generation are other important problems associated with the emerging female headed households in Karnataka.

CONCLUSION

Female headed households are one of the unique structures of the households' composition of the society. Women are usually the primary earners in female headed households and they face gender discrimination with respect to education, earnings, rights, and economic opportunities. There are issues relating to identifying the actual head of the household and that female headship is not always correlated to poverty. In recent years, there is a significant transition in female headed households with respect to the features. But there is also significant difference in the emerging features of female headed households in both rural and urban areas. Hence, the present paper makes an attempt to analyse the emerging features comparatively and also identified several problems of the women headship families. It is found from the analysis that, there is difference in asset holding, accessibility of basic facilities and basic necessities among rural and urban female headed households and the urban families are in a better position compared to rural families in almost all the features. Further, poverty, unemployment, insecurity, political powerlessness and problems of the future generation are the important problems associated with female headed families. And these problems can be addressed with the government intervention in form of policy and programmes which should reflect the gender development and gender sensitization.

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