

RURAL URBAN DISPARITIES IN FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE IN RAJASTHAN

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to investigate the rural urban disparities of women work participation in Rajasthan. The entire study is based on secondary sources of data collected from census of Rajasthan. The findings suggest that the participation rate of rural women is much higher than the participation rate of urban women. There is a wide gap among districts in female work participation rate. Growth of agriculture and industry in Rajasthan are the most important factors affecting women's participation rates hence there is need to provide work opportunities and better wages to rural women workers and builds the case for improving the education, information and skill level of women workers.

Keywords: FWPR, Urban Disparities, Work Participation Rate, Socio-Economic Development.

Introduction

In recent Year women are playing an important role in the economic development. They contribute significant proportion in gross domestic product through actively participating in industries services and in agricultural activities. In India between the period 2004-05 and 2009-10 there has been a decline in female employment annually at the rate of 1.72%, where as Rajasthan is transforming demographically in which population growth slows down, life expectancy increases, per capita income increases and participation of women in labor force increases. The labor work participation rate plays a very important role in determining socio-economic development and growth. It helps in reducing poverty. It shows the supply of labor in the economy and the composition of the human resources of the country. The analysis of the labor work participation is helpful in determining employment policy and policy formulation for human resource development. There have been very few studies done on various dimensions of women work in Rajasthan. Variation in female work participation rates is one of the significant features of state economy of Rajasthan. Female work participation rate has increased from 33.5 percent in 2001 to 35.1 percent in 2011. In urban areas female work participation rate has increased from 9.5 percent in 2001 to 12.0 percent in 2011 and in rural areas it increased 40.6 percent in 2001 to 42.7 percent in 2011. This shows that the economic position of females in the state has strengthened and a large share of women worker is engaged in primary sector. Rural women are mostly engaged in agriculture and allied works where they can fulfill their dual responsibility easily and this does not require any special education and training as required for women workers in urban areas. All these factors combines to raise the FWPR in rural areas while in urban areas the reverse happens and FWPR pushed down.

Review of Literature

Psacharopoulos and Tzannatar (1989) the study examined definition and theories of female labor supply and relates them to statistical evidence from 136 countries in the early 1980s. The study examined the behavior of female participation rates by some key characteristics - Income, Demographics, Religion and Education. The female participation rate was lowest for the middle - Income countries. The regression Coefficient on the Muslims, Hindu and Catholic religions were negative and highly significant. They implied that religion reduced the female labor force participation rate by more than half in Muslims countries, by 40 Percent in Hindu countries and by 30 Percent in catholic countries. Education had a positive effect on female participation.

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