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STATUS OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPED STATE: A CASE STUDY OF PUNJAB



Dwivedi Bindu

Research Fellow, Centre for Advanced Studies in Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



ABSTRACT:

Status of Women is defined " as the extent to which women have access to knowledge, economic resources, political power as well as the degree of autonomy they have in decision making and ownership over physical and environment rights in their life-cycle" (United Nations:1975). The issue of status of women has proven to be a matter of intense research and debate all over the world. It is one of the achievements of the present day discourses and practices concerning development, that "women" and "gender" have come to occupy relatively prominent places within them.

Development in India and its states has not been equitable; and men and women have benefitted differently from development and progress, be it in the economic or on the political front. The social environment further exacerbates and reinforces this difference in development. In the words of Dreze and Sen, "the North-Western states for instance are notorious for higher unequal gender relations, some symptoms of which include the

continued practice of female seclusion, very low female labour participation rate, a large gap in literacy rates, extremely restricted property rights, strong boy preference in fertility decisions, widespread neglect of female children, and drastic separation of a married woman from her natal family.

KEYWORDS

Status of Women, economic resources, political power, life-cycle.

INTRODUCTION

Punjab is no different from other states, although the development levels attained by the state are exemplary, the status of women continues to be a cause of concern. Of the 25 states Punjab ranks 6th in Human Development Index (HDI), but in Gender Equality Index it comes 16th. (HDR 2004). This gives the highest negative differential when HDI rank is compared vis-à-vis the GEI ranks and indicates that Punjab's economic affluence does not translate into better opportunities for women. On the political, economic and social front women have lagged behind, not because they are not capable, but because they have been denied opportunities even to survive. For example, the success of green revolution has pushed women, so far important contributors in the production process back into the private domain. They lost their economic independence and higher status within their class, because with increased income and consequent higher social status women were the first to be withdrawn from workforce as symbols of newly acquired status. Thus the society remained feudal and women's development abysmal.

Many scholars from different organisations and disciplines have tried to show gender inequalities from different perspectives like education, sex ratio, health, medical care, work participation etc. Pebley and Amin (1991) showed sex differentials in child mortality, with males generally having lower mortality rates, than females after first month of life, similarly, Visaria (1961) and Wyon and Gordon (1971), in Punjab, attribute the discrepant sex ratio to higher female mortality. Levinson (1974) showed that gender is a significant determinant of the nutritional status of child, in Rural Punjab, 21 per cent of girls suffer from severe malnutrition compared to 3 per cent of boys in same families; similarly Gupta's study (1986) in Ludhiana district on mother's attitude and sex of child found that 43.8 per cent girls are malnourished as compared to 26.1 per cent of boys. Singh et al (1962) and Kielman et al (1983) demonstrated that prior to death; female members of the community had less frequently received attention than male members.

Acharya and Bennett (1979) and India Country Report (1995) show that female child bears a heavier burden of both household chores and care of siblings earlier than boys but their labour stands outside the calculations of GNP.

While documenting the existence of sex bias, these studies leave us with little understanding of the dynamics of how the status of women on Social (female friendly household provisions, education, and health), Economic and Political front, varies with development regions. This paper is aimed at operationalizing the above mentioned research gap within an agrarian society of Punjab.

2. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The main objective of the study is to find out whether the status of women is congruent to the level of development in the state, both primary and secondary data has been used for fulfilment of the objective, the secondary data to measure to examine the status of women different dimensions have been taken and for each dimension some indicators are selected from Census of India, 2001 and 2011, Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2012, DLHS- 3, Punjab Assembly Elections, 2012, Punjab Election Commission and Census of Punjab Government Employees. The primary data is collected through structured questionnaire.

The data gathered of above mentioned indicators is analysed as following method, Firstly composite index is calculated for each dimension from selected indicators within dimension with the help of development index; and then composite index is again calculated to calculate overall status of women by combining all dimensions selected for study. Equal weight is given to all indicators. Composite

index of indicators is calculated with development index which is adopted by UNDP in Human Development Report, data is presented cartographically.

3. STUDY AREA

The study pertains to Punjab, one of the most developed states in the country. Although the development levels attained by the state are exemplary, the status of women continues to be a cause of worry and concern. Thus it becomes necessary to see how status of women varies with development zones of the state. Geographically or as per development regions, the state can be divided into three zones namely (Map 1.1):

a.) The North-Eastern Zone (also known as sub-mountainous or kandi region): This zone comprising Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Rupnagar, SAS and SBS districts is the least developed part of the state. This is attributed to its dissected and undulating topography, small size of landholdings, and lack of adequate irrigation and relative isolation of some of its parts due to an inadequate transportation system.

b.) The Central Zone: covering Amritsar, Taran Taran, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib districts is the most developed part of the state. It is an area of very progressive agriculture and considerably advanced industry. The Amritsar-Delhi railway line and Grand Trunk Road runs through this zone and provides it with necessary dynamism.



c.) The South-Western Zone: comprising Ferozpur, Faridkot, Bathinda, Mansa, Fazilka, Moga, Sangrur, Muktsar and Barnala districts is a rapidly developing part of Punjab. It has made a noticeable progress in agriculture, but industry is yet to emerge on a significant scale. The most important factor accounting for

its agricultural advancement has been large size of landholdings permitting mechanisation of agriculture. Nonetheless industry needs to be promoted at a large scale. This may be rated at a moderate level of development.

4. SPATIAL PATTERNS:

4.1 Women’s Access to Female Friendly Household Provisions

Women’s access to female friendly household provisions such as availability of drinking water, toilet and LPG within premises is a basic factor which has a direct bearing on women’s education and health status because most of the domestic work is done by girl child or women. The release of girl child for schooling thus requires an improvement in the access of households to water, fuel and fodder.



As table 1.1 depicts, highest access to FFP is in Ludhiana district (0.98), as it has 93.26 per cent of houses having toilet and 92.24 per cent having drinking water availability within premises, and lowest access to FFP is in Mansa district (0.12) as it has minimum index value of drinking water and LPG connections. Out of five districts lying in North-Eastern zone three (Pathankot, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur) districts has index value below 0.30 of toilet facility within premises; while all the districts except Tarantaran in Central zone has value above 50. Regional analysis show that Central Zone (0.76) has highest access to FFP, followed by North-Eastern Zone (0.58) and lowest is in South-Western (0.44).

Table: 1.1 Composite Index of Women's Access to Female Friendly Household Provisions

District	Water Availability	Availability of Toilet	Use of LPG	C.I
Gurdaspur	0.90	0.15	0.72	0.59
Pathankot	0.58	0.00	0.97	0.51
Hoshiarpur	0.58	0.25	0.96	0.59
Ropar	0.40	0.32	0.58	0.43
S.A.S	0.68	0.82	0.96	0.82
S.B.S	0.70	0.42	0.57	0.56
Amritsar	1.00	0.64	0.74	0.71
Tarantaran	0.83	0.35	0.24	0.47
Jalandhar	0.85	0.83	0.94	0.87
Kapurthla	0.75	0.74	0.96	0.81
Ludhiana	0.95	1.00	1.00	0.98
Patiala	0.59	0.80	0.74	0.71
Fatehgarh Sahib	0.87	0.82	0.68	0.79
Ferozepur	0.18	0.49	0.26	0.36
Fazilka	0.18	0.49	0.26	0.36
Faridkot	0.38	0.78	0.62	0.59
Bathinda	0.33	0.90	0.45	0.56
Mansa	0.03	0.35	0.00	0.12
Moga	0.32	0.86	0.48	0.55
Sangrur	0.42	0.73	0.39	0.51
Barnala	0.54	0.75	0.43	0.57
Muktsar	0.00	0.49	0.42	0.30

4.2 Women's Access to Education

Education plays a dual role to assess and improve the status of women; on the one hand it creates awareness about the rights and opportunities which a women can avail and its application on the other hand. The greatest concern in Punjab is that still fewer sections do not have access to education, despite the state being economically progressive; it is yet short to universalise elementary education for all its children. Though the Female literacy rates have improved from 63.55 in 2001 to 70.7 in 2001, but still there are wide intra- state differentials in different indicators: Female Literacy Rate, Gaps in Female literacy, GPI, Women's enrolment in schools and vocational courses.

Female literacy Rate is highest in Hoshiarpur distict (80 per cent), in comparison to Mansa district (56.4 per cent), this district also has lowest gender parity index and it is also amongst the districts having lowest enrolment of women in Vocational courses; highest enrolment of women in vocational courses ins in Patiala district while the District Barnala has lowest women's enrolment in schools.



Highest educational status of women is in central zone(0.56), followed by North-Eastern(0.52) and South-Western Zone(0.39).

Table: 1.2 Punjab: Composite Index of Educational Status of Women

Districts	FLR	GFLR	GPI	Enrolment in schools	Enrolment in Vocational Courses	C.I
Guraspur	0.79	0.00	0.33	0.48	0.14	0.35
Pathankot	0.79	0.00	0.33	0.48	0.14	0.35
Hoshiarpur	1.00	0.48	1.00	0.51	0.09	0.62
Ropar	0.85	0.73	0.85	0.51	0.21	0.63
S.A.S	0.96	0.49	0.96	0.46	0.05	0.58
S.B.S	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.52	0.08	0.56
Amritsar	0.67	0.41	0.66	0.47	0.38	0.52
Tarantaran	0.26	0.81	0.26	0.42	0.07	0.36
Jalandhar	0.89	0.35	0.89	0.55	0.44	0.62
Kapurthla	0.78	0.49	0.44	0.49	0.10	0.46
Ludhiana	0.89	0.38	0.89	0.52	0.08	0.56
Patiala	0.57	0.65	0.57	0.46	0.93	0.64
Fatehgarh Sahib	0.78	0.47	0.78	0.48	1.00	0.70
Ferozepur	0.23	1.00	0.23	0.48	0.07	0.40
Fazilka	0.23	1.00	0.23	0.48	0.07	0.40
Faridkot	0.34	0.67	0.34	0.48	0.10	0.39
Bathinda	0.26	0.79	0.26	0.47	0.15	0.39
Mansa	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.45	0.09	0.26
Sangrur	0.26	0.69	0.26	1.00	0.82	0.61
Barnala	0.31	0.47	0.31	0.00	0.83	0.38
Muktsar	0.15	0.84	0.14	0.49	0.06	0.34

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2012

4.3 Health and Survival Status of Women

From time immemorial it has been said that health is wealth. The saying is as relevant today as it was earlier. Though the health conditions have improved over time and space, still significant differentials lies in health status within and between regions. Over the years, the sex ratio at birth is also improving constantly in the State. It has

Increased from 754 in 2001 to 852 in 2011. The total fertility rate (15-49 years females) declined from 2.21 during NFHS-II 1998-99 to 1.99 during NFHS-III 2005-06.



Table 1.3 shows that sex ratio is highest in Hoshiarpur district (1.00) and lowest in Bathinda (0.00). total fertility Rate which is a significant indicator is influenced by women’s reproductive activities which are dependent on age of marriage, Ante-Natal visits, safe deliveries and treatment for complications and data shows that Fatehgarh Sahib has highest number of women aged 20-24 married by 18, followed by Mansa, Ludhiana, Faridkot. It is also evident that districts having high female literacy has low number of women married by age 18 and vice-versa.

But the overall analysis represents a different picture where highest health status is in South-Western Malwa region (0.46), followed by Central Zone (0.45) and lowest in North-Eastern (0.42)

Table: 1.3 Punjab: Composite Index Health and Survival Status of Women

Districts	Women age 20-24 married by age 18 years	ANC visits	Safe Deliveries	Sought treatment for pregnancy complications	Sex ratio	Child Sex ratio	Composite Index
Guraspur	0.25	0.15	0.00	0.66	0.30	0.08	0.24
Pathankot	0.25	0.15	0.00	0.66	0.30	0.08	0.24
Hoshiarpur	0.00	1.00	0.60	0.54	1.00	0.66	0.63
Ropar	0.29	0.27	0.28	0.53	0.49	0.78	0.44
S.A.S	0.40	0.56	0.68	0.60	0.13	0.38	0.46
S.B.S	0.19	0.37	0.27	0.43	0.04	0.76	0.45
Amritsar	0.17	0.00	1.00	0.80	0.19	0.08	0.37
Tarantaran	0.01	0.17	0.77	0.65	0.34	0.00	0.32
Jalandhar	0.12	0.59	0.86	0.74	0.49	0.91	0.62
Kapurthla	0.33	0.63	0.43	0.81	0.48	0.88	0.59
Ludhiana	0.79	0.40	0.27	0.43	0.04	0.76	0.45
Patiala	0.31	0.53	0.07	0.69	0.23	0.26	0.35
Fatehgarh Sahib	1.00	0.11	0.37	0.75	0.06	0.40	0.45
Ferozepur	0.43	0.36	0.75	0.88	0.28	0.45	0.53
Fazilka	0.43	0.36	0.75	0.88	0.28	0.45	0.53
Faridkot	0.64	0.05	0.99	0.52	0.25	0.53	0.50
Bathinda	0.50	0.28	0.65	0.83	0.00	0.58	0.47
Mansa	0.85	0.34	0.11	0.30	0.15	0.20	0.33
Sangrur	0.55	0.54	0.67	1.00	0.18	0.26	0.53
Barnala	0.00	0.46	0.45	0.83	0.11	0.46	0.39
Muktsar	0.52	0.46	0.45	0.83	0.11	0.46	0.39
Moga	0.52	0.24	0.92	0.00	0.30	0.18	0.36

Source: Census, 2011, DLHS-3

4.4 Economic Status of Women

After analyzing education, health and survival status of women, it becomes crucial to analyze economic status of women also because if women are economically independent then it will give her confidence, which will induce her participation in decision making process. Participation of women in work force has been universally recognized as an important element in the adoption of small family norm and achievement of twin goals of economic development and population planning (Nagaich, 1997).

As per census 2011, women constitute only 11.99% of main workers and 6.44% of marginal workers to total workers in the state. The corresponding figures at National level are 18.53% and 12.58% respectively. Data analysis represents that Female work participation rates are high in South-western Region, and gender gaps are high in Central zone followed by North-Eastern Zone. The workforce participation rate of females in Punjab is 13.90% while the male work participation rate is 55.20% as compared to National average where corresponding

Figures were 25.5% and 53.3% respectively. In other words, workforce participation rate of females in Punjab is over four times lower than their male counterparts in the state and nearly two times lower than female work participation rate at National level.



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Table 1.4 Punjab: Composite Index of Economic Status of Women

S.No	Districts	FWPR	WGAP	A	B	C	C.I
1	Amritsar	0.07	0.76	0.61	0.84	0.36	0.53
2	Gurdaspur	0.00	0.94	0.04	0.29	0.31	0.32
3	Tarantaran	0.07	0.76	0.38	0.84	0.36	0.24
4	Pathankot	0.00	0.94	0.04	0.29	0.31	0.32
5	Hoshiarpur	0.09	0.61	0	0.22	0.42	0.27
6	Jalandhar	0	1.00	0.37	0.54	0.11	0.4
7	Kapurthla	0.03	0.82	0.18	0.71	0.52	0.45
8	S.B.S Nagar	0.38	0.00	0.15	0.47	0.36	0.27
9	Barnala			0.05	0.63	0.22	0.3
10	Bathinda	0.27	0.29	0.19	0.71	0.46	0.38
11	Faridkot	0.35	0.56	0.47	0.75	0.42	0.51
12	Fatehgarh Sahib	0.11	0.71	0.44	0.18	0.38	0.36
13	Ferozepur	1	0.64	0.09	0.52	0.15	0.48
14	Ludhiana	0.06	0.88	0.63	0.8	0.61	0.6
15	Mansa	0.24	0.34	0.17	0.2	0.34	0.26
16	Moga	0.22	0.37	0.39	0.86	0.45	0.46
17	S.A.S	0.21	0.56	1	1	1	0.75
18	Mukatsar	0.19	0.47	0.11	0.47	0.36	0.32
19	Patiala	0.09	0.73	0.79	0.74	0.24	0.52
20	Ropar	0.2	0.39	0.62	0.63	0.54	0.48
21	Sangrur	0.22	0.41	0.38	0.66	0.31	0.4

Source: Census 2001 and Punjab Planning Board

4.5 Political Status of Women

A woman plays dual in politics as a voter and people-Representative. However their share in political power is not equivalent to their share in the total population. social and political institutions more representative. It serves as a tool for empowerment of women and contributes to gender sensitive decision making.



Available Statistics reveals that there was no female judge in Punjab and Haryana High Court from 1961 to 1981. In 2013, out of total 41 judges in Punjab and Haryana High Court, only 4 are female. In 2009 Punjab Lok Sabha Elections, 4 female members were elected out of total 13 members. In the Assembly Elections 2012, 14 (11.97%) female members were elected out of total 117 members of Legislative assembly. In Lok Sabah elections 2009, Percentage of female voters polled to total female electorates was 69.44% whereas the corresponding percentage for male was 70.06%. Highest political participation of women is in North-Eastern Zone (0.44), followed by South-Western Malwa region (0.42) and lowest in Central Zone.

Table: 4.1 Punjab: Composite Index of Political Status of Women in Punjab

District	Female voters	Female candidates	Women Sarpanches
Amritsar	0.42	0.17	0
Gurdaspur	0.95	0.57	0.18
TaranTaran	0.42	0.76	0.41
Pathankot	0.95	0.57	0.18
Hoshiarpur	0.54	0.21	0.49
Jalandhar	0.47	0.47	0.85
Kapurthla	0.52	0.37	0.25

S.B.S Nagar	0.52	0.33	0.24
Barnala	0.33	1	0.68
Bathinda	0.31	0.28	0.26
Fari dkot	0.39	1	1
Fatehgarh Sahib	0.34	0.31	0.06
Ferozepur	0.36	0.44	0.04
Ludhiana	0	0	0.13
Mansa	0.32	0.46	0.18
Moga	0.34	0.26	0.22
S.A.S	0.4	0.49	0.24
Muksar	0.1	0.48	0.41
Patiala	0.34	0.78	0.75
Ropar	0.33	0.54	0.24
Sangrur	1	0.35	0.26

Source: Punjab Planning Board

5.STATUS OF WOMEN: A CONSOLIDATION

After the analysis of all indicators selected in the study to analyze status of women in various spheres of life it becomes pertinent that, women does not enjoy similar status both indicator and dimension wise. As a result it becomes necessary to assess spatial variations in the overall status of women in the state. Therefore composite index of all dimensions has been calculated to mark the spatial variations in the state with reference to development zones.



As it becomes visible highest status of women is in Central zone (0.51), followed by North-Eastern zone (0.45) and lowest is in South-Western malwa region(0.44).

Thus the analysis of data clearly represents that status of women in state of Punjab is directly correlated with development zones. Except Amritsar (0.46) and Tarantaran(0.38) all other districts lying in Central zone Jalandhar (0.62), Kapurthla(0.54), Ludhiana(0.53), Patiala(0.57) and Fatehgarh Sahib(0.51) have index value above 0.50. All the districts(Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Ropar and SBS) except S.A.S nagar(0.60); has values below 50. In the south-western region Mansa has lowest index value in almost all indicators.

Table 1.6 Punjab: Composite Index of Overall Status of Women

Districts	FFP Status	Education status	Health and Survival Status	Economic Status	Political Status	Composite Index
Gurdaspur	0.59	0.35	0.24	0.32	0.57	0.41
Pathankot	0.51	0.35	0.24	0.32	0.57	0.40
Hoshiarpur	0.59	0.62	0.63	0.27	0.41	0.50
Ropar	0.43	0.63	0.44	0.48	0.37	0.47
S.A.S	0.82	0.58	0.46	0.75	0.38	0.60
S.B.S	0.56	0.56	0.52	0.27	0.36	0.48
Amritsar	0.71	0.52	0.37	0.53	0.19	0.46
Tarantaran	0.47	0.36	0.32	0.24	0.53	0.38
Jalandhar	0.87	0.62	0.62	0.40	0.60	0.62
Kapurthla	0.81	0.46	0.59	0.45	0.38	0.54
Ludhiana	0.98	0.60	0.45	0.60	0.04	0.53
Patiala	0.71	0.64	0.35	0.52	0.62	0.57
Fatehgarh Sahib	0.79	0.70	0.45	0.36	0.24	0.51
Ferozepur	0.36	0.40	0.53	0.48	0.28	0.41
Fazilka	0.36	0.40	0.53	0.48	0.28	0.41
Faridkot	0.59	0.39	0.50	0.51	0.80	0.56
Bathinda	0.56	0.39	0.47	0.38	0.28	0.42
Mansa	0.12	0.26	0.33	0.26	0.32	0.26
Moga	0.55	0.36	0.53	0.46	0.27	0.43
Sangrur	0.51	0.61	0.53	0.40	0.54	0.52
Barnala	0.57	0.38	0.36	0.32	0.33	0.33
Muktsar	0.30	0.34	0.36	0.32	0.33	0.33

6. SCHEMES IN OPERATION FOR WOMEN'S WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT IN PUNJAB

Balri Rakshak Yojana	To improve skewed sex ratio
Awareness programme for improving adverse sex ratio (ACA 2606-07)	Create awareness among the masses through camps, organized at district and block level regarding serious adverse implications of gender imbalance in the society.
Mahila Jagriti Yojana	To uplift the social and economic status of women
Social Security to the Girl Child (Kanya Jagriti Jyoti Scheme)	To uplift the social status of girls and to reduce school dropout rate
Nutrition (Kishori Shakti Yojana)	To prepare the adolescent girls to understand and learn the significance of personal hygiene environment, sanitation, first-aid, health and nutrition, education, family life, child care and development etc
Nutrition (under Nourished Adolescents Girls – ACA)	To provide free food grains through TPDS to the families of under nourished pregnant and lactating woman and adolescent girls
Attendance Scholarship to SC Primary Girl Students	The attendance scholarship at the rate of Rs. 50/- per student for 10 months in a year is awarded to the scheduled caste girls who are studying in primary classes
Swawlamban Scheme - Vocational Training programme for women	Aims to improve the lives of poor, needy, deserving women between the age group of 15 to 35 years by imparting training to them in traditional and non-traditional trades

6. CONCLUSION

At the outset of whole discussion it can be concluded that status of women is multi-dimensional concept associated with number of issues. Among different dimensions of status of women education is found to be most important, as the education status of women increase overall status of women also increase and vice versa. It means that if women are educated then their health and survival status will increase on the other hand which will also improve their economic status. It is the educated or trained women who get status in society because they are aware of their rights and duties, it also increases their effectiveness in decision making and political participation. Development levels has a direct bearing on status of women; developed areas would have greater access to FFP, education and health facilities which directly affect women's status.

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