

Female Labour Force Participation Rate in India : Present Status

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to analyze the trends of female labour force participation rate in India and present status of female labour force participation rate in India using National Sample Survey Organization, Employment and Unemployment Survey, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, and PLFS report (2017-18). It is observed that there is declining trend in female labour force participation rate mainly in rural area. LFPR of female workers in rural area is higher than LFPR of female workers in urban area.

1. Introduction

Complete development of a country can only be done by the development of women. For the development of women it is necessary that they develop in all areas. There is a need for all three types of development of women's like social, economical and political. Economic development of women strengthens the country's economy. Development of any country depends on the maximum participation of women in the economy of that country. What is the participation of women in the economy of any country, it shows from the female workforce participation of that country.

Female labour force participation represents the development of any country. It is driver of growth of any country. The participation of female in labour force varies across developing countries. Female labour force participation is an important element of sustainable development.

What is female labour force participation rate?

Female labour force participation rate of any country refers to number of females working or seeking work.

Labour force participation rate (LFPR) =

$$\frac{\text{Number of employed persons} + \text{Number of unemployed persons}}{\text{Total Population}}$$

Developing nation like India, female's participation in employment is very important. In India 48.4 percent population is female. Females participation in the Labour market is a part of growth of the nation. As per NSSO survey 2011-12, according to usual status (PS+SS) about 55.3 percent male and 25.3% female workers were in the labour force in rural area and about 56.3 percent male and 15.5 percent female workers were in labour force in urban area.

2. Review of Literature

There are few important studies on female labour force participation in India.

Rahul Lahoti and Hema Swaminthan find that there is the decline in female labour force participation in India. The labour force participation in India. The labour force participation rate of 25-29 year old female has declined by 23 percent.

Dr. Ananta Pegu (2015) find that factors such as increased participation in education, increased household income, gender discrimination etc. leads to decline in female labour force participation.

Shweta Borkar (2016) finds that female labour market participation in India is very low.

Surjit S. Bhalla and Ravinder Kaur find that India has one of the lowest female labour force participation.

3. Objective

- 1- To understand the present status of female labour force participation in India.
- 2- To study the trends of female labour force participation in different status/UT.

4. Research Methodology

The present paper is based on secondary data. The required data have been collected from National Sample Survey Organization, Employment and Unemployment Survey, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, and periodic Labour force survey (PLFS) 2017-18.

Table-1

Labour force participation rate (in percent) for female labour according to usual status (ps+ss) for each state/UT.

State/UT	LFPR of Female Workers	
	Rural	Urban
Andhra Pradesh	39.0	25.1
Arunachal Pradesh	11.2	8.4
Assam	9.5	12.4
Bihar	2.6	4.5
Chhattisgarh	39.6	23.5
Delhi	2.2	11.4
Goa	25.8	24.0
Gujrat	17.2	12.7
Haryana	10.8	10.5
Himachal Pradesh	41.6	19.5
Jammu & Kashmir	24.2	18.0

Jharkhand	10.9	10.8
Karnataka	21.9	18.1
Kerala	20.7	22.1
Madhya Pradesh	25.9	15.7
Maharashtra	29.8	16.8
Manipur	16.8	19.8
Meghalaya	37.6	23.1
Mizoram	22.2	24.6
Nagaland	12.5	14.4
Odisha	15.2	13.4
Punjab	11.1	14.2
Rajasthan	21.7	10.8
Sikkim	36.3	28.0
Tamil Nadu	31.3	22.5
Telangana	31.5	18.2
Tripura	8.9	14.7
Uttarakhand	15.4	9.5
Uttar Pradesh	9.7	8.2
West Bengal	15.4	18.5
Andman & Nicobar	22.1	30.6
Chandigarh	8.1	19.6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	36.2	15.7
Daman & Diu	22.4	19.3
Lakshadweep	10.6	16.1
Puduchery	8.3	17.0
All India	18.2	15.9

Source- Periodic Labour force Survey (PLFS), 2017-18.

From the above table we can see that in the rural area labour force participation rate of female workers is highest in Himanchal Pradesh i.e. 41.6. After this, Chattisgarh is ranked on second highest place with 39.6 percent in urban area, labour force participation rate of female workers in highest in Andman and Nicobar Island with 30.6 percent.

Reference

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All India labour force participation rate of female workers is 18.2 percent in rural area and 15.9 percent in urban area that means labour force participation rate of rural female workers is higher than labour force participation rate of urban female workers.

Table-2

Labour force participation rate of female workers (in percent) according to usual status (ps+ss) in NSS 50th round (1993-94), 55th round (1999-2000), 61th round (2004-05), 66th round (2009-10), 68th round (2011-12) and PLFS report (2017-18).

Round and Year	LFPR of female workers	
	Rural	Urban
50 th Round (1993-94)	33.0	16.5
55 th Round (1999-2000)	30.2	14.7
61 th Round (2004-05)	33.3	17.8
66 th Round (2009-10)	26.5	14.6
68 th Round (2011-12)	25.3	15.5
PLFS Report (2017-18)	18.2	15.9

From the above table we can see that according to NSSO 50th round (1993-94) LFPR of female workers is 33.0 percent in rural area, in 1999-2000 it is 30.2% in 2004-05 it is 33.3 percent, in 2009-10 it is 26.5 percent, in 2011.12 it is 25.3 percent and in 2017-18 PLFS report it is 18.2 percent. In urban area there is 16.5 percent LFPR in 1993-94, 14.7 percent in 1994-2000, 17.8 percent in 2004-05, 14.6 percent in 2009-10, 15.5 percent in 2011-12 and according to PLFS report (2017-18) it is 15.9 percent.

5. Conclusion

Thus we see the overall female workforce participation rate has declined between 2009-10 and 2011-12 as well as between 2011-12 and 2017-18. The decline is mainly in rural areas, where as in the urban areas there has been an increase between 2009-10 and 2011-12 as well as between 2011-12 and 2017-18. One of the main reason for decline in labour force participation rate of female workers in rural areas that is an increase in enrolment at the primary and upper primary levels.