

Education and Women's Participation in Punjab

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The important aspect of social life now-a-days is mostly confined to the gender issues in various socio-economic-health-demographic and cultural classifications of people in Punjab. Violence on females of any age is the regular feature in our social, political and cultural lives. Unfortunately females are neglected in a historical process at the helm of male dominant society. This feature is perhaps still persisted in the recent period, though the extent may be different. This paper examines the work participation rate (WPR) of women in Punjab (India) based on the census conducted in 2001. As per 2001 census, the work participation rate of women was 21.6% in Punjab though they constituted 47.17% of the total population. It was well documented that the educational condition of women has improved in the past few decades but their work participation rate is still low. Here, the paper tries to see reasons pertaining to this difference. There are many determinants of work participation rate but this paper is limited to education. It is based on the hypothesis that women work participation rate increases with educational development. The correlation matrix between occupational composition and educational development shows significant relation. This implies that education is one of the reasons for increasing work participation rate. In addition, it was found that women with primary education are actively engaged in the agricultural sector. Finally, the paper Concludes with some general observations and suggestions.

Key words: Gender inequality, Economic participation, Education, Workers, Regional analysis.