

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN- A STUDY IN WARANGAL DISTRICT IN TELANGANA STATE

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Abstract: This paper explores the socio economic status of women in India as well as in Warangal district of Telangana state. India has a male dominated society where women are treated lower in position compared to men in all social, economic, cultural and political matters. The present study was initiated to determine the position of women in their families and their behaviour towards qualitative indicators in the district (Warangal) of Telangana in macro level study. The influences of variables such as female literacy rate, population growth rate, vasectomy, tubectomy etc are also studied. An Index was developed on various aspects, on the status of women. Women who form half of the population of India are discriminated in every sphere of life. In spite of five and half decades of Independence and the introduction of many women welfare programmes with the provision of specific reservations, women in India are still socially, economically, politically and culturally continue to be in a disadvantageous position. Finally this paper examines how women achieve socio economic empowerment in our society.

Keywords: CMIE, GEM, Leisure, UNDP,

Introduction: Women's empowerment is a new phrase in the vocabulary of gender literature. The phrase is used in two broad senses i.e. general and specific. In a general sense, it refers to empowering women to be self-dependent by providing them access to all the freedoms and opportunities, which they were denied in the past only because of their being 'women'. In a specific sense, women empowerment refers to enhancing their position in the power structure of the society. The word women empowerment essentially means that the women have the power or capacity to regulate their day-to-day lives in the social, political and economic terms – a power which enables them to move from the periphery to the centre stage.

The questions surrounding women's empowerment and the condition and position of women have now become critical to the human rights based approaches to development. The Cairo conference in 1994 organized by UN on Population and Development called attention to women's empowerment as a central focus and UNDP developed the Gender Empowerment measure (GEM) which focuses on the three variables that reflect women's participation in society – political power or decision-making, education and health. 1995 UNDP report was devoted to women's empowerment and it declared that if human development is not engendered it is endangered. Equality, sustainability and empowerment were emphasized. It was observed that women empowerment can be achieved through an engaged political process.

Beijing conference 1995 indicators of women empowerment, qualitative & quantitative.

Qualitative:

1. increase in self-esteem, individual and collective confidence;

2. increase in articulation, knowledge and awareness on health, nutrition, reproductive rights, law and literacy;
3. increase or decrease in personal leisure time and time for child care;
4. increase or decrease of work load in new programmes;
5. change in roles and responsibility in family and community;
6. visible increase or decrease in violence on women and girls;
7. responses to, changes in social customs like child marriage, dowry, discrimination against widows;
8. visible changes in women's participation level, attending meetings, participating and demanding participation;
9. increase in bargaining and negotiating power at home, in community and the collectives;
10. increased access to and ability to gather information;
11. formation of women collectives;
12. positive changes in social attitudes;
13. awareness and recognition of women's economic contribution within and outside the household;
14. women's decision-making over her work and income.

Quantitative: 1. Demographic trends: maternal mortality rate, fertility rate, sex ratio, life expectancy at birth, average age of marriage. 2. Number of women participating in different development programmes. 3. Greater access and control over community resources/government schemes, credit cooperative, non formal education 4. Visible change in physical health status and nutritional level 5. Change in literacy and enrollment levels 6. Participation levels of women in political processes

Objective of the Study: The objective of the study is to understand the level of women empowerment at the Warangal District as compared to averages of the State of Telangana by using some of the quantitative indicators given in Beijing Conference 1995.

Methodology: Relevant secondary data for the study is obtained from the publications of Census, Hand Book of Statistics, CMIE Reports and by browsing important web sites. Using appropriate statistical tools such as Ratio analysis, averages, percentages, Compounded Annual Growth Rate analysis data is done.

Warangal district in Telangana state is one of the backward areas. The status of rural women is adverse as reflected in sex ratio and their literacy rate. The status of women in Warangal district was not respectable in terms of socio-economic aspects, like other parts of the country. The women in the district used to live a docile and subdued life. They never were a part in decision making either at home or on social front. Like most of the women folk in rural India, these women are not just housewife, but they are coming out with innumerable activities like fetching water, collecting fuel, rearing cattle,

managing poultry, agricultural and horticulture. But their services were never recognized.

Considering the important role of rural women in the above-mentioned activities, they cannot be ignored any longer. Time has come for rural women to get their due share in various development programmes and extension services, apropos their contribution to the rural sector. Now rural women have become the major stakeholders of the society. Hence their socio economic empowerment is the need of the hour. It can be achieved by integrating their concerns, special needs and priorities into the policies and programmes of government. It is realized by giving due recognition to rural women in designing the development programmes is very necessary to achieve the stated goals of development for sustainability.

Therefore there is a need for the study in this particular area. For the purpose of the present study the following demographic factors are considered: Percentages of Female Population to total Population, Infant Mortality Rate, Sex ratio, female literacy ratio, and Family Welfare Achievements.

The Table-1 and Table-2 show the comparison between the State of Telangana and District of Warangal and Family Welfare Achievements in the District of Warangal.

Table - 1
Comparison between the State of Telangana and District of Warangal

Particulars	Telangana State			Warangal District		
	2001 Census	2011 Census	CAGR in %	2001 Census	2011 Census	CAGR in %
Percentage of Female Population to total Population	47.53	49.69	2.16	49.31	49.86	0.55
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	45	42	7.1	-	-	-
Sex Ratio - Females for 1000 males	974	989	1.51	973	994	2.11
Female Literacy Rate	46.02	54.72	8.27	45.10	56.45	11.35

Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011, Hand Book of Statistics Warangal District 2012.

From the above table-1 it can be observed that there is a marginal improvement in the Percentage of Women population, marginal decrease in the infant mortality rate, marginal increase in the sex ratio and female literacy rate for one decade i.e., 2001-11 for the State of Telangana and also the District of warangal. Percentage wise the District of Warangal is falling behind that of the State of Telangana. However, the Compounded Annual Growth Rate for the decade for the Warangal District is marginally better than that of the State of Telangana. It is good to note that the infant mortality rate is zero for the District of Warangal.

Table - 2: Family Welfare Achievements in the District Warangal

Particulars	2010-11	2011-12	CAGR
Number of Sterilizations done			
Vasectomy	4302	4302	
Tubectomy	18,634	18,634	(8.6%)
Membership in Mahila Mandals	508708	508708	-
Child Welfare Institutions	04	04	-
Anganwadi Beneficiaries			
Children	1,95,000	1,97,191	(1.11)
Pregnant & Lactating Women	47864	47864	-
Immunisation to Pregnant Women	58,921	58,921	

Source: Hand Book of Statistics of Warangal District, 2012.

It can be observed from the Table-2 that there is no growth in the facilities given to the women – mahila mandals, child welfare institutions. The onus of the family planning, as is mentioned in the table, is completely on the women, and it has marginally increased in the year 2010-11 compared to 2011-12. The targets achieved in the immunization to pregnant women has increased, which can be considered as good.

Conclusion: The suppression of women from participation in social, political and economic life hurts the people as a whole, not just women. Gender inequality is not only a social failure in itself; it also leads to other social failures. The findings of the study indicate that men still continue to dominate the women depriving them of many crucial needs of

the life. The National Policy of women empowerment 2001 is to be implemented more vigorously in order to achieve the equality of women with men on all walks of life. Any attempt to improve the status of Indian women, any weaning away from the patriarchal bias, any attempt to undo the centuries of injustice meted out on the other half of the society (M. R. Geetha Bala)

As compared to the State Averages of the Quantitative Indicators the Warangal district's averages are falling behind. The Government Authorities, NGOs, Women's Groups, and all others who are involved and responsible for the women's emancipation need to put greater effort.

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