



Capstone Project

*Women empowerment and development:
A comparative study of Kerala and Uttar-Pradesh*

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KUMARI SWATI SINGH

CERTIFICATION

This research work title 'Women Empowerment and Development' undertaken by Kumari Swati Singh with registration number 11500890 has been fully supervised and certified. Therefore it fullfills the requirement for confirmation of Master's degree(M.Sc. Economics).

Ms. Kumari Swati Singh

Date

DECLARATION

I Kumari Swati Singh hereby declare that this work is the product of my own research effort, undertaken under the supervision of Ms. Abeinya Menon and has been presented elsewhere for the award of any certificate. All sources have been acknowledged.

Kumari Swati Singh

(11500890) Date and sign

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ABBREVIATION LIST:

GGI: GENDER GAP INDEX

HDI: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

MDG: MILLANUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SHG: SELF HELP GROUPS

Abstract

Economic development and women empowerment are related with each other as economic development can play a major role in reducing inequality between men and women, while women's empowerment may help in development. The paper reviews the literature on both empowerment and development relation and comments that the interrelationships are very weak to recover by their selves, so regular policies and their implementation to equality is needed to bring equality between women and men. A comparative study has been done between two states namely, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. It was found that reducing the extent of poverty on rural residence and providing them help and support to deal with crises could help in improving the welfare of women.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, suppression, disparity, social justice, equality.

CHAPTER-I

Introduction

Empowerment is about building the power that one requires to achieve their targets. The main idea of women empowerment came from the view point that men have more power as compared to women and women are suppressed by the society. Because of this women are having lot of resistance in their path of achieving their goals. If we look at the past we can find lot of evidence in which women were always suppressed by the men. In Western countries still the situation is much better as compared to other parts of the world. There most of the women believe that they have equal powers as men. But in many regions of the various countries women are not allowed to take a decision without the permission of men. There are some countries where women cannot move out without the company of a man. women are not given the right to own land or property. Women are not permitted to take important decisions about their lives such as marriage and education. There are many countries where are girl child are killed because people prefer boys. In some countries honour killing of women is done for their behaviours. Empowering women and providing them equal rights as men is the best things any country can do for developing. If we look at the Gender Gap Index we find that the countries which fall among top countries are the countries which have topped in Human Development Index.

Let us examine the fact, women go hand in hand with men, development is only possible if we give equal opportunities to both. A community that does not give equal rights to women is similar to a person who tries to win a race with one leg. Women make half of population and if we want the society to develop then both have to work together. That is why the women empowerment is very important these days where every country is in the development phase. So that we can attain optimized result. Empowerment means cutting down the inequalities between men and women and making it legal and acceptable that women and men are equal and can perform everything at same level. It is necessary to make men and women equal in the eyes of the law and make sure that it is accepted by the society also; otherwise the problem won't be resolved.

The consistency of gender inequality can be more clearly seen in the process called the missing woman. This term was given by the renowned economist Amartya Sen in (New York

review of books; Sen 1990) in order to show that the ratio of girls or women is lower than the expected rate if women or girls in the developing countries took birth and died at the same rate as boys or men in Africa. It's assumed that 6 million of women get missed every year according to the report of World Bank 2011. Out of these 23 percent never take birth, 10 percent get missed in the childhood, 21 percent in their reproductive years and 38 percent at the age of 60 years. There is excess mortality rate. Even before the girl child is born women in developing countries are not treated properly as men. There are many women who don't get education, job or any political responsibility which they would have got if they were born as men. The level to which there is improvement and the decrease in women's rate over the last 20 years is clearly visible. In the aspect of education in low income countries the rate of enrolment for girls in the secondary school was 34 percent in the year 2010, while the enrolment rate for boys was 41 percent. After twenty years the rates were respectively, 22 percent and 30 percent. Nowadays, where enrolment in primary school has become universal for both boys and girls. But in labour market working and earning opportunities for the similar work is less for women as compared to men. They are more probable to be in poverty even if they work for the similar job as men does. Women spend five times more time than men does on these activities such as child care, house hold work and in marketing. In July 2011, women formed just 19.4 percent of the members in political representation of the lower and upper houses of the parliament. In legal rights women in most of the countries still lack the rights to manage property and don't have any rights to own land and they are not allowed to move out or take important decisions in life without the permission of men and society where they reside. There is a deep link between the empowerment of women and economic development, it can be defined as raising the ability of women to get the respective constituents of development, mainly health, equal earning opportunities, equality among men and women.

World Bank 2011 adopts education and equal rights, earning opportunities, it also stresses on political participation. Women empowerment and development can play a vital role what it mainly takes is lowering down the inequality between women and men as considering men is a women. In the other way, continuing in itself and policies should discriminate against women can, as Sen's that goal has forcefully commented obstacle in the economic development. The paper reviews the relationship between women empowerment and economic development. This first shows that poverty and the lack of opportunity causes inequality made to focus on one or the other of between women and men, so that when

economic development make a fall or lessens poverty the state of women is improved or is bettered when poverty is reduced; the condition of everybody comprising women creating the conditions for economic improves plus when gender inequality falls as poverty falls , therefore the condition of women improves more as compared to men with economic development. However, Economic development is not sufficient to bring overall or complete equality between women and men. To bring or to achieve the goal of bringing equality between men and women policy action is mandatory. Such policy action would be helpful in women empowerment and would further stimulate growth in this unending cycle. An essay argues that empowering women of the society does actually change the choices of the society in important ways. Hence, the conclusion here is really much balanced and yet somewhat more pessimistic scenario of the potential for empowerment of women and development to mutually reinforce one another. Education is said to be the cornerstone of economic development. Educating both the genders is important as through it we can learn new methods of production and technological change in order to transform the world economy. Economic development will depend highly on knowledge intensive industries, services or agriculture. However the economic crisis is hardening the ability of the countries to maintain the present quality of their educational system. The developing countries are lagging behind in providing the training plus education needed by the youth in order to adapt or create existing technologies plus knowledge to the environment.

In most of the countries illiteracy rates are more or higher among women as compared to men. The reason behind this is the sexual division of the working population based on their gender that gives women more domestic works especially in rural and poor families than men, it assigns them time consuming works and the control of men over the sexuality of women also forms psychological plus physical barriers in the lives of women. There have been many researches which has found and emphasised on various benefits of educating women respectively, better behaviours of maternal about rearing of the new born and the health of the child and it also contributes to better family planning about child birth.

In India, there are various reasons for monitoring, promoting and evaluating the extent of women's empowerment. The health and nutrition of the family depends on women only, so their empowerment is indispensable. Empowering women is also crucial for development of the economy, as that will enhance quality human resource essential for development of the economy. success of development efforts depends on the fruits of development reaching men

and women, boys and girls. The extent to which this happens, however, depends critically on gender relations within the society that set the worth of one sex relative to the other. A final, but one of the most fundamental reasons for promoting the empowerment of women is that failing to empower women as well as men to reach their full potential is a violation of their basic human rights

Status of Uttar- Pradesh

According to various interstate studies it has been observed that there is lack of action implementation in Uttar Pradesh. According to the literature of the state of UP, it seems to be a stagnant economy. According to various reports the literature also stated UP is a lagging state as compared to other states. UP was said to be stagnant economy in comparison to the other states of India. According to studies made in the group of literature, development was only made in the eastern and western Uttar Pradesh but not in other regions of this state. Various studies from 90s and 50s onwards drew comparisons of the physical attributes of western and eastern Uttar Pradesh, availability of irrigation facilities, their agricultural production, etc. This literature failed to show the changes that were taking place in, caste relations, changing class, usage of agricultural inputs and agricultural output within these two regions. Studies done in this group focussed to the fall in credit of the state UP. As the studies were made at an aggregate level; the deal of UP in terms of credit was made in few parts.

Women Empowerment in Kerala

The sex ratio of Kerala is highest which is 1084 females for every 1000 males. The literacy rate of Kerala is 93.90, where males are having 96.01 and females are having 91.97. In Kerala 55.1 % of rural males and 54.6 % of urban males were employed in 2004 to 2005. 3. Associations working in Kerala for empowering women. The following programmes are undertaken in Kerala for development purposes: Sakhi was established in 1996, which is a resource centre for women in Trivanthpuram, which is responsible for training programs, workshops, etc. Anweshi is also a women welfare initiative, which is a counselling centre for women established in 1993, which handles any kind of women abuse. Cochin backwater ladies circle is an organization responsible for immunization, workshops and literacy of women in Kerala.

CHAPTER-II

Review of Literature

Review of literature is as clear by its name it is the review of the examination done by various economists or scholars in the past to go the depth of the topic, attempt to comprehend what all has been covered in the past by various scholars in order to understand the topic. Various studies have been done on this wide topic women empowerment and development. Due to limited time few have been reviewed:

Basu (2016) studied about the employment of women and found that though there are other benefits of it, but it has a crucial negative impact that is, it results in a higher child mortality rate than it is found among the unemployed. This examines various mechanisms for the prevailing relationship & concluded that time constraint is a major reason for the negative relationship between child survival and employment of the maternal.

Krishnan (2016) examined the recent trends in birth, death and infant mortality rates, the essential three key demographic parameters that define the demographic parameters of a region for Kerala and it also analyses the role of factors like the age of marriage, literacy and the need of medical care facilities; etc in the demographic transition.

Rogers (2016) critically analysed the current increase in the literacy of the adult for Citizenship, it mainly aimed at women in the developing regions. He studies what is happening in the respective field and what is the reason behind it. He even examined some of the demerits of this activity and suggests some ways which can help in promoting practices of citizenship and literacy among women.

Chacko (2016) conducted a study to examine the linkages between marriage and the status of women in Kerala. Kerala is usually known as a growing region due to high levels of economic and social development even though it is having bad economic growth. It is also good in female education. The study found that if women have to be considered equally with men in development. It's essential to remove cultural and structural obstacles that prevent development. More attention have to paid to provide women with affordable and accessible helps.

M.C-K.G (2012) critically analysed the extent and nature of consequence of participating in self help groups on the women residing in rural areas. The analytical study was made on the basis of different levels of empowerment attained by the people by their participation in the self help groups. Economic, social, personal plus empowerments related to finance were made to be evaluated.

Duflo (2012) conducted a study to review the literature on empowerment and socio economic development & argued that the link between them is very weak to adjust by its own so regular policy making and its implementation is necessary to remove inequality between both genders; For this, it will be indispensable to keep taking actions regarding policy which favour women as that of men, which is crucial to be done for a long period.

Singh (2009) critically analysed the wisdom regarding the ethnic diversity and the provision of public goods through a study done on Kerala, that has accomplished extreme levels of social economic development regardless of high discrimination among religions and caste. It also comments that it's the quantitative unity that is the main determinant of the extent of social development.

Prince- Tosso- Schafft (2009) conducted a study to examine the effectiveness of social support & interaction for the below poverty line. It was found that the women who have less social support and social barriers and programs for family literacy occupied a social area which helped the women to leave their house to entertain social connection & support with colleagues and build cooperative relationships with their teachers for self discovery and other development. It was concluded that informal family literacy & adult programs have a crucial role in helping the women stroked by poverty to receive support of the society resulting in enhancement of the psychosocial wellness.

Khari (2009) conducted a study on the empowerment of women in India in which he explored how (CRTTC) a small rural non- governmental organisation in the Himalayas has become successful in empowering the rural women living in highly traditional society.

BL Centre for Development Research and Action (2009) A Study on the of self help groups in Uttaranchal & Uttar Pradesh; it found that Self help groups can help in removing Exploitation and creating good economic self adjustment for the people who are poverty stricken in rural areas. Especially for the women who are ignored by the society.

Eswar - Patnaik (2006) performed a study on empowerment of women in the Orissa state mainly focussed on Koraput district. He focussed on uncovering the help of women to the development of the rural society in hilly areas. This study especially focussed on education, work, the rate of participation of women in agriculture.

Sakuntala (2005) performed a study and figured out that the elements which are responsible for the backward condition of women is deprivation of power or not possessing any power, their extent of ignorance, etc. This paper laid stress on the requirement for bringing a change in attitude of women as the most effective way of their empowerment.

Kabeer (2005) critically analysed the third MDG on the empowering women and reducing gender inequality. It also analyses the importance of empowering the women empowerment plus brings light on the various methods by which the factors linked with the goal on employment, education of women and participation in politics can add to it.

Kishor-Gupta (2004) studied about women empowerment in India and its states, using data from National Family Health Survey-2. In general, it finds that the average woman in India is disempowered absolutely as well as relative to men, and there has been little change in her empowerment over time. This result is obvious no matter how empowerment is measured, be it in terms of the indicators of the evidence, sources or setting for empowerment. However, there is great variation in the level of women's empowerment across the different states and across indicator.

Robinson- Pant (2004) analysed the worldwide statistics on the gender gap between male and female illiteracy, 20.5 per cent for men as compared with 34.9 per cent for women, as well as relating the story of an Ethiopian woman.

Meenai (2003) analysed the approach of empowering women through credit reliant self help groups by providing the guidance in practical terms to deal with it. The study focussed on credit reliant SHGs as an formula where credit is only a way to deal with other areas of management of society.

Anju and Sidney (2002) made a study to measure women empowerment as a factor that helps in development and also made a study to figure out a reliable approach to measure plus

analyze the empowerment of women. The authors also reviewed various methodological and theoretical literatures on women empowerment from various field such as anthropology, economics, etc and attempted to sum up that we are aware and are not aware about that helps in empowering the women and how it helped in poverty reduction and enhancing development.

Kiasen (2000) conducted a study on the consequence of gender inequality on development. The study found that inequality in education based on gender, slows down the enhancement in reducing the fertility rates and the rates of child mortality consisting the enhancement in the well being of the developing societies.

Saradamoni (1994) conducted a study of socio-economic changes in Kerala with the main focus on the situation of women in the area. and found that Kerala has become a development model and it has uncritically and internalised other models.

Haddad- Wadi (1990) conducted a study to examine the relationship between education and economic development and evaluated various measures that were formed to improve the quality of education in developing countries. It focuses on the pros and cons of past educational policies to recommend ideas that address different economic conditions. The review found that there is a wealth of data from which to develop adequate policy approaches to education in the 1990.

Gupta –Krishnaraj (1990) studied that the rates of female labour participation ,mainly in the developing areas is higher estimated by the various surveys and the less counting is there in the deeds in which women are not represented in the same proportion.

Jain (1984) conducted a study on women's role in Chipko Movementt in Uttar Pradesh which was based on investigation in Chamoli district in Garhwal division and found that women's participation played a crucial decisive role in preserving the ecological balance it the area.

CHAPTER-III

Research Methodology

Research Design

The type of research is descriptive and comparative in nature.

Descriptive study is the study designed to depict the participants in an accurate manner. It uses three main ways to collect information i.e., Observational which is defined as a method of recording and viewing the participants. Case study is defined as an indebt of an individual or group of individuals.

Comparative study is mostly used in the initial phases of the development. It also helps the surveyor to take the initial study to more advanced level.

Source of Data

Secondary data has been collected from various researches performed earlier about women empowerment and development. Secondary data is the second hand data or the data which is already collected earlier. We have used census data from 1951 to 2001 for comparison. We have taken sex ratio, population and literacy of Kerala and Uttar-Pradesh as three main parameters for comparison.

Method of Data Analysis

The analysis of data has been made by using bar charts and graphs. Census data of two states that is Kerala and Uttar-Pradesh is taken from 1951 to 2011 and data interpretation has been done.

Scope and Objectives

Scope

Scope is the extent of the subject matter or area that something deals with and to which it is relevant. Scope of study is the areas for the betterment of a situation. The main scope of the study is to understand the position of women and help the women in society, through various governmental policies.

Objective

An objective is a result that system or a person aims to achieve within a limited period of time and resources present. Generally, the objectives are highly accurate and it makes easier to measure the respective goal.

The objective of the study is to learn the reasons of social disparity among men and women and the need of women empowerment to develop the economy. The study was made to find the solutions to the problems. The main objectives of the study are;

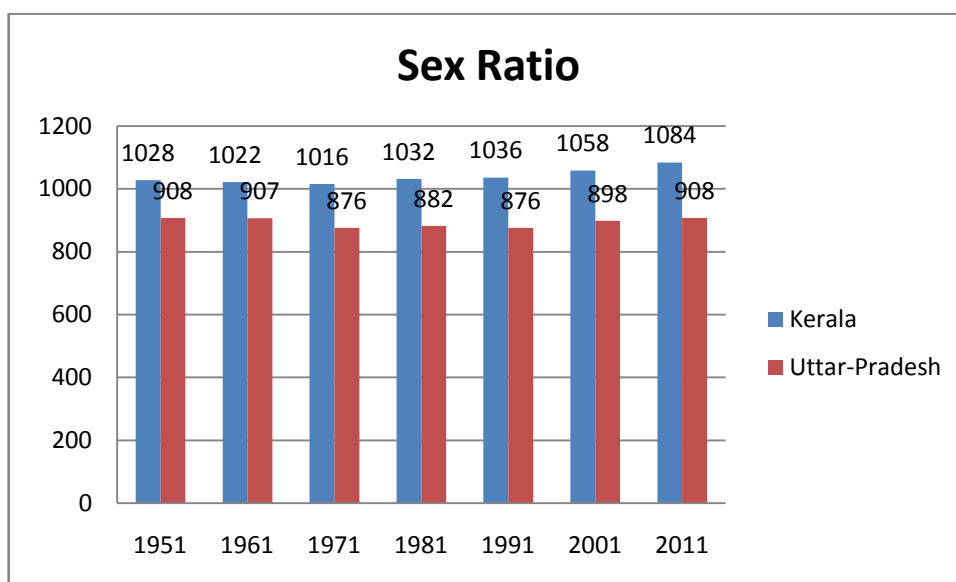
- 1) Interstate comparisons
- 2) Intrastate comparisons with the status of men and women.
- 3) Comparisons in relation to overall development.

CHAPTER-IV

DATA ANALYSIS

Sex Ratio of Kerala and Uttar-Pradesh (Female per 1000 Males) in India

Year	Kerala	Uttar-Pradesh
1951	1028	908
1961	1022	907
1971	1016	876
1981	1032	882
1991	1036	876
2001	1058	898
2011	1084	908



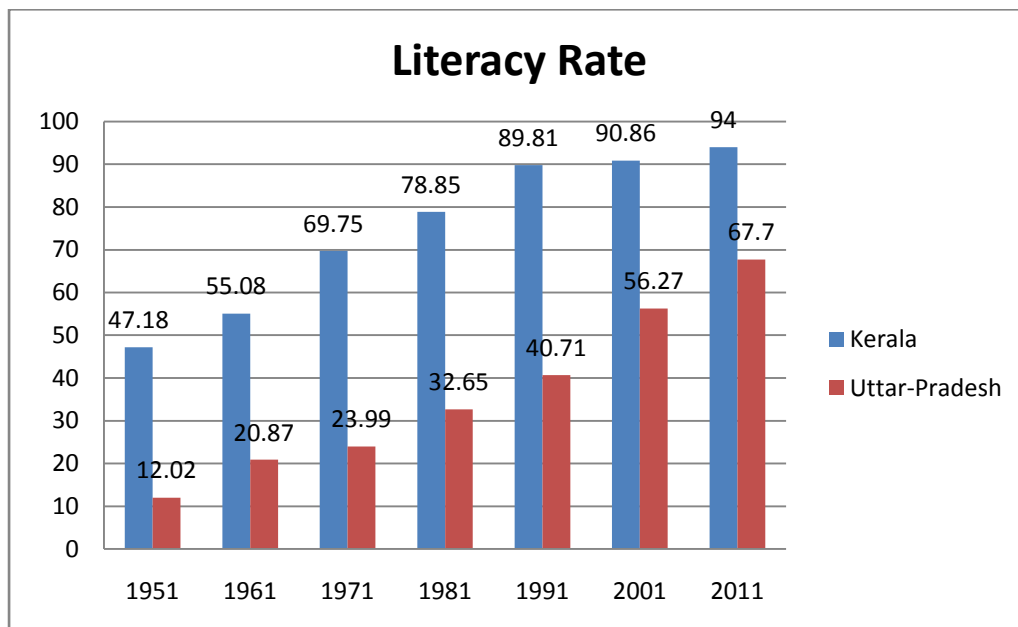
In the above bar chart, blue bar represents sex ratio of Kerala and red bar represents sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh. The vertical axis shows sex ratio (female per thousand males) and the horizontal axis shows years from 1951-2011. In the year 1951, the sex ratio of Kerala was higher than Uttar-Pradesh. In 1961, the sex ratio of Kerala declined as compared to 1951 by 6 and sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh also declined by 1. In the year 1971, sex ratio of Kerala again declined by 6 as compared to 1961 and sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh also declined by 31. In the year 1981, sex ratio of Kerala increased by 16 as compared to 1971 and sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh also increased by 6. In the year 1991, sex ratio of Kerala increased by 4, where the sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh declined by 6. In the year 2001, the sex ratio of Kerala increased by 22 and even the sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh increased by the same i.e. 22. In the year 2011, the sex ratio of Kerala increased by 26 and that of Uttar-Pradesh increased by 10.

If we take an overview of the data of census of various years i.e., 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011; Kerala's sex ratio is higher than the sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh in each

case. In 1951, 1981, 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in Kerala's and Uttar-Pradesh sex ratio. In 1961 and 1971, the sex ratio of both the states declined. In 1991, for the first time sex ratio of Kerala increased whereas, the sex ratio of Uttar-Pradesh declined.

Literacy Rates of Kerala and Uttar-Pradesh (1951-2011)

Years	Kerala	Uttar-Pradesh
1951	47.18	12.02
1961	55.08	20.87
1971	69.75	23.99
1981	78.85	32.65
1991	89.81	40.71
2001	90.86	56.27
2011	94.0	67.7

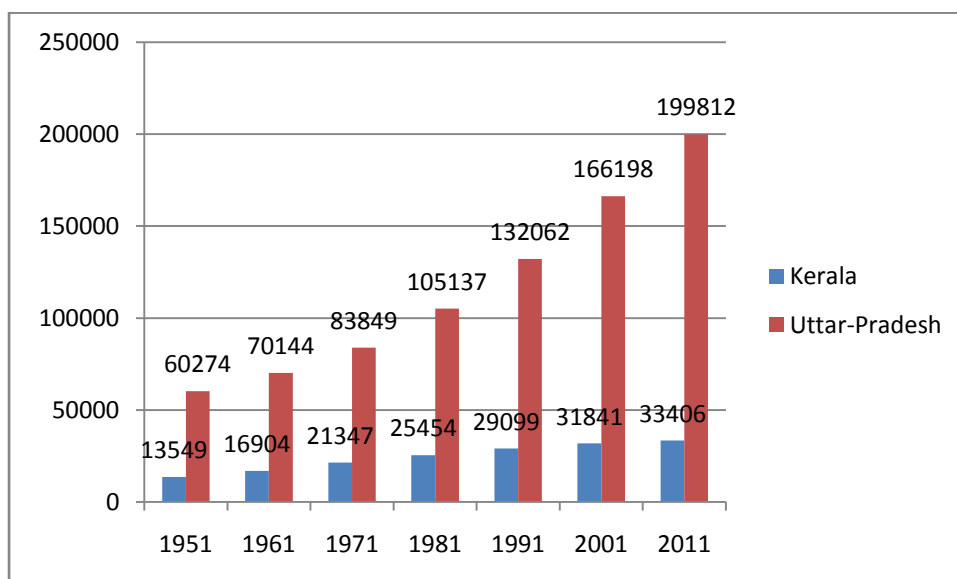


In the above bar chart, blue bar represents literacy rate of Kerala and red bar represents literacy rate of Uttar-Pradesh. The vertical axis shows literacy rate and the horizontal axis shows years from 1951- 2011. In the year 1951, the literacy rate of Kerala was higher than Uttar-Pradesh. In 1961, the literacy rate of Kerala increased as compared to 1951 by 7.9 and literacy rate of Uttar-Pradesh also increased by 8.85. In the year 1971, literacy rate of Kerala again increased by 14.67 as compared to 1961 and literacy rate of Uttar-Pradesh also increased by 3.12. In the year 1981, literacy rate of Kerala increased by 9.1 as compared to 1971 and literacy rate of Uttar-Pradesh also increased by 8.66. In the year 1991, the literacy rate of Kerala increased by 10.96, where the literacy rate of Uttar-Pradesh also increased by 8.06. In the year 2001, the literacy rate of Kerala increased by 1.05 and the literacy rate of Uttar- Pradesh increased by 15.54. In the year 2011, the literacy rate of Kerala increased by

3.14 and that of Uttar- Pradesh increased by 11.43. If we take an overview of the data of literacy rate of Kerala and Uttar- Pradesh of various years i.e., 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011; Kerala's literacy rate is higher than the literacy rate of Uttar- Pradesh in each case and in every year the literacy rate of both the states have risen.

Population of Kerala and Uttar- Pradesh (1951-2011)

Years	Kerala	Uttar- Pradesh
1951	13,549	60,274
1961	16,904	70,144
1971	21,347	83,849
1981	25,454	105,137
1991	29,099	132,062
2001	31,841	166,198
2011	33,406	199,812



In the above bar chart, blue bar represents population (in thousands) of Kerala and red bar represents population (in thousands) of Uttar-Pradesh. The vertical axis shows and the population horizontal axis show years from 1951- 2011. In the year 1951, the population of Uttar- Pradesh was higher than Kerala by 46725. In 1961, the population of Uttar- Pradesh increased as compared to 1951 by 9870 and population of Kerala also increased by 3355 . In the year 1971, population of Uttar- Pradesh again increased by 13705 as compared to 1961 and population of Kerala also increased by 4443. In the year 1981, population of Uttar- Pradesh increased by 21288 as compared to 1971 and population of Kerala also increased by 4107. In the year 1991, the population of Uttar-Pradesh increased by 26925, where the population of Kerala also increased by 3645 . In the year 2001, the population of Uttar- Pradesh increased by 34136 and the population of Kerala increased by 2742. In the year

2011, the population of Uttar-Pradesh increased by 33614 and that of Kerala increased by 1565.

If we take an overview of the data of population of Kerala and Uttar- Pradesh of various years i.e., 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011; Kerala's population is lower than the population of Uttar- Pradesh in each case and in every year the population of both the states have risen. We can see that the population of Uttar-Pradesh increased very highly in every decade, whereas, the population of Kerala increased very slowly.

CHAPTER-V

Conclusion

Empowerment of women and socio economic development are highly related. Development brings empowerment of women and their empowerment brings more policymaking; however, only empowering women won't help in removing this trap but development is equally important. Alone economic development is not sufficient to make progress. Women's empowerment results in improvement in various aspects of children's welfare. This clears that neither empowerment nor development is sufficient for development; we need to make certain policies and stick to them in order to achieve the respective goal. We see that high population of Uttar-Pradesh is one of the main cause of low development of the state, whereas in Kerala population is low and good schemes for education and empowerment are available which makes it more developed. The literacy rate of Kerala is much higher than that of Uttar-Pradesh, which shows that women are more empowered in Kerala as compared to Uttar-Pradesh. The sex ratio of Kerala is higher than Uttar-Pradesh, which is also one of the major factor of empowerment in Kerala which leads to development of the state. In Uttar-Pradesh due to killing of the female foetus in the womb, the sex ratio is lower, which is again one of the factor which affect the development of the state.

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