



GENDER INEQUALITY AND ITS STATUS IN NORTH & NORTH-EASTERN REGION OF INDIA

¹Ujjal Chettri, ²Akshay Rustogi

¹Bachelors Of Education, ²Bachelors Of Education

¹Department Of Education,

¹Pragati College of Education, Siliguri(West Bengal),India

Abstract

Being one of the developing countries of the world and status of becoming 2nd largest economy in the world it is hard to believe that gender Inequalities still persist in country like India and patriarchy system in Indian society where male are considered more than the females this is one of the root cause of gender based Inequality in India .This Inequality of female gender is seen in terms of Education ,Health, Employment and various opportunities etc. Many steps were taken by government and other non-governmental organization to improve Gender based Inequality problems but still there is large scope for it. In this paper we have discussed about problems of Gender Inequality in India and the factors which are responsible for it and comparison of status of gender Inequality in 2 different zones of India: North and North East Region by comparing different data like Percentage share of female population in total population and sex ratio-2011, Gender gap in Literacy rate of different states in India, total percentage of anemic women in different states ,percentage of women elector and voters turn out in different states of India and total participation of women in legislative assembly all this data helps in knowing status of women in different regions and level of gender Inequality in a particular region of India.

Keywords - Gender, Inequality, India, Women, Literacy

Introduction

India being a fastly developing country is affected with issues generated by society and inequality of gender which cause problems of less earning and opportunities. (Comyn, Kemmis, & Smith, 2014).Fruitful development and progress of nation can only be achieved whenever role of men and women are equally valued. (Hussain & Kirmani, 2010) from the gender composition data of government of India it is found that male constitutes about 532 million (52%) whereas female constitute only 497 million which is 48% of total indian population and the literacy rate of women In india is found to be very less as compared to literacy rate in males which is 65 46 % among women and 82 14 % for the males according to census 2011. The growth of women education of in rural areas is very slow since independence india had achieved many progress in various other fields but still large portion of female population living in india are illiterate (Nitu Roy Kanrar,2019) Female in India have to face various issues like discrimination of gender, Lack of education ,female feticide ,infanticide ,malnutrition, lack of opportunities etc as shown in (fig .1) which gives rise to a problem called Gender Inequality.

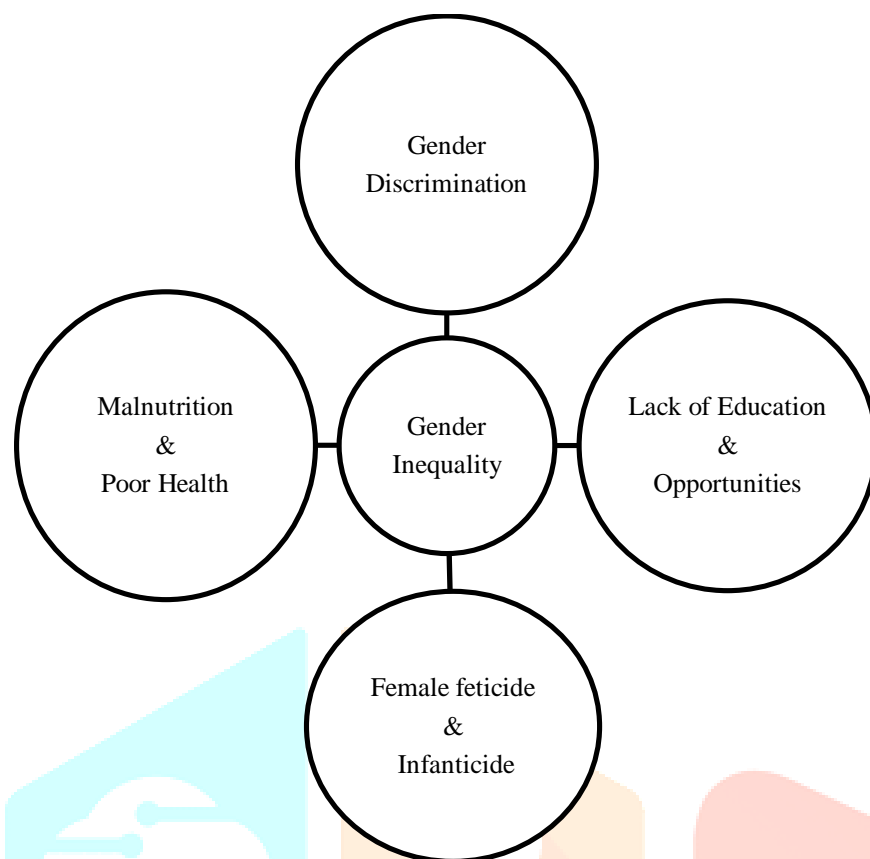


Fig 1. Factors promoting Gender Inequality

Factors Promoting Gender Inequality

Discrimination of gender

Since ancient time there is a culture of preference for male child as compared to the female child which promotes illegal practices like abortion female feticide etc. according to the report of UNICEF, 7 percent of girl child are married below the age of 15yrs and 27 percent of girls in India are married below the age of 18yrs. India marks about 15,509,000 of child brides which is one of the highest in the world. (UNICEF State of World's Children, 2017) all this shows gender based discrimination in India is at par level which affects gender equality.

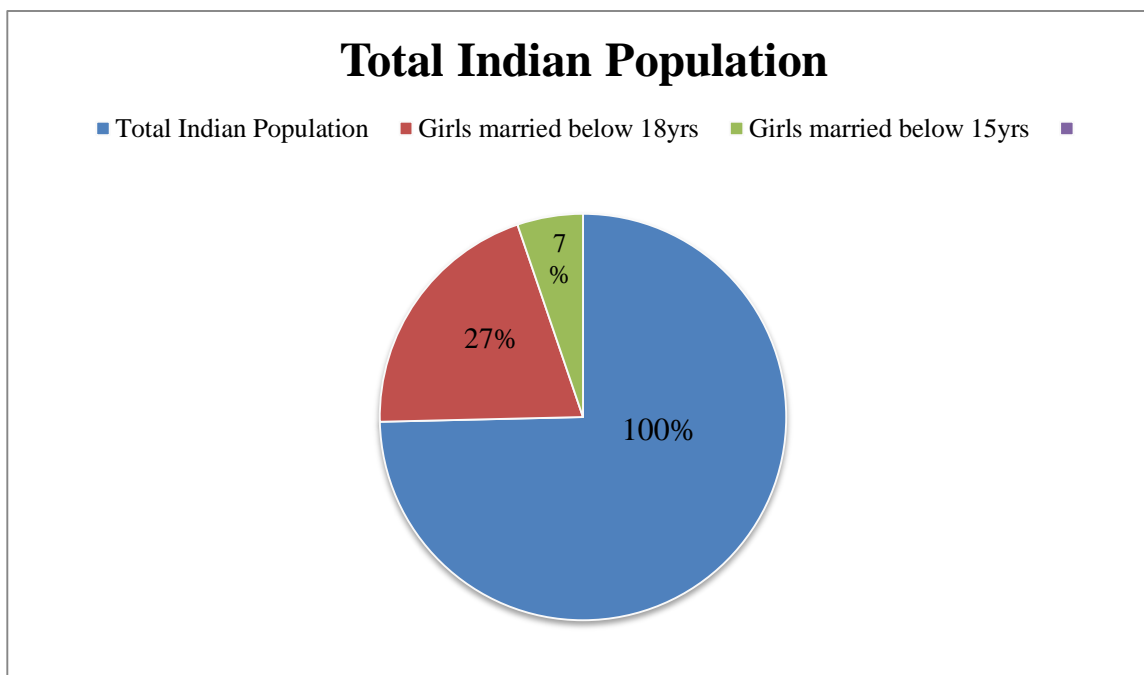


Fig 2. Percentage of females married below 15 and 18 yrs of age in India.

(Source: Report of UNICEF State of World's Children 2017)

Malnutrition

With more preference of child with gender as male in Indian society they receives more parental care and attention than female or opposite gender in terms of education, health and nutrition which some how makes female more susceptible to various disease or infection leading to weak health condition and even with very short life span. (Chand & Mehrotra, 2012) Nutrition is basic requirement of the human body for person well being. It is very important especially for the women in india due to their poor health condition they give birth to unhealthy child. Out of other developing countries India is reported with lowest or poorest health status of women along with highest number of malnutrition in women is observed in India among other developing countries. (Navaneetham & Jose, 2008). Recent study on both pregnant and non pregnant women within a age group 15 49yrs showed that 70% of non pregnant women and 75% of pregnant women are anaemic in india. (Mason et al., 2005) Many improvements have been made but still there is large scope for improvement in female nutrition and health. (UNDP, 2008)

Lack of Education

Parents in India they prefer to invest more for male education as compared to the females, where these females were groomed for marriage at very earlier age. (Roy & Vecchio, 1998). Society in India are dominated by patriarchal views with limited educational opportunities available for females due to which they only receive basic functional education like drawing, reading, writing, personal hygiene and other household task. The main ideology behind patriarchal view is to set boundaries for women within the wall of home and where education for women becomes unnecessary. (Roy & Vecchio, 1998).

Lack of Employment

Gender equality is not considered if a woman involved in employment as alternative to stay at home and take care of all household activities instead it provides equal role and choices for both male and female. (Klugman, Kolb, & Morton, 2014). One of the gender inequality commonly seen in most of the countries over the world where women even doing the same job earns 10 to 30 percent less than men. (Comyn et al. 2014) many study on participation of women in workforce had demonstrated that starting from year 1991 to 2012 there is a decline of participation of women from total 33.7% to 27%. This inequality of gender affects participation of women in employment that involves (a) poor

representation and bargaining power (b) unable to manage work life balance (c) very less support from the family (d) less accessibility to institutional training and information (e) less access to the health ,educational and financial resources. (Madhav & Sankaran,2011)

Lack of opportunities

According to the data of (Global Gender Gap 2011) India is reported with average in gender gap index whereas economic opportunities and participation of women in India is very worse than other 95% of the country in the world. Even after several economic development and India as 2nd fastest growing economy gender disparities are still persistent in India. The participation of women as entrepreneurs and in local manufacturing and services sectors are the keys to look upon the type of employment and opportunities which are provided to women. Among the best share of latest proprietary businesses states within the unorganized type of manufacturing sector which were owned by women in year 1994 are Karnataka, Tamilnadu ,Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. State like Rajasthan, Haryana , Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra ,are states with all time low share of entrepreneurs as female. A similar pattern is observed across states while comparing total or overall business ownership owned by different gender during the year 1994-2005. A similar pattern is observed across states while comparing total or overall business ownership owned by different gender during the year 1994 2005 the increased share of women owned new businesses is seen only in one Indian state that is Sikkim. women's Industrial share based upon computers motor vehicles fabricated metal products machinery equipment is about 2% female shares related to educational and sanitation industries in major states are about 30% whereas total share of total share of women as entrepreneurs is 1% or less in industries related to research and development including transportation industries as well.

Gender Inequality and its Impact

Gender Inequality effect on Health

Even after lots of improvement in health and maternal care discrimination against female gender still persist in society of such developing countries cause very negative impact on poor living families. Ways of bridging this gender gap and improving health care can be accessed effectively by providing education opportunities to the women. Even small victories on the march toward equality can make a serious difference within the lives of women and ladies living in poverty. According to a report of globe Health Organization 2011, denying primary education to women shows negative impact on fertility rates, birth spacing, health literacy and healthy behaviors of women. Similar reports have found that educated women living in african region shows lowers infection risk by HIV.

Gender Inequality effect on Education

Education based gender Inequality is one of the most existing in Indian society as a problem ,especially for those females from the rural areas and having lower socioeconomic backgrounds . In several decades India was able to successfully implement universal school enrollment in order to overcome gender based upon educational gaps or Inequality, the problem of educational gaps still exist in india which causes gender based Inequality in education to rise and it is also a reason for many females to left behind their academics. Socio-economic and family background are also responsible for gender inequality especially for females from rural areas. Prioritizing prioritizing sons education over daughter education where education for females are underexplored without knowing females role towards education is also one of the major factor which drives gender gap in education.

Gender Inequality in Employment

According to data of nsso 2011 which was conducted based upon "employment and unemployment" gender inequality in income and employment are often understood by comparing men and women's labour market participation and other characteristic related to it.(Lama, Sita and Majumder, Rajarshi, 2018). There has been a high and increasing disparity in labour force participation rate (LFPR) between males and females across rural and urban areas . The Labour force participation is much lower in India as compared to remaining part of the world of the globe (64 per cent). And women's participation for labour force rate is very low compared to half of males population living in urban areas. Women's labour participation decision differ from those of men in terms of entry age, human capital , marital condition , reproduction and position of people etc. (S. Mahendra Dev,2004).

Targets of the Study

1. To know the current situation of women and Gender Inequality in two different Regions of India.

2. To know the Factors affecting the Gender Inequality.
3. To know the Impact of Gender Inequality on Health, Education, Employment and various Opportunities provided to women.

Methodology

This paper is focused on investigating the issue of gender Inequality in different regions of India using the data collected from different sources like Census of India 2011, National Family Health Survey 2015-16, Election Commission Of India, Office of registrar general etc which helps us to know the real and current situation of women in particular region in terms of health, education, employment, other opportunities and all those factors which effects equality of gender in different region or states of India.

Percentage share of female population in North India and North East India

Percentage Share of female population from the total population living in both rural and urban areas of different north Indian states like Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Out of the sex ratio data of six- north Indian states in India only two states stood highest in terms of Sex ratio of female: these states are Himachal and Rajasthan. Total Sex Ratio of Women in Himachal and Rajasthan is better than total sex ratio of women in other north Indian states like Punjab, Delhi, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir whereas Percentage Share of female population out of total population living in both rural and urban areas of different North-Eastern states of India like Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam and the state Tripura is shown in (Table 1). On the basis of female sex ratio data of census of India 2011. It is found that out of total 8 states, 7 states shows balanced sex ratio of female except the state of Sikkim with total (890) but still better than other north Indian states like Delhi (868), Haryana (879), Himachal Pradesh (972) and Jammu & Kashmir (889) in terms of total sex ratio of female.

Table1. Percentage share of female population in total population and sex ratio-2011

States / UTs	Share of Women (%)			Sex-Ratio		
	rural	urban	total	rural	urban	total
North India						
1. Punjab	47.57	46.67	47.23	907	875	895
2. Delhi	45.99	46.48	46.47	852	868	868
3. Haryana	46.85	46.61	46.77	882	873	879
4. Himachal Pradesh	49.64	46.04	49.28	986	853	972
5. Jammu & Kashmir	47.58	45.64	47.05	908	840	889
6. Rajasthan	48.27	47.74	48.14	933	914	928
North East India						
1. Sikkim	46.87	47.73	47.09	882	913	890
2. Manipur	49.21	50.64	49.63	969	1026	985
3. Meghalaya	49.64	50.03	49.72	986	1001	989
4. Mizoram	48.78	49.94	49.39	952	998	976
5. Nagaland	48.46	47.60	48.21	940	908	931
6. Assam	48.97	48.61	48.92	960	946	958
7. Tripura	48.86	49.33	48.98	955	973	960

8. Arunachal Pradesh	48.80	47.10	48.41	953	890	938
-----------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-----	-----	-----

(Source: Census

of India 2011)

Gap in the Literacy rates of Males and Females of North India and North East India (2001-2011)

From the gender gap literacy data of registrar general of India 2011 it is found that state of Haryana shows highest decline in gender gap in literacy rate (44.7%) among five other north Indian states like Punjab(18.2%), Delhi(19.3%), Himachal Pradesh(24.1), Jammu & Kashmir(13.9%) and Rajasthan with (15.0%) whereas North Eastern state shows huge decline of gender gap in Literacy rate except the state of Mizoram which shows increase of gender gap by (2.8 %) where maximum decline of gender gap in India was observed in state of Meghalaya (47.3%) and Tripura(45.4%) followed by North Indian state of Haryana with(44.7%) decline of gender based gap in literacy rate shown in (Table 2.)

Table 2. Gender gap in Literacy rate of six states of North India and North East India

State /Union Territory	Gender gap in Literacy rate		Declined by (%)
North India	2001	2011	2001-2011
1. Punjab	11.9	9.7	18.2
2. Delhi	12.6	10.2	19.3
3. Haryana	32.8	18.1	44.7
4. Himachal Pradesh	17.9	13.6	24.1
5. Jammu & Kashmir	23.6	20.3	13.9
6. Rajasthan	31.9	27.1	15.0
State /Union Territory	Gender gap in Literacy rate		Declined by (%)
North-East	2001	2011	2001-2011
1. Sikkim	15.6	10.9	30.0
2. Manipur	19.8	13.3	32.8
3. Meghalaya	5.8	3.1	47.3
4. Mizoram	4.0	4.1	-2.8
5. Nagaland	9.7	6.6	31.6
6. Assam	16.7	11.6	30.5
7. Tripura	16.1	8.8	45.4
8. Arunachal Pradesh	20.3	14.9	26.8

(Source: Office of Registrar General, India)

Aneamic Children and Women in North India and North East India (2015-16)

From the data of NFHS 2015-16 it is found that level of haemoglobin in children & women is comparatively very less leading to a condition called anaemia. This survey data of 2015-16 shows percentage of total number of anaemic women in different states within the age of 15 to

49 yrs. Haryana was recorded with highest percentage (62.7%) of anaemic women in North India followed by Punjab (53.5%), Himachal Pradesh (53.4%), Delhi (52.5%), Rajasthan (46.8%), and State of Jammu & Kashmir (40.3%) whereas in North-East Meghalaya was recorded with highest percentage (56.2%) of anaemic women in North-East followed by Tripura (54.5%), Assam (46.0%), Arunachal Pradesh (40.3%), Sikkim (34.9%), Manipur (26.4%), Nagaland (23.9%) and Mizoram (22.5%) as shown in (Table.3)

Table 3. Total anaemic women in North and North-Eastern state of India

State/UTs	Non-pregnant Anaemic Women (15-49 yrs)	Pregnant Anaemic Women (15-49 yrs)	Total number of Anaemic Women (15-49yrs)
North India	(<12.0 g/dl) (%)	(<11.0 g/dl) (%)	In (%) Percentage
1.Punjab	54.0	42.0	53.5
2. Delhi	52.8	45.1	52.5
3.Haryana	63.1	55.0	62.7
4.Himachal Pradesh	53.6	50.2	53.4
5.Jammu & Kashmir	40.4	38.1	40.3
6.Rajasthan	46.8	46.6	46.8
State/UTs	Non-pregnant Anaemic Women (15-49 yrs)	Pregnant Anaemic Women (15-49 yrs)	Total number of Anaemic Women (15-49yrs)
North-East India	(<12.0 g/dl) (%)	(<11.0 g/dl) (%)	In (%) Percentage
1.Sikkim	35.2	23.6	34.9
2.Manipur	26.4	26.0	26.4
3.Meghalaya	56.5	53.1	56.2
4.Mizoram	22.4	24.5	22.5
5.Nagaland	23.7	28.9	23.9
6. Assam	46.1	44.8	46.0
7. Tripura	54.5	54.4	54.5
8. Arunachal Pradesh	40.6	33.8	40.3

(Source: National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)

Women Voters Turnout from North India (General Election 2014)

As per 2014 elections of Lok Sabha, there were 397 million women electors in India. In North India Punjab stood with high percentage of women turnout participated in election with 71% followed by Haryana (70%), Himachal Pradesh (65%), Delhi (64%), Rajasthan (61%) and Jammu & Kashmir (48%) whereas In North East Nagaland stood with high percentage of women turnout participated in election with 87% followed by Sikkim (84%), Tripura (84%), Manipur (81%), Arunachal Pradesh (81%), Assam (79%), Meghalaya (70%), Mizoram (61%) all shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Percentage of Women Turn Out from North and North East India

State /UT's	Women Electors	Women Voters	%Women Turnout
1.Punjab	9281	6583	71%
2. Delhi	5660	3618	64%
3.Haryana	7381	5144	70%
4.Himachal Pradesh	2336	1529	65%
5.Jammu&Kashmir	3400	1639	48%
6.Rajasthan	20331	12482	61%
State /UT's	Women Electors	Women Voters	%Women Turnout
1.Sikkim	180	151	84%
2.Manipur	903	727	81%
3.Meghalaya	790	553	70%
4.Mizoram	356	217	61%
5.Nagaland	582	510	87%
6. Assam	9098	7209	79%
7. Tripura	1171	988	84%
8. Arunachal Pradesh	380	308	81%

Source: Election Commission of India - General Elections, 2014 (16th Lok Sabha)

Participation of Women in Legislative Assemblies

According to electoral statics pocket book of 2017 it is found that In North India highest percentage of registered women elector is in Punjab with (78.9%) followed by Himachal Pradesh(76.2%),Rajasthan(75.4%), Haryana(71.1%),Jammu & Kashmir(66.2%),and NCT of Delhi(65.1%) whereas In North East Tripura stood highest percentage of registered women elector followed by Nagaland(91.3%), Assam(90.38%), Meghalaya(88.4%), Mizoram(82.1%), Manipur(81.4%) ,Sikkim(81.4%) and Arunachal Pradesh(78.9%) shown in Table.5

Table 5. Percentage of registered women elector for Legislative Assembly

State/UTs	Year of elections	% of registered women elector	Electoral Book 2017)
North India			
1. Haryana	2014	71.1	
2. Himachal Pradesh	2012	76.2	
3. Jammu & Kashmir	2014	66.2	
4. Punjab	2012	78.9	
5. Rajasthan	2013	75.4	
6. NCT of Delhi	2015	65.1	
State/UTs			
Year of elections			
% of registered women elector			
North East India			
1.Arunachal Pradesh	2014	78.9	
2. Assam	2016	90.38	
3. Sikkim	2014	81.4	
4.Manipur	2012	81.4	
5.Meghalaya	2013	88.4	
6.Mizoram	2013	82.1	
7.Nagaland	2013	91.3	
8. Tripura	2013	92.9	

Conclusion

From the study It is found that in a developing country like India a problem of Gender Inequality amongst women are still persistent where a patriarchy system of India society plays a major role in promoting gender Inequality and it effects Women Health, Education, Employment , their Participation in various Opportunities etc all this factors even helps to define the status of women in society as well. In this study we utilized various data based upon several parameters like total percentage share of women in different state , Gender gap literacy rate of women in different state, Percentage of total anaemic women in different state ,Participation of women turnout in general election, Participation of women in legislative assembly. From the data of Census of India 2011 it is found that female sex ratio is only better in state of Himachal Pradesh in North India whereas in North East region out of total 8 states percentage share of female or sex ratio is better in all 7 states except the state of Sikkim but still better than state like Delhi ,Haryana, and Jammu & Kashmir. We know Nutrition plays a very important role in well being of person and from the data of National Family Health Survey(2015-16) we found that in North India out of total 6 states percentage of anaemic women is maximum in 4 different states : Haryana, Punjab, Himachal and Delhi whereas out of total 8 states in North-East only 3 state shows maximum percentage of anaemic women : Meghalaya, Assam ,Tripura but still better than North India where health condition for female are very worse. According to data of gender gap literacy ratio from Controller Registrar general of India In North region of India out of six different states only one state shows maximum decline of gender gap in literacy rate and it is state of Haryana with 44.7% whereas out of eight total states in North East six states shows better results of decline percentage in gender gap. From the data of Election Commission of India we found total percentage of women turnout in general election 2014 in North East is far better than percentage of women turnout in general election 2014 in North region of India. Women participation and percentage of women as an elector In north region is comparatively less than the percentage of women as elector from North East India. From all study we found that maximum improvement is seen in North East Region in terms of female education, health , employment ,and other opportunities as compared to the North India .

REFERENCE

1. Smith, E., Kemmis, R. B., & Comyn, P. (2014). How can the expansion of the apprenticeship system in India create conditions for greater equity and social justice?. *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*, 54(3), 368.
2. Hussain, Nazmul. (2010). Gender Differences: A Case Study of Malda District of West Bengal (India),. *Pakistan Journal of Women's Studies*. 17. 75-96.
3. Nitu Roy Kanrar .(2019). Problem of gender inequality and development of women Education in West Bengal: an Overview. *International journal of basic and applied research* . 2019, 9(1)
4. UNICEF.2017.The State of the World's Children 2017 Summary. Available at site: https://www.unicef.org/about/annual-report/files/India_2017_COAR.pdf
5. Chand, S., & Mehrotra, M. (2012). An evaluation of major determinants of health care facilities for women in India. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(5), 1-9. doi:10.9790/0837-0250109
6. Jose, Sunny and Navaneetham, Kannan, A Factsheet on Women's Malnutrition in India (August 16, 2008). Jose, Sunny and K. Navaneetham (2008) "A Factsheet on Women's Malnutrition in India", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 43, No. 33 (August 16-22), pp. 61-67 . Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2552535>
7. Mason, J., Bailes, A., Beda-Andourou, M., Copeland, N., Curtis, T., Deitchler, M., Vance, G., 2005. recent trends in malnutrition in developing regions: vitamin A deficiency, anemia, iodine deficiency, and child underweight. *Food Nutr. Bull.* 26 (1), 59–162. <https://doi.org/10.1177/156482650502600107>.
8. UNDP Annual Report 2008. Empowering People and Institution. Available at :https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/corporate/undp_in_action_2008.html
9. Vecchio, N., & Roy, K. C. (1998). Poverty, female-headed households, and sustainable economic development. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press.
10. Klugman, J., Kolb, H., & MoRTon, M. (2014). Persistent gender inequality in the world of work. *Fletcher F. World Aff.*, 38, 133.
11. Comyn, P., Kemmis, R. B., & Smith, E. (2014). How can the expansion of the apprenticeship system in India create conditions for greater equity and social justice? *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*, 54, 369-387.
12. Sankaran, K., & Madhav, R. (2011). Gender equality and social dialogue in India. Geneva: ILO.
13. World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Report 2011. Available at: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2011.pdf
14. S. Mahendra Dev. 2004. Female Work Participation and Child Labour: Occupational Data from NFHS. *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 7 (Feb. 14-20, 2004), pp. 736-744
15. Census of India 2011. Available at: https://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/data_files/india/Final_PPT_2011_chapter5.pdf
16. Women Men In India , 2017. State-wise Gap in the Literacy rates of Males and Females in last two decades. Office of Registrar General, India. Available at : http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/reports_and_publication/statistical_publication/social_statistics/WMI17Chapter3.pdf
17. National Family Health Survey- 4. (2015-16). Anaemia among children and adults. Available at:[http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/National%20Family%20Health%20Survey%202015-16%20\(NFHS-4\)%20-%20state%20fact%20sheet.pdf](http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/National%20Family%20Health%20Survey%202015-16%20(NFHS-4)%20-%20state%20fact%20sheet.pdf)
18. Women and Men In India 2018.A statistical compilation of Gender related Indicators in India. Participation of Women in Legislative Assemblies. Available at: http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Women%20and%20Men%20%20in%20India%202018.pdf