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ABSTRACT TITLE

**CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN HARYANA:
A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS**

Key words: Socio-economic status, education, work participation and occupational structure of women in Haryana (Survey in Dist. Rohtak and Mahendragarh).

Findings:

The study brings out the socio-economic status of women in Haryana during the last decades. The findings of the study reveal that there have been changes in the socio-economic conditions of women in Haryana during the decades of 1971,1981,1991,2001 and 2011 along with the physiographic, climatic conditions, cultural setting of the study area, distribution of women population, sex ratio, education, health and medical facilities available, economic activities, work participation, occupational structure, main and marginal workers etc.

The highest concentration of women population was found in the southern part of the state while the lowest concentration was recorded in the northern Haryana. As far as, the decadal growth in concerned, the highest decadal growth was found in district Gurgaon and the lowest in district Jhajjar. The sex ratio in the state increased during 2011 and reached 871 points. Among the districts of Haryana, Mewat (906) has recorded maximum sex ratio and the districts of Sonipat and Gurgaon have registered minimum sex ratio (853) in each.

The analysis of marital status of women in the study shows that about 50 percent women was found in the category of 'married women'. The number of married women is higher in rural areas than urban areas. With economic progress in the state, a significant progress has been made with regard to female literacy. The female literacy rate in Haryana has made a quantum jump from a lowly 17.77 per cent in 1971 to an impressive 66.77 per cent in 2011. The higher women literacy rate was recorded in the districts of Gurgaon and Panchkula. In the districts of Panchkula, Ambala, Rohtak, Yamunanagar,

Sonipat and Faridabad education index was found higher whereas the higher rank of economic index was found in the districts of Hisar, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Sonipat, Ambala, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Faridabad and Gurgaon.

There has been an improvement in the health and medical facilities. In rural areas women in Haryana dominate the agriculture sector, with around 70 percent of women working as cultivators and agricultural labourers. The work participation rate of women in the state had gone down from 27.22 percent in 2001 to 17.79 percent in 2011. In district Ambala, the participation of women in Secondary, Tertiary and Quaternary Sector was also found higher. In the western and central part of the state, the economic index was higher.

In the districts of Ambala, Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Rewari and Yamunanagar the socio-economic status of women is more explained by the educational attainment while in the districts of Bhiwani, Gurgaon and Hisar economic factors were found more prominent to explain the status of women. During the household survey it was found that out of 77 households (45 from district Rohtak and 32 from district Mahendragarh) there were 26 households in which educational attainment has emerged as a powerful determinant to define the status of women while economic variables can be explained as a dominant factor only in 17 households. On the other hand, most of these households have shown that both education and economic parameters together have explained almost 45 percent of association with women status in both the districts under study.

The Education Index, Health Index and Economic index have calculated to understand their association with the status of women in the districts of Haryana. It has been found out that in the districts of Ambala, Hisar, Panchkula, Karnal and Rohtak the socio-economic status of women is high. In the districts of Ambala, Karnal and Rohtak all three indicators i.e. education index, health index and economic index have been prominent to determine the status of women.

The Primary and Secondary data show that there is improvement in literacy rate, educational attainment, increase in work opportunities which have created awareness among women regarding their rights, development in general and in the absolute standard of living and income of women. The study shows that educational attainment is an important indicator to determine the status of women as it helps them to gain better work opportunities. It is also a fact that women with strong economic background have better chances to get better education opportunities. Thus educational attainment and economic conditions are interdependent and complement each other.