

Changing Status of Women in Uttar Pradesh (1971-2001): An Inter-district Study

Achala Srivastava, ICSSR Post Doctoral Fellow, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow

Abstract

In the course of time, though the social status of women has witnessed a great deal of change, still there are various issues that need more serious debates and discussions. These issues mainly related to women's health, education and employment. The present paper tries to capture condition of women and girls in the districts UP within a socio-economic and demographic ambience that has marked UP in last 30 years and acknowledges that the status of women cannot be conceived as monolithic and static.

The present paper highlights the changes in women's status and position in the districts of Uttar Pradesh in terms of literacy, work participation, health and other indicators during the last three decades, e.g., 1971-81, 1981-91 and 1991-2001. Our analysis further reveals that inter-district disparity is much higher in case of female work participation rate and female literacy rate. However, there was an overall trend of decline in inter-district disparities in women's status over the period 1971 to 2001 in all indicators of women's status except in case of Child-Women Ratio and TFR.