



## Many Faces of Gender Inequality in Karnataka

**Dr. Nagaraj M. Muggur**

Assistant Professor, Center for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSEIP), Mangalore University, Karnataka -INDIA

**ABSTRACT**

Today gender inequalities in social and economic domains are still remained deep and persistent across India. Inequality or disparities between men and women in population growth, literacy level, sex ratio, workforce and political participation and economic status is very much evident when these two genders are compared. In this paper, an attempt is made to analyze the prevalence of gender disparities in Karnataka using various indicators based on the secondary data. It was observed that the gender based disparities have remained the most prevalent across districts and the State with respect to sex ratio, literacy level, enrollment in higher education, workforce, wage rate, political participation etc.,

**KEYWORDS**

Women, Gender, Disparity-Inequality.

**I. Introduction:**

Gender inequality continues to be a persistent phenomenon in India and today women are lagging behind men in work participation, asset possessions, social status, employment opportunities and resource accessibility. In India, only 54 per cent of women are literate as compared to 76 per cent men. As per NSSO (2005-06) data, the workforce participation rate of women in rural areas was 31 per cent while that for men was 54.9. In urban sector, it is 14.3 for women and 54 per cent for men. Women are also getting lower wages than men for doing the same work in agricultural activities. Average wage received per day by women was Rs. 54 and Rs. 71 for men in agricultural activities (Gol, 2010). Women are denied rights in ownership and control of land and a few have direct access to land in their own right. In India, landownership by women is not more than 2 per cent (Agarwal, 1994). On the other hand, women are also victims of the crime in the form of torture, molestation, rape etc. As per the data of National Crime Records Bureau (2008), among the crimes committed against women, torture by husband and relatives shares the highest percentage (41.5 per cent), followed by molestation (20.6 per cent), 11.7 per cent of kidnapping and abduction, 11 per cent cases are that of rape, 6.2 per cent cases are of sexual harassment, 4.2 per cent of dowry deaths and around 5 per cent cases are abduction, immoral trafficking etc.. Gender disparities in the form of adverse sex ratio, wage differentials and various health and education dimensions are still prevalent across the country. Therefore, promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment assumes greater significance in the contemporary society.

**II. Objective and data base**

In this paper the specific objective is to analyze the trends in gender inequality (disparity) in Karnataka over a period of time and to describe the programmes/schemes for women empowerment. And in this research paper is purely based on the secondary data sources of information.

**III. Gender Disparity in Many Faces:**

Amratya Sen in his work on 'theory of the household' explains the seven types of inequalities faced by women. Disparity between men and women is not everywhere the same.

**Table 1: Gender Inequality at a Glance in Karnataka**

Indicators	Karnataka		
	Male	Female	Gap b between Male & Female
Population 2011 Census ( in 000s)	31058	30073	985
Sex Ratio (Census 2011)	1000	968	32

Literacy Rate (%) (2011 census)	82.85	68.13	14.72
Rural Literacy rate (2011 census)	77.92	59.6	18.32
Urban literacy rate (2011 census)	90.54	81.71	8.83
Total labour participation rate (2010)	61.4	30.4	31
Total work Participation rate (2010)	60.7	30.1	30.6
Unemployment rate Rural (2010)	3.9	4.1	-0.2
Unemployment rate Urban (2010)	4.4	6	-1.6
Average wage regular workers (2010) in Rs.	361.56	231.25	130.31
Average wage casual Rural labourers (2010) in Rs.	96.91	62.77	34.14
Average wage casual Urban labourers (2010) in Rs.	123.03	67.88	55.15
Incidence of Anemia (%) (2008)	19	15	4
Elected Representatives (GP) (%) (2008)	55.7	44.3	11.4
Elected Representatives (ZP) (%) (2008)	61.9	38.1	23.8
MLA's (2008 elections) (nos) (2008)	221	3	218

**Sources: Census of India & Govt. of Karnataka various reports 2008 to2011.**

Sen's 'Many faces of Gender Disparity' as illustrated that mortality inequality, natality inequality, basic facility inequality, special opportunity inequality, professional inequality, ownership inequality and household inequality is facing women in many different gender disparity in the present situation (Sen, Amartya 2001a). According to the census report of India, there is constantly declining of sex ratio, lower literacy rate of females than males and lower participation of women than men in the work force. With respect to Karnataka shows the inequalities between male and female in many indices. Gender disparities in sex ratio, wage differentials, health, education and various dimensions are still prevalent in the State (see Table 1).

**Disparity in Population Growth:**

It is evident from Table-2 that the decade wise population growth of female percentages is slightly declined from 1901 to 2011 in Karnataka, but it is crossed 50 percent total population on 1971 as same in GDI over a period.

**Table 2: Changes in Composition of Population (%) in India and Karnataka**

Census Years	Karnataka		Gender Gap	India		Gender Gap
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
1901	50.42	49.58	0.84	50.71	49.29	1.42
1911	50.48	49.52	0.96	50.93	49.07	1.86
1921	50.78	49.22	1.56	51.24	48.92	2.32
1931	50.88	49.12	1.76	51.29	48.71	2.58
1941	51.02	48.98	2.04	51.4	48.57	2.83
1951	50.86	49.14	1.72	51.4	48.6	2.8
1961	51.05	48.95	2.1	51.53	48.47	3.06
1971	49.73	50.27	-0.54	51.81	48.18	3.63
1981	50.94	49.06	1.88	51.7	48.3	3.4
1991	51.03	48.97	2.06	51.9	48.1	3.8
2001	50.93	49.07	1.86	51.74	48.26	3.48
2011	50.81	49.19	1.62	51.54	48.46	3.08

Source: Census of India (2001-11), GOK (2007) & Radhakrishna. R. (2008)

**Table 3: Literacy rate and Sex Ratio in Karnataka and India 1951-2011**

Year	Karnataka					India				
	Persons	Male	Female	Gender Gap	Sex Ratio	Persons	Male	Female	Gender Gap	Sex Ratio
1951	19.3	29.1	9.2	19.9	966	18.3	24.9	7.9	17	946
1961	29.8	36.1	14.2	21.9	959	28.3	34.4	12.9	21.5	941
1971	31.5	48.6	27.8	20.8	957	34.5	39.5	18.7	20.8	930
1981	46.2	58.7	33.2	25.5	963	43.6	56.4	29.8	26.6	933
1991	56	67.3	44.3	23	960	52.2	64.1	39.3	24.8	927
2001	66.6	76.1	56.9	19.2	965	64.8	75.3	53.7	21.6	933
2011	75.6	82.9	68.1	14.8	968	74	82.1	65.5	16.6	940

Source: Census of India various reports 1951-2011

#### Disparity in work participation:

Moving to work participation according to Census of India (1991-2001) and HDR report (2005) has clear that female work participation rate increased from 29 to 31 percent in the decades of 1991 to 2001 respectively. In 2001 census, 56 percent of male and 31 percentages of female participated as workforce in Karnataka. The gender gap between male and female was around 25 percent. It is due to 70 percent of the population is living in rural India and more than 65 per cent of them mainly depend upon the agriculture. Over a period population dependence on agriculture has declined in the country, due to technology intervention in the agriculture. The modern agriculture farming starts to reduce the manual labour, particularly female workforce in farming activities.

#### IV. Government Programmes for Gender Equity

After the independence the Government of India has taken major steps to improvement of women empowerment. The launching of *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Indira Mahila Yojana, Mahila Samridhi Yojana*, reserving of one third of the number of seats in Panchayats and the local bodies are programmes launched with a view to improve women socially, economically and in political frontiers.

Formation of SHGs and distribution of micro finance under *Stree Shakti* (Women power) is launched by Government of Karnataka in 2000. The aim of the project is to empower women economically and socially by organizing them in self help groups. And introduced various schemes like Santhwana scheme has been assisting women who are victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse and dowry harassment cases to providing legal assistance, temporary shelter, and financial relief and training to enable them to be self-reliant and also to achieve social and economic empowerment. Working Women's Hostels Scheme, it has envisaged provision of safe and affordable accommodation to working women, women being trained for employment and girl students studying in professional courses. And the government has given Financial Assistance to Women Law Graduates for further encouragement

On the other hand, the percentage of gender wise population in India is almost restrained from beginning 1901 to 2011 and comedown significantly. It shows that comparing to national level gender disparity much better in Karnataka.

#### Disparity in Literacy Rate:

Literacy is one of the key socio-economic indicators which helps map the development path of a country. According to the census of India 1951 to 2011 literacy rate both male and female Karnataka as well as India present in Table -3. It is reveals that in 2011, 83 percent of the male and female 68 percent literacy rate recorded. It shown that there are marked gender disparities in literacy rates has been found from 1951 to 2011 both in Karnataka as well as India. Likewise in sex ratio, it has been also proved that women ratio is still less than men, but comparing to India level statistics slightly better in Karnataka.

of women higher education. For effective implementation of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Rules in 2006 came into force in the state June-2007. The Karnataka Marriage Act, 1976 was brought into force on 2004 and the state rules were notified on 18.4.2006 to avoid illegal marriages and provided financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- to widows remarriage and for marriage of Devadasis, Recently Bhagyalakshmi scheme has promoting the birth of girl children in BPL raise the status of the girl child in the family. This scheme has financial assistance providing to the girl child through her mother/father or natural guardian subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions. Overall schemes were making efforts towards eradicating of gender disparity in the state.

#### V. Conclusion:

Women are disadvantaged absolutely and relative to men in terms of access to education, resources and employment. Prevalence of disparities across gender is a reality in contemporary society despite many initiatives. The gender wise population growth, literacy level, sex ratio, working participation and political reservation and economic status is very low among women than men. To properly address these issues, effective inclusive policies are required to reduce gender disparity gap through active participation in economic, social and political spheres. To achieve gender equality in child sex ratio, it requires awareness and understanding among parents as female children are equal to male children. Concerted efforts are needed to emphasize the value of girls and women and to promote equality among sexes. There is a need to promote education, training and professional development for women.

#### References:

1. Agarwal, B (1994): *A Field of one's Own Gender and Land Rights in South Asia*, Cambridge University Press UK/New Delhi
2. GOI (2008): *Crime in India-2008*, National Crime Records Bureau -NCRB Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
3. GOI (2010): *Wage Rates in Rural India-2008-09*, Ministry of Labour and Employment,
4. GOK (2000) *'State Election Commission and RD'* <http://karsec.gov.in/#>
5. GOK (2003-04), *'A Hand Book of Schemes of the Department of Wom-*

- en and Child Development,*' Directorate of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka.
6. GOK (2005) Directorate of Census Operations, Karnataka, Table 3, *Sex ratio for state and districts, Karnataka Human development report 2005*, pp-181
  7. GOK (2007) '*Karnataka Development report*' Planning Commission Government of India New Delhi, Published by Academic foundation New Delhi -2007
  8. GOK (2008): *Karnataka-A Vision for Development*, Karnataka State Planning Board, Dec 2008, Bangalore.
  9. GOK (2009) '*Department of Women and Child Development*' www.dwcd.kar.nic.in/
  10. GOK (Various years) '*Economic Survey of Karnataka 1981-2002*', Planning and Statistic Department, Government of Karnataka
  11. NSSO (2005-06): *Household Consumer Expenditure, Employment and Unemployment, Unorganised Manufacturing Enterprises*, NSS 62nd Round (July 2005 - June 2006), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.
  12. Sen, Amartya (2001a): The many Faces of Gender Inequality, *The New Republic*, Sept 17, 2001, pp. 35-40.