

Female Participation in Economic Activities in Bihar : A Geographical Study



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ABSTRACT

The development of a nation or state depends on the quality of human resources . Because the working people mobilize the natural stuff and convert it into resources .Working female play important role in economic development of the state and nation. In Bihar only 19.07% female are participating in economic activities. Their spatial pattern is very uneven . The rate of increase in economic activity is very slow.

Aim and objective: The main aim and objective of this study is to find out the trends of female participation in economic activity and their spatial distribution in the state of Bihar. The substantial matter of participation is also concerned.

Methodology: This study completed based on secondary data which is obtained from Bihar census 2011.Statistical calculation of facts and pictorial representation have been applied. The analytical method and empirical method have been used in this study.

Keywords : Human resource, Natural Stuff, Female Worker, Economic activity

I. INTRODUCTION

Human resource is the major asset on which the hope of rapid development of a nation rests. Provision of work to all able persons of the both sexes, therefore, has to form a dominant equal opportunity of work to the sexes. Several legislations have been enforced to rise the status of women and to end the discrimination in remuneration against them. As a result Indian women are establishing equality with men in every sphere of social, political and economic activities. There are several reasons for their direct participation in economic activities. The most important of these is economic necessity which has motivated majority of Indian women to participate in economic activities. The growing inflation and soaring prices have compelled the women to augment their family income to participating in some kind of economic activity. This is particularly true of lower and lower-middle classes. The women in lower income groups usually work under economic and social compulsion while the upper and upper middle class women work because it gives them self expression, personal satisfaction and escape from boredom of idling at home. In contrast, in households below poverty line, the income generating and income conserving activities of women are critical to the very survival of the family

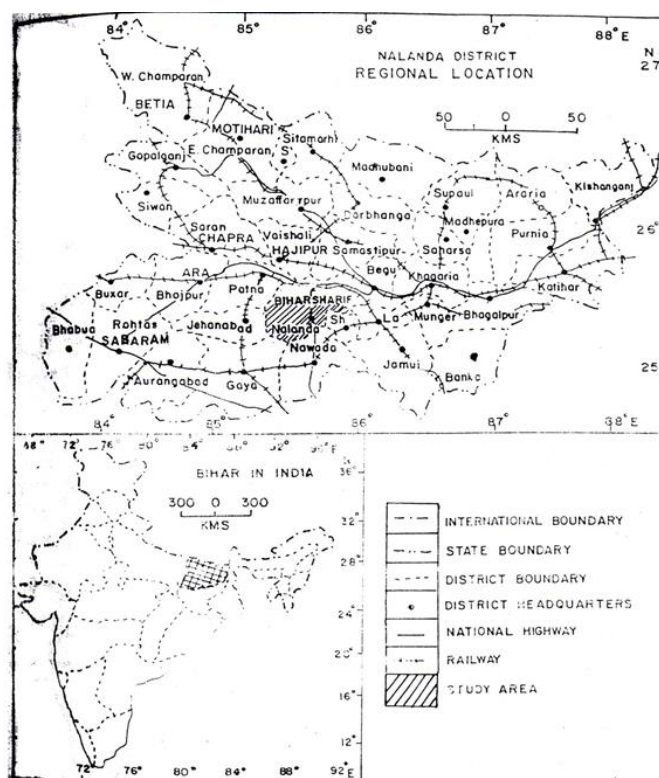
Traditionally Indian women have made a large contribution to the village economy by sharing in household industry. But the transformation of agricultural to industrial society and resulting decline in household industry to have robbed hundreds of thousands of women of their means of livelihood. It has also transformed their role in the village economy from a productive one to that of economic parasites. In order to mobilize all human resources, the need to be provided with other options.

Besides economic activities, women perform other activities such as domestic work, which are strictly speaking, not economic in character. The term "Economically active: includes all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labour available for production of economic goods services. In brief, it comprises all persons engaged in some branch of economy during the specific period of time. The economically inactive population, on the other hand comprises persons with no economic activity at the moment of the census. This group normally includes house-wives and student not economically active, retired persons (with or without income). inmates of institutions, children below the working age, persons past the working age and so forth.

Study Area: The state of Bihar lying between 24 deg. 27 min. 10 sec. N to 27 deg. 31 min 15 sec N latitude and 83 deg. 19 min. 50 sec. to 88 deg. 17 min. 40 sec long. With area of 94163 sqkm. and with 104099452 population, forms a part of eastern part of middle ganaplain. It is bounded by Vindhyan range and archaean plateau of chhotanagpur in the south. A small part of shivalik Himalayan range in the north western part of the state exists. Except those the entire state is low level alluvial plain and densely populated region of India. This state is well developed network of road and railways. The agricultural economy is dominated in the State. Very few people are engaged in secondary and tertiary activities.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF STUDY AREA

BIHAR
REGIONAL LOCATION



In 1971 census of India economic activity was define as follow men reducing services for one`s own home or production of goods for purely domestic consumption is not to be treated as economic activity. For example a servant who works as cook in his or her employer`s home for wage will be considered economically active but a housewife, even if she may work much more than a paid servant, in having to cook for the family or looking after the household will not be treated as economically active unless the products are sold and the household desire an income. Participation in work that goes to augment the income of household will only be treated as economic activities.

Table no. - 1

Trend Of Female Participatation Rate in Bihar

Sl. No.	Year	Female (%)
1	1971	8.88
2	1981	9.06
3	1991	15.89
4	2001	18.83
5	2011	19.07

According to 2011 census women constructed 48.53 percent of Indian population. Whereas in Bihar it is only 47.8 percent. When we look to their participation in economic activity it is meager. Only 19.07 percent female population of Bihar are main workers and when marginal worker are included the percentage reaches 26.78%. According to 1971 census only 8.88 percent women in Bihar were engaged in economic activities. while in some other Indian states which are relatively more developed this figure is higher. In 1981 census shows slight increase in female participation over 1971. It is probably due to increase in female literacy which increase from 8.73 percent in 1971 to 13.62 percent in 1981. Although women literacy increased 51.5 percent but their economic participation is only 19.07 percent in Bihar.

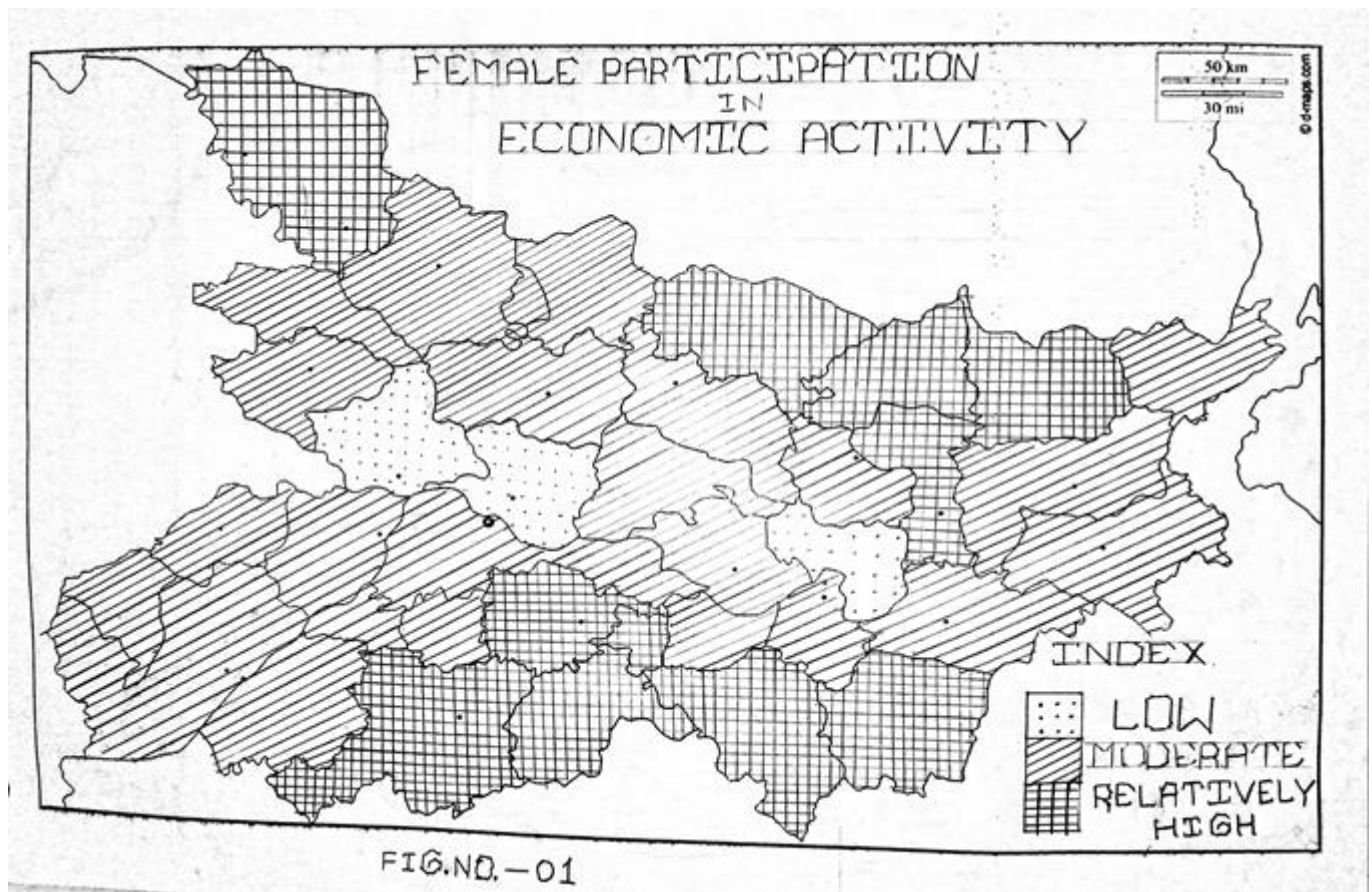
There are several factors responsible for very low percentage of women participation in economic activities. High illiteracy among women adversely affects women participation in workforce. A U N O study pointed out sometime back that illiteracy compounded by poverty makes the bulk of women workers fall back upon any sundry job to earn basic living. They also become easy victims of exploitation. Modernize agriculture require some form of basic schooling and skill. Women workers are the first to jettison when technology soars high. Lack of technical knowledge and skill limits female participation in Bihar. Here 88.87 percent of total female workers are engaged in agriculture activity. Only 8.37 percent of total female workers are engaged in other activity. When female workers in other activity is considered in relation to total female population of Bihar this share only 0.75 percent.

The Indian society is traditional in nature and the cast system still prevails. The caste system is arranged in a hierarchical order. Indian castes are ranked in terms of social esteem. It is a system of institutionalized inequality. Resources are mainly associated with upper casts. These upper caste generally maintain the Purdah system and don't allow their female member to participate in economic activities .On other hand scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people from the lowest rank of caste hierarchy. They have the least resource of livelihood. Women of this class take up work to meet their financial needs and thus ease the strain of feeding their families.

Table no. - 2

Sl. No.	District	Total worker	Femal worker	Female worker in%
1	Jamui	727571	275238	37.83
2	Supaul	877682	325964	37.13
3	Madhepura	777546	281500	36.2
4	Gaya	1664042	587892	35.32
5	Nawada	817040	277602	33.97
6	Araria	1069843	361502	33.78
7	Banka	771080	253262	32.84
8	Nalanda	1045420	342015	32.71
9	Sheikhpura	224655	73086	32.53
10	West Champaran	1478947	479665	32.43
11	Madhubani	1636938	530991	32.42
12	Purnia	1143318	340043	29.74
13	Saharsa	649898	193174	29.72
14	Arwal	236354	68363	28.92
15	Aurangabad	837790	238613	28.48
16	East Champaran	1737539	476765	27.43
17	Jehanabad	365378	98955	27.08
18	Kaimur	511163	135204	26.45
19	Lakhisarai	326576	86082	26.35
20	Gopalganj	728201	188615	25.90
21	Buxar	538322	136142	25.29
22	Katihar	1013566	253044	24.96
23	Bhagalpur	983528	243472	24.75
24	Begusarai	938182	222837	23.75
25	Patna	1881886	445475	23.67
26	Rohtas	924879	216940	23.45
27	Munger	426658	99205	23.25
28	Sheohar	216372	49676	22.95
29	Samastipur	1343400	305824	22.76
30	Muzaffarpur	1547586	352278	22.76

31	Darbhanga	1223640	275713	22.53
32	Sitamarhi	1114583	248654	22.30
33	Bhojpur	822483	182210	22.15
34	Siwan	932416	202020	21.66
35	Kishanganj	529064	107872	20.38
36	Vaishali	1060344	201696	19.02
37	Saran	1040231	182571	17.55
38	Khagaria	960805	162589	16.92



The spatial pattern of female participation in economic activities in Bihar is very uneven. This is shown by table-2 and choropleth map of Bihar.

A. RELATIVELY HIGH PARTICIPATED REGION-In this zone above thirty percent women participation in economic activities exists. There are eleven districts in this region. These are Madhubani, West Champaran, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Banka, Araria, Nawada, Gaya, Madhepura, Supaul, Jamui. These districts except Nalanda, Nawada, Sheikhpura, female literacy is very low and s. c. And s. t. population is high. So the higher female participation does not express economic and social development. They are engaged in low income activities such as agricultural labourers, house labourers forest products gatherer. In Nalanda and Sheikhpura social and economic awareness is accelerating. Although female worker are engage in low income activities.

B .MODERATE PARTICIPATED REGION –It is characterized by 20 to 30 percent participation of women in economic activities. This zone includes maximum districts of Bihar. That is 24 districts. These are Siwan,Bhojpur,Sitamarhi,Darbhanga,Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Sheohar ,Munger, Rohtas, Patna, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Buxer,Gopalganj,Lakhisarai, Kaimur, Jehanabad, E .Champaran.Aurangabad, Arwal, Saharsa,Purnea.In this region female are engaged as cultivator, agriculturelabour.In relatively high urbanized area they participated in secondary and tertiary activities such as manufacturing, trade and service sector. These female are highly literate.

C-LOW PARTICIPATION REGION-Khagaria,Saran and Vaishali lies in this zone. In this region only 10 to 20 percent female population participate in economic activities. Feudal thinking does not allow women to participate away from home. So their percentage is very low.

The above discussion reveals that most of the women in working age group in Bihar are without any productive job. Whatever women participate in some kind of productive activity, they are mostly engaged in agricultural sector. Their share in secondary and tertiary activity is meager. The most crucial problem facing the women of working age group is that 4.5 percent women are marginal workers. Marginal worker are not included in main workers.

Conclusion and Suggestions:-In order to overcome this problem additional avenue for their employment should be explored and promoted. It can be said that women of working age group suffer from problems like meager share in economic activities, seasonal employment, major share in agricultural sector etc Illiteracy among the women is general and working age group in particular is responsible for these problems. So government should increase literacy among women..

In order to increase employment opportunity among women, it is necessary that some of the job must be reserved only for them. In this direction mention can be made of the job of nurse .It has been observed that in majority of government hospitals as well as private nursing homes male compounder perform nurse duty. Reservation of nurse's job only for female may immediately provide employment opportunity to large number of women. Nurse`s job require only simple technical training, that can be provided to literate women within short span of time. In each village at least one nurse must be posted. They may be of great help for rural women, particularlyremote villages from where medical centres are not easily accessible.

Preference to women as teacher in primary school may create employment opportunity for large number of women. Matriculate women should be given teacher training. Besides these two programmes, several other steps can be taken to provide income generating opportunity to women. Craft training program like tailoring, dress making, establishment of highly labour incentive and technically simple industries like part of machinery and preparation of food like papad ,sev,sauceetc, should be given special attention.

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