



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WOMEN IN GUJARAT

Dr. Harigopal Agrawal

Assistant Professor, HOD, Economics Department, Shri K R Desai Arts And Commerce College, Jhalod , Dist – Dahod (Gujarat)

ABSTRACT

Today, the role of women in the economic development of a country can hardly be ignored. The contribution of women in economic development is gauged by their by their work participation rate. In India, women participation in labour market is mainly due to economic need. Their activity outside the home is affected by various factors like educational attainments, husband's status and availability of job opportunities etc. In is because of these reasons that participation of women in the labour force is lower than men in most of the countries.

The present paper is an attempt to find out the extent of women's participation in the economic activity in Gujarat and types of occupations in which women predominate.

The population of Gujarat has increased constantly since 1961 to 2011. The population has increased almost three times in the state. Both male and female population has Gujarat. In 1960-161 female population was about fifty percent of total population. It has remained almost same in 2010-2011. The 2001 census shows low female participation rate as compared male participation rate in Gujarat. In 1961 the female participation rate in Gujarat was 27.89% while in 2001 female participation rate was 27.91%. This shows that female participation rate has not improved much in Gujarat.

Women in Gujarat today are working not only in fields, factories, construction companies and industries but are also doing mental work by doing administrative jobs, management work and duties in many other fields. They are being provided educational and training facility so that they can actively participate in the labour force The Government of Gujarat has been giving importance to women welfare and women empowerment. Recently, in the budget proposal, the finance minister has suggested Special Economic Zone for women to be developed in Sanand (Taluka of Ahmadabad Districd) . Many educational and training institutes are to be opened sprcially for women. Still lost needs to be done to improve the sex ratio as well as the health of women. Intensive programmes should be launched to make them aware of their rights and reservations them. Women participation should be increased in service sector, industrial sector sector and household industries. This will be possible if their outlook and perception is changed by giving proper education education to them. Women should be provided deter infrastructural facilities for encouraging self-employment among the educated unemployed according to the social need.

KEYWORDS: Women, Education, Female Literacy, Occupation, Self employed, Economics Development.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, the role of women in the economic development of a country can hardly be ignored. The contribution of women in economic development is gauged by their work participation rate. In India, women participation in labour market is mainly due to economic need. Their activity outside the home is affected by various factors like educational attainments, husband's status and availability of job opportunities etc. It is because of these reasons that participation of women in the labour force is lower than men in most of the countries.

The census of India defines “work” or “employment” as participation in any economically productive activity. In its opinion, an adult woman who is engage in households duties, but doing no other productive work to increase the family's response should not be considered as working i.e. unless she works for wages or sales. A woman may engage in household labour which is treated as non-productive labour. Market labour is said to be the only productive labour as it has exchange value.

The board survey of the position and role of women in the advanced countries, the Third World and India points to the need for integrating women to the development process as equal partners with men. 'serval activists' organizations have spring up all over the worls to work for the cause of women . It is increasingly being realized that 'lack of effective linkage between local and national levels, or between specific programmes and macro polices, usually prevents the achievement of women's integration in development. Women must be integrated into the development process not only symbolically, and through concrete local projects, but in the most central processes of resource allocation in development planning.”

The present paper is an attempt to find out the extent of women's participation in the economic activity in Gujarat and types of occupations in which women predominate.

Sr. no	Year	Male	Female	Total
1	1961	1,06,33,902	99,99,448	2,06,33,350
2	1971	1,38,02,494	1,28,94,981	2,66,97,475
3	1981	1,75,52,640	1,65,33,159	3,40,85,799
4	1991	2,13,55,209	1,99,54,373	4,13,09,582
5	2001	2,63,85,577	2,42,85,440	5,06,71,017
6	2011	3,15,69,601	2,89,01,346	6,04,70,947

Source: Statistical Abstract of Gujarat, 2011

Table 1
Total population of male and female in Gujarat state

Table 1 show that the population of Gujarat has increased constantly since 1961 to 2011. The population has increased almost three times in the state. Both male and female population has increased in Gujarat. In 160-1961 female population was about fifty percent of total population. It has remained almost same in 2010-2011.

Table 2 gives the female labour force participation rates in Gujarat state according to the 2001 census.

Year	Female Workers	Percentages
1960-1961	27,88,812	27.89
1980-1981	34,15,838	20.67
2000-2001	67,78,235	20.91

Source: statistical Abstract of Gujarat State 2011

Table 2
Percentage of female workers to total population in Gujarat state in 2001

Table 2 indicates that the 2001 census shows low female participation rate as compared to male participation rate in Gujarat. In 1961 female participation rate in Gujarat was 27.89 % while in 2011 female participation rate was 27.91 % . This shows that female participation rate has not improved much in Gujarat

Year	Per Capita Income
2008-09	Rs. 55,140
2009-10	Rs. 63,961

Source: statistical Abstract of Gujarat State 2011

Table 3
Per capita income in Gujarat State in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

It is clear from table 3 that per capita income is rs. 55,140 in Gujarat in 2008-09 and Rs. 63,961 in 2009-10. In Gujarat, the economic development is increasing fast. As per capita income has increased in last few tears in Gujarat State, we need to observe the contribution of women workers in economic development of

Gujarat.

Female Literacy

In India, Female literacy rates are much higher in urban areas than in rural areas, Table 4 gives the percentage of female workers and their literacy rates in Gujarat for 1951-2011

Year	Male	Female	Total
1951	30.32	12.87	21.82
1961	42.49	19.74	31.47
1971	47.60	25.56	36.95
1981	55.95	33.20	44.92
1991	73.13	48.64	61.29
2001	79.66	57.80	69.40
2011	87.23	70.73	79.31

Source : www.censusindia.gov.in

Table 4
Literacy rate in Gujarat State in percentage (1951-2011)

Table 4 shows that in 1950-51 almost 21.82 % of the total population of Gujarat State was literate, in which male literacy rate was 30.32 % and female literacy was 12.87 % In 2010-11 about 79.31 % of the total population in Gujarat was literate. The male literacy rate was 87.23 % and female literacy was 70.73 % thus we can see the constant increase in the literacy rate in Gujarat but female literacy rate is lower when compared to male literacy.

Occupational Structure

Another important aspect of the economic activity of women in Gujarat is the type of occupations which are referred to or which a majority of women are employed. Table 5 gives the percentages of women workers employed in three board occupational categories in Gujarat State 2001

Year	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Household industries	Other Workers
1960-61				
Person	49,19,060	12,52,000	5,55,606	21,47,920
Male	28,16,996	6,79,267	3,43,163	18,46,171
Female	17,02,064	5,72,733	2,12,443	30,17,494
	(61.03)	(20.54)	(7.61)	(10.82)
2000-01				
Person	58,02,681	51,61,658	4,29,682	98,61,500
Male	39,06,691	25,09,651	2,43,835	78,17,103
Female	18,95,984	26,52,007	1,85,841	20,44,397
	(27.97)	(39.13)	(2.74)	(30.16)

Source: Statistical Abstract of Gujarat state 2011

Table 5
Percentage of female workers engaged in three board occupational categories in Gujarat state

Table 5 shows that in 1960-61 the percentage of women working in agricultural field was 81.57 % in which women cultivators are also included. While in household industries 7.61 % women worked and in other fields 10.82 % women workers were employed.

In 2000-2001 it was observed that 67.10 % women worked in agricultural field and as cultivators. While comparing with the data of 1960-61, percentage of women working in agricultural field is less. Also the percentage of women in household industries was 2.74 % which is again less. The percentage of women working in other fields was 30.16 % which is more.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS.

Women in Gujarat today are working not only in fields, factories, construction companies and industries but are also doing mental work by doing administrative jobs, management work and duties in many other fields. They are being provided educational and training facilities so that they can actively participate in labour force. The government has been giving importance to women welfare and women empowerment.

Recently, in the budget proposal The Finance minister has suggested Special Economic Zone for women to be developed in Sanand (Taluka in Ahmedabad). Many educational and training institutes are to be opened specially for women. Still lots need to be done to improve the sex ratio as well as the health of women. Intensive programmes should be launched to make them aware of their rights and reservation for them. Women participation should be increased in service sector, industrial sector and household industries. This will be possible if their outlook and perception is changed by giving proper education to them. Women should be provided better infrastructure facilities for encouraging self-employment among the educated unemployed women according to the social need.

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