

A STUDY ON GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIAN SOCIETY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HARYANA

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Abstract: Haryana is an economically progressing state having highest per capita income after Goa and Delhi. It has contributed heavily to the Green Revolution and has been among the biggest contributors of food wealth and agricultural production in India. But on the social front, it is still backwards and patriarchal with varying inequalities, particularly in a gender perspective. Objectives: This study makes an attempt to identify the gender differentials in different perspectives, factors as well as the recent situation in Indian society with Special Reference to Haryana. Data Source: Data was taken from the Indian census (2011), the sample registration system (SRS 2016) as well as different kinds of literature, national and international reports on gender inequality. Methods: Data was analysed by using Microsoft excel and the bi-variate analysis was applied. Findings: Regarding health, both India and Haryana are having high female infant mortality rate than male infant mortality rate. Maternal mortality ratio is also high in India as well as in Haryana than approximately all south Indian states and many other states. Comprising of total 21 districts of Haryana has worst sex ratio(child sex ratio also); all districts have sex ratio below than national average. Regarding population composition, in India has 48.5% females and 51.5% males whereas in Haryana 46.8% females and 53.2% males population. India has 82% male literacy and 65% female literacy whereas Haryana has 84% male literacy and 65% female literacy (literacy gap approximately 20 points). Female labour force participation rate is much lower than male in both India as well as Haryana. The similar scenario has occurred in the other groups of identical socioeconomic characteristics and the state having imbalances. Since the socioeconomic status of women is low hence, the gender inequality is higher and it well reflected by the patriarchal social structure of Haryana. Focus should be given on women education and all others socioeconomic as well as demographic aspect regarding positive improvement for eliminating gender inequality.

Keywords: Gender, Inequality, India.

Introduction: Gender Inequality, in simple words, may be defined as discrimination against women or men based on their sex. The society traditionally considers women as the weaker sex. She has been accorded a subordinate position to men. She is exploited, degraded, violated and discriminated both in our homes and in outside world. This peculiar type of discrimination against women is prevalent everywhere in the world and more so in Indian society.

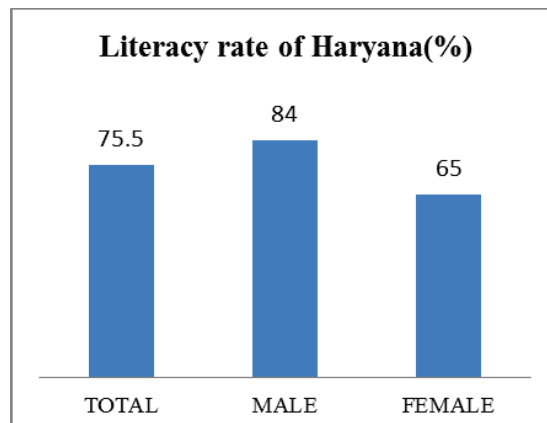
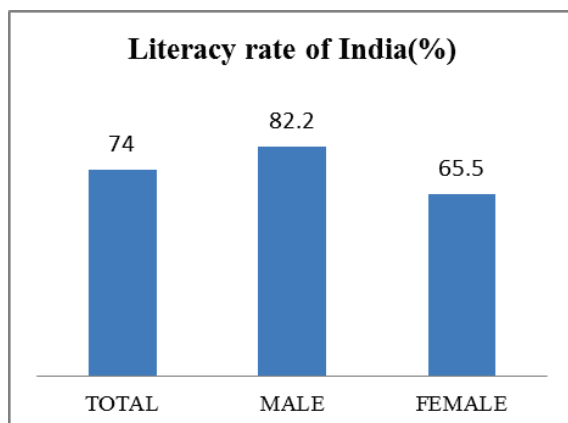
Objectives:

1. To know the recent situation of Haryana in comparison to India
2. To know what are the factors responsible for gender inequality in India
3. To know what is the implication of gender inequality in india.

Gender Inequality in Haryana in Comparison to India:

Education: "education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world" (Nelson Mandela). The literacy difference between male and female bring the evidence of gender inequality in India. In india as per 2011 census overall literacy rate is 74 percent, it is for male 82.2 percent and for female 65.5 percent but in Haryana overall literacy rate is 75.5 percent, it is for male 84.06 percent and for female

65.09 percent. As per 2011 census overall literacy rate in Haryana is little bit higher than national level and same statement is applied for male literacy rate for both Haryana as well as India. Though overall literacy rate in Haryana slightly higher than national level but female literacy rate approximately same for both Haryana as well as India.



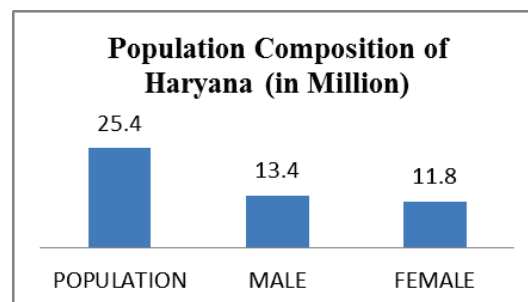
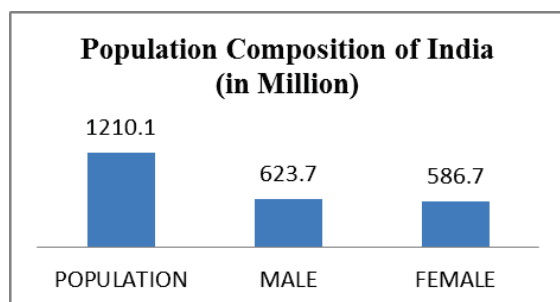
Source: Census of India, 2011

DISTRICT	SEX RATIO	LITERACY	DISTRICT	SEX RATIO	LITERACY
AMBALA	882	82.9	MAHENDRAGARH	894	78.9
BHIWANI	884	76.7	MEWAT	906	56.1
FARIDABAD	871	83	PALWAL	879	70.3
FATEHABAD	903	69.1	PANCHKULA	870	83.4
GURGAON	853	84.4	PANIPAT	861	77.5
HISAR	871	73.2	REWARI	898	82.2
JHAJJAR	861	80.8	ROHTAK	868	80.4
JIND	870	72.7	SIRSA	896	70.4
KAITHAL	880	70.6	SONIPAT	853	80.8
KARNAL	886	76.4	YAMUNANAGAR	877	78.9
KURUKSHETRA	889	76.7			

Source: Census of India, 2011

As per 2011 census data ,Haryana is that state where all the district are having less sex ratio than national average(940).The highest sex ratio in Haryana is in Mewat district that is 906,it is also much less (34) than national level, similarly, there is large scale gap among the district of Haryana regarding literacy rate .The gap between highest literacy percentage district and lowest literacy percentage district is approximately 28 points .The highest literacy percentage district is Gurgaon (84.4) and lowest literacy percentage district is Mewat(56.1).

Population Composition:



Source: Census of India, 2011

As per Census 2011, the population of India is 1210.19 million comprising 586.47 million (48.5%) females and 623.72 million (51.5%) males. In Haryana the population is 25.4 million comprising 11.8 million (46.8%) females and 13.4 million (53.2) males.

Sex Composition: Sex ratio is an important social indicator by which we can understand how much equity exist between males and females in a society as well as it is a representative indicator of demographic development in any society at a given point of time. It is an indicator of development because almost all developed countries have approximately equal sex ratio. Changes in sex ratio largely reflect the underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of a society in different ways. As per 2011 census of India, the sex ratio of whole India is 940 females per 1000 males. Similarly in Haryana it is 879 females per 1000 males (lowest sex ratio among all state). In the age-group 0-6 years, the share of female child population is 47.8% of the total child population but in Haryana it is 45.4%.

Sex ratio of India and Haryana



Sources: Census of India, 2011

Health:

India(IMR)	39/1000	Haryana(IMR)	36/1000
Male	39/1000	Male	35/1000
Female	40/1000	Female	38/1000

Source: SRS Report, 2016, July

As per 2016 SRS Report, In India the female Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 40 compared to the male IMR of 39 and the overall IMR of India was 39 per 1000. Haryana female infant mortality was 38 and male infant mortality rate was 35 and also overall IMR of Haryana was 36.

Work Participation Rate: Nowadays, the study of female work participation rate has been a focal theme in gender inequality. In India the overall work participation is 39.1%. For male it is 51.7% and for female is 25.6%. Similarly in Haryana overall work participation is 39.6%, for male it is 68.2% and for female it is 37.3% as per 2001 census. For both India as well as Haryana they have male work participation which is double that of female work participation rate.

Factors Responsible for Gender Inequality: Gender is socio-cultural concept. It refers to masculine and feminine roles that play in the society. Gender has been defined as socially determined differences in roles and responsibilities of women and men. It changes from time to time, culture to culture but sex is natural as well as constant.

Women's share in world population is nearly half and the major number of work hours (approximately 65%) is undertaken by women. As a return she gets only 10% of the world income as compared to men. According to International Labour Organization (ILO) women engage in work 5-6 hours more than men in a day. There are many reasons which are responsible for gender inequality in India.

Mental Makeup: One of the most prominent cause of discrimination in India is the mental makeup. General perception of society is "home is the best place for females" only through this perception we can understand how much developed our society is. With the development of modern technology as well as education, the mental status of people in India hasn't changed much. That is why after getting

development in many sectors of India people's perception suppose likely to women only give birth and take care of family.

Patriarchal Society: One of the root causes of gender inequality in Indian society is its patriarchy system. According to the famous sociologists Sylvia Walby, patriarchy is "a system of social structure and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women". Strong (very old)patriarchal and [patrilineal](#) customs, where men hold authority over female family members and inherit family property and title. There are many custom in India which prove patriarchal society is there in India. Examples of patriarchy in India include prevailing customs where inheritance goes to son from father. Furthermore, people's general perception is only son will support to their parents in old age and daughter will be dependent on her husband so she will have limited ability to support her own parents.

Son Preference: A key driving factor of gender inequality is the preference for sons in India. The situation of child sex ratio in India is enough evidence to prove it. The child sex ratio in India is gradually declining. The child sex ratio of India was 962 in 1981, 945 in 1991 and 927 in 2001 and also 914 in 2011.

Year	Child sex ratio(India) per thousand
1981	962
1991	945
2001	927
2011	914

Sources: Census of India, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011

It is believed that sons are having higher economic utility as they can provide additional labor in agriculture. Another factor which is deeply related is religious practice, which can only be performed by males for their parents' afterlife. Sons are likely to perform funeral rights for their parents not daughters. A 2005 study in Madurai, India, found that old age security, economic motivation, and to a lesser extent, religious obligations, continuation of the family name, and help in business or farm, were key reasons for son preference. According to Satyamev Jayate Ultrasound came around 1990s after that son preference did become also high because it became very easy to make abortion.

Dowry: According to the dowry, and dowry death article, In India, [dowry](#) is the payment in cash or some kind of gifts given to bridegroom's family along with the bride. The practice of dowry exists throughout the country irrespective of religion, class, caste and region except few north east states. According to satyamev jayate (season-1, episode-3)-within one hour one suicide take place in our country because of dowry. The dowry system in India is really responsible to make perception among family members that girl is a burden on family for the fear of dowry many times parents likely to go for suicide ,sometimes domestic violence has taken place only for giving daughter's birth by mother because they will have to pay dowry but they are economically poor.

Poverty: In India approximately 30% people are suffering from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and 70% are women out of that 30%. India is really suffering from Women's poverty similarly women are suffering from poverty because lack of educational qualification, lack of employment opportunity, negative mental setup ,lack of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision making process.

Legal and Political Factor: There is no discrimination in our constitution and constitution provides many article to make equality between male and female. Equality before law for women(Article 14). The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex , place of birth or any of them (Article 15 (i)). The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children (Article 15 (3)). Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State (Article 16). But it is just black and white; its practice is too limited because people's general perception about law is that laws are made to break.

Discrimination against men: Government is claimed by some men's advocacy groups regarding the government discrimination against men through the use of overly aggressive laws designed to protect women like 498a. Section 498a of the IPC is a criminal law in which the wife and her family can charge any or all of the husband's family of physical or mental cruelty. Seven years of jail is there for people who are having any case related to section 498a of IPC against him. There is no penalty for the misuse of IPC 498a. Supreme Court says-498a is a "legal terrorism." WHO said -498a is one of the biggest reasons for older abuse in India. According to NCRB-In 2012, 304 rape cases were false out of 661 cases.

Conclusion: Not only women but also all the member of society is affected by Gender inequality. From the above discussion it is explicitly vivid that there are many factors responsible for gender Inequality in India like social, economic, cultural etc. India needs to eradicate the gender Inequality for the overall development of the country .we need that day when women will be able to break all culturally determined inequality because culture does not make people, people make Culture. It is very important to ensure equal status for women that is why fifth number goal of Sustainable development focus on this. Without solution problem cannot exist so we should know What process are required to make solution because without women men can't exist similarly Without men women can't exist, they are interdependent.

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