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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF RURAL WOMEN IN NANDED DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

*Gender discrimination in India is a major factor affecting the socio-economic development of women. It is known that women in rural areas do not have proper facilities and education for their development. Most women in rural areas do not have access to health care. Most of the women in the villages are housewives and work in the fields for their livelihood. A case study has been conducted to monitor the socio-economic development of women in rural areas of Nanded district in Maharashtra. Studies have shown that most women work in agriculture, tailoring, selling vegetables, fruits and working in the fields. Some women are working as cleaners in educational institutions. Therefore, most of the women are uneducated and it is understood that attention needs to be paid to the socio-economic development of women in this village.*



**KEY WORD:** socio-economic development , educational institutions , agriculture.

### INTRODUCTION

Women make up half of the country's population, but their situation is extremely poor. For centuries, they have been deliberately denied opportunities for growth in the name of religion and socio-cultural practices. Before independence, women were subjected to many abominable practices, traditional harshness and vices which made their position in the society worse and their situation became more ambiguous. It included widespread illiteracy, division into blind and cowardly rooms, forced child marriage, undisputed widowhood, the rigidity of bigotry and opposition to widow remarriage, many of whom were victims of prostitution, polygamy, feticide, violence and their victims. Complete rejection of the power and personality to follow sati.

A woman in Indian society has been the victim of humiliation, oppression and exploitation. There are many areas like rape, murder, dowry death, arson, beating of wife and socio-economic and educational discrimination. In rural areas, girls need help with household chores. Most families are poor and therefore cannot afford to educate all their children and that is why they are forced to keep girls for household chores. If resources are available, it is the boy who is sent to school first. Parents do not even consider the importance of education for a married girl. They have very little motivation to send their children to school as they see no direct link between education and economic reforms. It has been found that the male literacy rate for those aged seven years and above is 83 per cent and the female literacy rate is 67 per cent. Also in rural areas it was found that nearly 50 per cent of men and 2.2 per cent of women completed their education at the degree level and above, while in urban areas 1 per cent of men and 1 per cent of women completed their education at this level of education.

### **SOCIAL RECIPROCITY ON WOMEN:**

At lower socio-economic levels of society, women do more risky manual labor than men. Women make up half of India's agricultural work. Yet men are considered "bread winners." This feeling of inferiority of women has been going on in a mental state for a generation.

Another consequence of social air conditioning is that the man is either as a father; the brother or husband considers the woman a socio-economic gift in his household. The value of a woman is valued, but not so much in terms of her usefulness as a human being, in terms of her value as a person with rights and dignity.

### **Socio-economic aspects of the social sector in India:**

The condition of women in rural India is more pitiable in terms of various socio-economic issues.

1. **Poverty:** Rural poverty is an important feature of India and about 45% of the rural population is below the poverty line. Most of them live by earning a living. In such a situation, in the family, it is unnecessary to say that the most affected women and girls are boys.
2. **Violence:** Indian society has been built on culture and tradition since ancient times. The patriarchal system and gender norms in the family and society have always given priority to the child.
3. **Economic Exploitation:** Globally, women and girls collectively carry one-third of the world's workload but still receive one-tenth of the world's income. They make up 40 percent of the paid workforce. Although women make up half of the world's population, they own less than one percent of the world's wealth. The condition of women in India in every sphere of social life is more pitiable. They are paid three-quarters of the money, while their male co-workers earn the same amount of money. In India, more than half of the total agricultural work in the predominantly agricultural country is done by women. But their work is not worth it. On average, a woman works 15 to 16 hours a day without a grant from home. The fact that women in India earn 25% less than men proves that gender is still an important criterion for determining salary in India.

### **About Study Area:**

Nanded is a city in the state of Maharashtra. It is the eighth most populous city in the state and the seventy-ninth most populous city in India. It is the second largest city in Marathwada subdivision. Nanded is the administrative centre of Nanded district. Nanded is a major destination for Sikh pilgrims, as the Tenth Sikh Guru (Guru Gobind Singh) made Nanded his permanent home and gave his gravity to the Guru Granth Sahib before his death in 1707.

Nanded is situated on the banks of the river Godavari in central western India. It is higher (approximately 255 km (171 mi)) from Hyderabad in the state of Telangana to Mumbai, the capital of the state of Maharashtra. Nanded district is bounded on the west by Latur district and Parbhani district and on the north by Yavatmal district. To the east are Nizamabad, Medak and Adilabad districts of Telangana state. Nanded has two parts: Old Nanded covers 20.62 square kilometers on the north bank of Godavari River; New Nanded, south of the river, covers 31.14 square kilometers of Waghala and six other villages.

According to the 2011 census, the population of Nanded is 50,50,564. The ratio of males to one thousand males in the municipality is 924. 12.4 percent of the population is under six years of age. The effective literacy rate was 87.40 percent. 81.74 percent women were literate. Male literacy was 92.68 percent.

### **Health check-ups are started for regular check-ups for pregnant women and children:**

- They are giving free iron pills to children to reduce the problem of Anemia.
- Pregnant women are registered in the second month of their pregnancy and are screened regularly. The target for this health plan is to register pregnant women every year.
- PMSMA is a check-up for pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- They take pregnant women to the nearest government hospital for delivery.

- They vaccinate children on time like TT

Health awareness among women is estimated at 80%. Health awareness is low due to their lack of interest in ST. Some people refuse to get regular check-ups and vaccinations for their children, despite repeated instructions from health agency workers. Asha workers are people who gather information and consult rural women to see their health status. An Anganwadi school (for children below years of age), a government school and a private school (run by women) are for the people of the village.

#### **Government Schemes of Economic Development:**

- Financial assistance for running hostels for girls in rural areas
- Financial assistance to women law graduates
- Scheme to help women to take job oriented courses
- Swadhar - a plan for women in difficult situations
- Self-Direct - an integrated project for the development and empowerment of rural women
- Women's Empowerment - Strengthening the process of economic development of rural women and creating an environment conducive to social change

The National Commission for Women was set up in 1992 to look into issues related to women. A number of education, health and employment programs have been launched for the development of women, rural as well as urban. Some of the initiatives are universalization of education, drop out of school, promotion of kindergartens, hostels for girls, technical institutes for women and special emphasis on health, nutrition and family welfare programs.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

A review of the present situation of women in India tells the story of the decline of women from a higher position in the Vedic period to a very low position compared to nobility. The decline in status created socio-economic and religious-cultural deprivation of women. The case study has shown that women in rural areas understand the current situation and are becoming the backbone of the family. But alternative employment opportunities by providing the necessary skills are the challenges for women in rural areas. Also low wages, lack of job security, long working hours are the main reasons for their increase in social status. With the initiative of the government, all women will be ahead in all tasks. However, there are still miles to go towards the goal of gender equality. Women in rural areas of Nanded district have now become self-motivated and are moving towards their development. The current study shows that about 68% of women can read and write at a basic level. They have enough freedom to save their earnings and improve their socio-economic status.

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