

Gender Development in India: Issues and Challenges

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Article Info

Received: 26 January 2022
Revised: 18 February 2022
Accepted: 27 February 2022
Online: 30 May 2022

To cite this paper:

Santosh R., Suresha C.N.,
& S. Indumathi (2022).
Gender Development in
India: Issues and
Challenges. *Review of
Economics and Econometrics
Studies*. 1(1), 13-22.

Abstract: Gender development or sustainable inclusive development is one the prominent phenomenon which has emerged after the publication of Human Development Report. In this track, the present paper is a macro study which deals with gender development performance of India and its states since 2001. The foremost objective of the study is to analyze the performance of Gender Development in India. The relevant data has been collected from Global Data Lab, UNDP's Human Development Reports, Economic Survey of India, and Census Documents. Data has been analyzed by using trend and descriptive techniques. The study identified that, there is a positive and significant relationship between female literacy rate and GDI rank in India.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Female Population, Gender

JEL Classification: Q01, R23, J16

INTRODUCTION

Gender and development are considered important areas in the study of social sector issues in development. The historical development of societies has placed women at distinctively disadvantageous position. Historical studies reflect that women have played a marginal role in the, development of societies. However, modern development theories attribute significant participation by all sections of society, including women as a gender category, in the development process, Women constitute almost half of human population, and their role in the development process has critical significance in the success of failure of nations.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

The theory of development is closely related to gender because of the large scale exclusion of women from the process of development. Amartya Sen has made a compelling case for the notion that societies need to see women

less as passive recipient of help, and more as dynamic promoters of social transformation. Study of development and gender enables us to quantify the results of development efforts and also reflects the relative share of each segment of society which helps in devising sector specific policies and goals.

In order to measure the economic development through the lense of gender started during the mid 1990s, after the publication of Human Development Report by United Nation Development Programmes. The UNDP 1995 Global Human Development Report attempted to capture gender inequalities through the Gender Development Index (GDI), which is essentially the HDI adjusted for gender inequalities, with a GDI of reflecting an absolute equality in the respective attainments of men and women.

The GDI includes three indices viz., health, education and standard of living. In the first report of GDI in 1995 India secured the rank of 103 out of 137 countries with the index value of 0.700. In the year 2012 India's has ranked 132 (0.817) place out of 186 and 131 (0.820) out of 189 countries in 2019. Over the past 25 years India's GDI values has increased significantly, but its position remain more or less constant.

REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Tiwari Rashmi & Shivani Tiwari (2016) analyzed the factors determining women's participation in different types of economic activities. Researchers found that the sex ratio is positively related while per capita income and female literacy rate are negatively related to female work participation rate. It may be because of majority of women moving into the labour force during crisis or distress and withdraw when economic conditions of the household are better.

Chatterjee Esha, Sonalde Desai, and Reeve Vanneman (2018) discusses that with higher the level of education, women acquire greater skills and their earnings increase, resulting in higher labor force participation. In India, women's education has a U-shaped relationship with labor force participation. The results shows that higher the level of education of women is marry to higher income families therefore their work participation is low. Further suggest the importance of a lack of suitable employment opportunities for moderately educated women.

Batra Renu and Thomas G. Reio Jr. (2016) analyzed the causes of gender inequality in India. Gender inequality is due to a number of social and cultural causes that cannot be separated from a historical context. Human Resource Development efforts can able to reduce gender inequality in Indian

organizations. Recruitment and selection practices, training and development activities, and reward systems could be aligned through policies and procedures at the organization.

Jha Priti, and Niti Nagar (2015) an attempt has been made to identify the factors which are responsible for the problem of gender inequality in India. The study indicates the inequality in economic, social, cultural and legal biasness which are of a great challenge to create the gender equality in India. For reducing gender inequality in India, institutions should provide higher level of education to girls and increase women empowerment, give them opportunity in active politics and social activities so that social integration in Indian society can be achieved.

Sumanjeet Singh (2017) an attempt has made to examine the problem of gender inequality in India. Despite a high growth rate and plentiful government measures to encourage gender equality, the gender gap still exists in India. Lack of gender equality not only limits women's access to resources and opportunities, but also imperils the life prospects of the future generation. The low female literacy rate has had a dramatically negative impact on family planning and population stabilization efforts in India. Uneducated mothers are not aware of the best nutritional choices for their children.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data, which are collected from Global Data Lab, World Bank, UNDP's Human Development Reports (HDRs) and various Economic Survey of India, Census Documents of 2001 and 2011. The data is analyzed by using various methods of descriptive techniques viz., trend and tabular analysis and graphs are used to interpret the results. In order to analyze the performance of Gender Development in India, the present study considers the female population, female literacy rate and sex ratio as proxy variables for GDI. Further the study uses data related to Indian states only, not union territories, which are relatively having lower population and geographically smaller in size.

Table 1.1: Trends in Gender Development in India

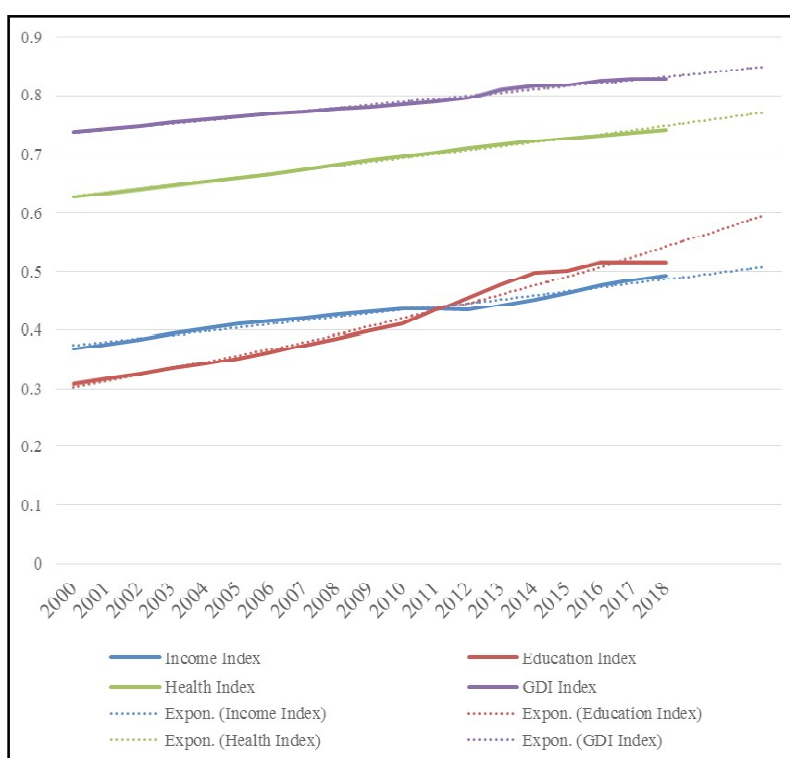
Year	Income Index	Education Index	Health Index	GDI Index
2000	0.369	0.308	0.628	0.738
2001	0.377	0.317	0.634	0.743
2002	0.385	0.325	0.640	0.748
2003	0.394	0.334	0.647	0.754

contd. table 1.1

Year	Income Index	Education Index	Health Index	GDI Index
2004	0.402	0.342	0.653	0.759
2005	0.410	0.351	0.659	0.764
2006	0.415	0.363	0.666	0.768
2007	0.420	0.375	0.674	0.772
2008	0.425	0.386	0.681	0.776
2009	0.430	0.398	0.689	0.780
2010	0.435	0.410	0.696	0.784
2011	0.435	0.434	0.703	0.789
2012	0.434	0.456	0.710	0.796
2013	0.443	0.478	0.717	0.809
2014	0.453	0.498	0.723	0.816
2015	0.464	0.501	0.728	0.817
2016	0.476	0.516	0.733	0.825
2017	0.486	0.516	0.737	0.828
2018	0.494	0.516	0.741	0.829

Source: Global Data Lab

Graph 1: A: Trends of Gender Development in India



Source: Table1.1

Table-1.1 and Graph-1.A shows that the trends in Income Index, Education Index, Health Index and Gender Development Index (GDI) related to India from 2000 to 2018. GDI value of India was 0.738 in 2000 have increased to 0.829 in 2018, which indicates the steady growth over period. The index value of Income was 0.369 in 2000 has rise to 0.494 in 2018, suggest that, there is an increase in the standard of living in the country. The Education Index value was 0.308 in 2000 have improved to 0.516 in 2018, which indicates the significant improvement in the field of education in India with respect to female education. With reference to Health Index value, it was 0.634 in 2000 have reached to 0.741 in 2018, shows that need for further improvement in the health sector.

Table 1.2: Gender Development Index Ranking

Categories	States	Years		
		2001	2011	2018
Top Five States	Kerala	1	2	1
	Meghalaya	2	3	2
	Sikkim	3	6	6
	Goa	4	5	4
	Tamil Nadu	5	10	12
Bottom Five States	Madhya Pradesh	24	25	25
	Jharkhand	25	24	20
	Bihar	26	27	27
	Uttar Pradesh	27	26	26
	Rajasthan	28	28	28

Source: Global Data Lab

Table 1.2 explains the GDI ranking of Indian states. In 2018 GDI ranking Kerala secures the first position and Rajasthan has been ranked at the least place due to low performance. The study analyzed the performance of Indian states based on ranking of Gender Development Index and classified the states in to top five and bottom five. Kerala, Mizoram, Sikkim, Goa and Tamil Nadu are ranked at the top position, where as Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are the least performed states which are ranked at the bottom.

Kerala, Mizoram and Goa achieved high level of female literacy rate leads to secure top position in GDI ranking. Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa has also maintained better sex ratio, which help the states to remain in the top. The states like Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Rajasthan having very low female literacy rate put them in the bottom position. Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir along with Sikkim, Punjab and Haryana has very low sex ratio which reduces their ranking of GDI over the period of time.

Table 1.3: Performance of Top and Bottom Five States of India based on Female Population

Variable	Top States in Terms of Population					Bottom States in Terms of Population				
	UP	MH	BI	WB	AP	NL	GOA	ARP	MIZ	SIK
Female Population (Numbers)										
2001	78586558	46417977	39724832	38733477	37440730	946950	658381	517166	431275	252276
2011	94985062	54011575	49619290	44420347	42155652	954895	717012	662379	538675	286027
Growth Rate	19.20	16.35	24.90	14.68	12.59	0.83	8.90	28.07	24.90	13.37
Female Literacy Rate (in Percentage)										
2001	42.98	65.71	33.57	60.22	51.17	61.92	75.51	44.24	86.13	61.46
2011	52.26	75.48	53.33	71.16	59.74	76.69	81.84	59.57	89.40	76.43
Sex Ratio (per 1000 Males)										
2001	898	922	919	934	978	900	961	893	935	875
2011	912	929	918	950	993	931	973	938	976	890
GDI (Ranking)										
2001	26	16	27	17	23	8	4	18	3	6
2011	26	14	27	11	19	4	5	8	1	6
2018	27	12	26	8	18	7	4	16	6	3

Source: Global Data Lab and Census Documents

Table-1.3 shows the classification of Indian states based on female population. The study tries to identify the impact of population on GDI ranking. As per 2011 census Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have more female population and occupies the top five positions in India where as Nagaland, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim has lesser female population compare to all other states, hence they occupy bottom five places.

Out of the five highly populated states, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar's performance of GDI in 2018 is low. Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh having relatively larger population could able to show better performances in GDI over two decades. Further except Arunachal Pradesh all other four less female populated states performed well in GDI ranking which reflects in Table-1.3, in which one could observe the performances of States over the period of time.

Table-1.3 also indicates the relationship between female literacy rate and GDI. Even though Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states are showing better performance in female literacy rate, that factor is not supporting these states in their GDI performance, on the other hand states like Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are showing better performance in both female literacy rate and GDI rank. Analyzing the performances of bottom five populated states, excluding Arunachal Pradesh other remaining four states have showed better performances, both in female literacy rate and GDI ranks. Due to the low performance in income and education indices of GDI in 2018 caused Arunachal Pradesh to deviate from it's better ranking path.

When it comes to the relationship between sex ratio and GDI rank, there is no uniform relation between sex ratio and GDI rank in specific to highly populated states category where Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh showed improvement in both sex ratio and GDI whereas Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states have showed improvements in sex ratio but their performance in GDI has remained constant. In category of lesser populated states, the relationship between sex ratio and GDI performance is positively reflected in the Table 1.3.

Table 1.4 helps to know the improvement of female literacy rate and its influence on GDI ranking among the top and bottom five states of India. Except the *State of Tripura* all other four states have common positive relationship between growth of literacy rate and GDI rank position, though Tripura's female literacy has significantly increased from 65.41% (2001) to 83.15% (2011) but the performance in Income indices lowers the state's ranking in GDI. When comes to the performances of bottom five states in female literacy rate such as Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand,

Table 1.4: Performance of Top and Bottom Five States of India based on Female Literacy Rate

Variable	Top States in Terms of Female Literacy Rate					Bottom States in Terms of Female Literacy Rate				
	KL	MIZ	TRI	GOA	NL	UP	J and K	JHR	BI	RJ
	Female Literacy Rate (in Percentage)									
2001	87.86	86.13	65.41	75.51	61.92	42.98	41.82	39.38	33.57	44.34
2011	91.98	89.40	83.15	81.84	76.69	52.26	58.01	56.21	53.33	52.66
	GDI (Ranking)									
2001	1	3	7	4	8	26	22	20	27	28
2011	2	1	12	5	4	26	16	24	27	28
2018	1	6	13	4	7	27	17	25	26	28

Source: Global Data Lab and Census Documents

Table 1.5: Performance of Top and Bottom Five States of India based on Sex Ratio

Variable	Top States in Terms of Sex Ratio					Bottom States in Terms of Sex Ratio				
	KL	TN	AP	MN	CHA	UP	PB	SIK	J and K	HR
	Sex Ratio (per 1000 Males)									
2001	1058	987	978	978	989	898	876	875	892	861
2011	1084	996	993	992	991	912	895	890	889	876
	GDI (Ranking)									
2001	1	12	23	11	14	26	9	6	22	21
2011	2	10	19	17	21	26	7	6	16	22
2018	1	5	18	15	19	27	9	3	17	23

Source: Global Data Lab and Census Documents

Bihar and Rajasthan continuously improvising their literacy level is not sufficient to boost GDI ranking over the period of time. Therefore these states are under performed in their Gender Development achievements.

Table-1.5 reflects the performance of Indian states in terms of sex ratio and GDI. The states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh improvises the male to female ratio over the period of time and it reflects on their GDI ranking. Manipur and Chattisgarh has some improvement in sex ratio but due to their female income index performance had negative effects which results in reduction in their GDI position. The bottom states in terms of sex ratio have been improved over the period of time but still well below the average of sex ratio of India. Even though Punjab and Sikkim has good ranking in GDI but their sex ratio is not good sign of inclusive development.

CONCLUSION

Gender Development in India is continuously increasing over the period of time, but development is not uniform in across the regions. There is better performance of health and education indicators, when comes to the income of women is still low, which reflects lesser participation of women in workforce. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar having high female population, low rate of literacy and sex ratio influence the states to remain the lower ranking of GDI in India. The study identified that, there is a positive and significant relationship between female literacy rate and GDI rank in India. The States like Punjab, Haryana and Sikkim have very low sex ratio, which reduces their position in GDI. Hence in order to create better civil society with balanced sustainable development needs gender equality in socio, economic and political dimensions.

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