

## Rural Urban Disparities in Female Work Participation Rate In Rajasthan

Priyanka Saini\*

**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 generate education based female employments.

**Keywords :** Female work participation rate

### 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

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\*Research Scholar, Department of Economics  
University of Rajasthan

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 combine to raise the FWPR in rural areas while in urban areas the reverse happens and FWPR is 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.

Siddiqui (2004) the study showed an inverse relation between the level of education and number of women workers in Eritrea. This work suggests measures of fight against discrimination, injustice and other evils of society.

Dasgupta and Goldar (2005) the study presented an econometric analysis of female labor supply in rural areas. Important findings revealed that women's labor force participation rate in rural India was negatively influenced by education, ownership of land, age and number of young (below 5 years) in household. Monthly per capita expenditure negatively affected the decision to participate in the labor force and was of greater significance for BPL households. Also, wage rate had a negative effect on women's labor force participation, but was only significant for BPL households.

Bloom, Canning, Fink and Finlay (2009) the study estimated the effect of fertility on female labor force participation in a panel of 97 countries over the period 1960-2000 using abortion legislation as an instrument for fertility. The study was based on secondary data. The study implied that abortion laws were predictive of fertility and that higher fertility reduces female labor force participation of women during their fertile year. Each birth reduced total labor supply by about 1.9 year per women. So the decline in fertility increases the ratio of working - age to total population, increases income per capita.

Khan and Khan (2009) the study examined the factors that influence the decision of married women to participate in labor force activity. Probit model was used on 3911 observation. The main finding of the study is that poverty pushes married women into the labor force participation. Majority of married women work in informal sector, so increasing the income and productivity of working mothers may have trickle down

effect on the reduction of house hold poverty.

Anjum (2012) the study examined the socio-economic condition of informal women workers in Aligarh City. This work suggested affirmative action is the only solution right from homes to work places.

Kumar and Pandey (2012), the study pointed out the disparity in women work and labor force participation in urban - rural sectors and across the states of India. The study suggested that high women participation has been seen in low caste category especially in schedule caste and schedule tribe. This comparative study revealed that in northern India and under developed states women was casually employed. It showed that regular employment was high in develop states basically southern religion of India and the women of southern region of India were more educated and skilled rather than those in northern region of India. This showed that skill was an important determinant of regular employment in India.

### Objectives

- To explain the nature of rural-urban disparity in female work participation rate in Rajasthan.
- To examine the status of women in rural and urban areas.

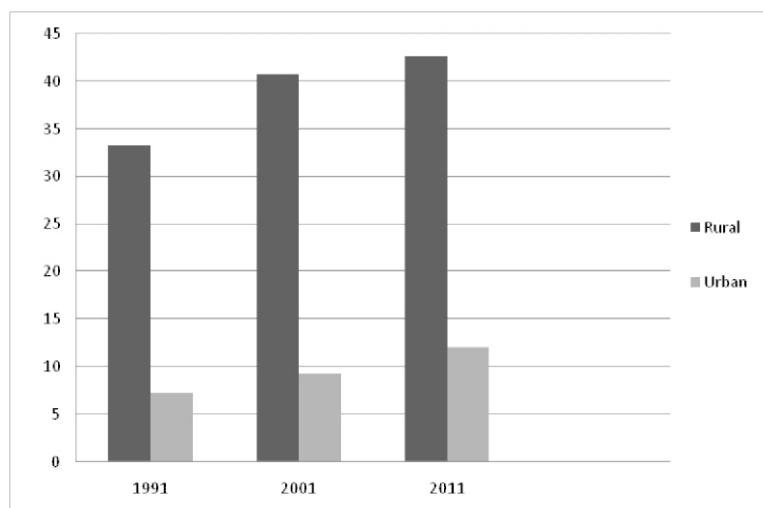
### Methodology

The study will cover Rajasthan state from 1991 to 2011. The Paper is mainly based on secondary data which was collected by various published sources like Census Report of India, NSS survey report and economic survey.

**Table 1**  
**Work Participation Rates in Rajasthan (1991-2011)**

<i>Year</i>		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
<b>1991</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>38.87</b>	<b>49.30</b>	<b>27.40</b>
	<b>Rural</b>	<b>42.04</b>	<b>50.12</b>	<b>33.25</b>
	<b>Urban</b>	<b>28.17</b>	<b>46.60</b>	<b>7.22</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>42.11</b>	<b>50.07</b>	<b>33.48</b>
	<b>Rural</b>	<b>45.94</b>	<b>50.82</b>	<b>40.70</b>
	<b>Urban</b>	<b>29.56</b>	<b>47.64</b>	<b>9.24</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>35.1</b>
	<b>Rural</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>42.7</b>
	<b>Urban</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>12.0</b>

Source : Census of India 1991 2001 2011

**Rural- Urban Female Work Participation Rates, 1991-2011**

**Table 2**  
**Rural and Urban Female W.P.R in the Districts of Rajasthan (2011)**

S.N.	State/District	Female Work Participation Rate 2011		
		Total	Rural	Urban
00	Rajasthan	35.1	42.7	12.0
01	Ganganagar	34.2	42.1	12.6
02	Hanumangarh	38.2	44.8	11.5
03	Bikaner	30.8	41.5	9.9
04	Churu	36.6	47.6	8.8
05	Jhunjhunun	33.9	40.7	11.0
06	Alwar	41.2	47.0	14.0
07	Bharatpur	35.5	41.3	11.9
08	Dhaulpur	33.3	39.2	10.7
09	Karauli	38.2	42.5	14.1
10	Sawai Madhopur	37.1	43.7	10.9
11	Dausa	36.9	40.6	10.4
12	Jaipur	23.7	37.0	11.6
13	Sikar	26.8	32.5	8.0
14	Nagaur	35.3	41.4	9.6
15	Jodhpur	29.8	39.4	11.0
16	Jaisalmer	34.5	38.2	9.6
17	Barmer	41.0	43.6	6.9
18	Jalor	45.0	47.7	15.3
19	Sirohi	29.4	34.0	10.5

20	Pali	31.5	37.0	12.2
21	Ajmer	29.2	40.5	12.1
22	Tonk	40.0	46.8	16.9
23	Bundi	39.6	45.8	15.0
24	Bhilwara	39.9	46.3	15.5
25	Rajsamand	40.2	44.6	16.6
26	Dungarpur	42.6	44.4	16.1
27	Banswara	48.8	51.2	17.0
28	Chittaurgarh	45.5	51.9	16.6
29	Kota	23.0	37.9	13.1
30	Baran	37.8	43.7	15.4
31	Jhalawar	41.3	46.8	12.5
32	Udaipur	35.3	40.5	13.8
33	Pratapgarh	53.4	56.5	18.2

Sources: Census of India, 2011

### Analysis and Interpretation

If we compare the data as showing in Table 1, we find that total WPR has an increasing trend from 38.87 percent to 42.11 percent during 1991-2001 and then to 43.6 percent in 2011. The WPR of females has shown a significant increase over the decades. The increasing trend in female WPR has been observing both in rural and urban areas. It has shot up from 33.25 in 1991 to 40.70 in 2001 and then 42.7 in 2011 for rural areas whereas the corresponding increase for urban areas in from 7.22 to 9.24 and then to 12.0 percent for the same time span. The table reveals that rural female WPR exceeds the urban female WPR.

Table 2 highlights wide gap among districts in female work participation. Rural and urban work participation is highest in Pratapgarh in 2011. Pratapgarh also happens to have the highest total female WPR. Sikar has the lowest rural female WPR at 32.5 percent and Barmer has the lowest urban female WPR at 6.9 percent.

### Conclusion

It can be concluded from the analysis that growth of agriculture and industry in Rajasthan are the most important factor affecting women's participation rates. Rural women are mostly engaged in agriculture and allied works where they can fulfill their dual responsibility easily and also this does not require any special education and training as required for women workers in urban areas. These factors raise FWPR in rural areas. With the liberalization process, the tilt of the economy is towards tertiary sector. This sector requires highly qualified, mobile and dynamic services. The further necessitates training and upgradation of skills which are more within the reach of men

rather than women. So FWPR are pushed down in urban areas. So in the light of the results of the study following suggestions need to be considered:

- There is need to expand the training opportunities for women at all levels of work structure so that they can also join the work force as active participants.
- There is need to create alternative job opportunities for women in other fields like-dairy cooperative, handicrafts, tourism industry etc.
- Private sector involvement should be ensured in promoting wage employment opportunities for women.
- There should be reorientation of self-employment programs with a view to achieve sustained increase in self-employment at a rapid pace.
- Technology choices relevant to employment promotion among women in the light of current trends in modernization in both farm and non-farm sectors are required.

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