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Title: "Gender Inequalities in Rajasthan: A Spatio-Temporal Analysis"

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Abstract

The main focus of this study is to understand the extent of gender inequalities across districts in Rajasthan during 1991 to 2011. Specific objectives of the study comprises of the analysis of gender inequalities in the demographic status, educational attainment and work participation, and decision making and political participation across districts in Rajasthan.

Gender inequality, according to composite demographic index is highly concentrated on the three vertices of the irregular rhomboid state of Rajasthan, leaving the southern vertex. On the western vertex is Jaisalmer (rank 33), northern Ganganager (rank 30), and eastern Bharatpur, Dhaulpur and Karuli with rank 31, 32 and 29 respectively. The districts with least demographic inequality in gender are located contiguously in the southern part of the state (Chhitaurgarh -rank 1, Bhilwara -rank 2, Tonk, Pratapgarh, and so on).

In education and employment sphere, it was found that gender inequality was maximum in Jaisalmer (west) which was ranked 33rd followed by Sirohi (south), Sawai Madhopur and Karauli (east), and Jalor (west), and least was in Banswara (south) ranked 1st followed by Dungarpur (south), Ganganagar and Hanumangarh (north).

Barmer with 33rd rank and Jaisalmer (32) from west are the districts with highest gender inequality in empowerment, followed by Tonk (31) and Karauli (30) from east, and the lowest was in Rajsamand (south), followed by Jodhpur (2nd rank) and Pali (3) both are in the central part of the state.

An attempt has also been made to analyze the different dimensions and determinants of gender inequalities at the village level in Rajasthan. A comparative study was done to assess gender inequality in the worst and best districts (Jaisalmer and Pali), both lying in the same division (Jodhpur). Two villages (Mohangarh from Jaisalmer, and Bagri from Pali|) were selected for the case study.

Various hypotheses have been tested to analyze the genesis of gender inequality and to find avenues for its eradication. The majority of respondents of both villages agreed with the statements and through Chi-square test the positive association between gender inequality and independent variables like, patriarchy, education, early marriage of girls, financial independence and political participation were proved.