

## **SEX SEGREGATED DATA IN ADDRESSING WOMEN'S ISSUES**

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### **Abstract**

Sex disaggregated data is an essential input into gender analysis and the understanding of different economic contributions, situation and realities of women and men. It can provide information about how much women contribute to all aspects of society and economic activity in both their paid and unpaid capacities. Using sex disaggregated data can help governments to decide on and carry out activities that are effective, equitable and beneficial for women and men, as well as their economies and enable women gain the most benefit from their work. The lack of sex segregated data hides the actual as well as the potential contributions of half of the population to our economies and hinders effective policy development. To address women's issues and to build equal society it is essential to develop data collection methodologies which help to understand the actual situation of both the sexes and address the inequalities.

**Key Words: Sex segregated data ,Gender Justice ,Violence against women ,Social inequality**

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## Introduction

*“Social, political and economic equality for women is integral to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals. Until women and girls are liberated from poverty and injustice, all our goals — peace, securities, sustainable development — stand in jeopardy.”*

-U N Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon – June 2010

The First Conference in Mexico in 1975 to the Fourth World conference in Beijing in 1995, all the conferences highlighted the need for accessible information and data as a starting point for any policy or programme for advancement of Women.

In India, it is believed that women enjoyed an equal status on par with their male counterparts in the Vedic Period. The education of women held considerable significance. The Upanishads and the Vedas have cited women sages and seers. But the condition declined considerably afterwards. Historical practices such as Sati, Jauhar, Purdah and Devdasis, child marriage, are a few traditions reflective of the gender imbalance in Indian Society. Even today gender inequity is still rampant and manifested through domestic violence, trafficking, dowry deaths, female infanticide, female foeticide, sexual objectification, honuor killing and violence and sexual harassment at work place. Lack of data on any of these crimes is one of the main impediments to understand the extent and intensity of the problem. Absence of sex segregated data is also one of the obstacles to achieve gender justice

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Though, women and girls, in general are subjected to various forms of violence at various sites, ie. in the family, in the community and those perpetrated or condoned by the State, there is hardly any complaining and filing mechanism of the problem, because much of gender violence is considered normal and enjoys social sanction. Unfortunately the data remains un-collated either at State level or National level. Even though the National Crimes Bureau, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, based on the reported crimes registered through FIRs gives some insight into the trends of various types of crimes committed against women, the complete picture and intensity of the problem cannot be judged as many cases go unreported. Besides the violence, the substantial contribution they made for the family and the societal development is also un noticed, unrecognized and unaccounted as major portion of their work revolve around

house which do not have any economic value. Hence this paper tries to analyse the need for sex disaggregated data, gender justice and its impediments in reaching the goal of equality with the following objectives:

### **Objectives**

- To understand the necessity of sex disaggregated data
- To analyse the Correlation between Sex segregated data and gender justice

Ensuring adequate data collection is part of every State's obligating to address violence against women and give recognition to their work. Unfortunately sex disaggregated statistics is not given prime importance in recording data which is vital to understand and address gender issues in society.

### **Sex Disaggregated Data**

Sex disaggregated data means any data that is cross-classified by sex, presenting information separately for women and men, girls and boys. data should be collected on the basis of concepts and methods that take into account women's and men's roles, realities, conditions and situations in all spheres and aspects of society, such as literacy, education levels, crime rates, business ownership, employment, wage differences dependants, home and land ownership, loans credits and debts.

Research, data collection and analysis are critical to effective advocacy efforts and resource mobilization, programme development, policy implementation and monitoring of interventions. It is well-recognised that for a sound understanding and analysis of women's position in Indian society and economy, we require adequate and good quality data. Unfortunately, the status of gender statistics (and data) in India leaves much to be desired. Women, like men, contribute significantly in this process. Statistical information on the status of women and men in all spheres of a society is vitally important as it enables in evaluation of gender imbalance and also helps in planning for equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. The importance of producing statistics on women was recognized in 1975 by UN with the holding of the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City. Carrying forward the UN mandate, efforts to

collect and produce the statistics on gender issues were initiated in many countries. Besides, preparation of user's friendly statistics on women and men, efforts to improve data collection methodologies were also undertaken

### **Need of Sex segregated Data**

The lack of sex segregated data hides the actual as well as the potential contributions of half of the population to our economies and may hinder effective policy development. Data collection methodologies and processes needs to be analyzed to identify the gaps and take steps to address these gaps in the most cost effective way. Every organization should build its own sex segregated database to have a better understanding of the contribution of men and woman.

It helps to identify the different situation of women and men, intensity of the problem, allocate resources and effort in a more equitable fashion, evaluate and monitor results outcomes by sex.

The Beijing platform for Action (1995) called upon national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies, to inter alia, collect, compile analyze and present on a regular basis data segregated by age, sex, socio economic and other relevant indicators for utilization in policy and programme planning and implementation.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have highlighted the need for sex segregated data and information on gender equality, in particular because of the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in implementation and monitoring of all MDGs.

Empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development. Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it also has a multiplier effect across all other development areas

Sex disaggregated data is an essential input into gender analysis and the understanding of different economic contributions, situation and realities of women and men. Sex disaggregated data can provide information about how much women contribute to all aspects of society and economic activity in both their paid and unpaid capacities. Using sex disaggregated data can help governments to decide on and carry out activities that are effective, equitable and beneficial

for women and men, as well as their economies and enable women gain the most benefit from their work.

Current controversies over indices of segregation emphasise the issue of measuring the level of segregation at the expense of analysis of the meaning of segregation. Comparative research into patterns of segregation across European member states has revealed that there is some evidence of similarities in patterns and trends, but to understand their significance for women's employment outcomes an appreciation of differences in the structural organisation of labour markets and in 'gender regimes' is required. A dynamic analysis is also necessary, in which not only the pattern of segregation, but also the nature of jobs and rewards is subject to change.

Control over resources, including opportunities for decent work and the acquisition of economic assets, are essential elements for gender justice. They enable women to profit from their hard work, for their own and their families' well-being. Absence of segregated data remains as an obstacle in front of women to get justice on any of these aspects. Without understanding their contribution, their privileges or their challenges whatever may be the programs or policies planned for women, gender justice cannot be done.

### **Gender Justice**

Gender justice can be defined as 'the protection and of civil, political, economic and social rights on the basis of gender equality. It necessitates taking a gender perspective on the rights themselves, as well as the assessment of access and obstacles to the enjoyment of these rights for women, men, girls and boys and adopting gender sensitive strategies for protecting and promoting them (Pam Spees, 2004).

Gender justice not only requires an end to inequalities between women and men, but also accountability to women and girls for tackling injustice and discrimination.

Women's employment and control over land are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), because they help to reduce poverty and increase food security. But access to these resources also has other important benefits for women, where women control

land; they gain greater livelihood security and access to other resources, including credit and other financial products, seeds and extension services. In rural societies, land has symbolic as well as economic value, which contributes to women's status within their communities. Where they earn their own income, women have more say in domestic decision-making and may be less exposed to domestic violence. However, both decent work and control over land are denied to many women.

Gender Justice envisions a society free of gender barriers, a society in which individuals are not held back by implicit bias, stereotypes, or prejudice and can reach their full potential, whether at school, in the workplace, or in the community. Since its founding in 2010, Gender Justice has promoted innovative policy solutions and advocated tenaciously for a diverse group of clients.

Want to know more about our unique approach to gender equality

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (the “Beijing Conference”) was a landmark in policy terms, setting a global policy framework to advance gender equality. Ten years after Beijing, in March 2005, the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women presided over an intergovernmental meeting in New York to review the progress achieved on the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This “Plus 10” event was decidedly low key. Its aim was not agenda setting but agenda confirming; not policy formulation, but policy affirmation. Whether it proves to be part of an ongoing worldwide movement in support of gender equality, or whether it marks the decline of that process, is a question that many in international women’s movements are asking. Tackling inequalities and discrimination holds the key to further progress on all of the SDGs and is essential to meeting the promise of social justice.

### **Ways to achieve gender justice**

Violence against women will not be eradicated and gender justice cannot be achieved without political will and commitment at the highest levels to make it a priority locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. Political will is expressed in a variety of ways, including legislation, national plans of action, adequate resource allocation, location of mechanisms to address violence against women at the highest levels, efforts to overcome impunity, visible

condemnation of this violence, and sustained support by leaders and opinion makers of efforts to eradicate it. Creating an environment conducive to the effective functioning of NGOs working on this issue and collaboration with them are also indications of political will. Besides, availability of sex segregated data is also one of the major ways in achieving gender justice which is the need of the hour.

Besides for protecting women from discrimination, law can empower women through various ways by equipping the right and power as so to enable to fight against male domination.

### **Laws in India:**

There are various legislations that have been passed in India with a view to curb the imbalance in gender hierarchy and aid in women's empowerment. The constitution of India guarantees various rights for women in this regard. Article 14 states that there shall be equal protection of the law and equality before the law which means that the Courts or any Law enforcement agency should not discriminate between a man and a woman. The right to equality is the foundation on which other laws are formulated and can be implemented.

Without the right to equality, the purpose of gender justice cannot be achieved. Article 15 guarantees the right against discrimination. The prejudice and bias against women is rampant an issue to be countered by the right to equality, hence the right against discrimination. Article 16 provides the right to equal opportunity in terms of public employment irrespective of the sex of the person.

Apart from the provisions in the constitution, there are certain other legislations that were passed specific to the certain issues like Dowry, Dowry death, domestic violence, cruelty by the husband or the relatives of the husband, Trafficking, female foeticide, Sexual harassment etc. To secure gender justice for working women, the related enactments are; Sexual Harassment of Women (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) at Work Place Act 2013, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Factories Act, 1948. For enhancing social justice for women, enactments such as the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, which made the marriageable of women 18, now its been amended to 21; The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 ensures women's right

to inherit parental property; The Hindu Widow Remarriage Act, 1956 legalized widow remarriage etc.

All the provisions that have been included in the Constitution and other enactments are reflective of the aim of gender justice but the implementation of all these provisions has been challenging. Thus despite the measures formulated for curbing the gender imbalance, women still continue to face the same difficulties. Patriarchy, lack of awareness, continuous subjugation, certain deep rooted traditions and custom, male chauvinism, lack of effective enforcement, have altogether resulted in the suppressed condition of women today.

Even many years after the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), many women and girls still do not have equal opportunities to realize rights recognized by law. In many countries, women are not entitled to own property or inherit land, social exclusion, 'honour' killings, female genital mutilation, trafficking, restricted mobility and early marriage among others, deny the right to health to women and girls and increase illness and death throughout the life-course.

We will not see sustainable progress unless we fix failures in health systems and society so that girls and women have equal access to health information and services, education, employment and political positions. ( Margaret Chan, 2010)

### **Conclusion**

With this it could be understood that gender statics provide data on women and men across a wide range of topic fields. They show the different circumstances in which women and men live and how their individual wellbeing has changed over time. These statics are essential for monitoring the achievement and achieve gender justices.

Hence, until and unless proper data on every aspect related to both male and female is recorded separately, their contributions, their problems, their needs cannot be understood precisely, which are essential to understand the situation, formulate the policies, bridge the gap between male and female, remove the gender inequalities and achieve gender justice.



Systems for regular data collection and analysis can involve partnerships between government, international organizations, civil society and academic or research institutions at both the national and International level

Hence it is essential to formulate the mechanism for registration of each and every case right from the grassroot level to top level. The availability of data will definitely helps the policy makers and brings suitable legislations to combat the particular problem. The existing legislations are only helpful to punish the culprits of the registered cases; legislations should also be made to make the stakeholders mandatory in filing the incidents from village level itself.

It is essential that all the government departments must be integrated in the process of gender disaggregated data from village level to national level. And strengthen national statistical systems by incorporating gender analysis into publication and research.

In some cases, Police crime data represents a quite a small portion of the crimes actually committed because the police fails to register a significant share of them though victims report the incidents. Even victims fail to report a number of crimes to the police as they feel that the incident is insignificant to report or not believing in police etc. This result in unreported or reported crime goes unaccounted or unrecorded.

Detailed statistical analysis required to arouse the public conscience and reveal how pervasive and prevalent crime against women has become. This will be difficult unless we adopt a comprehensive approach that tracks all types of crime against women including invisible crime. For such data, there is a need to streamline the definitions and scope within the frame work of official statistics. The integration of the various sources and interlinking them should be the first task. It could be concluded that if sex segregated data is available many issues related to women can be tackled effectively.

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