A Geographical Study of Working Women from Kinwat Region

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Abstract: *Gender discrimination is a prime cause of all other concerned problems of the society. Discrimination starts with the birth. Now a day, it has observed that many social groups and families created such issues from newly born babies. Many cases of female foeticide have also been observed in last 10 years. In short, status of women in their society, group and family have not separate identity, even though they are actively participated in social, cultural, domestic and economic activities. Considering these views in mind, the present investigation has been designed to assess the influence of different social-cultural, economical and geographical parameters on the women workers. For this, the Kinwat region from Nanded district has been selected as a study area. Systematic and Simple Random Sampling Method have been applied for covering all types of workers from all castes and categories. The present investigation is mainly based on primary data. The study concluded that there is need to educate and promote women for professional jobs, both for family level development and more importantly for women enrichment, so it may help to minimize level of gender discrimination.*

Keywords : *Working women, Caste, Category, Work Participation*

I. Introduction

Many times, our Indian cultural literature remarked that women have prestigious position in the society at early age (Raval, 2013). Even historical and religious evidences have been proved such facts with so many examples (Gupta, 2014). But after industrialization and colonization, economic tools have overcome the socio-cultural and even religious positions. In this process, family setup has been firstly disturbed with wide range and different angles. In the beginning, migration was one of the main causes behind it. It results, the growth of wider gap between the genders (Kaur, 2004). Now a day, social, economical, cultural and likewise aspects are mainly responsible for the same (Field et al., 2010). Things like social prestige, level of economical tolerance mainly power of consumerism and expenses, social-cultural standard etc are also affecting on the gender disparities (Bano, 2012; Adhikary and Dutta, 2014). Such type of changes has also been observed from global to local and village to family levels. In the name of development, majority of the women have deprived from the sources of economy by prestigious issues, cultural myths etc. Actually, they have that much ability to improve themselves with their family (Sinha and Coppoletta, 2011). Furthermore, females have position after men or actually they have not separate identity in case of economical, social, cultural and over all matters of the society. It is because of adverse flow of thinking; of course, there are numbers of factors responsible for such situations. According to Vani et al. (2009) and Chakraborty (2013), birth and death rate of female and gender discrimination varies with religion and caste. At the same time, social, economical and other residential (Gosal, 1993) surrounding factors have also been acting adversely in the process of women development. There are different angles which are directly or indirectly crossing the issue. That's why, spatio-temporal studies related to gender have importance and scope for frequent and periodical analysis of the same. Many scholars have also been studied on gender (Ghani et al., 2013), literacy (Rukhsana and Alam, 2014), level of education (Suguna, 2011 and Sonowal, 2013), castes (Rao, 2013; Eswaran et al., 2011 and Siddique, 2008), religion (MWCD, 2007), region (Srivastava and Srivastava, 2010 and Dollar and Gatti, 1999) etc for correlating women development with other geographical aspects. Considering these studies and their views in mind, the present investigation has been designed to assess the influence of different geographical parameters on status and number of women workers. It may helps to find out root leveled cause-effect relations in case of female disparities in the rural areas of India, with reference to their caste, category, socio-economical condition etc. For this, Kinwat region, situated in tribal zone of rural Maharashtra, have been selected as the micro leveled study area for the present analysis.

II. Study area

The selected study area i.e. Kinwat region is a part of Kinwat tahsil (Nanded District). The geographical location of Kinwat tahsil is between 19° 13' 51" north to 19° 55' 48" north latitude and 77° 57' 23" east to 78° 22' 24" east longitude. It is one of the important tribal-forest zones of the state, which has thick teak forest with bamboo and various types of medicinal plants. Kinwat town is a headquarter of the tahsil. In 2011, the tahsil has one town and 191 villages. According to 2011 census, the tahsil has 2,47,786 total

population, where as Kinwat town has just 28,454 population. Still today, the town and all villages from the tahsil have rural in nature.

Figure 1: Location Map of Kinwat Region (Study Area)
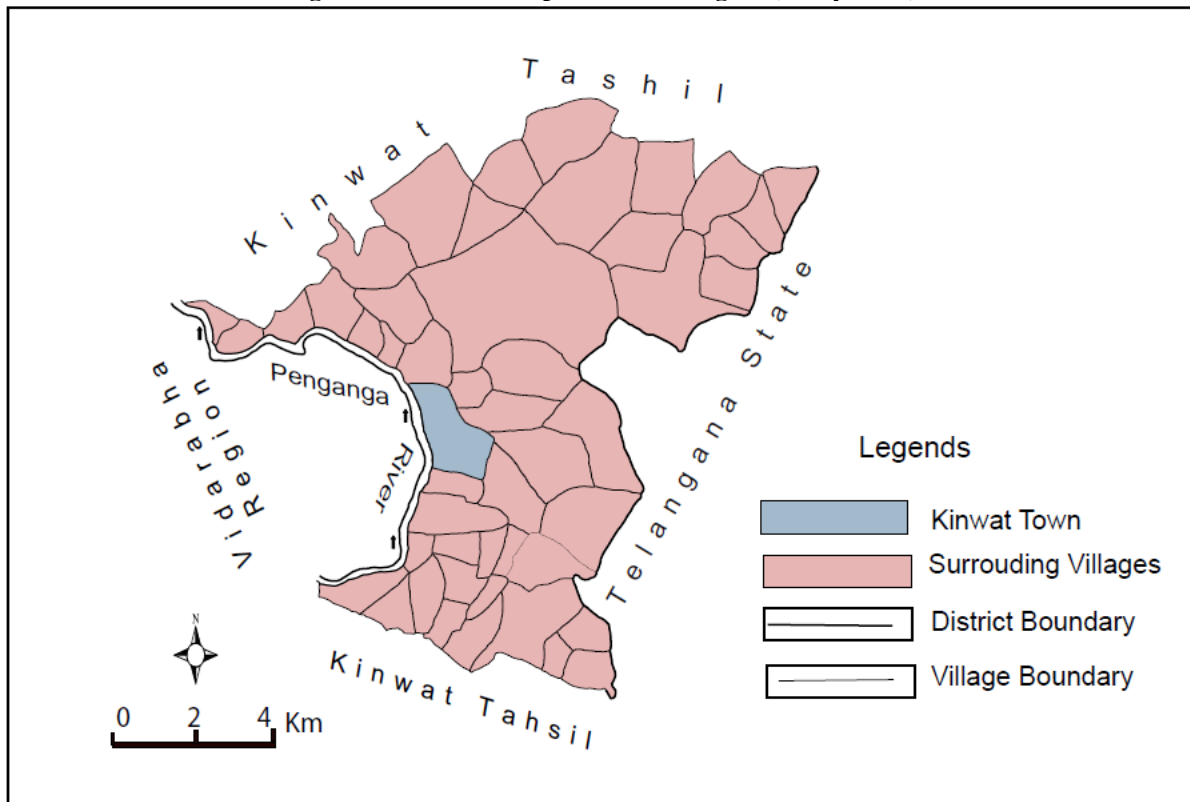
(Source: Base Map taken from District Census Handbook, Nanded District, Census of India, 1991)

The Kinwat town and surrounding 48 villages have been selected as study area for the present investigation (Figure 1). These villages are depending upon Kinwat town for different amenities i.e. educational, medical, transport, domestic services etc. For this, there is daily migration, from such villages to the town. It is therefore these villages along with the town were selected for this investigation as study area for fulfillment of the following objectives.

III. Objectives
1. To study the general geographical, social and economical aspects of the study area.
2. To observe caste-wise and category-wise working women with reference to their nature and type of work.
3. To find out cause-effect relationship between selected aspects, for assessing their overall influence on women workers.

IV. Hypothesis
The socio-economical aspects of the region have influence on nature and type of work at rural areas especially in case of women workers.

V. Data Base and Methodology
The present investigation is mainly based on primary data sources. The primary survey has been conducted in the selected Kinwat town and all 48 villages from the study area. In case of Kinwat town, Systematic Random Sampling Method has been applied for covering all types of worker from all castes and categories. It also helped to cover all wards, tradition based colonies, old core zones, newly established colonies in the hierarchy of the town, etc. On the other hand, Simple Random Sampling Method has been used for conducting survey of surrounding villages. About 63 per cent of women workers from the study area have been covered through ODM (Onetime Dialogue Method) for collection of information regarding type of work, caste, education, income, working duration, travelling distance etc. Rest of about 37 per cent samples has been covered by CDM (Continuous Dialogue Method). It helped to understand the issues, problems and prospects of women worker at individual and micro level by taking number of rechecking exercise.

By both ODM and CDM methods, all types of working classes viz. Professional work (Doctors, Advocate), Government Job (I to III), Skilled and Higher Educational based services (All Teachers), Skilled and Innovative Self Oriented work (SISOW) like Shops, Beauty parlors, Tailors, etc. Governmental Job (IV), Tradition based services (*Lohar, Burud*, Pot makers, etc), Helper and Unskilled work (*Dhobi*, Maid, etc) etc has been covered. Here, domestic work and work at own farm has not considered as a worker, so it has not been taken as a sample in the case study.

From these surveys, 1326 working women as a sample were investigated. All the samples classified with their categories e.g. Open, Other Backward Class (OBC), Nomadic Tribes (NT), Scheduled castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). The data have been analyzed and presented with the help of different types of computer tools and techniques.

VI. Result and Discussion

Collected data and information from primary and secondary sources have been analyzed by proper methodology. The results and their cause-effect relationships have been discussed with following sub points.

Women Population

Firstly, the study tried to enlist varies caste with their categories and proportion of population in the village. The exercise aims to understand and compare the proportion of workers and actual population with respect to their castes and categories.

Table 1: Category-wise Proportion of Women

Sr. No.	Category	Women Population in per cent	
		As per 2011 Census	As per Field work*
1	Open		23.50
2	OBC	60.64	4.32
3	NT		33.76
4	SC	9.96	11.04
5	ST	29.40	27.38
	Total	100.00	100.00

(Source: * Field Work, April-May, 2014 and Jan-Feb, 2015)

Table 1 showing category-wise proportion of women to total women population as per the census 2011 and primary survey conducted in the study region by researcher. In the primary visits, data from various castes have been collected and summarized with their categories, as mentioned in the table. As per the data, ST women population have second largest group in the society. STs and SCs have about 40 per cent proportion.

Work Participation

Category wise working women with reference to their type of work has analyzed and tabulated in table 2. The proportion of SC women worker is higher having with about 34 per cent to total workforce, which is highest in all other categories. Open category stood as the second largest category (21.80 per cent). Least number of women worker observed from OBC category.

Table 2: Work Type wise participation

Sr. No.	Work Type/ Class	Data (In per cent)					
		Open	OBC	NT	SC	ST	Total
1	Professional work	60.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	100.00
2	Government Job (I to III)	16.70	25.00	16.70	33.30	8.30	100.00
3	SHE based services	40.00	4.30	14.30	28.60	12.80	100.00
4	SISOW	24.20	12.10	15.20	36.40	12.10	100.00
5	Government Job (IV)	9.00	7.50	16.40	43.20	23.90	100.00
6	TBS	0.00	16.70	30.00	53.30	0.00	100.00
7	Helper	19.20	26.90	15.40	23.10	15.40	100.00
8	Unskilled work	17.80	16.40	13.70	31.50	20.60	100.00
	Total	21.80	12.00	15.60	34.70	16.00	100.00

(Source: Field Work, April-May, 2014 and Jan-Feb, 2015)

Even though, the general rank showing progressive status and share of SC and especially ST women, the nature of work explaining micro differences and dilemma in the general picture. It is only because of such economically backward categories are engaged more with numbers in unskilled, helpers, fourth class governmental work and TBS (Tradition Based Services). This means that they are still not getting proper and sufficient education and training. Many of them are illiterate also. In case of ST, NT and OBC women, more or less they have same problems for getting jobs and working as a stable status with sustainable manner.

About 20 per cent women are engaged in Skill and Higher Educational (SHE), Government Job (IV) and Unskilled work each. Here also OBC, NT and ST having very less proportion (Table 3). This simply means that some women have problems with education, professional training, traditional skills, etc. It has also observed in in-depth field discussions that women are not working outside their house, only because of prestige issues, security, etc. even many have urgent economic need.

Table 3: Category with different types of work

Sr. No.	Work Type/ Class	Data (In per cent)					
		Open	OBC	NT	SC	ST	All
1	Professional work	12.70	0.00	0.00	2.70	5.80	4.60
2	Government Job (I to III)	2.80	7.70	3.90	3.50	1.90	3.70
3	SHE based services	39.40	7.70	19.60	17.70	17.30	21.50
4	SISOW	11.30	10.30	9.80	10.60	7.70	10.10
5	Government Job (IV)	8.50	12.80	21.60	25.70	30.80	20.50
6	TBS	0.00	12.80	17.60	14.20	0.00	9.20
7	Helper	7.00	17.90	7.80	5.30	7.70	8.00
8	Unskilled work	18.30	30.80	19.70	20.30	28.80	22.40
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(Source: Field Work, April-May, 2014 and Jan-Feb, 2015)

As per table 2, professional activities are running through Open, SC and ST women with about 60, 20 and 20 per cent participation respectively. But within the category, only about 12, 3 and 4 per cent working women respectively are engaged in the same from particular category. Actually, women from OBC, NT and such categories should engage with higher proportion in tradition based services. But it has not observed more than 18 per cent. It means that, TBS having operational and qualitative problems or is not providing enough gain or people are not taking interest in the same.

Educational Status

Education is a prime factor for overall development. It is therefore need to understand the educational status of investigated working women. The analyzed data have been tabulated in table 4. It shows about 52 per cent women from all categories are not completed their education above secondary level, including 18 per cent illiteracy. On the other hand, only about 27 per cent have benefited by certificate course and higher education. This also means that only 7 per cent women have some professional training and skills. The average picture of educational status has matching with ST women workers. Comparing all other categories, Open category women have satisfactory situation in the same. In case of OBC and NT, more or less 65 per cent women are illiterate and educated not above 10th standard.

Table 4: Category-wise Educational level of women

Sr. No.	Level of Education	Data (In per cent)					
		OPEN	OBC	NT	SC	ST	All
1	Illiterate	5.63	20.51	21.57	20.35	35.14	18.20
2	1st to 10th class	24.35	46.15	37.25	32.75	13.51	34.00
3	HSC	12.68	5.13	11.76	13.27	10.81	11.00
4	UG	4.23	17.95	7.84	12.39	5.41	9.20
5	Degree leveled Professional Courses	37.62	10.26	15.69	15.93	24.32	19.90
6	Higher Education	15.49	0.00	5.89	5.31	10.81	7.70
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(Source: Field Work, April-May, 2014 and Jan-Feb, 2015)

Work experience

Educational qualification and or any skill are the prime requisites of outdoor work. In addition to these, family acceptance, status and economic need, self confidence, decision making power and skills are also ruling as a principal cause behind proportion of workforce especially women participation (Siddiqui, 2012). It differs from caste to caste and category to category. Sometimes, prestige issues also affecting on the same. Taking these facts in mind, the present investigation has also tried to correlate these things with various castes and categories. After 2011, proportion of SC and NT (22 and 25 per cent respectively) women is on higher side. The growth of workforce is showing decreasing trend in case of Open and OBC. Increasing trend observed in rest of the categories. The highly jumping increasing trend observed in SC women (11 to 43 per cent in 1989 to 2010).

Distance

Distance from home to workplace is also one of the prime parameter for assessing the problems of women workers. It has importance regarding security (Biswas and Soni, 2015) and it also provides information about level of social freedom and domestic responsibility, which have been directly or indirectly influencing the status of women. So, economically backward groups may suffer some opportunities only because of the distance. In the present study, category wise women workers have been divided on the basis of distance from home to work place i.e. less than one km, one to five km and more than five km. it has observed that just less than 10 per cent women worker are traveling above 4 km distance.

VII. Conclusion

The lower status of female in social structure is one of the important factors which create so many questions about women development. Female foeticide, infanticide, gender disparity, dowry, domestic violence and so many problems create the question about her existent. It is difficult to assess criminal discrimination on the basis of caste and category, because it is the matter of thinking. Through such research analysis, it may just analyze of the issues with caste, category, region, economic base of the family, level of education, for understanding base of the society etc.

Now a day, it is prime need to work professionally at outside the home, irrespective of gender. Such changed phenomenon has also been observed in the study area which has forest and tribal based. But unfortunately, issues related to prestige and likewise have been observed particularly in case of Open category women workers. This picture has also been seen OBC and NT category.

It is therefore need to educate and promote women for professional jobs both for family level development and more importantly for women enrichment. Those may help to minimize level of gender discrimination.

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