Gender Equality in Uttar Pradesh: A District wise Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Women face inequity right from the childhood. In childhood and adulthood, males are fed first and better than females. The tradition also requires that women eat last and least throughout their lives even when pregnant and lactating situation. Consequently, malnourished women give birth to malnourished children. Moreover, women receive less healthcare facilities than men and many women in rural areas die in childbirth due to easily preventable complications. According to census 2011, Uttar Pradesh has huge population (199581477 persons) and continues to be the most populous state in the country. Here in Uttar Pradesh the birth of the male is celebrated, whereas the birth of a female filled with pain. Sons are showered with love, respect, better food and proper health care. Males are promoted to be tough and outgoing while females are encouraged to be homely and shy. All these differences are gender differences and they are created by our society. In the present study, an attempt has been made to examine the status of Gender Equality in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Words : Gender equality, Mortality rate, Literacy rate, Work participation rate, Sex ratio

INTRODUCTION

According to census 2011, Uttar Pradesh has huge population (199581477 persons) and continues to be the most populous state in the country. As soon as a child is born, families and society begin the process of gendering. The birth of the son is celebrated, the birth of a daughter filled with pain; sons are showered with love, respect, better food and proper health care. Boys are encouraged to be tough and outgoing; girls are encouraged to be homebound and shy. All these differences are gender differences and they are created by our society.

Review of Literature:

Quibria(1995) "Gender and Poverty: Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asian Developing Countries." has studied and found that across the globe, women are less educated and receive worse healthcare than their male counterparts receive.

Bils and Klenow (1998) assert that it is not education that leads to growth, but growth that leads to education. As has been shown in past studies, returns to education increase substantially as an economy becomes more developed.

Quentin (2008), "The Effect of Gender Inequality on Growth: A Cross-Country Empirical Study" has studied and found that an under investment in women's education has a negative effect on growth.

Awoyemi and Adetola (2006) have examined the effect that gender inequality in employment has in rural cassava farm holdings in southwest Nigeria, and found that increased gender inequality decreases productive efficiency.

Psacharopoulos (1994) finds that returns to female education are positive and higher than, their male counterparts. This micro literature also points to indirect benefits from gender equality.

Behrman *et al.* (1999) find that children of more literate mothers in India study nearly two more hours a night. In addition, gender inequality has been shown to

influence a number of development related goals, such as lower fertility rates, higher education rates, and better child health.

Esteve-Volart (2004) finds that when studying different states in India, those with higher rates of gender discrimination exhibit lower growth rates compared to others. However, do these concerns impact the growth of the country

Barro and Jong-wha (1994) use a panel data set of 138 countries to examine the empirical determinants of growth, including measures for both male and female schooling. In what they see as a "puzzling finding", female education is negatively correlated with growth. Barro and Lee attribute this to a sign of "backwardness" in the society, where gender differences are picking up on aspects of undeveloped countries that may not have been captured with an initial GDP variable. Therefore, such less developed countries may experience higher growth rates due to a convergence mechanism.

Seguino (2000a; 2000b) has studied and found that in a sample of export-oriented Asian nations, higher rates of growth are actually correlated with higher rates of gender inequality. She attributes this to the ability of firms to pay female labor less than males without fear of backlash or revolution, thus spurring investment.

Sen (2001), in his essay "Many Faces of Gender Inequality", opined that there is need to take a plural view of gender inequality, which can have many different faces. The prominent faces of gender injustice can vary from one region to another, and also from one period to the next. He further described that the Gender inequality hurts the interests not only of girls and grown-up women, but also of boys and men, through biological connections (such as childhood undernourishment and cardiovascular diseases at later ages) and also through societal connections (including in politics and in economic and social life).

Objective of the study:

The main objective of the study is to:

Highlight the gender equality among districts of Uttar Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data source. The data are collected from Census of India and Department of Statistics. The time series and cross sectional data are collected for 71 districts in Uttar Pradesh. We have selected seven indicators; the indicators are discussed below-

Indicators of gender inequality:
1. **Gaps between male and female mortality rate (U5 MR) (R1):**
   Less gaps between female and male mortality rate (under 5 years) means more gender equality.
2. **Sex ratio at birth (R2):**
   More sex ratio at birth means more gender equality.
3. **Sex ratio at all age group (R3):**
   More sex ratio at all age group means more gender equality.
4. **Gaps between male and female literacy rate (R4):**
   Less gaps between literacy rate of male and female means more gender equality.
5. **Gaps between male and female work participation rate (R5):**
   Less gaps between male and female work participation rate means more gender equality.
6. **Child sex ratio 0-6 year (R6):**
   More child sex ratio means more gender equality.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Meaning of gender discrimination:

Gender inequality is therefore a form of inequality, which is distinct from other forms of economic and social inequalities. It dwells not only outside the household but also centrally within it. It stems not only from pre-existing differences in economic endowments between women and men but also from pre-existing gendered social norms and social perceptions. Gender inequality has adverse impact on development goals as reduces economic growth. It hampers the overall well being because blocking women from participation in social, political and economic activities can adversely affect the whole society. Many developing countries including India have displayed gender inequality in education, employment and health. It is common to find girls and women suffering from high mortality rates. There are vast differences in education level of two sexes.

Statistics reveal that in India, males significantly outnumber females and this imbalance has increased over time. According to 2011 census, report the sex ratio stands at 940 per 1000 males. Out of the total population, 180 million are women who live in abject poverty. The

maternal mortality rate in rural areas is among the world's highest. The deaths of young girls in India exceed those of young boys by over 300,000 each year and every 6th infant death is specifically due to gender discrimination.

Women face discrimination right from the childhood. Gender disparities in nutrition are evident from infancy to adulthood. In fact, gender has been the most statistically significant determinant of malnutrition among young children and malnutrition is a frequent, direct or underlying, cause of death among girls below age 5. Girls are breast-fed less frequently and for a shorter duration in infancy. In childhood and adulthood, males are fed first and better. Adult women consume approximately 1,000 fewer calories per day than men according to one estimate. Nutritional deprivation has two major consequences for women: they never reach their full growth potential, and suffer from anemia, which are risk factors in pregnancy. This condition complicates childbearing and results in women and infant deaths, and low birth weight infants. The tradition also requires that women eat last and least throughout their lives even when pregnant and lactating. Malnourished women give birth to malnourished children, perpetuating the cycle. Women receive less healthcare facilities than men. A primary way that parents discriminate against their girl children is through neglect during illness. As an adult they tend to be less likely to admit that they are sick and may wait until their sickness has progressed far before they seek help or help is sought for them. Many women in rural areas die in childbirth due to easily preventable complications. Women's social training to tolerate suffering and their reluctance to be examined by male personnel are additional constraints in their getting adequate health care.

1. **Gaps between male and female mortality rate (U5 MR) (R1):**
(Less Gaps between Female and Male Mortality Rate (under 5 years) means more gender equality)-
The under-five mortality is the probability (5q0) that a child born in a specific year or time period will die before reaching the age of five, subject to current age specific mortality rates. It is expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births. If less no. of females die before reaching age 5 years than males it means there is gender equality. Less Gaps between Female and Male Mortality Rate (under 5 years) means more gender equality.

2. **Sex ratio at birth (R2):** (More Sex Ratio at Birth means more gender equality.)-
Sex Ratio at Birth = Number of female live births per 1,000 males live births. More Sex Ratio at Birth means more gender equality.

3. **Sex ratio at all age group (R3):** (More Sex Ratio at all age group means more gender equality)-
Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population and is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time. It may be noted that the sex ratio is expected to be almost at parity in nature. According to experts sex differential in mortality, sex selective outmigration, skewed sex ratio at birth are the major contributory factors that influence changes in sex ratio.

In India, sex ratio is skewed in favor of males and has continued to rise and expand in various forms. This has drawn wide attention of policy makers and planners to reverse the trend to bring it back to parity.

Sex Ratio at all age group = Number of females per 1,000 males. Generally, it is assumed that if Sex Ratio is more than 1000 it means greater equality towards gender. However, Sex Ratio of less than thousand shows the gender inequality. More Sex Ratio at all age group means more gender equality.

4. **Gaps between Male and Female Literacy Rate (R4):** (Less Gaps between Literacy Rate of Male and Female means more gender equality.)-
Difference of literacy rate of male and female is another way to understand gender equality. More Gaps between Literacy Rate of Male and Female means more gender inequality While, less gaps between male and female literacy rate shows gender equality. Low the difference between male and female literacy rate is good indicator of gender equality.

5. **Gaps between Male and Female Work Participation Rate (R5):**
Less Gaps between Male and Female work participation rate means more gender equality.

6. **Child Sex Ratio 0-6 Year (R6):**

More Child Sex Ratio means more gender equality.

Sex ratio and gender inequality:

Sex ratio is the simple way to understand gender inequality. Generally, if the sex ratio of any society is high it means gender equality otherwise, it seems gender inequality.

District wise sex ratio in Uttar Pradesh:

It is interesting to analyze sex ratio in different districts of Uttar Pradesh and compare it with not only each other but national average as well. Among the 71 district of the state, we arranged in three groups as high sex ratio, medium sex ratio and low sex ratio groups. From the Table 1 it can be seen that sex ratio of 17 districts are higher than national average (936/1000male). Moreover, the contribution of these districts in population of Uttar Pradesh is 26.15 per cent (5.21 carors).

Likewise, top five district of Uttar Pradesh, which have the highest sex ratio, are Jaunpur (1018), Azamgarh (1017), Deoria (1013), Pratapgarh (994)and Sultanpur (978). However, five districts that have the lowest sex ratio are Gautam Buddh Nagar (852), Kanpur Nagar (852), Hardoi (856), Mathura (858), and Bagpat (858).

Sex ratio of India in comparison to neighboring countries:

It would be quite useful when we compare sex ratio of Uttar Pradesh with neighboring countries. From the Table 2 it can be revealed that India and Uttar Pradesh are far behind their neighboring countries. India placed before only Bhutan (897) and Afghanistan (931) and remaining all neighboring countries- Myanmar (1,048), Sri Lanka (1,032), Nepal (1,014), and Bangladesh (978) are better positioned as far as sex ratio is concerned. Besides, India and Uttar Pradesh are placed rear as compared to world average (984). From the above explanation, it can be concluded that condition of sex ratio in Uttar Pradesh is unjust.

Table 1 : District wise Sex Ratio in U.P. - 2011

District wise Sex-Ratio in Uttar Pradesh - 2011
(High, Medium, and Low)
(In 2011 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2011 India's Average Sex-Ratio : 936)

High Sex Ratio (24 District) (909-1018)		Medium Sex Ratio (24 District) (879-908)		Low Sex Ratio (23 District) (852-879)	
Jaunpur	1018	Barabanki	908	Kashiram Nagar	879
Azamgarh	1017	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	907	Ghaziabad	878
Deoria	1013	Lucknow	906	Aligarh	876
Pratapgarh	994	Kaushambi	905	Mainpuri	876
Sultanpur	978	Lalitpur	905	Shrawasti	875
Mau	978	Rampur	905	Farrukhabad	874
Ambedkar Nagar	976	Moradabad	903	Mahamaya Nagar	870
Siddharth Nagar	970	Allahabad	902	Firozabad	867
Sant Kabir Nagar	969	Unnao	901	Etawah	867
Faizabad	961	Mirzapur	900	Jalaun	865
Basti	959	Fatehpur	900	Shahjahapur	865
Kushi Nagar	955	Bulandshahar	892	Auraiya	864
Ghazipur	951	Bahraich	891	Etah	863
Sant Ravidas Nagar	950	Pilibhit	889	Banda	863
Gorakhpur	944	Kheri	887	Kanpur Dehat	862
Rae Bareli	941	Sharanpur	887	Hamirpur	860
Mahrajgang	938	Muzaffar Nagar	886	Agra	859
Ballia	933	Jhansi	885	Budaun	859
Balrampur	922	Meerut	885	Bagpat	858
Gonda	922	Bareilly	883	Mathura	858
Sonbhadra	913	Mahoba	880	Hardoi	856
Chandauli	913	Sitapur	879	Kanpur Nagar	852
Bijnor	913	Chitrakoot	879	Gautam Buddh Nagar	852
Varanasi	909	Kaunnauj	879		

Table 2 : Sex Ratio of India in Comparison to Neighboring Countries		
Sex Ratio of India in Comparison to Neighboring Countries[#] (In 2010 World Average: 984) (In 2011 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908) (In 2011 India's Average Sex-Ratio : 936)		
Sr. No.	Country	Sex Ratio
1.	Myanmar	1,048
2.	Sri Lanka	1,032
3.	Nepal	1,014
4.	Bangladesh	978
5.	Pakistan	942
6.	Afghanistan	931
7.	Bhutan	897

District wise Gender Equity Index:

For the study of Gender Equity, we made a composite Index which comprising six of gender equalities. The indicators are- R1: Gaps between Male and Female Mortality Rate (U5 MR), R2: Sex Ratio at Birth, R3: Sex Ratio at All Age Group, R4: Gaps between Male and Female Literacy Rate, R5: Gaps between Male and Female Work Participation Rate, R6: Child Sex Ratio 0-6 Year.

After that we have added all the ranks of R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and R6 of each district and made a composite index called Gender Equity Index. Less the Gender Equity Index shows high the gender equity and more the Gender Equity Index means low the gender equity.

It is interesting to analyze Gender Equity Index in different districts of Uttar Pradesh and compare it with each other. Among the 71 district of the state, we arranged in three groups as high Gender Equity Index, medium Gender Equity Index and low Gender Equity Index groups.

From the Table 3, it can be seen that having least Gender Equity composite index Mau (94) is the topper of all 71 districts followed by Ambedkar Nagar (101) Pratapgarh (118) Deoria (126) Ghazipur (129) SantKabirNagar (133) Basti (134) Barabanki (137) Kushinagar (138) and Azamgarh (140). From the above table it can be seen that these top 10 districts are having good gender equity in U.P. Similarly, having most composite index Mathura (344) is the lowest gender equity among all districts followed by Budaun (341), Hathras (328), Agra (312), Banda (310) Firozabad (301), Etah (284), Muzaffarnagar (282), Shahjahanpur (282) and

Table 3 : District Wise Gender Equity Index					
District of High Gender Equity	Gender Equity Index	District of Medium Gender Equity	Gender Equity Index	District of Low Gender Equity	Gender Equity Index
Mau	94	Rae Bareli	191	Varanasi	235
Ambedkar	101	Pilibhit	191	Etawah	236
Pratapgarh	118	Gonda	192	Aligarh	238
Deoria	126	Saharanpur	200	Kanpur Nager	239
Ghazipur	129	Unnao	203	Chitrakoot	239
Sant Kabir Nagar	133	Mirzapur	204	Farrukhabad	241
Basti	134	Bahraich	205	Bijnor	242
Barabanki	137	Sitapur	206	Hamirpur	243
Kushinagar	138	Allahabad	211	Mahoba	248
Azamgarh	140	Moradabad	211	Ghaziabad	252
Chandauli	152	Kannauj	213	Hardoi	253
Lucknow	153	Fatehpur	214	Meerut	254
Maharajganj	162	Sant Ravidas Nagar	216	Shrawasti	279
Balrampur	169	Jalaun	219	Gautam Buddha Nagar	280
Gorakhpur	170	Rampur	221	Shahjahanpur	282
Sultanpur	171	Kheri	222	Muzaffarnagar	282
Faizabad	171	Baghpat	225	Etah	284
Jaunpur	176	KanpurDehat	226	Firozabad	301
Siddharthnagar	178	Bareilly	228	Banda	310
Sonbhadra	179	Bulandshahar	230	Agra	312
Lalitpur	184	Jyotiba Phule Naga	230	Hathras	328
Ballia	188	Auraiya	231	Budaun	341
Mainpuri	189	Kaushambi	233	Mathura	344
		Jhansi	233		

Gautam Buddha Nagar (280). From the above table it can be observed that these lowest 10 districts are having worst gender equity in U.P.

Conclusion:

It can be concluded that as far as, sex ratio is concerned top five district of Uttar Pradesh, which have the highest sex ratio, are Jaunpur (1018), Azamgarh (1017), Deoria (1013), Pratapgarh (994) and Sultanpur (978). However, five districts that have the lowest sex ratio are Gautam Buddh Nagar (852), Kanpur Nagar (852), Hardoi (856), Mathura (858) and Bagpat (858).

It can also be concluded that as far as Gender Equality is concerned district Mau, Ambedkar Nagar, Pratapgarh, Deoria, Ghazipur, SantKabir Nagar, Basti, Barabanki, Kushinagar and Azamgarh are having good gender equality in U.P. However, Mathura followed by Budaun, Hathras, Agra, Banda, Firozabad, Etah, Muzaffarnagar, Shahjahanpur and Gautam Buddha Nagar are having worst gender equality in U.P.

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