



# HIGHER EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** Higher Education is the gateway to economic security and opportunity for women in India. Although women constitute a little less than the half of the economically active population but their contribution to economic activity is far below its potential. In the last seven years the number of women enrolling themselves for Higher Education in India has risen by a jaw dropping 1350% as revealed by the India Survey of Higher Education. Female enrolment in Karnataka is the highest at 48.42%. It is interesting to note that Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh constitute nearly 54% of the total student enrolment in India and female students in these six states is almost 54.4% of the total female students enrolled across India. Labour Force Participation Rate for women is vital to achieve high growth of employment and overall economic growth. Urban female work participation rate for Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Maharashtra is higher than All India average work participation rate. Gujarat and Rajasthan are the two states where rural female WPR are significantly higher than urban female WPR. At 17% of GDP the economic contribution of Indian women is less than half of the global average. Women's contribution to SDP is the highest in Andhra Pradesh at 32.03% followed by Uttar Pradesh at 19.86%, Maharashtra at 19.52% and Rajasthan at 19.40%. Females contribution is the lowest in Gujarat at 8.49%. Women's GER in Higher Education and their contribution to SDP in Andhra Pradesh is almost the same. In Tamil Nadu female contribution to SDP is 15.94% whereas the states GER is the highest at 46.9%. Gujarat which performed very poorly in female enrolment in Higher Education also contributed the lowest in SDP at 8.49%. Thus to some extent we can conclude that women's higher education is a master key to regional development.

**Keywords** - Higher Education, Female, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), State Domestic Product (SDP), Labour Force Participation Rate.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said: "If you educate a man you educate an individual, however if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women Empowered means mother India empowered."

A distinguish characteristic of human being is knowledge, with a tremendous capacity to acquire and transfer knowledge from one generation to another which is gaining prominence with advance science and technology. Experience reveals that knowledge has been the major foundation for successful economic development. For women in India higher education is the gateway to economics security and opportunity. Various policies and procedures have been introduced by government to sensitize the higher education system and increase the number of women enrolled for higher education.

Today India is the largest contributor to global workforce, its working age population surpassing 950 million. The higher education landscape of India has been transformed remarkably over the last two decades. Wide spread access to low cost

high quality university education for students of all levels has been created in India. With well planned expansion and a student centric learning driven model of education today India's 70 million's student population is a force to reckon with.

Such expansion would have been unimaginable without the extensive use of ICT tools and online platforms. The MOOCs model made it possible to provide a quality education to the masses despite, poor faculty student ratio. India's massive open online courses; started by several elite research universities, collectively enroll 60% of the world's entire student population. Among them are entrepreneurs, executive, researchers, thought leaders, academics and massive workforce which is an engine of US \$ 13 trillion economy.

India attracts global learner from all over the world and emerges as the role model for delivering high quality education to vast number at low cost. India is the single largest provider of global talent with one in four graduates in the world being a product of the Indian system. In effect, the Indian graduate of today is not only an excellent human resource but also an admirable human being. 23 Indian universities are among the global top 200. In last 20 years, 6 Indian intellectuals have been awarded the Nobel Prize. The country has augmented its GER to 50% while also reducing disparity in GER across State to 5% points<sup>1</sup>.

### *Objectives Of The Study:*

Although women constitute a little less than half of the economically active population but their contribution to economic activity is far below its potential. The objective of the study is to highlight the trend of women enrolment in different faculties of higher education and understand its contribution towards regional development. This study is based on secondary data available from Census of India, Selected Educational statistics, UGC annual reports, research articles, growth rate of real GDP, higher education enrolment and women labour force participation in order to analyze the impact of Higher Education of women on the economic growth.

### *Review Of Literature:*

On the importance of education in a nation's future, Prof. Amartya Sen was of the view that education has intrinsic importance; the capability to read and write can deeply influence ones quality of life. Also an educated population can make better use of domestic opportunities than an illiterate one.

Nisha Kumari, Aditya Sharma<sup>2</sup> in an article "The Role of Higher Education in Economic Development" analyzed the relationship between higher education institutions and regional economic development and stressed that strengthening higher education is a key strategy for successful economic development.

Aisha El Alaoui<sup>3</sup> in an article "Impact of women's education on the economic growth: An empirical analysis applied to Morocco Algeria Tunisia and Egypt" concluded that women's education particularly tertiary education, women's labour force participation and institutional capital affect positively economic growth.

Monojit Chatterji<sup>4</sup> in an article "Education and Economic Development in India" suggested that female education is of particular importance in India and the developmental returns from enhancing female education appears to be large.

Sikha Dugar<sup>5</sup> in an article "Importance of Education for Women" is of the view that the journey to become a successful nation, begins with universal education for women and India can reach its true potential as a nation only when its women population are equipped with the power of education.

### *Central And State Government Expenditure On Higher Education In India:*

The Table 1 shows the plan and non plan expenditure of the State Government on higher education<sup>6</sup>. The proportion of expenditure has increased over the year. Highest expenditure was made in 2011-2012 at 1705.7 for plan and 17535.8 for non plan thus showing that the contribution of higher education is increasing in generating effective and efficient human capital.

The Table 2 shows the expenditure on education plan and non plan incurred by the central government. Throughout the time period the plan expenditure witnessed an increasing trend. The highest recorded in the year 2011-2012 at 4352.5 for plan and 4785.9 for non plan.

Presently, the share of higher education in total expenditure on education is 15.29%. Government spends less than 1% of GDP on higher education; this has seriously hampered the quality of higher education in India.

### *Growth Of Women Enrollment In Higher Education:*

Table 3 depicts that there has been a phenomenal growth in the number of women student enrolled in higher education since independence and the Government is pooling resources needed to promote female education. The women enrollment which was almost 10% of the total enrollment in 1950-51 had risen to 46.11% in the academic year 2016-17. The pace of growth has been faster in the last two decades.

<sup>7</sup>In the last seven years the number of women enrolling themselves for higher education in India has risen by a jaw dropping 1350 % as revealed by the Indian Survey of Higher Education. From 1.2 million in 2010 women enrollment has gone up to 17.4 million in 2017-18. Women enrollment in higher education constituted 47.6% in 2017-18 which is up by around 1% from last year.

The Gross Enrollment Ratio of women in Higher Education has increased by more than 7% from 17.9 in 2010-2011 to 25.4% this year.

### *Gross Enrollment Of Females In Various Disciplines Of Higher Education:*

In<sup>8</sup> the last 5 years gender gap in India's Institute of higher education has reduced by nine lacs. In the academics session 2016-17 girl students outnumber men in eight disciplines as shown in Table 4. There are 160 women for every 100 men in masters of Arts and 384 women for every 100 men in bachelors of Science (nursing). Women have handsomely outnumbered man in post graduate classes of Science and Commerce with 167 and 158 respectively per 100 males.

Though the GER of female is higher there is still significant gap in B.Tech, M.Tech, Law, MBA programs and diploma level courses. All India GER had grown from 23% in 2014 to 25.2% now i.e. 2016-17. India aims to attain a GER of 30% by 2022. The data from HRD ministry says that in India a staggering number of 21000 more male candidates enroll for research work than women.

As<sup>9</sup> shown in Table 5 the women enrolment had been the highest in the faculty of arts (41.13%) followed by Science (19.94%), Commerce (15.91%) and these 3 faculties constitute 73% of women enrolment in 2015- 16. Participation of woman in PhD degree awarded in 42.38% and in M.Phil degree awarded is 67.11%. The lowest women enrolment is in faculty of law, agriculture and veterinary science.

### *Women Enrolment In Higher Education In Different Indian States:*

The women participation in higher education is increasing in almost all state. During 2012-13 the state and union Territories with the highest enrolment in higher education institutions were- Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Telengana.

According<sup>10</sup> to the report of the All India Survey on Higher Education 2016-17 Tamil Nadu has emerged as the leader with Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education at 46.9% among state and Chandigarh recorded 56.1%. GER of Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and Orissa are posted low at 14.4%, 17.2%, 18.5% and 21% respectively. With 24.9% Uttar Pradesh fared marginally better. Six states have registered GER higher than national average (25.5%) - Tamil Nadu (46.9%), Himachal Pradesh (36.7%), Kerala (34.2%), Andhra Pradesh (32.4%), Haryana (29%), and Punjab (28.6%).

It is interesting<sup>11</sup> to note that Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh constitute nearly 54% of total student enrolment in India and female students in these 6 states is almost 54.4% of the total female student enrolled across India.

Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest student enrolment in India, has 47.54% female students. Maharashtra which has the second highest student enrolment has 43.63% female as depicted in Table 6. Tamil Nadu has 47.75% female students, West Bengal with 43.62% female students enrolled in higher education. In Karnataka percentage of females enrolled is 48.42%. Rajasthan has more male student as compared to female students.



Table 7 shows<sup>12</sup> the rank of the percentage of women enrolment of different Indian states for the years 2011-2016. Throughout the periods Kerala is the topper. Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh has been successful in improving women enrolment and these state ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. The performance of Gujarat and Tripura is the lowest ranking 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with regard to women enrolment in Higher Education.

### *Education Level Of Working Female:*

As shown in Table 8 urban female with graduate and above level of education, WPR declined from around 32% in the 43<sup>rd</sup> round to 29% in 61<sup>th</sup> round and then to 27% in the 66<sup>th</sup> round. Thus proving that urban women finding employment are less educated, and are engaged in low paying unskilled job which do not require much education. For rural women WPR is higher for illiterate at 43% than for females with higher level of education at 29%.

### *State Wise Female Workforce participation Rate:*

According to a World Bank report India has been witnessing a downward trend in women employment Rate from 34.80% in 1990 to 23.70% the lowest rate in 2016 as shown in table 7.

Wide interstate disparities are observed with respect of female WPR's for rural and urban areas. Table 9 shows urban female participation rates for Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Maharashtra higher than all India average work participation rate. On the country Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh have urban female WPR lower than the national average. WPR of female for West Bengal and Orissa coincide with the all India average. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have female WPR higher than 20%.

Except Bihar, Assam and Kerala all state experienced an increase in urban female WPR. The increase is more prominent for state like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Both rural and urban female WPR declined between 61<sup>st</sup> round and 66<sup>th</sup> round. But in the 68<sup>th</sup> round this trend was reserved.

Gujarat and Rajasthan are the two states where rural female WPR are significantly higher than urban female WPR. Both rural and urban female WPR is very low as compared to the national level in Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The data reveals that southern states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala have female participation rates higher than the all India female WPR. WPR are higher for illiterate females than for females with higher levels of education in general.

The drop in labour force participation rates among women in rural India decreased from 14.4% in 2016 to 11% in 2018 while urban India saw a drop from 16.4% to 11% as well according to an analysis of data collected by the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy. Increasing LFPR for women is vital to achieve high growth of employment and overall economic growth.

### *Growth Of Gross State Domestic Product:*

At 17% of GDP the economic contribution of Indian women is less than half of the global average. India has the smallest female GDP share. India could boost its growth by 1.5% points to 9% per year if around 50% of women could join the work force. The Indian development model has yet to fully incorporate the important role played by women for propelling the socio economic growth of the country. To measure the economic development of the state the State Domestic Product is one of the most important indicators. There is a disparity in the distribution of GDP among the Indian states.

From Table 10 it may be observed that during 2011-12 to 2016-17 GSDP at constant i.e. (2011-12) price grew at the rate of 59.64% in Gujarat, 56.41% in Arunachal Pradesh and 49.76% in Delhi during the same period. Haryana at 46.07%, Madhya Pradesh at 47.40%, Karnataka at 44.29%, Andhra Pradesh at 44.18% and Maharashtra at 42.29% are the states whose GSDP growth is higher than All India level of 39.26% during the same period. The growth rate of GSDP at constant price in Orissa is 39.93% which is almost at par with the All India level.

### *SDP And Women Contribution:*

Women in India earn 20% less than men. The gender pay gap has narrowed by about 5% point from 24.8% in 2016. But the gender pay gap widens as one gain in work experience.

With respect to women contribution in SDP of various states of India Andhra Pradesh contribution at 32.03% is the highest. Uttar Pradesh at 19.86%, Maharashtra at 19.52% and Rajasthan at 19.40% their contribution to SDP is almost the same. Women's contribution to SDP in Assam is 16.12%, Tamil Nadu is 15.94% and west Bengal is 15.69%. In Gujarat women's Contribution to SDP is the lowest at 8.49%. Women contribution as a percentage to SDP is 11.28% in Karnataka, 10.4% in Punjab and 10.38% in Haryana.

### *Higher Education And Women's Contribution To SDP:*

It is interesting to note that Andhra Pradesh which has register Women Gross Enrolment in Higher Education at 32.4% also is the highest contributor to SDP at 32.03%. Thus women's GER in Higher Education and their contribution to SDP in Andhra Pradesh is almost the same.

Tamil Nadu which has emerged as the leader in Female GER in Higher Education at 46.9% contributed only 15.94% to SDP.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra which fared marginally well in female enrolment, their contribution to SDP is almost same at 19.86%, 19.40% and 19.52% respectively. Though percentage of female enrolled in Karnataka is 48.42% its contribution in SDP is very low at 11.28%.

Gujarat which performed very poorly in female enrolment in Higher Education also contributed the lowest in SDP at 8.49%. Throughout the period 2011-16 Kerala which ranked first among state with regards to female gross enrolment contributed only 14.36% to SDP.

### *Conclusion:*

To conclude although education has always been given high priority by the Government of India since independence but the proportion of student pursuing higher education in India hasn't increased dramatically. India is aiming to attain Gross Enrolment Ratio of 30% by 2020. India has entered the global employment market place with a self imposed handicap of which we are first beginning to become conscious- an acute shortage of quality institutions of higher education. We do not have enough professors, researchers and scientific scholars in our university system and we do not make it attractive enough for others to join their rank. There is a wide disparity among various states with regard to Women's contribution in SDP and higher education. Tamil Nadu has emerged as the leader with 46.9% GER among the states but contributed only 15.94% to SDP. But the contribution of women in SDP is the highest in Andhra Pradesh at 32.03% and lowest in Gujarat at 8.49%. All the southern states where female GER is almost at an average of 45-48% their contribution to SDP is very low at 11%- 15%. Thus to some extent we can conclude that women's higher education is a master key to regional development.

Table 1-

STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Year	Plan Expenditure on Higher Education	Percentage of Plan Expenditure	Non Plan Expenditure on Higher Education	Percentage of Non Plan Expenditure	Total Expenditure
1990-91	116.4	6.34	1720	93.66	1836.4
1995-96	266.3	8.43	2891.8	91.57	3158.1
2000-01	347.9	5.35	2561.4	94.96	6909.4
2005-06	744.3	8.57	7937.5	91.43	8681.9
2010-11	1610.2	11.04	15420.7	89.92	17131.86
2011-12	1705.7	12.17	17535.8	91.04	19344.71

Source- annual report, analysis of budgeted expenditure on education – various issues

Table 2-

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Year	Plan Expenditure on Higher Education	Percentage of Plan Expenditure	Non Plan Expenditure on Higher Education	Percentage of Non Plan Expenditure	Total Expenditure
1990-91	128.6	27.05	346.9	72.95	475.5
1995-96	246.3	34.54	466.8	65.46	713.1
2000-01	497.5	21.77	1787.7	78.23	2285.3
2005-06	843.5	36.18	1487.8	63.82	2331.4
2010-11	4180.2	51.07	4270.7	51.79	8553.76
2011-12	4352.5	53.83	4785.9	54.62	9246.85

Source- annual report, analysis of budgeted expenditure on education – various issues

Table 3-

## WOMEN STUDENT GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Year	Women student as a % of total student
1950-51	10
1955-56	14.60
1960-61	16
1965-66	20.40
1970-71	20
1975-76	24.50
1980-81	27.20
1985-86	29.60
1990-91	32.50
1995-96	34.10
2000-01	37.60
2005-06	40.50
2010-11	41.50
2011-12	44.29
2012-13	44.96
2013-14	45.30
2014-15	45.90
2015-16	45.91
2016-17	46.11
2017-18	47.6

Source – Enrolment of women in higher education (selected educational statistics, UGC annual report, various years)

Table 4-

## FEMALE PER 100 MALE

Stream	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
M A	124	147	154	165	169
M Sc	123	138	147	157	167
M Com	122	136	145	148	158
MBBS	86	93	95	97	99
B Sc Nursing	92	95	93	93	384
B Ed	169	180	188	197	203
B A	108	115	118	118	121
B Com	79	83	86	90	93

Table 5-

## WOMEN ENROLMENT: FACULTYWISE – 2015-16

Faculty	Women Enrolment	% of Total Enrolment
Arts/Oriental learning	5539097	41.13
Science	2685403	19.94
Commerce/Management	2141673	15.91
Education	680953	5.06
Engineering/Technology	1360021	10.10
Medicine	676162	5.02
Agriculture	65640	0.49
Veterinary Science	9879	0.70
Law	159216	1.18
Others	147707	1.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13465751</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: UGC Annual report 2015-16, New Delhi

Table 6-

## TOP STATES AS PER ENROLMENT OF REPRESENTATION OF MALE: FEMALE

State	Male	Female
Uttar Pradesh	52.46	47.54
Maharashtra	56.37	43.63
Tamil Nadu	52.25	47.75
West Bengal	53.68	43.62
Karnataka	51.58	48.42

Source: UGC Annual report 2015-16, New Delhi

Table 7-

## FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN %

Year	% of Female Labour Force Participation
1990	34.80
1995	35.4
2000	33.9
2005	36.9
2010	28.6
2013	27
2016	23.7

Source: ILO via World Bank, Govt. of India, Ministry of labour and employment

Table 8-

## EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF WORKING FEMALES

Urban Females						Rural Females				
Rounds	43rd	50th	55th	61 <sup>st</sup>	66th	43rd	50th	55th	61st	66th
Not Literate	29.2	30	27.1	30.4	23.1	52.6	54	51.3	55	43.2
Up to Primary	17.5	20.3	17.7	23.4	20.6	39.1	41.6	40.3	44.9	38.4
Middle	11.3	13.1	12.9	16.1	15.4	29	29	29	37.1	29.4
Secondary	15.1	13.4	12.4	12.3	9.7	26.1	25.8	25.7	30.5	22.2
Higher Secondary	NA	14.7	12.4	12.9	9.4	NA	23.4	20.6	25.2	18.3
Graduate & Above	31.5	30.1	27.3	29	25.9	35.1	36.6	31	34.5	29.7

Source: An Employment and Unemployment survey of NSS However, such a pattern does not hold true for men i.e. higher levels

Table 9-

## STATE-WISE FEMALE WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

States/Rounds	Urban Females					Rural Females				
	50	55	61	66	68	50	55	61	66	68
Andhra Pradesh	19.9	17.8	22.4	17.6	24	52.1	47.8	48.3	44.3	62
Assam	9.2	11.2	10.9	9.3	12.2	15.9	15.1	20.9	15.8	17.8
Bihar	6.9	7.5	6.5	4.7	7.1	17.2	17.3	13.8	6.5	8.5
Gujarat	14.2	13.5	15.1	14.3	19.3	39.6	41.3	42.7	32	40.3
Haryana	15.2	9.8	13.2	13	14.4	27.1	20.2	31.7	25	23.4
Karnataka	18.1	17.8	18.1	17	23.5	43	38	45.9	37	40.6
Kerala	20.3	20.3	20	19.4	27.8	23.8	23.8	25.6	21.8	30.8
Madhya Pradesh	14.2	13.4	15.4	13.1	17	41	38.2	36.6	28.2	38
Maharashtra	16.9	13.7	19	15.9	23.6	47.7	43.4	47.7	39.6	56.5
Orissa	15.1	14.5	14.8	11.9	21.6	31.7	29.9	32.2	24.3	36.1
Punjab	9.3	12.5	13.3	12.4	19.4	22	28	32.2	24	32.9
Rajasthan	16.3	13.8	18.2	12	20.6	45.7	38.8	40.7	35.7	53
Tamil Nadu	23	21.5	24.1	19.1	27.9	47.8	43	46.1	40.5	51.9
Uttar Pradesh	10.2	9.4	11.7	8	14.5	21.9	20.1	24	17.4	28.1
West Bengal	14.3	11.7	15.5	14.1	23.8	18.5	16	17.8	15.2	27.9
All India	15.5	13.9	16.6	13.8	21	32.8	29.9	32.7	26.1	37.2

Source: Employment and Unemployment surveys of NSS average.



Table 10-

Women Contribution to Regional Development Calculated by multiplying female workers in each state with wage rates-

States	Rural Females in 2011	Urban Females in 2011	SDP in crores 2016-17	Work participate rate rural	Work participate rate urban	Female workers in rural	Female workers in urban	Wage rate rural Annual	Female contribution rural (cr)	Female Wage rate urban Annual	Female contribution urban (cr)	Total Female contribution (cr)	Female contribution % of SDP
Andhra Pradesh	28353745	28092028	547021	62	24	17636029	6742087	70203	123810	76221.6	51389.26	175199.69	32.03
Assam	4388756	13090777	200790	18	12	781199	1597075	56070	4380	175228.56	27985.31	32365.45	16.12
Bihar	11729609	44091177	361504	9	7	997017	3130474	58787	5861	115134.24	36042.47	41903.64	11.59
Gujarat	25712811	16867842	984453	40	19	10362263	3255494	54017	55973	84820.32	27613.20	83586.58	8.49
Haryana	8821588	7740457	434608	23	14	2064252	1114626	111503	23017	198304.08	22103.48	45120.42	10.38
Karnataka	23578175	18541531	874395	41	24	9572739	4357260	47377	45353	122294.64	53286.95	98639.91	11.28
Kerala	15932171	9051800	481839	31	28	4907109	2516400	75020	36813	128690.64	32383.72	69197.04	14.36
Madhya Pradesh	20059666	25395490	469393	38	17	7622673	4317233	33871	25819	100020.96	43181.38	68999.92	14.70
Maharashtra	50827531	29951861	1826296	57	24	28717555	7068639	95709	274853	115533.6	81666.53	356519.73	19.52
Odisha	6996124	17366375	323218	36	22	2525601	3751137	69648	17590	89363.04	33521.30	51111.54	15.81
Punjab	10387436	8230334	352421	33	19	3417466	1596685	49174	16805	124606.56	19895.74	36700.90	10.41
Rajasthan	17080776	24859354	599029	53	21	9052811	5121027	55492	50236	128793.6	65955.55	116191.70	19.40
Tamil Nadu	34949729	18525528	1009145	52	28	18138909	5168622	62225	112870	92860.56	47996.12	160865.99	15.94
Uttar Pradesh	44470455	74066367	974120	28	15	12496198	10739623	53436	66775	117936	126658.82	193433.80	19.86
West Bengal	29134060	30309532	657883	28	24	8128403	7213669	37365	30372	100950.72	72822.50	103194.38	15.69

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