

PATTERN OF FEMALE POPULATION IN UTTARAKHAND

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In India the waves of development are embracing every section of the society, but some privileged sections have had maximum benefits of it, while the other, particularly the females have lagged far behind due to a number of socio-economic constraints, even with the fact that there has been sufficient guarantee and provision in Indian constitution of equal rights for male and females regardless of caste, region and religion. Women in various arena varies from state to state, caste to caste and religion to religion. Thus, Women in India are characterized by low level of literacy, low sex-ratio, and less employment opportunities, However, the last two decades have revealed that the women have grabbed more opportunities in the economic sector than men.

Study Area

Uttarakhand, a newly created state has been chosen for the spatial analysis of women participation where their status is little different from those of rest of the country. In this hilly terrain, women have registered their effective presence by their active participation, be that "Uttaran Movement", "Chipko Movement", Movement against Social Evils' or regional economy. This state extends from 28° 42' N. Lat. to 31° 28' N. Lat and 77° 23' NE. Long. to 81° 5 E. Long., covering an area of 53,483 sq.km. The state is boxed in by Tibet (China) in the north, Nepal in the east and Uttar-Pradesh in the south. The western boundary is demarcated by Himachal Pradesh. The total population (2001) of the state is 84,79,562 . There are 13 districts in the state of which two viz. Haridwar and Udham shingh Nagar are plains and rest are the hills. The topography of the state is highly rugged excepting a few distinguished river valley and foot-hills zone.

Aims of the study

A number of women centered aspects in the state are interesting that is why the state has been taken for such studies. The present paper analyses the secondary data at district level pertaining to the female population of Uttaranchal (2001) with a view to assessing the state of female participation in various economic activities. Also, it aims at mirroring the condition of females on the basis of sex-ratio and literacy and their combined impact on the economic sector. It is interesting to note that the topography has a direct bearing on all the characteristics of population in Uttarakhand.

Exposition

The study is based on the following indicators related to the females : -

1. Share of population (% to total population).

2. Sex-ratio (female per 1000 males).
3. Literacy (% to total females).
4. Working population (% to total females).
5. Farmers (% to total female workers).
6. Agricultural labourers (% to total female workers).
7. Industrial workers (% to total female workers).
8. Other workers (% to total female workers).

The participating role of male and females in various regions and sectors is different due to different socio economic structure and conditions. The total work force of people engaged in different activities is mainly constituted by primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. In the context of Uttarakhand, females are highly outnumbered by males in working category and are restricted to the primary sector embracing agriculture and allied activities. The state and levels of literacy on one hand and socio economic structure and cultural persistence on the other have a decisive control on the participation of females in various sectors of economy (Purohit, 1993)

Table1: Share of population (% to the total population)

S.N.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	46-48	4
2.	48-50	1
3.	50-52	7
4.	Above 52	1

(State Average 49.09 percent)

In order to attain the aims undertaken, the indicators have been analysed as under :-

1. Share of Females

Out of the total population (84,79,562), females are 41,63,161 indicating that they constitute almost a half portion (49.09%) in the state. This figure varies from a low of 47.18% in Dehradun, followed by 47.52% in Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar to a high of 53.43% in Almora.

There are four districts under the first category, namely Dehradun (47.18) Udham Shingh Nagar (47.42), Haridwar (47.46) and Nainital (47.52). The factors associated with this are low sex-ratio, almost even topography in the light of industrialization and urbanization. The second category

includes the district- Uttarkashi (48.46), one of the border districts sparsely populated. The third category embraces seven districts of the state, all of them are hilly in nature, characterized by high sex-ratio. Almora (53.43%) is on the top.

2. Sex-ratio

Sex -Ratio is one of the best indicators of socio economic conditions prevailing in an area and an effective instrument for regional analysis. The sex-ratio varies both in time and space and is governed by three factors- sex-ratio at birth, differential in the mortality rate of the two sexes, and sex selectivity. The sex composition of the state is quite higher (964) than that of India (933).

Certain biological reasons are responsible for the uneven proportion of men and women, as a result of which more boys are born than the girls. However, the role of social factors with the changing conditions has become more decisive. Female mortality becomes high in youth and childhood in comparison to male (Petrove, 1979).

The population of the state moves out significantly and migration to the big cities of the country intensifies the sex-disparity. The following table gives the clear picture of sex-ratio in the state-

Table 2: Sex-ratio in Uttaranchal

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 900	2
2.	900-1000	3
3.	1000-1100	4
4.	Above 1100	4

(State Average 964)

Only 3 district correspond with the average of sex-ratio, while a majority of the district deviate down and up from this, the regional pattern can be observed as follows.

- (i) **High Sex-Ratio:** This category includes eight districts where the sex-ratio is more than 1000. These are Almora, having the highest figure (1147), closely followed by Rudraprayag (1117), Bagheswar (1110) and Garhwal (1051). Tehri Garhwal (1051) and Chamoli (1117) also reveal the high sex-ratio. Generally, the dominance of females in older age and male selective migration in the young working age group has resulted in the high sex-ratio. These districts are characterized by tough physical conditions and limited opportunities of employment as the industrial sector is almost absent (Purohit & Singh, 1987). Females

are found to be working in agriculture and allied activities, as Push forces seem to be throwing the males out the region.

- (ii) **Moderate Sex-ratio:** This category includes three districts : Uttarkashi (941), Nainital (906) and Udham Shing Nagar (902). Less amount of migration of male, relatively developed secondary sector and female literacy, etc. can be held responsible for it.
- (iii) **Low Sex-ratio:** Low sex ratio (below 900) has been found in Dehradun (893) and Haridwar (868) district. Urbanisation, females' engagement in secondary and tertiary sectors as also the non-migration of male workers have contributed to the low sex-ratio 'Pull' force seems to be acting to attract the males from outside to pick up a living in these districts.

3. Literacy

Education is a double-edged instrument which can eliminate the effects of socio economic inequalities, but which can itself introduce a new kind of inequality between those who have it and those who don't (Govt. of India, 1974). In Spite of the rapid expansion of women education at various levels, the sharp increase of illiterate females could not be prevented in India. But the preceding decade has shown a positive picture of female literacy as the literacy rate of females has inched up to 54.16 per cent and Uttarakhand as before has touched the marked of 60.26 per cent enjoying 18th position in India with marked inter district variation from a low 47.48 per cent in Uttarkashi to high of 71.22 per cent in Dehradun district.

The combined role of historical, economic and cultural factors is of great importance regarding female literacy. The task of learning remained the privilege of the priestly and the business class for whom reading and writing was an occupational necessity (Gosal, 1975). The special pattern of female literacy in Uttarakhand is quite uneven. Uttarkashi (47.48%) and Tehri Garhwal (49.76) have the low literacy due to the fact that they had been under the princely rule during the British period. These also exhibit the higher percentage of female work-force, particularly in the primary sector. The districts- Dehradun (71.22%) and Nainital (70.98%) have had the educational as administrative functions even during the British rule. Chamoli (63.00%), Garhwal (66.14%),

Table 3: Female Literacy (% to female population)

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 50	2
2.	50-55	3
3.	55-60	2
4.	60-65	3
5.	Above 65	3

(State Average 60-26)

Pithoragarh (63.14%) and Almora (61.43%) also reveal relatively higher literacy rates. The districts of Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar are characterised by low sex ratio as well as low literacy of females.

State and pace of urbanization, industrialization, historical administration, nature of religious group, sex-composition, type of land-holding and land ownership system as also the outlook of the government to opening up of educational institutions are some of the important factors contributing to the rate of female literacy in Uttarakhand.

4. Female work-Force

The participation ratio of males and females in various activities in India has been traditional enough. The impact of tradition on a modern economy has meant exclusion of an increasing number and proportion of females from active participation in the productive process. A number of them are on sufferance, without equal treatment, security of employment and human conditions of work (Govt. of India, 1974). Unlike the situation in non-agricultural sector and organized industrial sector, the professions have provided ample opportunities for women after independence. Cultural persistence and deep-rooted social taboos have restricted the fullest potential of females. In Uttarakhand, the geographical conditions have restricted the economic profession to agriculture and animal husbandry. The total female workers are only 26.98% with wide variations ranging from 3.89% in Haridwar to 46.78% in Rudraprayag.

Table 4: Female Workers (% to Female Population)

S.N.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 20	4
2.	Between 20-40	5
3.	Above 40	4

(State Average 26.98)

5. Farmers

It is rightly said that females are the back-bone of economy in this mountain terrain. Females out-number males in agricultural sector. As many as 80.91 percent female work-force is engaged as farmers in Uttarakhand with remarkable variation from a minimum of 10.86% in Haridwar to a maximum of 98.63% in Tehri-Garhwals district, closely followed by Rudraprayag (98.04%).

The above table is evident that a majority of the districts (9) of Uttarakhand have more than 90.0% females as farmers. Haridwar (10.86%) is an exception where females do not participate as farmers adequately. In fact, in the districts of Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital and Dehradun, a relatively considerable number, as compared to rest of the hill districts, do not work as labourers.

Table 5: Female Farmers (% to female Workers)

S.N.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 50	1
2.	50-90	3
3.	Above 90	9

(State Average 80.91)

6. Agricultural Labourers

This category of work classification includes the person who either do not have their own agricultural land or have to work on other's fields to pick up a living. There is negative correlation between the figures pertaining to farmers and agricultural labourers, as is evident from the following table.

Table 6: Agricultural Labourers (%)

S.N.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 5	9
2.	5 -10	1
3.	Above. 10	3

(State Average 5.74)

The Table exhibits that most of the district (9) fall under the first category where there are less than 5.0 percent females as agri-labourers. These are all hill districts having even below 1.0 percent- Tehri (0.08) has the lowest figure along with Rudraprayag (0.21), Chamoli (0.22) and Uttarkashi (0.27). The highest figure has been observed in Haridwar (28.23), followed by Udham Singh Nagar (22.30), Nainital (13.01) and Dehradun (7.21)

7. Industrial Workers (%)

The industrial activities involve mainly the transformation of resources into various forms through manufacturing process. The state is still in its infant state as regards the industries. A very slow pace of industrialization is responsible for it. Barring the exceptions of Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and some portions of Dehradun, Nainital and Garhwal district, the industrial activity is almost absent in whole of the state. In Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi district, cottage and small scale industries are run by the Bhotiya women. Haridwar (7.71%) and Udham Singh Nagar (3.09%) have registered a relatively higher share of population in industries.

Table 7: Female Worker (% to female Population)

S.N.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 1	7
2.	1-5	5
3.	Above. 5	1

(State Average 1.43)

8. Other Workers

This group of work force occupies the service related to transport, communication, trade and commerce. In Uttarakhand 9.61% females are engaged as other workers. Haridwar again is at the top with 38.50%, followed by Dehradun (37.09%), Udham Singh Nagar (17.00%) and Nainital (15.40%). Again, the district of Tarai and the Doons have emerged with higher percentage of women workers in this category. The purely hill districts of the state, as said earlier dominated by female workers in agriculture.

Table 8 : Other Worker (%)

S.N.	Category	No. of Districts
1.	Below 10	9
2.	10 -20	2
3.	Above. 20	2

(State Average 9.61)

Spatial Patterns

On the basis of the analysis of the above indicators, the regionalisation has been made giving the proper rank to each district in each indicators, which has been summarized in the table to follow:

The participation ratio (P) was obtained on the basis of the ranking total score obtained thus

$P=T/N$, Where, P = Participation ratio, T = total Score, and N = No. of districts.

Thus, the P value for the whole state has been worked out to be 56.08, varying from a high of 66 in Uttarkashi and Tehri - Garhwal districts to a low of 43 in Almora, which indicates that female are over burdened by various activities in the districts having higher P values. Higher the score, lower will be the P value. The following regional pattern has emerged in Uttarakhand :

Table 9: Regional Patterns of female Participation and Rank-order:

S.N.	District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	
1.	Uttarkashi	9	9	13	2	4	10	8	11	66	
2.	Chamoli	8	8	5	3	5	11	3	8	51	
3.	Rudraprayag	2	2	7	1	2	12	9	12	47	
4.	Tehri Garhwal	5	5	12	4	1	13	13	13	66	
5.	Dehradun	13	12	1	12	11	4	5	2	60	
6.	Garhwal	4	4	3	7	3	9	12	7	49	
7.	Pithoragarh	6	6	4	6	8	8	4	9	51	
8.	Champawat	7	7	9	5	7	7	7	10	59	
9.	Almora	1	1	6	9	6	5	10	5	43	
10.	Bageshwar	3	3	8	8	9	6	11	6	54	
11.	Nainital	11	10	2	10	10	3	6	4	56	
12.	U.S. Nagar	11	11	10	11	12	2	2	3	62	
13.	Hardwar	12	13	11	13	13	1	1	1	65	
N=		13			Mean=56.08			Total Score=			729

Table 10 : Regional Patterns of female Participation in Uttarakhand

Sl. No.	Range of 'P'	'P' Cagegory	No. of Dis	Name of Districts
1	Below 50	High	03	Rudraprayag, Garhwal, Almora
2	50-55	High medium	03	Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar
3.	55-60	Medium	03	Dehradun, Champwat, Nainital
4.	Above 60	Low	04	Uttarkashi, Tehri-Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar

Conclusion

The study of some of the indicators pertaining to female participation in Uttarakhand, that female sex has a far more significant role in the hill districts, The highly urbanized and industrialized districts have less females. Low sex-ratio has been observed in occupationally diversified districts. Female literacy and occupational structure in the state exhibit a negative correlation. Female work-force also corresponds with the female workers in agriculture. It can thus, be established that sex composition corresponds positively with female work-force and negatively with female literacy.

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