

## A Study of Changing Inequalities in the Status of Women – A Case Study of District Baramulla

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study was examine the changing inequalities in the status of women. The sample for the present study was consists of 100 women’s in the age-group of 20-45 years in district Baramulla district of Kashmir, J&K, the random sampling technique was used for the present study. The investigator selected the two educational zones of district Baramulla. Information Blank: The information Blank was prepared in English for women respondents but questions were asked in Kashmiri and Urdu languages, which is their mother tongue. The information blank covered personal information, family information, Information related to gender inequality, Social Information, Health information, Employment related information and Govt. Schemes related to women.

**Key Words :** Changing inequalities, Status of women, District Baramulla

### INTRODUCTION

The Kashmir Valley, also known as the Vale of Kashmir, is a valley in the portion of the Kashmir region administered by India. The valley is bounded on the southwest by the Pir Panjal Range and on the northeast by the main Himalayas range. It is approximately 135 km long and 32 km wide, and drained by the Jhelum River.

Baramulla is as old as the valley of Kashmir. In ancient times called Varamulla, it is situated at a distance of 55 kms from the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir State, in the north, east of Srinagar. It is surrounded by

mountains from three sides, which give this town an extra ordinary beautiful look. Baramulla being the district headquarter comprises of 8 tahsils This district has been divided in 12 Community Development Blocks. The number of villages in each tehsil is given in the Statement:-

The name of CD Blocks are as following:

Tehsil	No. of villages 518		
	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Total
Sopore	57	1	58
Rafiabad	77	0	77
Pattan	94	1	95
Baramulla	42	0	42
Kreeri	50	0	50
Uri	41	7	48
Boniyar	52	0	52
Tangmarg	96	0	96

Sr. No.	Name of the CD block
1	Zaingeer
2	Sopore
3	Rafiabad
4	Pattan
5	Rohama
6	Kunzer
7	Singhpora
8	Baramulla
9	Wagura
10	Boniyar
11	Uri
12	Tangmarg

## District Highlights 2011 Census:

Population	Total	Persons	1008039
		Males	534733
		Females	473306
	Urban	Persons	182500
		Males	102334
		Females	80166
Rural	Persons	825539	
	Males	432399	
	Females	393140	

The total population of the district as per census 2011 is 1008039 persons .It consists of 534733 males and 473306 females. The rural sector of the district is inhabited by 432399 males and 393140 females (Economic Survey 2013-14; Minorities: Census of India, 2001; Population data: Census of India, 2011; Tolley, 2009).

**Objectives of the study:**

India today is facing many problems based on gender inequality. The woman of India constitutes almost 50% of the population, hence this research study attempts to examine and describe the problems of women in Kashmir region with reference to following objectives.

- 1) To explore the gender inequality in District Baramulla
- 2) To study and analyze the socio economic profile of Kashmiri women.
- 3) To assess the problems of the Kashmiri women based on gender inequality.
- 4) To study the gender inequality in District Baramulla in other relevant field
- 5) To find out the causes and factors of gender inequality with respect to their religion.

**Scope of the study:**

The present study is mainly descriptive type which covers problems of women related to gender inequality of district Baramulla in J & K State. The study can be helpful at the large level for the elimination of women issues in India.

**Area of the research:**

For the attainment of objectives of the present study Kashmir region is selected. This study has covered only the married women between the age group of 20-45 years of age and resides in the Kashmir region, which includes

one Administrative Districts Baramulla.

**METHODOLOGY****Sampling design:**

The sample for the present study was consists of 100 women's in the age-group of 20-45 years in district Baramulla district of Kashmir, J&K, the random sampling technique was used for the present study. The investigator selected the two educational zones of district Baramulla viz., Takya and Khan Mundji

**Sources of data collection:**

In orders to carry out the research study on the concerned topic, the researcher have collected data from the respondents through Interview Schedules observation and focus group.

The information has been be collected from both primary and secondary sources.

**Primary data:**

Primary data which includes first hand information collected from the women respondents by using interview schedules.

**Secondary data:**

The secondary but main data was drawn from Tehsil office, Directorate of social welfare Kasmhir, Child Development Office, Gram Panchayats office, Block Development Office NGO'S, various publications on gender inequality, Officail documents and also from the personal discussions held with the officers working in child and women development department and experts working for the betterment of women. Besides this the researcher has used observation and focus group method for the collection of data.

**Tools of data collection:**

The following tools were used for data collection.

**Information blank:**

The information Blank was prepared in English for women respondents but questions were asked in Kashmiri and Urdu languages, which is their mother tongue. The information blank covered personal information, family information, Information related to gender inequality, Social Information, Health information, Employment related information and Govt. Schemes related to women.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The perusal of the Table 1 shows the age-wise distribution of the respondents. The table indicates that 11% women belongs to 21-25 years of age-group, 23% women belong 26-30 years of age-group, 16% women's belongs 31-35 years of age-group, 13% women belong 36-40 years of age-group and 37% women belong 41-45 years of age-group.

Age-group (in years)	No. of respondents	Per cent
21-25	11	11.0
26-30	23	23.0
31-35	16	16.0
36-40	13	13.0
41-45	37	37.0
Total	100	100.0

The Table 2 shows the religion-wise distribution of the respondents. The table indicates that 74% respondents have Muslim religion, 3% respondents have Hindu religion and 11% respondents have Sikh religions.

Religion	No. of respondents	Per cent
Muslim	74	74.0
Hindu	3	3.0
Sikh	23	11.0
Total	100	100.0

The perusal of the Table 3 shows the type of family of the respondents. The results of the table indicate that 96% lived in the joint family, 24% respondents lived in the nuclear family and 7% respondents lived in the extended family.

Religion	No. of respondents	Per cent
Joint	69	96.0
Nuclear	24	24.0
Extended	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0

The perusal of the Table 4 indicates the educational status of the respondents. The table shows that 42.0% respondents were illiterate, 12% respondents were primary level of qualification, 6% respondents have secondary level of qualification, 27% respondents were

higher secondary level of qualification, 9% were graduation level of qualification and 4% respondents were higher education qualification.

Qualification	No. of respondents	Per cent
Illiterate	42	42.0
Primary	12	12.0
Secondary	6	6.0
Higher Secondary	27	27.0
Graduation	9	9.0
Higher Education	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0

The perusal of the Table 5 indicates that 8% respondents were 50,000 status of dowry at the time of marriage, 13% respondents were 50000 to 100000 status of dowry at the time of marriage, 38% were above 1 lac dowry at the time of marriage.

Amount (Rs.)	No. of respondents	Per cent
≤ Rs50,000	8	8.0
50000 – 1,00000	13	13.0
≥ 1,00000	38	38.0
Can't Say/ unmarried	41	41.0
Total	100	100.0

The perusal of the Table 6 indicates the place of delivery among of the respondents. The results of the table indicates that 28% respondents were unmarried

Place	No. of respondents	Per cent
Unmarried	28	28.0
Govt. Hospital	49	49.0
Private Hospital	16	16.0
No Children	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0

The perusal of the Table 7 shows the type of immunization (Out of 100 respondents). The table depicts that 84.0% take BCG Immunization type, 77.0% have DTP, 97.0% have Polio immunization and 71.0% take measles immunization type.

Immunization type	No. of respondents	Per cent
BCG	84	84.0
DTP	77	77.0
Polio	97	97.0
Measles	71	71.0

The perusal of the Table 8 shows the decision regarding their life. The table indicates that out of 100 respondents 54% have right to decision on their education, 42% have right to decision on their marriage, 12% have right to decision on their employment and 28% have right to decision on their routine matters (Arya, 2009).

Decision	No. of respondents	Per cent
Education	54	54.0
Marriage	42	42.0
Employment	12	12.0
Routine Matters	28	28.0

The Table 9 shows that 49% respondents says that female birth have always burden on parents, 76% respondents says that female birth have marriage burden, 77% respondents says that female birth have dowry burden and 69% respondents says that female birth have insecurity to the family.

Opinion	Female birth	
	N	%age
Always burden on parents	49	49.0
Marriage burden	76	76.0
Dowry burden	77	77.0
Insecurity to the family	69	69.0

The perusal of the Table 10 shows that 57% respondents response towards male birth in a family remain always with parents, 79% respondents response towards male birth in a family have family earner, 82% respondents response towards male birth in a family have no burden of dowry and 89% respondents response towards male birth in a family have safe and secure.

Opinion	Male birth	
	N	%age
Remain always with parents	57	57.0
Family earner	79	79.0
No burden of dowry	82	82.0
Safe and Secure	89	89.0

The perusal of the above table shows that 39% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have their jobless, 3% respondents to the reason

women's disappointment in laws have reason could not give son to their family, 5% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have too many daughters, 46% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have reason they could not give enough dowry, 36% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have reasons with in-laws/ husband not happy, 7% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have could not give many children, 53% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws that their in-laws want her to work all the time and 40% respondents not responses to the question.

Opinion	Male birth	
	N	%age
Jobless	39	39.0
Could not give son	3	3.0
Have too many daughters	5	5.0
Could not give enough dowry	46	46.0
In laws / Husband not happy	36	36.0
Could not have children	7	7.0
Second wife	0	0.0
Could not give many children	3	3.0
In laws want her to work all the time	53	53.0
Can't say	40	40.0

### **Educational information:**

Education in general and Higher Education in particular acts as an insurance for Women Empowerment. Education of the women is very effective tool for women's empowerment not only from the point of view of literacy, but it has inter-linkage with other social parameters viz. population growth, health care, education of children etc. It enables rural women to acquire new knowledge and technology, required for improving and developing their tasks in all fields. Besides availing new opportunities and combating emerging challenges of dynamic society. Female education is essential for higher standards of health and improved maternal competence? which leads to lower infant mortality. It also raises women's economic productivity. Despite its linkage to so many positive outcomes and the progress made over the past 50 years, female literacy remains low in J&K State as compared to men Kishori Shakti Yojna (KSY) aims at addressing the needs of self development, nutrition and health status, literacy, numerical skills and

vocational skills of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years. To reduce gender disparities in education, and to promote women empowerment, 9 women ITIs and 12 Women Wings in the existing ITIs have been established under Prime Ministers Reconstruction Programme (PMRP). 5 additional ITIs have been approved during 2007-08. Pre-matric scholarship is provided by the State Government to girl students to enhance their level of literacy and to reduce burden on the parents for sustained education. The rate at which the scholarship is provided is detailed as under:-

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme, is being implemented in the State for improvement in gross enrolment ratio apart from Universal Elementary Education (UEE) and Universal retention.

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) aimed to enhance education of girls by providing need based incentives like stationery, books uniforms etc to the girl student. 287

Girls Middle Schools have been developed under NPEGEL in the State.

Kishori Shakti Yojna (KSY) aims at addressing the needs of self development, nutrition and health status, literacy, numerical skills and vocational skills of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years. To reduce gender disparities in education, and to promote women empowerment, 9 women ITIs and 12 Women Wings in the existing ITIs have been established under Prime Ministers Reconstruction Programme (PMRP). 5 additional ITIs have been approved during 2007-08 (Bhasin, 1972; Bhattacharya, 2009; Biddle and Edwin, 1966; Chowdry, 2009; Dabla, 1982; Dabla, B.1988; Dabla, 2005).

### Findings:

– The study found that 11% women belongs to 21-25 years of age-group, 23% women belong 26-30 years of age-group, 16% women's belongs 31-35 years of age-group, 13% women belong 36-40 years of age-group and 37% women belong 41-45 years of age-group in district Baramulla.

– It was found that 74% respondents have Muslim religion, 3% respondents have Hindu religion and 11% respondents have Sikh religions in district Baramulla.

– The study found that 96% lived in the joint family, 24% respondents lived in the nuclear family and 7% respondents lived in the extended family in district

Baramulla.

– It was found that 42.0% respondents were illiterate, 12% respondents were primary level of qualification, 6% respondents have secondary level of qualification, 27% respondents were higher secondary level of qualification, 9% were graduation level of qualification and 4% respondents were higher education qualification in district Baramulla.

– The study found that 8% respondents were 50,000 status of dowry at the time of marriage, 13% respondents were 50000 to 100000 status of dowry at the time of marriage, 38% were above 1 lac dowry at the time of marriage in district Baramulla.

– It was found that the place of delivery among of the respondents. The results of the table indicates that 28% respondents were unmarried in district Baramulla.

– It was found that 84.0% take BCG Immunization type, 77.0% have DTP, 97.0% have Polio immunization and 71.0% take measles immunization type in district Baramulla.

– The study found that out of 100 respondents 54% have right to decision on their education, 42% have right to decision on their marriage, 12% have right to decision on their employment and 28% have right to decision on their routine matters in district Baramulla.

– It was found that 49% respondents says that female birth have always burden on parents, 76% respondents says that female birth have marriage burden, 77% respondents says that female birth have dowry burden and 69% respondents says that female birth have insecurity to the family in district Baramulla.

– The study found that 57% respondents response towards male birth in a family remain always with parents, 79% respondents response towards male birth in a family have family earner, 82% respondents response towards male birth in a family have no burden of dowry and 89% respondents response towards male birth in a family have safe and secure in district Baramulla

– The analysis has brought this fact to fore that the efforts put in by the Government through various interventions to reach to the far-flung areas and bring down literacy gap has materialized at ground level yet there is tremendous scope for bringing further improvements with focused attention.

In district Baramulla, the study found that 39% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have their jobless, 3% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have reason could not

give son to their family, 5% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have too many daughters, 46% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have reason they could not give enough dowry, 36% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have reasons with in-laws/ husband not happy, 7% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws have could not give many children, 53% respondents to the reason women's disappointment in laws that their in-laws want her to work all the time and 40% respondents not responses to the question (Bajaj, 1968; Banton, 1969; Basu, 2009; Behara, 2009; Beynon and Blackburn, 1972).

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