

# BRIDGING GENDER EQUALITY GAP IN RAJASTHAN – DISTRICT WISE, MALE AND FEMALE, COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WORK PARTICIPATION RATE

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper focuses on the analysis of male, female, rural and urban work participation rate across the districts of Rajasthan. The study reveals that in some of the districts like Baran, Jhalawar and Udaipur, female participation rate is more than 50 percent and that of male is approx 70 percent which shows that women's role in improving the economic household has grown significantly. In some districts the difference between male and female work participation rate is less than 20 percent while in some it is more than 65 percent. This paper is useful in analysis of government schemes related to employment across Rajasthan as the districts with less gap between male and female work participation rate has more efficiently implemented this schemes. In rural areas, women are more active as compared to men. This paper concludes that women are not less than men when it comes to running the households and if given proper opportunity they may dominate the men in terms of employment.*

**Keywords:** *Work Participation Rate, Districts of Rajasthan, Women Empowerment, Gender Equality*

## INTRODUCTION

This paper focuses on the analysis of male, female, rural and urban work participation rate across the districts of Rajasthan. The study reveals that in some of the districts like Baran, Jhalawar and Udaipur, female participation rate is more than 50 percent and that of male is approx 70 percent which shows that women's role in improving the economic household has grown significantly. In some districts difference between male and female work participation rate is less than 20 percent while in some it is more than 65 percent.

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## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kabeer, N.(2005) [1] worked on the third Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on gender equality and women's empowerment and highlights ways in which the indicators associated with this goal – women's access to education, share of nonagricultural wage employment, and political participation – can contribute to women's empowerment. Each of these indicators has the potential to bring about immediate changes in women's lives, along with long-term transformations in patriarchal power structures.

Rae Lesser Blumberg (2005) [2] viewed that economic empowerment of women was the key to achieve gender equality as well as wealth and well-being of nation. The author opined that financial autonomy would enhance women's capacity of decision making in various arenas of life. Moreover, it would lead to less corruption, less armed conflict and less violence against female in the long run. B. V. Chalapathi, B.V. Raghavulu and P. Hariprasad (2008) [3] studies reveals that empowerment means not just economic independence and it is much more than that when women are economically independent they can progress well in different spheres of life investment is also part of empowerment and women are being provided loans for investment.

Dr. Anil Kumar Thakur (2008) [4] in his paper "Need of Women Empowerment in India" has highlighted the need of women empowerment with the observation that in some ways development process has enhanced male domination over women and added to their deprivation.

Dr. Kumkum Narain and Dr. Meera Mridubhashini (2008) [5] in their paper "Empowering Women through Economic Measures" have presented the picture of the poor status of women and the need of the women empowerment. In this connection, they have discussed several programmes launched by the government of India and some of the state governments to uplift the status of women and empowering them new opportunities. They have emphasized on Micro-finance and Self Help Groups (SHG) movement, NGO's role for development.

Hoque and Itohara (2009) [6] defined the importance of women empowerment as increasing welfare benefits, equality of access to resources such as educational opportunities, abolishment institutional gender discrimination, women mobilization and bargaining power with husbands.

The Inter-American Development Bank (2010) [7] defined "Women Empowerment in terms of expanding the rights, resources and capacity of women to make a decision and act independently in social, economic and political sphere."

Golla et al (2011) [8] stressed on the need of women empowerment in terms that economically empowering women is essential both to realize women's right and to achieve broader development goals such as economic growth, poverty reduction, health, education and welfare. According to its authors, a woman is economically empowered when she has both the ability to succeed and advance economically and the power to make an act on economic decisions.

Aparna Shrivastava (2012) [9] defined women empowerment "is the process by which women mobilize to understand, identify and overcome gender discrimination, so as to achieve equality of welfare and equal access to resources."

Shabnam Ansari and Ragini Mishra (2012) [10] defined "women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of women at multiple levels, family, community, market and the state.

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine the Work Participation Rate in Districts of Rajasthan.
- To examine the Work Participation Rate in Rural and Urban areas.

## METHODOLOGY

In order to carry out the present research work, secondary data have been analyzed. Data relating to male/ female from 2010 to 2013 have been compiled from Annual Health Survey, Rajasthan of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

To examine the work participation rate in the districts of Rajasthan.

Table I. Work Participation Rate by Sex and Residence: 2010-2013(in percentage)

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Census</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Persons/Total</i>
1	2010-11	Total	20.0	74.0	47.6
		Rural	22.9	74.6	49.2
		Urban	11.6	72.5	43.3
2	2011-12	Total	21.5	74.4	48.4
		Rural	25.0	75.0	50.2
		Urban	11.6	73.0	43.4
3	2012-13	Total	22.9	74.4	49.1
		Rural	26.7	75.1	51.1
		Urban	12.2	72.7	43.5

Source:[http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital\\_statistics/AHSBulletins/AHS\\_Baseline\\_Factsheets/Rajasthan.pdf](http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/AHSBulletins/AHS_Baseline_Factsheets/Rajasthan.pdf)

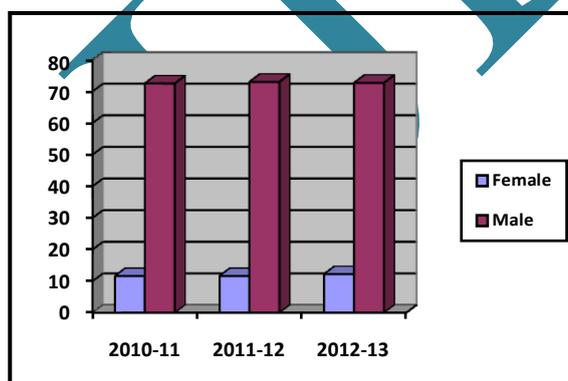


Fig. I: Urban Area - Work Participation Rate

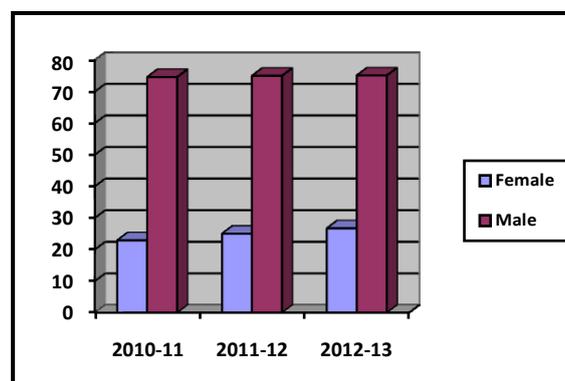


Fig. II: Rural Area - Work Participation Rate

Table I indicates that over 3 years there is a wide gap between work participation rate of male and female. In 2010-2011 the male work participation rate was 74 percent in 2012-2013 was increased to 74.4 percent while that of female in the year 2010-2011 was 20 percent and has increased to 22.9

percent in the year 2012-2013. Also we found that there is a change of 2 percent of work participation rate in rural areas ranging from 49.2 percent to 51.1 percent in the year 2010-2011 and 2012-2013. However in urban area the growth is stagnant. It was 43.3 percent in 2010-2011, 43.4 percent in 2011-2012 and 43.5 percent in 2012-2013, which shows that in rural areas women are more participating in work with men. Other factors for this approximate 2 percent rise are successfully implementation of government employment schemes like MNREGA etc. Another important factor for this success is effective literacy rate, less child marriage and less acute and chronic illnesses in rural people compare to urban.

Fig I shows the urban area work participation rate. A growth of 0.6 percent is observed in female work participation rate in year 2011-12 to 2012-13. However in rural areas a growth of 0.7 percent is observed in year 2010-11 to 2012-13 as shown in Fig. II, which shows that women of rural areas are more motivated towards work.

Table II: Districts wise Work Participation Rate (WPR): 2010- 2013 (in percentage)

Sr. No.	Districts	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Ajmer	71.9	24.1	75.3	24.3	74.7	31.0
2	Alwar	69.3	4.9	69.8	6.6	70.2	5.5
3	Banswara	81.7	38.0	79.4	41.7	80.4	40.3
4	Baran	76.5	53.2	79.4	53.4	78.6	53.1
5	Barmer	80.9	46.4	79.0	46.7	77.6	47.0
6	Bharatpur	70.5	4.5	71.0	4.0	71.0	3.6
7	Bhilwara	79.7	38.1	80.5	40.7	80.0	38.8
8	Bikaner	73.1	6.9	74.8	8.3	76.8	8.6
9	Bundi	73.8	26.8	78.2	26.5	77.7	24.3
10	Chittaurgarh	79.0	21.8	80.4	30.9	81.7	32.8
11	Churu	74.2	4.5	75.2	9.0	74.7	13.3
12	Dausa	68.1	11.6	68.4	15.8	67.1	17.4
13	Dhaulpur	71.9	7.4	74.9	6.4	75.2	5.6
14	Dungarpur	78.8	21.0	77.8	28.0	77.8	27.0
15	Ganganagar	74.9	6.9	75.8	7.7	76.7	11.9
16	Hanumangarh	76.1	12.6	75.5	16.6	74.0	17.3
17	Jaipur	70.2	15.5	70.3	17.9	69.6	23.7
18	Jaisalmer	78.1	9.3	75.6	5.3	74.0	5.9
19	Jalore	78.4	37.7	79.4	38.6	80.4	38.9
20	Jhalawar	79.8	52.1	81.4	55.5	81.7	56.4
21	Jhunjhunu	66.7	7.2	65.1	5.0	65.8	11.3
22	Jodhpur	76.4	10.2	74.4	10.0	74.8	10.9
23	Karauli	70.5	5.8	73.5	9.2	74.7	9.5
24	Kota	72.7	18.8	77.0	21.3	77.2	19.7
25	Nagaur	76.9	9.7	74.3	8.6	74.7	7.1
26	Pali	75.4	29.0	76.2	27.8	75.6	25.1
27	Rajsamanand	76.6	41.3	76.9	42.5	77.9	43.3
28	Sawai Madhopur	69.9	9.5	72.1	14.1	72.6	10.4
29	Sikar	67.1	5.8	66.8	6.4	65.6	8.0
30	Sirohi	77.0	29.4	78.1	26.2	77.8	28.1
31	Tonk	73.8	32.4	76.9	37.4	76.4	40.8
32	Udaipur	81.9	51.0	80.1	54.5	80.3	55.7

Source: [http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital\\_statistics/AHS\\_Baseline\\_Factsheets/Rajasthan.pdf](http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/AHS_Baseline_Factsheets/Rajasthan.pdf)

Table II shows the comparison of female work participation rate in the year 2011-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. In 16 districts of Rajasthan it has been found that Female Work Participation Rate is increasing year by year. Baran is one of the leading districts in the year 2010-2011 with 53.2 percent female work participation rate. However in the year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, the leading district is Jhalawar with 55.5 percent and 56.4 percent respectively.

Table II also reveals that in some of the districts female is losing in work participation namely Bharatpur, Bundi, Dhaulpur, Nagaur and Pali.

In the year 2010-2011 out of all the districts in Rajasthan Churu has the poorest female work participation rate of only 4.5 percent followed by Bharatpur with 4 percent and 3.6 percent in the year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 respectively.

In some of the districts like Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Bhilwara, Dungepur, Kota and Sawai Madhopur upward moment of female work participation rate has been observed in the year 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 but significant fall has been observed in the year 2011-2012 to 2012-2013.

Table II shows that in all of the districts of Rajasthan men are dominating the women across several fields of work. Female work participation rate in Rajasthan is very much versatile. It ranges from 3.6 percent in Bharatpur to 56.4 percent in Jhalawar which shows that in some of the districts like Alwar, Bharatpur, Dhaulpur, Jaisalmer, and Jhunjhuni male is dominating the society.

## CONCLUDING REMARK

So it is clear from the analysis that there is no significance difference between work participation rate of men and women in rural and urban areas. Women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital and decision making powers in the political, social and business sectors, where as men are credited with performing three quarters of all economic activities. This indicates the tremendous challenges that women face on their road to gender equality. Though the degree of empowerment of women in the national hierarchy is determined largely by the three factors i.e., her economic, social and political identity and their weightage but still disparities are seen in these three factors in various states to a large extent.

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