

**Abstract:-**

Even as India celebrated International Women's Day recently, the fairer sex continues to be discriminated against in the country and elsewhere including Thailand, Myanmar, Afghanistan, China, among different social classes, despite laws against their exploitation. Despite the increase in women literacy rate, women across India are discriminated against both at home and workplaces. With Lok Sabha polls round the corner, although there is a demand to field more women candidates, political parties are unlikely to field handful. The Women's Day celebrations on March 8 across the country brought little cause for cheer to the women of Dhubri district in Assam, which has the lowest female literacy rate and working women in the State, according to the Assam Human Development Report, 2003.



GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN ASSAM, A COMPOSITE INDEX ANALYSIS

Korobi Gogoi

The situation is equally depressing in other districts of Assam. In India, discriminatory attitude towards men and women have existed for generations and affect the lives of both genders. The present study examines the status of women in the districts of Assam using some selected indicators.

The paper intends to study the gender discrimination in Assam especially in the perspective of Demographic concern. The paper also intends to study the discrimination in the different districts of the state. The discrimination is studied with some certain demographic parameters such as male, female, rural, urban, sex ratio, literacy rate etc. the data used for the study are from secondary sources such as mainly census publications, Economic survey reports, government publications of directorate of Economics and statistics etc based on the recent census. Econometrics tools are being used to study the district disparity.

**Keywords:**

Gender, Discrimination, Demography, District, Disparity Etc.

INTRODUCTION

In India, discriminatory attitude towards men and women have existed for generations and affect the lives of both genders. Although the constitution of India has granted men and women equal rights, gender disparity still remains even after sixty years. There is specific research on gender discrimination mostly in favour of men over women. Due to a lack of objective research on gender discrimination against men, it is perceived that it is only women who are suffering. The research often conducted is selectively sampled, where men are left out of the picture. Women are perceived to be disadvantaged at work, and conclusions are drawn that their capabilities are often underestimated. (Subhash C. Kundu, (2003)

The cultural construct of Indian society which reinforces gender bias against men and women, with varying degrees and variable contexts against the opposite sex, has led to the continuation of India's strong preference for male children. Female infanticide and sex-selective abortion is adopted and strongly reflects the low status of Indian women. Census 2011 shows decline of girl population (as a percentage to total population) under the age of seven, with activists estimating that eight million female fetuses may have been aborted in the past decade (Prem Narain, S.D. Sharma, S.C. Rai And V.K. Bhatia(2009).

OBJECTIVES:

- (I)To study the Gender Discrimination in the districts.
- (II)To study the Gender Discrimination among the districts.

HYPOTHESIS:

There is no any Gender discrimination among the districts of Assam.

Developmental indicators:

Development is a multidimensional process and its impact cannot be fully captured by a single indicator. A number of indicators when analyzed individually do not provide an integrated and easily comprehensible picture of reality. Hence, there is a need for building up of a composite index of development based on optimum combination of all the indicators. Each district faces situational factors of development unique to it as well as common administrative and financial factors. Developmental indicators common to all the districts have been included in the analysis. Composite indices of development have been obtained for different districts by using the data on the following developmental indicators. (Narain P. and et. al. 2009).

1	2
Index	Indicators used for the construction of the indices for 2012
DDIOM	X ₁ -Total Population of Male(in Lakh) X ₂ -Total Population of Rural Male(in lakh) X ₃ -Total Population of Urban Male (in 10,000) X ₄ -% of Total Male Population decadal growth X ₅ -% of Total Rural Male Population decadal growth X ₆ -% of Total Urban Male Population decadal growth X ₇ - Literacy Rate of Male Population
DDIOF	X ₈ - Total Female Population (in Lakh) X ₉ - Total Rural Female Population (in lakh) X ₁₀ - Total Urban Female Population (in 10,000) X ₁₁ - % of Female decadal growth X ₁₂ - % of Rural Female decadal growth X ₁₃ - % of Urban Female decadal growth X ₁₄ - Female Literacy Rate

N.B. - DDIM-Demographic Development Indicators of Male
 DDIF-Demographic Development Indicators of Female

METHODOLOGY:

The study is on the Gender Discrimination of the districts of Assam and is based on secondary data pertaining to the demographic variables of the different districts. The time reference period of the study is 2012. Main sources of data are Census of India publications, SRS as well as statistical department publications, Government publications, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Published reports,

research papers, journals, articles, different web sources etc. Composite indices have been prepared for ranking the different districts of the state.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The following methods are used for preparing my research paper.
 Composite index of development and developmental distances between different Districts
 The crucial issue of regional disparity analysis lies in the construction of a Composite Index out of the several indicators chosen for the purpose. All the selected indicators are to be converted in to a common base either by rank ordering or indexing and finally they are to be converted in to a single index of overall development.

Let a set of n points represent districts 1, 2... n for a group of indicators 1, 2... k, which can be represented by a matrix (X_{ij}); i = 1, 2, ... n and j = 1, 2,.. k. As the developmental indicators included in the analysis are in different units of measurement and since our object is to arrive at a single composite index relating to the dimension in question. There is a need for standardized as shown below:

$$Z_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \bar{X}_j}{S_j}$$

Where, $S_j^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_{ij} - \bar{X}_j)^2}{n}$ and

$$\bar{X}_j = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{X_{ij}}{n} \right)$$

(i=1, 2... n), (j=1, 2, ..., k)

Let |Z_{ij}| denotes the matrix of standardized indicators. The best district for each indicator (with maximum/minimum standardized value depending upon the direction of the indicator) is identified and from this the deviations of the value for each district has been taken for all indicators in the following manner:

$$C_i = \left(\sum_{j=1}^k (Z_{ij} - Z_{oj})^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

where Z_{oj} is the standardized value of jth indicator and C_i denotes the pattern of development of ith district.

The composite index of development is obtained through the following formula:

$$D_i = \frac{C_i}{c}$$

$$c = \bar{c} + 2s,$$

$$\bar{c} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{C_i}{n}$$

And

$$s = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(C_i - \bar{c})^2}{n} \right)^{1/2}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Composite indices of demographic development have been worked out for different districts of Assam. The districts have been ranked on the basis of developmental indices. The composite indices of development along with the rank of the districts are presented in Table-1.

Ranking of the districts on the basis of gender					
Sl. No.	Districts	Male		Female	
		CI	Rank	CI	Rank
01	Kokrajhar	1.493	27	0.253	13
02	Dhubri	0.393	21	1.843	25
03	Goalpara	0.056	12	0.903	22
04	Barpeta	0.022	9	0.754	21
05	Marigaon	0.008	7	0.904	23
06	Nagaon	0.273	18	2.513	27
07	Sonitpur	0.626	24	0.467	19
08	Lakhimpur	0.006	6	0.055	9
09	Dhemaji	0.001	3	2.158	26
10	Tinsukia	0.002	4	0.088	11
11	Dibrugarh	0.025	10	0.007	4
12	Sivasagar	0.161	15	0.024	7
13	Jorhat	0.3	19	0.079	10
14	Golaghat	0.081	14	0.022	6
15	Karbi Anglong	0.021	8	0.002	3
16	Dima Hasao	0.52	23	0.017	5
17	Cachar	0.339	20	0.431	17
18	Karimganj	0.057	13	0.347	16
19	Hailakandi	0.002	5	0.311	15
20	Bongaigaon	0.000196	2	0.0008	2
21	Chirang	0.639	25	0.0002	1
22	Kamrup(R)	0.186	16	0.46	18
23	Kamrup (M)	0.188	17	1.556	24
24	Nalbari	0.00007	1	0.291	14
25	Baksa	0.049	11	0.144	12
26	Darrang	0.662	26	0.688	20
27	Udalguri	0.487	22	0.052	8

MAIN FINDINGS:

- (i) Kokrajhar, Sonitpur, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi-Anglong, Dima Hasao, Darrang, these nine districts have biased towards men in demographic development in comparison to Female.
- (ii) Only Bongaigaon have the same Rank both Male and female.
- (iii) Remaining all other districts have biased towards female in respect of demographic development.
- (iv) Chirang have drastic favorable difference of female development in respect of male.
- (v) Similarly Dhemaji have drastic unfavorable difference of female in respect of male.
- (vi) Nalbari achieved first rank of male demographic development followed by, Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Tinsukia respectively.
- (vii) Similarly Chirang, Bongaigaon, Karbi Anglong and Dibrugarh achieved First, second, Third and Fourth Rank in Female demographic development.

CONCLUSIONS:

From the study it can be concluded that the state Assam has a wide range of gender disparity in respect of demographic indicators both within and among the districts. Though few districts able to attain better ranks in comparison to others districts but still there intra district gender disparity is remarkable. So Policy maker should keep concentration of both the factors while they prepare any demographic policy. It should be also worth mentioning here that though the study is trying to analyze the disparities among the districts of Assam in respect of demographic development, so many indicators still remaining out of our purview. Further the study is static in nature which is based only on one time period. So wide spread opportunities are there in the field for further research which may cover more and more indicators.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Subhash C. Kundu, (2003) "Workforce diversity status: a study of employees' reactions", Industrial Management & Data Systems, Vol. 103 Iss: 4, pp.215 - 226).

2. Prem Narain, S.D. Sharma, S.C. Rai And V.K. Bhatia(2009); "Inter-District Variation Of Socio-Economic Development In Andhra Pradesh" Journal Of The Indian Society Of Agricultural Statistics 63(1), 2009 New Delhi Pp 35-42).
3. Ajanta Nath, Inter District Disparities in Health Care Service of Assam Associate Proff., Dept. of Statistics T.H.B. College, Jamugurihat email a2007nath@rediffmail.com
4. Aisha Ghaus A. F. And Et Al (1996), "Social Development Ranking Of Districts of Pakistan"
5. The Pakistan Development Review, Vol. 35, No. 4, Papers And Proceedings PART IIT Wealth Annual General Meeting Of The Pakistan Society Of Development Economists Islamabad, December 14-16, 1996 (Winter 1996), Pp. 593-614 Published By: Pakistan Institute Of Development Economics, Islamabad
6. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Sushil Kr Haldar (2009); "An Investigation into The Inter-District Disparity in West Bengal, 1991-2005", Economic & Political Weekly EPW June 27, 2009 Vol Xliv Nos 26 & 27 Pp 263.