

INTRODUCTION

The process of development, achievements attained and highlighted and the indicators measured over the time, needs to be assessed in terms of how equitable is the distribution of benefits occurred between the regions and between men & women. National Human Development report 2001, highlights the inequality by estimating the gender gap and inequality gap to all the indicators and have introduced the Gender Equality Index.

The index of gender equality measuring the attainments in human development indicators for females as a proportion of that of males, has rated Himachal Pradesh as number 1 in Gender Equality, while it was at no four in eighties, reflecting the positive trend in the empowerment of women in Himachal Pradesh.

Nevertheless issues remain. Though the data presents a picture which gets appreciation and show exemplary performance, there are facts which are hidden beneath the data and need uncovering, if Himachal has to emerge as a truly empowered state as far as Gender is concerned. A state, which has shown steady improvement in the female indicators, does not have state women policy.

The regional disparity, rural urban divide, not so visible discrimination on the basis of caste gets reflected in the indicators that belie the uniform development. Gender Development Index that doesn't even reach anywhere close to the value of unity simply signifies that despite working longer hours than men, higher contribution in development of economy, the rewards have failed to distribute equally. It is easy to bask in the glory of comparative performance and attainment of better results than the counterparts in adjoining states. But in absolute terms, state has just begun its journey on becoming the Gender Empowered State, in real sense, the stage that has yet its times to come. Gender equality may have gained the prominence and surely is an issue, yet it doesn't hide the fact that districts supposedly having highest Gender equality indicators also show up with worst juvenile sex ratio status. This gives the insight into the mindsets, prevailing attitudes and a bitter reminder that male still is supreme despite all the talks, efforts and measures.

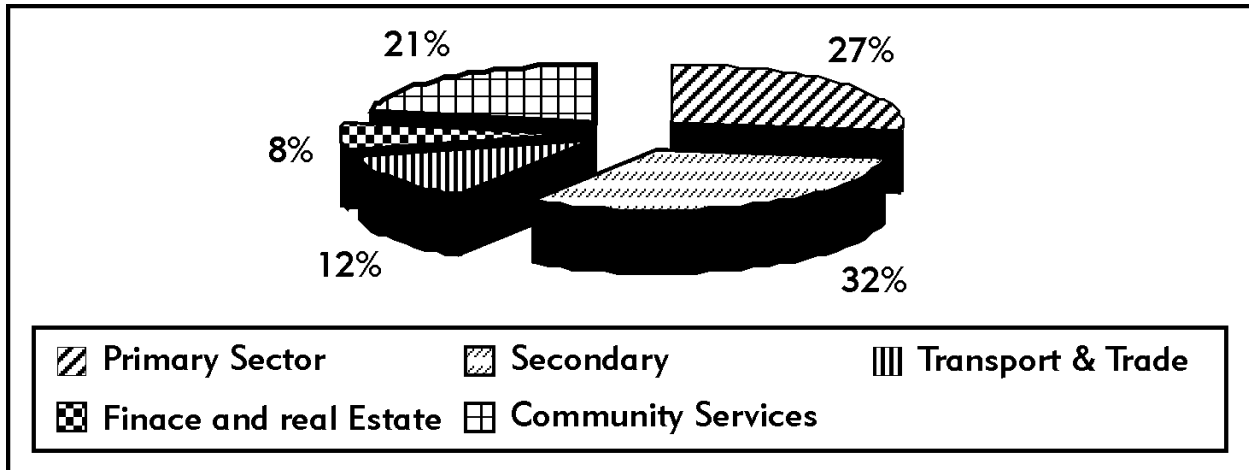
State though can boast of very positive workforce participation by women, yet the fact remains that most of the women workforce is marginal worker.

A situational Analysis of women in Himachal Pradesh, has tried to assess the data objectively, with relevant statistics.

Himachal Pradesh, the northern state of India, is bounded in north by Kasmir Vally, in south by Punjab & UP, Haryana and in northeast by Tibet. The hilly state with altitude varying from 350 meters to 6500 meters attained statehood on 25th January, 1971. Due to varying altitude state has climate varying from tropical to arctic in the high mountains. Geomprphologically state is divided into four zones:

- Shivalik Zone
- The lower Himalayan Zone
- The Higher Himalayan Zone
- Tethys Himalayan Zone

At the time of statehood, the net state domestic product was 223.24 crores and rose to 517.76 crore at current prices, with 41.03 percent growth for the decade. Net state domestic product of state at current prices for year 2001 is 11535.66 crore rupees at constant prices. The production structure of the state too has changed over the time, while the share of primary sector in the state has decreased, share of secondary& tertiary sector has shown continuous increase. In 1996-97, share of primary, secondary and tertiary sector stood at 34, 27 & 39 percent respectively, as per the directorate of Economics and statistics data. The latest state domestic product report by department of economics and statistics show the following sector wise contribution to the state domestic product:



Sector wise percentage Contribution

Per capita income for the state is Rs 22576 rupees at current prices as against rupees 18912 rupees for the nation as a whole and at constant prices, it is 11832 rupees against 10964 rupees for India.

Per Capita State Domestic Product-CSO State NSDP Data

Region	1981-82	83-84	91-92	97-98
Himachal	1720	2268	2254	2556
India	1790	2213	2337	2840

Per Capita Consumption Expenditure-NSS rounds

Region	1983-84	93-94	99-2000
Himachal	158.51	386.23	737.82
India	125.13	328.18	590.98

Gini Ratio for rural Himachal and Rural India

Region	1983-84	93-94	99-2000
Himachal	.264	.275	.236
India	.298	.282	.258

Percentage of women in Labour Force

Region	1983-84	93-94	99-2000
Himachal	67.3	69.2	63.4
India	44.4	42.0	38.5

Percentage of Population below Poverty line

Region	Rural	Urban	Combined
Himachal	30.34	9.18	22.44
India	37.27	32.36	35.97

Caste & Literacy Rates for Females

Region	SC	ST	General
Himachal	41.02 (1991)	31.18 (1991)	
India	23.76 (1991)	18.10 (1991)	54.16 (2001)

Rural Health Infrastructure in Himachal

S. No.	Indicator	Norms and Level of Achievements			
		National Norms		Achievement of H.P	Achievement at National Level
		General areas	Tribal/hilly areas	As on 30-06-2003	As on 31-03-2001
1	Rural population covered by a:				
	Sub-Centre	5000	3000	2748	5401
	Primary Health Centre	30000	20000	12882	32469
	Community health Centre	120000	80000	86076	2.44
2	Number of sub centres per PHC	6	6	6.85	6.01
3	Number of PHC's per CHC	4	4	6.85	7.51
4	Rural population covered by a:				
	MPW(F)	5000	3000	3121	5398
	MPW(M)	5000	3000	3929	10438
5	Ration of HA(M) to MPW(M)	01:06.0	01:06.0	01:04.4	01:03.5
6	Ration of HA(F) to MPW(F)	01:06.0	01:06.0	01:05.2	01:06.9
7	Average area (sq. Kms) covered by a:				
	Sub-Centre			26.9	23.38
	Primary Health Centre			126.2	140.52
	Community health Centre			843.5	1054.84
8	Average radial distance (Kms) covered by a:				
	Sub-Centre			2.93	2.73
	Primary Health Centre			6.34	6.69
	Community health Centre			16.38	18.32
9	Average number of villages covered by a:				
	Sub-Centre			8.22	4.46
	Primary Health Centre			56.28	26.81
	Community health Centre			261.49	201.27

Source : Economic Survey Department of Economic and Statistics H.P.

Education

Item	As on 31st March			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
1. Primary/ Junior Basic Schools	10633	10633	10633	10634
2. Middle/Senior Basic Schools	1486	1672	1673	1780
3. High / Higher secondary Schools	1484	1506	1514	1522
4. Degree Colleges	37	37	40	40

Source : Education Department, Himachal Pradesh

Status of Educational Institutes in Himachal Pradesh

Item	Medical and Public Health					
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1. Allopathic Institutions						
(a) Hospitals*	64	73	81	81	89	89
(b) P.H.Cs	317	312	302	304	303	310
(c) C.H.Cs	54	55	85	65	66	66
(d) Dispensaries*	173	173	172	172	173	170
Total	608	613	620	622	631	635
2. Beds available*	9316	9662	9776	9826	10062	10087
3. Ayurvedic institutions						
(a) Hospitals	15	22	22	22	22	23
(b) Nature care Hospitals	1	1	1	1	1	1
(c) Dispensaries/ Health centre	964	1109	1110	1112	1112	1112
(d) Ayurvedic Pharmacies	2	2	2	2	3	3
(e) Research Institutions	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	983	1135	1136	1138	1139	1140
4. Beds available	664	664	714	714	714	724
5. Unani Dispensaries	3	3	3	3	3	3
6. Homoeopathy Dispensaries	14	14	14	14	14	14

Source: Directorate of Health & Family welfare and ayurveda, Himachal Pradesh

* it also includes private, state special, Cantonment Board and Missionary Medical Institutions.

MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH MACHINERY IN STATE

Demography & Health Indicators

The population of Himachal Pradesh has grown at the rate of 17.53 percent during the decade 1991-2001. State constitutes .59 percent of population of the country and has witness the population growth rate which is 3.81 percent lower than the country growth rate. Solan District has witnessed the highest growth rate in the population by 3.67 percent, while Lahaul and Spiti district has witnessed the lowest growth rate(6.17 percent). The literacy rate for the state, as per the 2001 census, is 77.13 percent, which has witnessed the increase of 13.27 percent in the decade. The literacy rate is well above the country's literacy rate. The majority of state is rural in its composition with only 9.79 percent of the population being urban. However, the urban population, in the decade 19991-200, has grown by 1.10 percent. The child population in the 0-6 years of age group makes up the 12.84 percent of total population of the state.

District Wise Population as per 2001 Census

Rank	District	Population	%
1	Kangra	1338536	22.02
2	Mandi	900987	14.82
3	Shimla	721745	11.88
4	Solan	499380	8.22
5	Chamba	460499	7.58
6	Sirmour	458351	7.54
7	Una	447967	7.37
8	Hamirpur	412009	6.78
9	Kullu	379865	6.25
10	Bilaspur	340735	5.61
11	Kinnaur	83950	1.38
12	Lahul & Spiti	33224	0.55
	Total	6077248	100

Kangra, Mandi and Shimla are the most populous districts of the state, and together account for 48.72 percent of total population of the state.

**Population distribution, percentage decadal growth rate, sex-ratio and population density
as per 2001 census**

State / District	Population 2001			Percentage decadal growth rate		Sex ratio		Population density per sq.km.	
	persons	males	females	1981-91	1991-01	1991	2001	1991	2001
Himachal Pradesh	6077248	3085256	2991992	20.79+	17.53+	976	970	93	109
Chamba	460499	234812	225687	26.40+	17.09+	949	961	60	71
Kangra	1338536	660224	678312	18.50+	14.01+	1024	1027	205	233
Lahul & Spiti	33224	18413	14811	2.51-	6.17+	817	804	2	2
Kullu	379865	197035	182830	26.68+	25.60+	920	928	55	69
Mandi	900987	447271	453716	20.40+	16.05+	1013	1014	197	228
Hamirpur	412009	195971	216038	16.17+	11.62+	1105	1102	330	369
Una	447967	224299	223668	19.17+	18.43+	1017	997	246	291
Bilaspur	340735	171074	169661	19.41+	15.35+	1002	992	253	292
Solan	499380	269451	229929	26.02+	30.64+	909	853	197	258
Sirmour	458351	241109	217242	23.72+	20.72+	897	901	134	182
Shimla	721745	380244	341501	20.84+	16.90+	894	898	120	141
kinnaur	83950	45353	38579	19.69+	17.79+	856	851	11	13

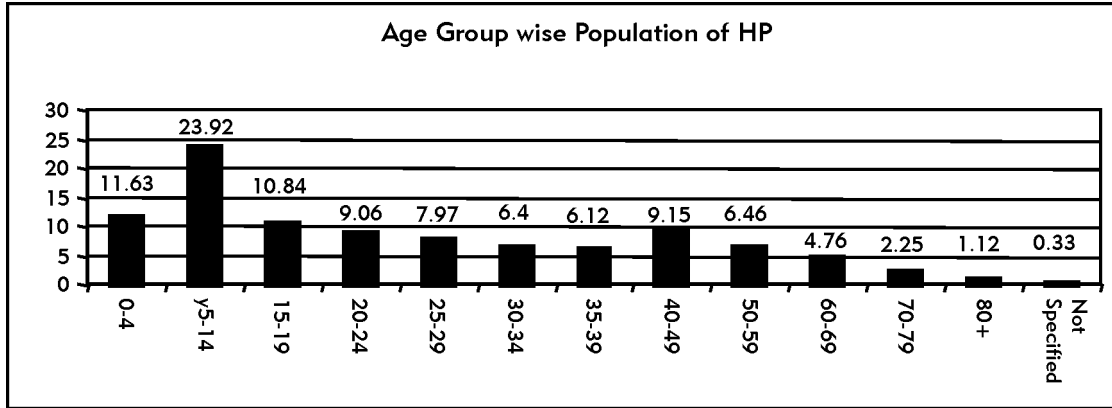
Male & Female Population-District Wise-2001 Census

District	Male Population %	Female Population %
Chamba	50.99	49.01
Kangra	49.32	50.68
Lahul & Spiti	55.42	44.58
Kullu	51.87	48.13
Mandi	49.64	50.36
Hamirpur	47.56	52.44
Una	50.07	49.93
Bilaspur	50.21	49.79
Solan	53.96	46.04
Sirmour	52.60	47.40
Shimla	52.68	47.32
Kinnaur	54.02	45.95
Total	50.77	49.23

Age Composition:

Age composition of Himachal shows Himachal to be favorable for economic productivity and 50 percent of population falls under economically productive group (as per 1991 census)

Age-Group wise H.P. Population (%) -1991 census



Marital Status of Himachal Pradesh Population As per 1991 Census

Area	Rural/ urban	Unmarried		Married		Widow		Divorcee	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Himachal Pradesh	Total	1462360	1192644	1092672	1175467	55520	179268	6803	5955
	Rural	1332114	1095322	980765	1080373	52630	168124	6580	5602
	Urban	130246	97322	111907	95094	2890	11144	223	353
Chamba	Total	111789	92647	84161	85120	4949	13078	845	670
	Rural	102776	85643	77721	78917	4719	12153	813	633
	Urban	9013	7004	6440	6203	230	925	32	37
Kangra	Total	339395	280464	227942	267828	12152	45168	529	578
	Rural	321546	266368	215625	255114	11655	43364	502	533
	Urban	17849	14096	12317	12714	497	1804	27	45
Hamirpur	Total	102241	85520	69661	90830	3299	17273	116	172
	Rural	95389	80605	64526	85851	3159	16623	111	163
	Urban	6852	4915	5135	4979	140	650	5	9
Una	Total	108597	88699	73898	86080	4928	15772	158	131
	Rural	99399	81450	66761	78867	4622	14620	153	119
	Urban	9198	7249	7137	7213	306	1152	5	12

Area	Rural/ urban	Unmarried		Married		Widow		Divorcee	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bilaspur	Total	81896	65204	62864	72101	2620	10334	170	187
	Rural	77083	61734	58679	68390	2511	9902	164	178
	Urban	4813	3470	4185	3711	109	432	6	9
Mandi	Total	213661	179229	164266	184616	6949	25829	846	973
	Rural	198100	167248	150348	172491	6618	24044	824	898
	Urban	15561	11981	13918	12125	331	1785	22	45
Kullu	Total	85112	68783	68062	66785	3720	8708	634	620
	Rural	79027	64398	62478	62486	3623	8185	624	595
	Urban	6085	4385	5584	4299	97	523	10	25
L & S	Total	8661	7275	8126	5984	404	732	29	77
	Rural	8661	7275	8126	5984	404	732	29	77
	Totally rural area								
Shimla	Total	174273	138155	143411	133631	6695	18352	1518	1366
	Rural	138473	112715	106776	108178	6112	16308	1450	1257
	Urban	35800	25440	36635	25453	583	2044	68	109
Solan	Total	109360	84116	85771	85133	4496	12347	594	425
	Rural	95753	74028	73764	74854	4175	11423	569	401
	Urban	13607	10080	12007	10279	321	924	25	24
Sirmour	Total	108258	86226	85943	82761	4713	9965	1253	545
	Rural	93790	77532	77394	74643	4437	9060	1230	507
	Urban	11468	8694	8549	8118	276	905	23	38
Kinnaur	Total	19117	16326	18567	14598	595	1710	111	241
	Rural	19117	16326	18567	14598	595	1710	111	241

The links between health and economic prosperity of the society are well known. Health with its linkages with poverty clearly demonstrates that health investments can accelerate economic growth. Himachal Pradesh compares favorably with rest of India in terms of health indicators and over the time, indicators for women have improved sharply than their male counterparts, yet if compared with better placed states like Kerala or developed nations, Himachal is quite behind.

Himachal Pradesh is passing through the demographic transition, which is marked by fairly high fertility and low mortality.

Trends in Fertility:

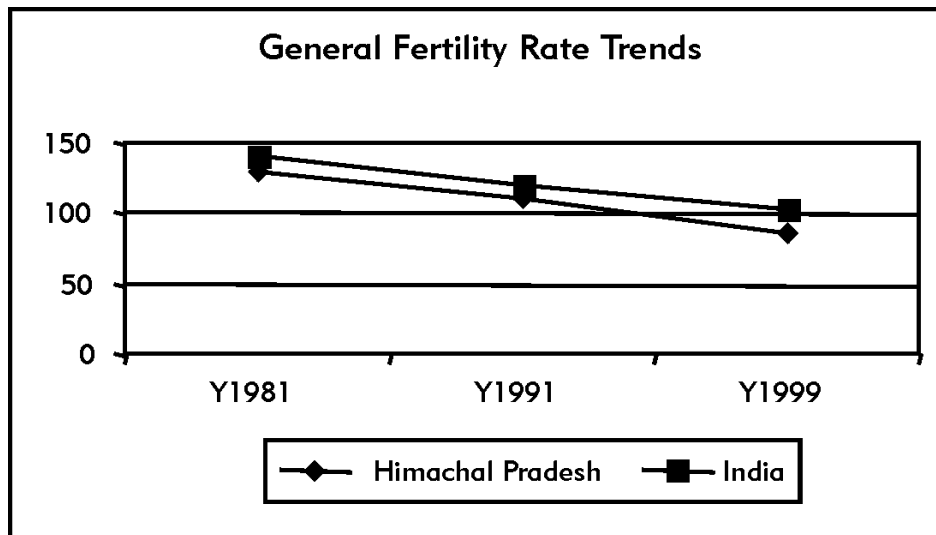
Though all the fertility indicators for the state has declined over the decades, the gap between rural and urban areas is quite visible and evident.

General Fertility Rate

Himachal				India			
Year	Rural	Urban	Combined	Year	Rural	Urban	Combined
1981	133.3	69.5	129.2	1981	149.4	107.2	140.9
1991	114	70.8	110.9	1991	127.2	93.3	119.2
1999	86.7	59.8	84.7	1999	112.8	77.6	103.2

Total Fertility Rates

Himachal				India			
Year	Rural	Urban	Combined	Year	Rural	Urban	Combined
1981	3.9	2	3.8	1981	4.8	3.3	4.5
1991	3.2	2	2	1991	3.9	2.7	2.6
1999	2.5	1.8	2.4	1999	3.5	2.3	3.2

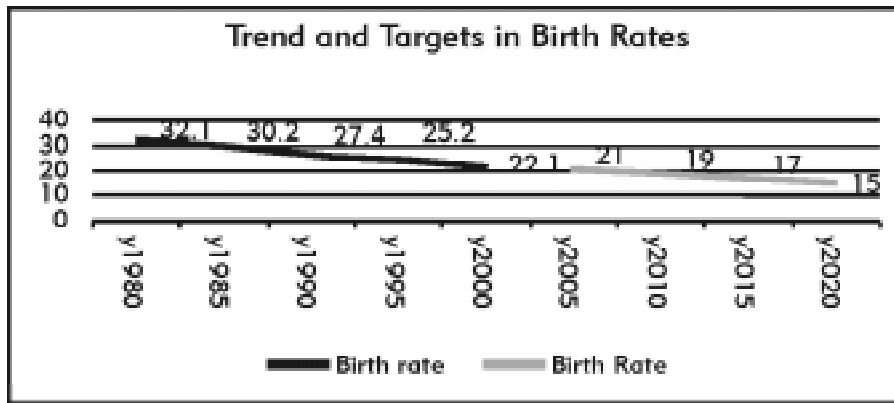


In the period from 1991 to 1999, the total fertility rate for Himachal declined sharply as compared to the decline in the TFR of India, and though the TFR of rural Himachal is still higher as compared to the urban area of Himachal Pradesh, the decline has been more appreciable in rural areas than urban areas. However Urban Areas have TFR already below the replacement levels, but 90 percent of population of Himachal Pradesh is rural in nature.

Birth Rates:

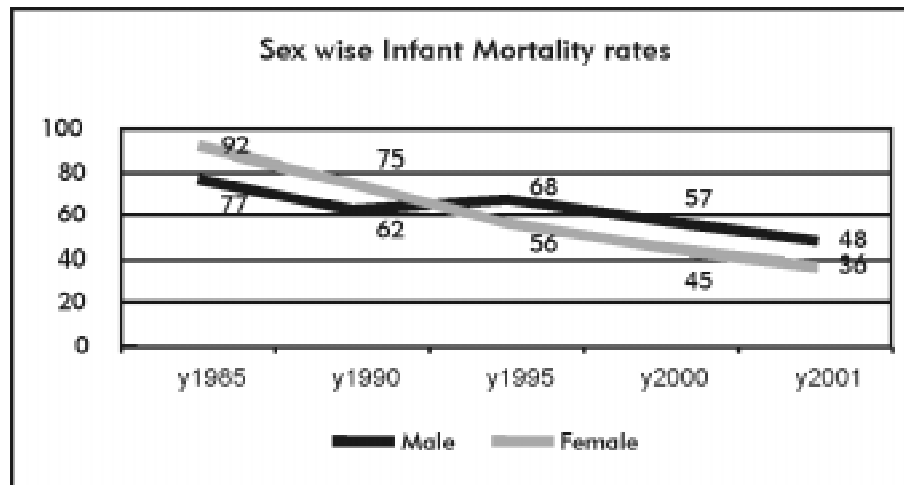
Crude birth rate for Himachal Pradesh has shown steady decline and is well below the national average of 25.4. according to SRS estimates for the year 2001, the crude birth rate stands at 21.2, and looking at the present declined rate, the state shall well achieve the target it has set for itself to reach the CBR of 15 by the year 2020.

In 1980, the CBR was 32.1 and has shown since the steady decline.



Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate for the state, according to SRS figures is 54, while there is significant rural urban gap. While in urban areas it is 32, for the rural areas, IMR is 56. It clearly shows the disparity in terms inequality in access the health care. However noteworthy is the decline in female

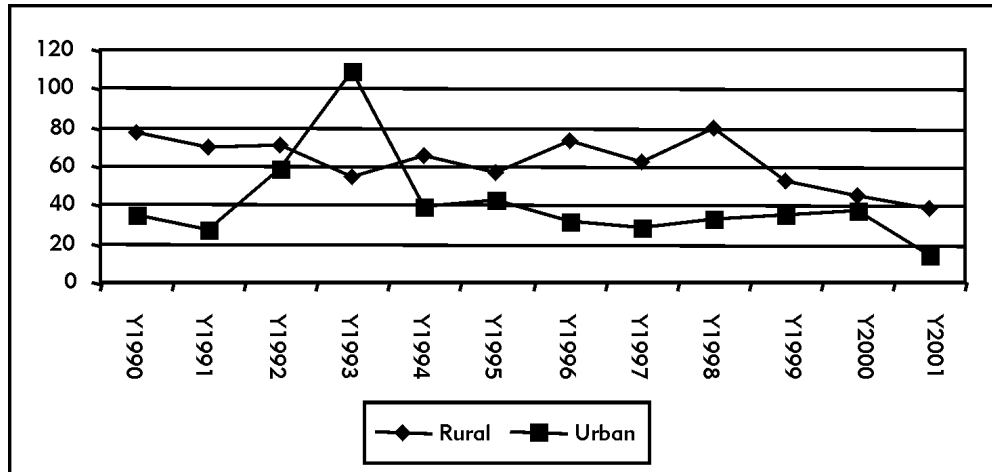


Trends In Male & Female Mortality Rates

Infant mortality over the years is sharper than the males. While in year 1985, female IMR stood at 92 as compared to male IMR of 72, in the early nineties, State witnessed the lower Female Infant Mortality Rate for the first time and that trend has continues since. As per the year 2001 estimates, the Female IMR is 38 as compared to the male IMR of 46.

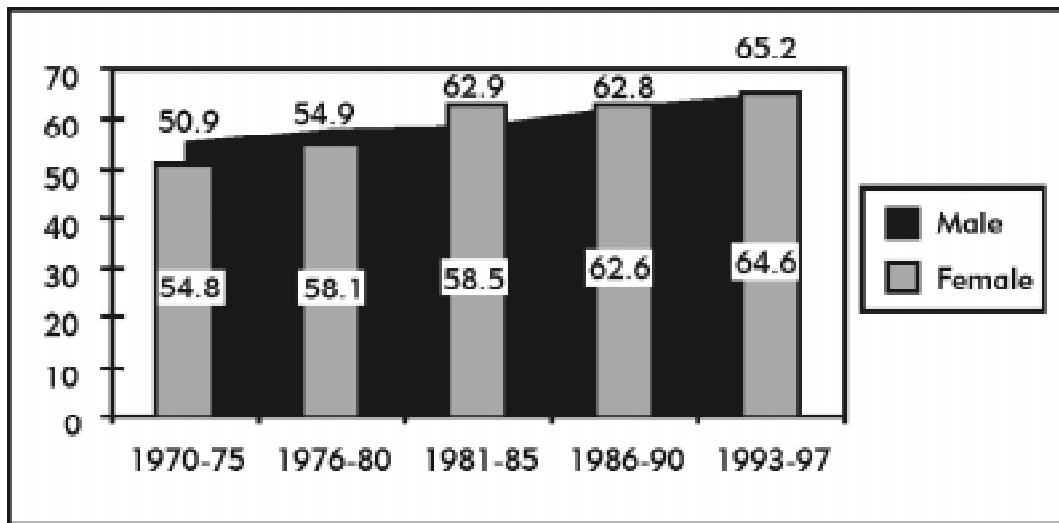
However there exist significant differential in IMR if IMR, for females is analyzed for rural and urban areas, and as evident, rural IMR, for females is 2.7 times higher than their male counterparts, reflecting the access to the services issue. SRS rates for the decade, show fluctuations and great variability indicating IMR rates though have reduced shall require some more effort and interventions to decline on stable downward spiral.

Female IMR & rural-Urban Differential

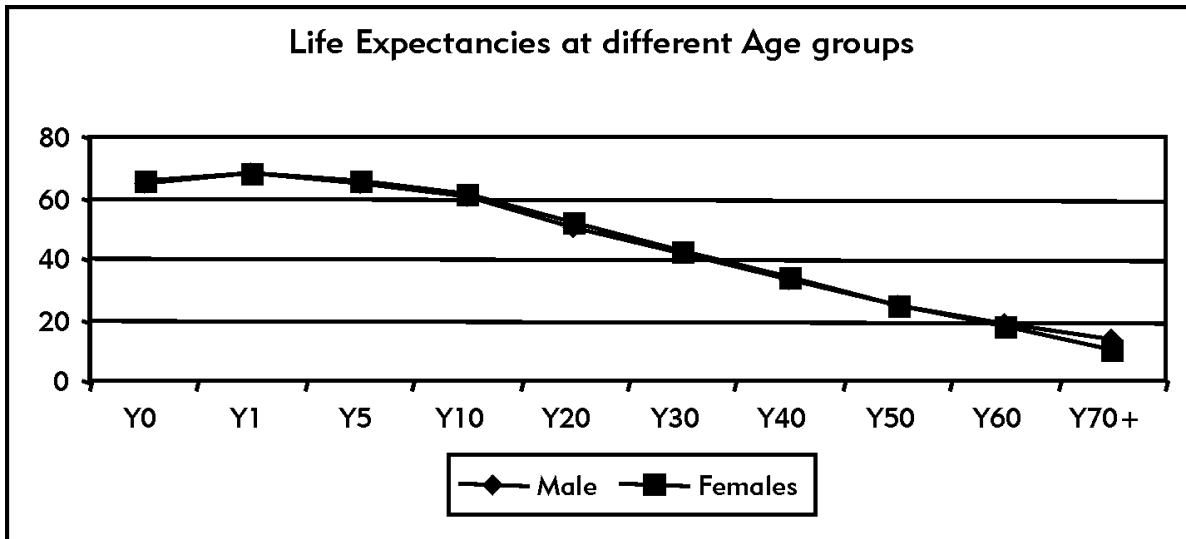


Life Expectancies:

Life expectancy at birth for males was 54.8 as against 50.9 years for females for the period 1970-75, though genetically females are considered to be more robust and are expected to live longer than their male counterparts. However as per the SRS rates, the female life expectancy for females is 65.2 years as compared to 64.6 years for males and have witnessed a healthy trend. However, the average difference in life expectancies in the developed countries between males and females is 5 years. Even in Kerala average life expectancy for females is 75 years.



In this regard Himchal Pradesh, still has a long way to go. However, if compared with India, female life expectancy in Himachal compares favorably. However this aggregate figures tell a bit incomplete story and if age wise life expectancy figures are analyzed, a different picture emerges: this comparative advantage in life expectancies remain valid till the age of 40 years, while after the age of 40, it is male who has more probability to live longer than his female counter part. The part reason lies in the differential treatments meted out to males and females and treatment seeking behaviors and social or cultural barriers that might prevent women to seek medical help. Whatsoever is the reason, in the older years, females have disproportionate burden.



Life Expectancy at Years	Overall	Male	Females
Y0	65.1	64.6	65.2
Y1	68.5	68.1	68.5
Y5	65.4	64.7	65.6
Y10	60.8	60.1	61.1
Y20	51.3	50.6	51.7
Y30	42.5	42	42.7
Y40	33.7	33.5	33.7
Y50	25.2	25.1	25
Y60	18.1	18.7	18.2
Y70+	12.2	13.9	10.1

Vital Statistics Division-Registrar General Office

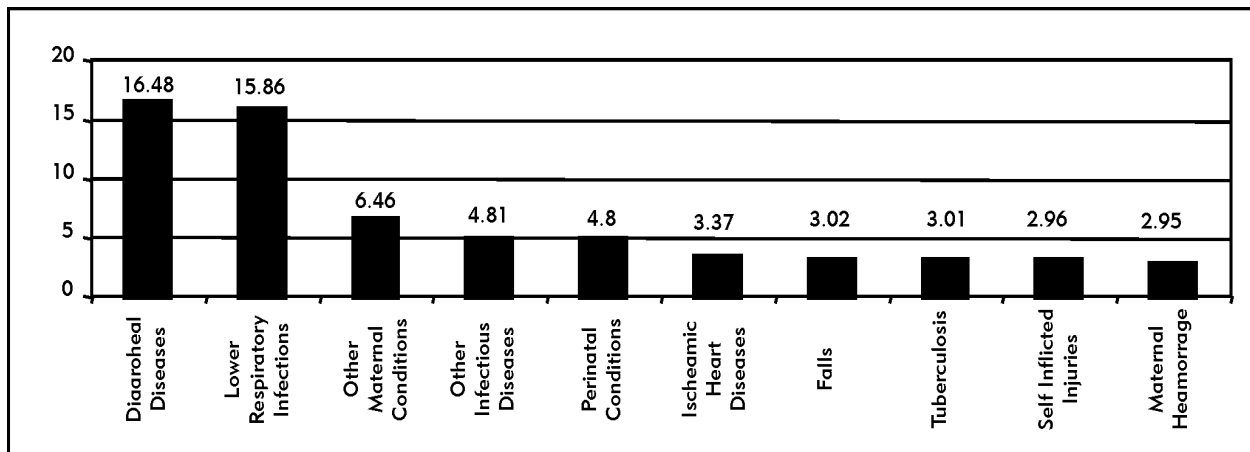
As can be seen, females maintain their comparative advantage till the age of 40, while in the abridged life tables; life expectancy at the age of 50 for males is 25.1 years as compared to females, which is 25 years. However this gap increases, and at 70 plus, while a male may be expected to live 13.9 years, a female is expected to live only 10.1 years. Since there exist no data which segregates Health Adjusted life years for females and males, for Himachal Pradesh, it strongly suggests that in terms of HALE, females in all the likelihood have less healthy years to her as compared to her male counter part. Further life expectancy data is not available for individual districts, so regional disparities are hard to come by and thus masking the inequality.

Mortality & Mortality Pattern

Leading Causes of Premature Mortality in Women of Himachal Pradesh:

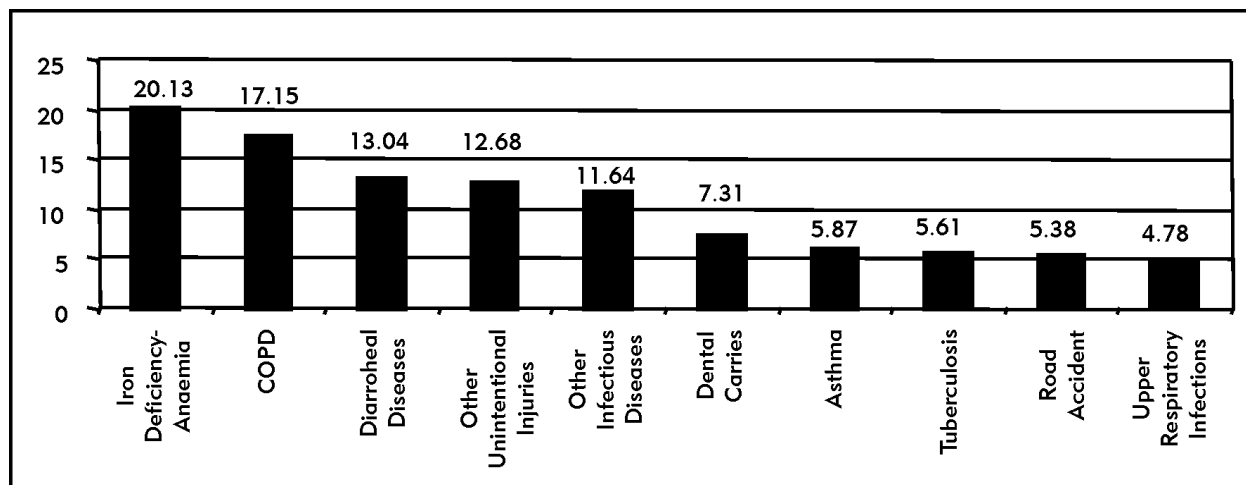
A recent study, carried out by PGI, shows that in Himachal leading causes for premature mortality among women are easily manageable and preventable if essential health care is provided for in systematic fashion and accessibility is improved. The major causes for premature mortality are: Diarrhoeal diseases, lower respiratory infections, other maternal conditions, infectious diseases and Perinatal conditions, which account for almost 48 percent of all premature mortality. While main cause of disability among women is iron deficiency anaemia.

Leading Causes of Premature Mortality (%ages) among Women



The burden of disease statistics though give clear indications and guiding agenda in which direction health interventions need to focus, there is major need to improve upon the cause of death reporting system, its reliability and epidemiological surveillance system.

Leading Causes of Disability (%ages) among Women - Source : Burden of Disease Studies



Burden of Diseases statistics, evaluated Age-group wise, among females of Himachal Pradesh throws further pointers for the need to improve the access and emphasis on preventive care which is gender sensitive and encourages the access.

TOP TEN CAUSES OF BURDEN OF DISEASES AMONG FEMALE OF HIMACHAL

Rank	0-4 Years	5-14 Year	15-44 Years	45-49 Years	60+ Years
1	Lower Respiratory Infections	Iron Deficiency Anaemia	Iron Deficiency Anaemia	COPD	COPD
2	Diarroheal Diseases	Diarroheal Diseases	Other Maternal Conditions	Other Maternal Conditions	Asthma
3	Other Infectious Diseases	Other Unintentional Injuries	Other Unintentional Injuries	Iron-Deficiency Anaemia	Ischaemic Heart Disease
4	Other Maternal Conditions	Otitis Media	Maternal Haemorrhage	Other Unintentional Injuries	Other Infectious Diseases
5	Perinatal Conditions	Asthma	COPD	Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis
6	Birth Asphyxia & Birth Trauma	Dental Carries	Asthma	Dental Carries	Cataract
7	Iron Deficiency-Anaemia	Lower Respiratory Infections	Road Accidents	Ischaemic Heart Disease	Iron Deficiency-Anaemia
8	Measeles	Upper respiratory Infections	Dental Carries	Other Cardiac Diseases	Diarroheal Diseases
9	Falls	Falls	Upper Respiratory Infections	Diarroheal Infections	Other Unintentional Injuries
10	Low Birth Weight	Other Infectious Diseases	Abortion	Other Infectious Diseases	Dental Carries

Mean Age of Marriage:

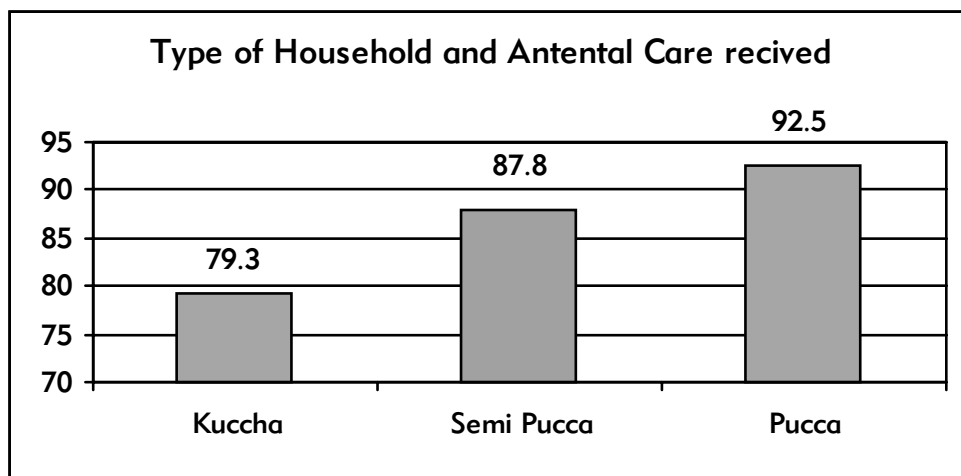
According to NFHS-II Survey, the median age of first marriage has risen steadily for the women of Himachal Pradesh. In rural areas median age for marriage for the age group 25-29 has been recorded at 19.6 years than for women in 45-49 years age group (20.4 years). While in the urban areas this difference is of one year between two age groups. (21.3 years and 19.6 years.) SRS data for year 1999 show that female age at effective marriage is 20.8 years, however again rural and urban differentials exist. While for the urban areas, it is 22.7 years, for the rural regions the mean age for effective marriage is 20.8 years. Despite the evidence of increase in the age of marriage, NFHS-II estimates that almost 11 percent of women married before the legal age of marriage (in 20-24 age group responses). However Himachal Pradesh is first state in the country to have enforced the marriage registration act.

Contraceptive Prevalence:

NFHS-II show that contraceptive prevalence rate in Himachal Pradesh is quite high with 68 percent of married women using some form of contraception against the national figure of 48 percent. However gender bias is clearly evident, extent of female sterilization is seven times more than the male sterilization. Though male sterilization is more convenient, safer, the higher female sterilization, as in the rest of India underscores the attitudes, socio-cultural aspects and throws the light on the issues well known and related to female empowerment.

Institutional Deliveries:

Population fund of India has rated Himachal as one of the best state in the RCH implementation, yet issues remain. Despite having very high proportion of women receiving antenatal care (87.2%), the institutional deliveries lie at the abysmally low at 31.7 percent. Even the antenatal care has been severely affected by the caste, literacy and region.



% of Women who received Antenatal Care by Selected Background Characteristics-

Caste	Antenatal Care (%)	Region	Antenatal Care (%)
SC/ST	85.7	Rural	86.4
Others	87.6	Urban	97.2

Source : RCH (RHS) 1998-99

As per the RCH rapid household survey of 1998-99, only 36.3 percent of total deliveries can be termed as safe. A recent survey shows that in rural area of Himachal Pradesh, it is matter of access of services and clear shortage on the supply side that has resulted in the low institutional deliveries than the demand factors. Shortage of gynaecologists, non-functional FRUs, comparatively inhospitable terrains all contribute to the lower institutional deliveries in the state. Further in the state like Himachal, it is the travel time from the service delivery point that needs to be taken into account than merely calculating the radial distances for the effective delivery of services and this become more so important if the budgets are formed with gender perspective and sensitivity.

Select Indicators on the Basis of region, caste and Literacy highlighting the differential

Percentage of women who received any antenatal care (ANC) by source of ANC and by State / Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	Percentage of women who had ANC	At home from health worker	In Govt. health facility	In Private health facility
H.P.	87.2	10.0	81.7	4.3
India	65.3	22.0	31.6	26.2

Percentage of women who received ANC any selected background characteristics and by State / Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	Total	Rural	Urban	SC/ST	Others	Illiterate	0-9	10 & above	Kachcha House	Semi - pucca	Pucca
H.P	87.2	86.4	97.2	85.5	87.6	71.2	89.3	95.8	79.3	87.8	92.5
India	65.3	61.0	82.9	61.4	66.1	52.1	79.8	92.2	53.9	70.1	79.2

Source : RCH

Percentage of women by type of antenatal care and by state/union territory, India, RCH phase I&II

State/Union territory	Who had ANC			Whose		Who had	Who were given		Who had full ANC
	Any	In first trimester	3+ visits	Weight was taken	BP was measured	Abdominal Check-up	IFA tablets	At least on TT injection	At least 3 ANC visits + at least one TT + IFA given
H.P	87.2	39.9	57.2	59.2	60.8	75.0	82.5	88.2	52.7
India	65.3	29.7	44.2	34.5	38.2	49.4	48.7	74.7	31.8

Source : RCH

Percentage of women who received full ANC by selected background characteristics and by State / Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	Total	Rural	Urban	SC/ST	Others	Illiterate	0-9	10 & above	Kachcha House	Semi - pucca	Pucca
H.P	52.7	51.3	67.8	48.2	53.9	33.6	50.8	68.0	40.2	51.5	63.5
India	31.8	28.3	45.9	28.4	32.2	20.5	41.6	59.2	22.2	36.2	42.9

Percentage of women who had institutional delivery by selected background characteristics and by State / Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	Total	Rural	Urban	SC/ST	Others	Illiterate	0-9	10 & above	Kachcha House	Semi - pucca	Pucca
H.P	31.7	28.9	71.4	26.0	33.8	14.3	26.7	49.7	21.1	31.1	41.4
India	34.0	25.8	66.6	24.1	36.9	17.9	45.8	76.0	17.6	37.9	56.2

Percentage of women who had safe delivery by selected background characteristics and by State / Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	Total	Rural	Urban	SC/ST	Others	Illiterate	0-9	10 & above	Kachcha House	Semi - pucca	Pucca
H.P	36.3	33.7	73.7	29.2	38.6	17.9	31.2	55.3	24.6	35.2	47.5
India	40.2	32.3	72.3	29.8	43.5	23.6	53.9	81.8	23.7	44.8	63.1

Pregnancy, delivery and post delivery complications, State/Union territory

State/Union territory	Who had complications during pregnancy	Who had delivery complication	Who had post delivery complication	Who sought treatment for pregnancy complication	Who sought treatment for post delivery complication
H.P	66.5	12.7	20.0	61.6	64.2
India	63.6	37.0	44.4	46.7	46.6

Percentage of babies weighed and birth weight by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	% age of babies weighed with in 2 days of birth	Below 2500 grams	2500 grams and above	Weight not known
H.P	35.4	15.4	67.7	17.0
India	28.0	16.9	68.2	14.9

Percentage of women who started breast feeding within two hours of childbirth by selected background characteristics of women and by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I&II

State/Union territory	Total	Rural	Urban	SC/ST	Others	Illiterate	0-9	10 & above	Kachcha House	Semi - pucca	Pucca
H.P	39.7	38.0	35.8	39.3	39.9	40.6	38.1	40.4	42.8	42.4	35.4
India	26.3	24.2	33.8	25.7	25.7	20.2	32.4	40.1	22.5	27.6	30.5

Percentage of children who received by type of vaccine, vitamin A, iron & folic acid tablets/ liquid by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I& II

State/Union territory	BCG	Three DPT Injection	Three polio doses	Measles	Complete (BCG+3 DPT+3 Polio+ measles)	None	At least one dose of vitamin A	IFA tablets/ liquid
H.P	95.7	93.9	78.9	92.5	74.4	2.4	73.2	6.9
India	73.0	66.1	68.0	60.4	54.2	18.8	35.0	5.4

Percentage of children who received complete vaccination by selected background characteristics of mothers, by State/ union territory, India, RCH phase I&II

State/Union territory	Total	Rural	Urban	SC/ST	Others	Illiterate	0-9	10 & above	Kachcha House	Semi - pucca	Pucca	Sex Male	Sex female
H.P	74.4	73.6	74.4	72.3	75.5	70.8	74.5	77.2	71.6	79.3	72.3	75.4	73.2
India	54.2	50.2	70.0	48.0	56.4	40.5	68.5	84.2	42.1	65.3	76.6	55.3	53.0

Percentage of currently married women age 15-44 years using contraceptive methods, by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/ Union territory	Any method	Any modern method	Any setrilization	All modern spacing	Any traditional	Male sterilization	Female sterilization	IUD	Pill	Condom
H.P	64.2	62.4	50.6	11.8	1.7	7.6	43.0	2.6	2.3	6.9
India	48.6	42.4	35.0	7.4	6.2	1.5	33.5	1.9	2.4	3.1

Percentage of currently married women age 15-44 years with unmet need and by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I&II

State / Union territory	Total	Limiting	Spacing
H.P	19.2	11.1	8.1
India	25.3	14.6	10.7

Percentage of men with their choice of family planning method for limiting by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I&II

State/Union territory	Who recommended female methods	Fear of method failure	Fear of operation	Fear of weakness
H.P	19.2	1.3	39.7	87.1
India	25.3	6.3	12.9	72.0

Percentage of women who were visited by ANM/LHV, who utilized government health facilities and who are satisfied with the services, by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I&II

State/Union territory	Who were visited by ANM/LHV at household	Who were satisfied by the time spent by ANM/LHV	Who were not needed to visit health facility	Who visited govt. health facility	Who did not visit govt. health facility	Visited and found health facility good enough to recommend to others	Did not visit as they prefer private health facilities
H.P	7.6	95.8	73.9	70.0	30.0	94.7	82.0
India	14.8	93.7	46.2	25.9	74.1	87.2	38.1

Percentage of men age 20-54 years and women age 15-44 who are aware of RTI, STI and HIV/AIDS by State/Union territory, India, RCH phase I & II

State/Union territory	Percentage of men who were aware of			Percentage of women who were aware of		
	RTI	STI	HIV/AIDS	RTI	STI	HIV/AIDS
H.P.	16.8	12.6	73.7	17.5	13.2	59.8
India	37.2	36.4	60.3	45.4	28.8	41.9

DECLINING SEX RATIO - AN ISSUE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

The 2001 census has brought to light the alarming decline in girl child sex ratios all over the country. In this regard Himachal Pradesh is no exception. In fact after being hailed for the major strides that have been made in increasing women's literacy, the steep decline in girl child sex-ratio, is blot on the human development indicators of the state. Girl Child sex-ratio is the most revealing indicator as to the status of women in society as it highlights societal attitudes about the undesirability of the girl child. While Himachal Pradesh has a higher female literacy rate and sex ratio than the rest of the country as per the 2001 Census, the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group is extremely low.

The 19th century saw the steady growth in Himachal Pradesh's population, and according to 2001 census, the population of Himachal Pradesh stands at 60.70 lakhs. Year 1941 saw the two digit growth for the first time, and 1951 onwards this double digit growth rate has been hovering around +20.

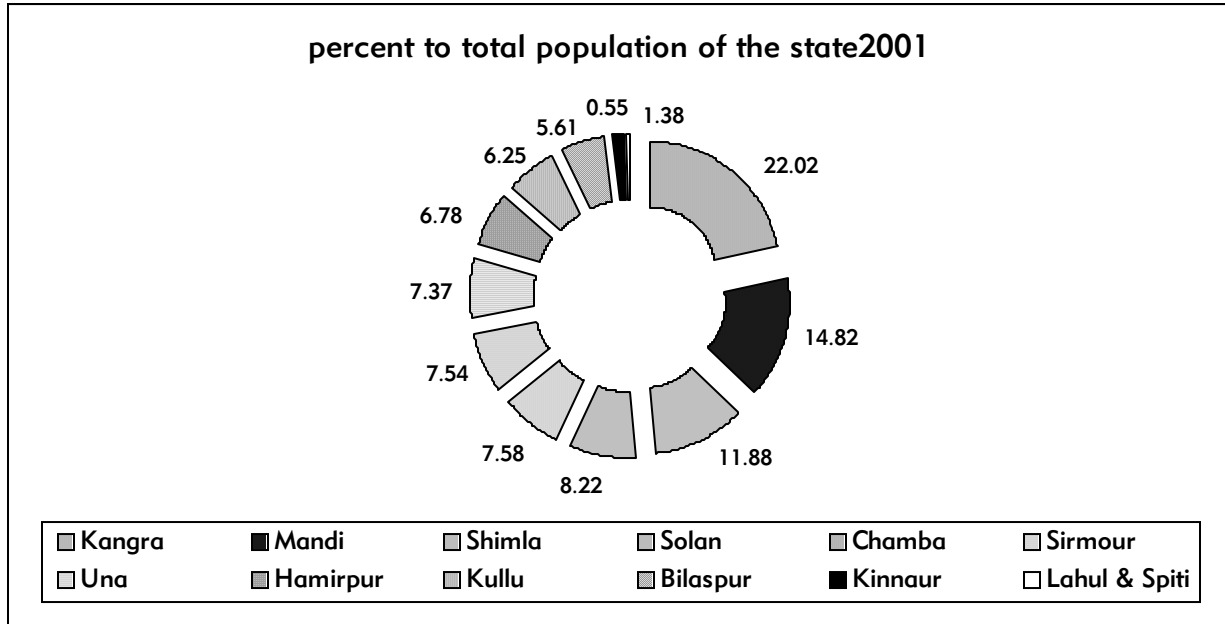
Census Year	Population	Growth Rate
1901	19.2	
1911	18.96	-1.22
1921	19.28	1.65
1931	20.29	5.25
1941	22.63	11.54
1951	23.85	5.42
1961	28.12	17.87
1971	34.6	23.04
1981	42.8	23.71
1991	51.7	20.79
2001	60.7	17.39

For the first time in last five decades, growth rate has come down. While growth rate was 20.79 according to 1991 census figures, growth rate in year 2001 has come down to 17.39.

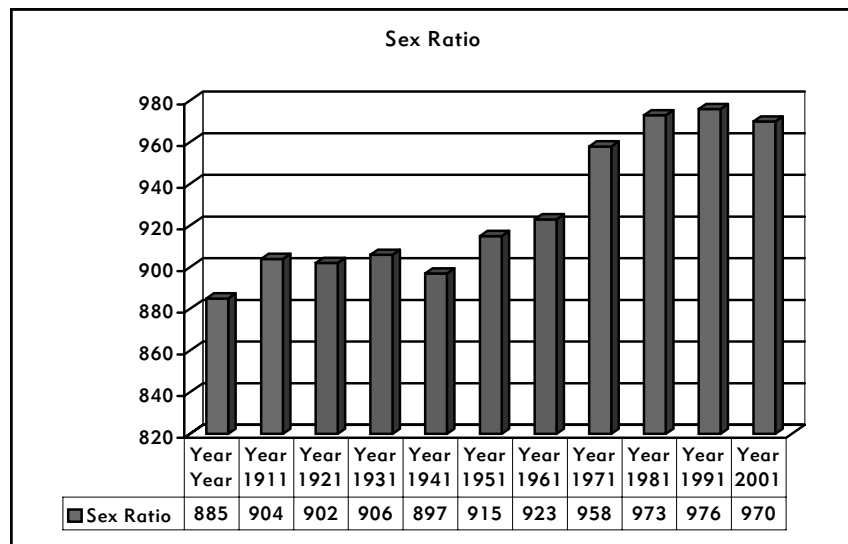
Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi and Una district account for 48 percent of total population of the state. These are the districts which have wide gap between the sex ratio between 0-6 years and overall

sex ratio. In absolute terms it signifies huge number, and predicts imbalance in the coming time between the numbers of males and females, affecting many a aspects of society¹.

Trends in Sex Ratio since 1901:



In the last 100 years, Himachal Pradesh has shown the favorable trend in sex ratio barring for the decade 1941, where sex ratio dropped from 906 to 897, but the next decade witnessed the recovery and sex ratio reached at 915. Not in any decade, the sex ratio became favorable for the females, nevertheless it showed a steady increase.

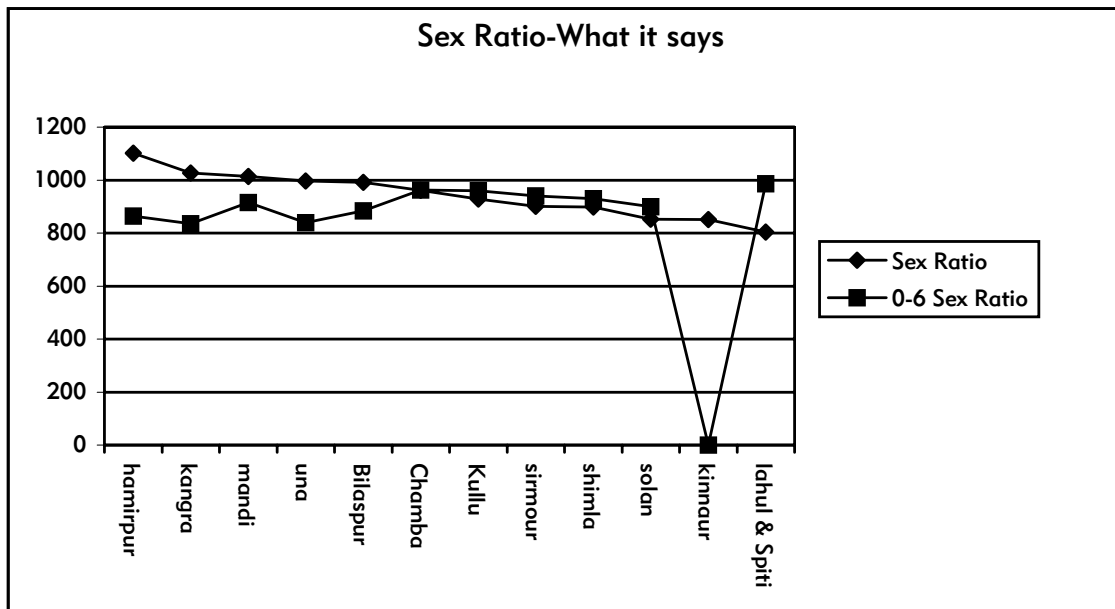


¹ Solan and Bilaspur districts too have adverse 0-6 years sex ratio-child sex ratio is discussed in the subsequent write up.

However the Census result in year 2001, showed for the first time decrease in the sex ratio by six points and has quite a serious socio-economic implications, if data is analyzed more closely. Simple regression analysis carried out on 11 districts data shows there is inverse relationship between literacy and sex ratio, though not a causal relationship, but may be adoption of 2 child norms by literate families has resulted in favoring one sex over another. And results are significant statistically.²

Himachal's demographic transition and figures spelled out by census 2002, has posed many questions to answer, and questions are not easy to answer, for they have blotted the report card eagerly awaited by the masses, social activists and government alike. A high literacy rate has not helped Himachal Pradesh in checking the declining sex ratio and the state has followed the footsteps of neighbors Punjab and Haryana where the male: female ratio has declined sharply. May be state has taken a lead in very negative way.

The problem is real in Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Una and Bilaspur Districts, where overall sex ratio combined for all age groups is favorable and strikingly unfavorable in 0-6 years age group.³ Ironically these are districts where the literacy rates are quite higher than the other districts where there exist no gap between overall sex ratio and sex ratio in 0-6 years age group.



No district in Himachal has favorable sex ratio in Urban area. Urban Population, areas with higher literacy rates have low sex ratio. Female empowerment is distant dream. Unfortunately statistics says more learned we are, more urbanized we are, female has place at the lower rung-inferior.

² Results are significant at 90 percent confidence level, coefficient for literacy has come out to be -6.940 and p value of $.005$, and regression analysis have not included District Kinnaur in its analysis due to lack of data.

³ Note: Kinnaur District shows anomaly because there is no data available for 0-6 years age group, hence a dip in the graph.

Comparison between two census figures 1991-2001:

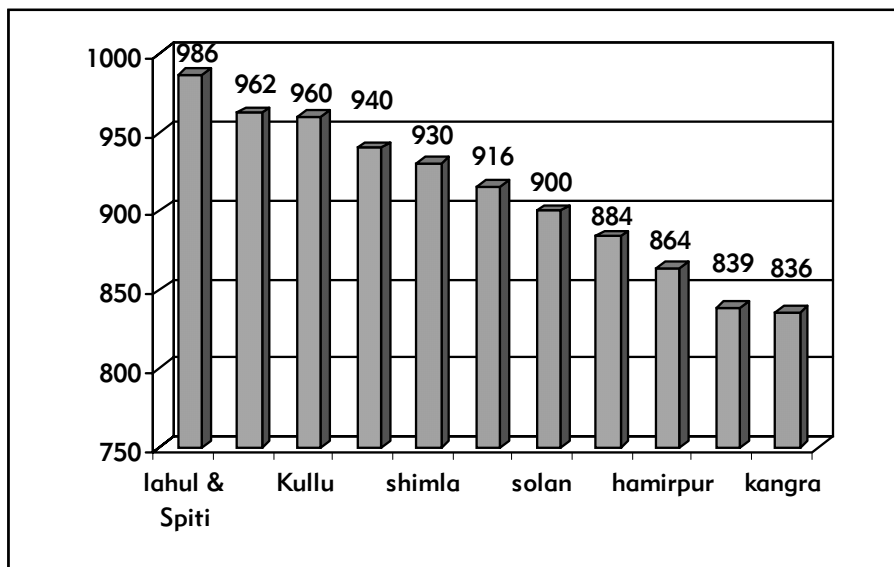
While India showed increase of 6 points in sex ratio from 927 to 933/1000 males, Himachal has matched the figures but in opposite direction by losing 6 points and sex ratio has declined from 976 to 970/1000 males. A negative progress is in swing-the model state has got a blemish. After Punjab and Haryana, Himachal has witnessed shocking decline in 0-6 years Child Ratio-of 54 points, third highest drop in the country, while Sikkim and Mizoram gained and showed increase in child sex ratio in 0-6 years of age group.

Decline in Child (0-6) Child Ratio

State/UT	1991	2001	Variation
Punjab	875	793	-82
Haryana	879	820	-59
Himachal	951	897	-54
Chandigarh	899	845	-54
Gujrat	928	878	-50
Delhi	915	865	-50
Uttranchal	948	906	-42
Goa	964	933	-31
Maharashtra	946	917	-29

No district, in Himachal Pradesh has favorable Child sex ratio. Tribal Area Lahaul & Spiti has the best Child sex ratio among all the districts, followed by Chamba and Kullu.

Child Sex Ratio is below 900 in the districts-Solan, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una and Kangra

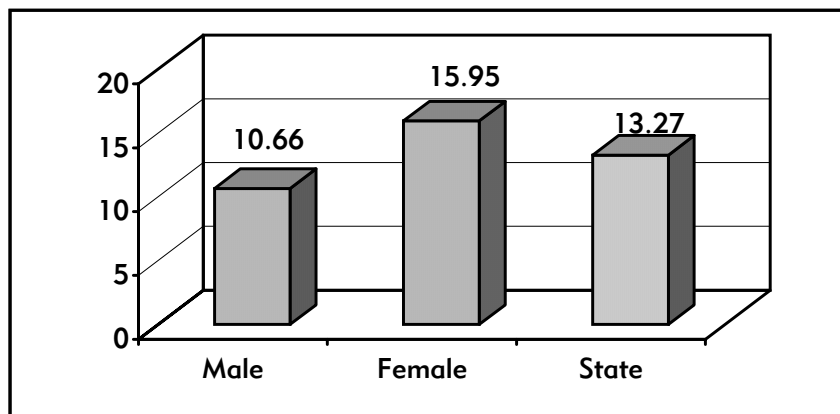


EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Literacy and education becomes an important tool for the economic growth, for the effective decision making and empowerment of the women. Quality of life and human development attainments invariably are high in the countries, which have invested heavily in education. In a country, which is in transition phase and is increasingly recognized as knowledge economy in the global market, education to women becomes of paramount importance, not to speak of basic right to access to education and determinant of worth of society by the literacy rates of women.

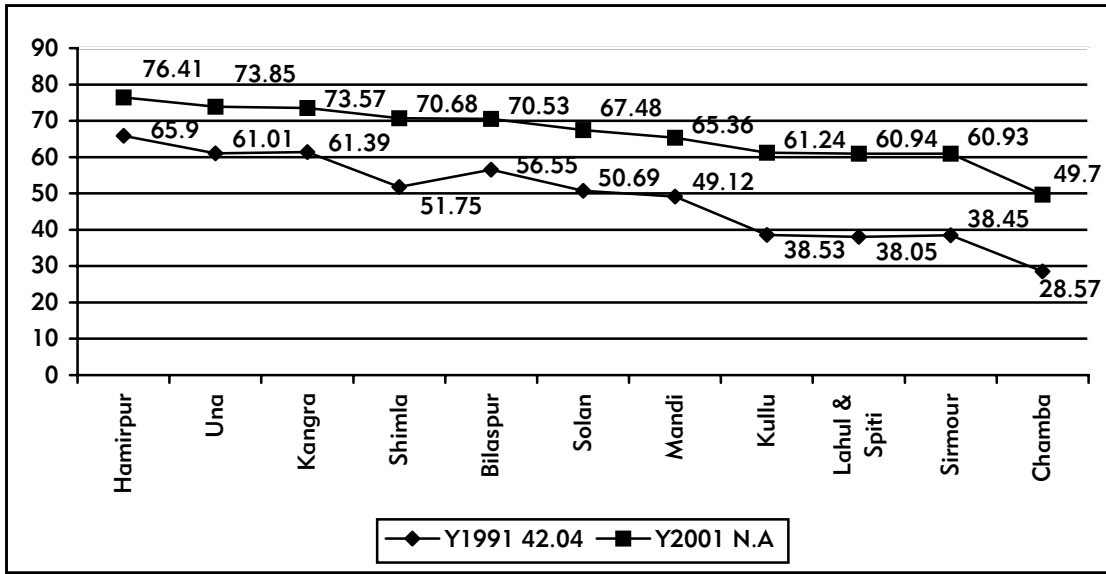
The growth in literacy from 1981 to 2001 witnessed the growth rate of 34.65 percent, however the growth in the nineties slowed down than a previous decade, because of wider base after the impressive growth results accumulated. The growth rates for female have shown better attainment than their male counterparts, yet in absolute terms, females are less literate than males. The literacy growth rate for the state in 1991–2001 period has been 13.27 percent, while for female this growth rate has been 15.95 percent.

Literacy Growth (%)for Himachal 1991-2001



Lahaul Spiti, Chamba, Sirmour and Kullu have recorded highest growth in literacy, still District Chamba has lowest literacy levels.

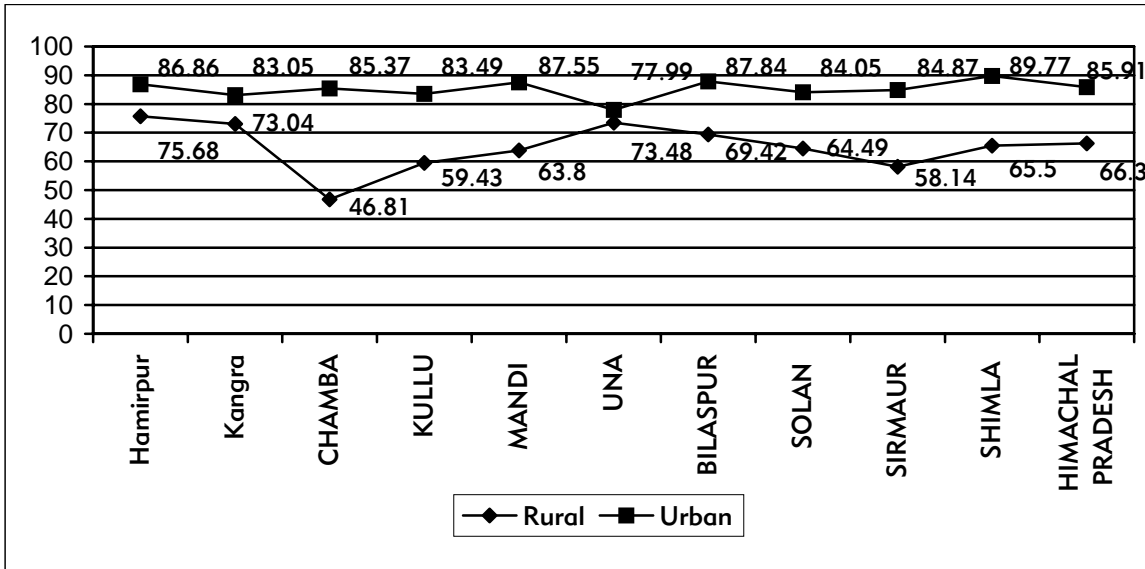
Growth in Female Literacy Rates-Census 1991-2001



Rural Urban Differentials in Literacy:

The gap between rural and urban literacy rates is very high, and again points out the heavy rural urban divide in the indicator achievements.

The Rural Urban Gap in Female Literacy



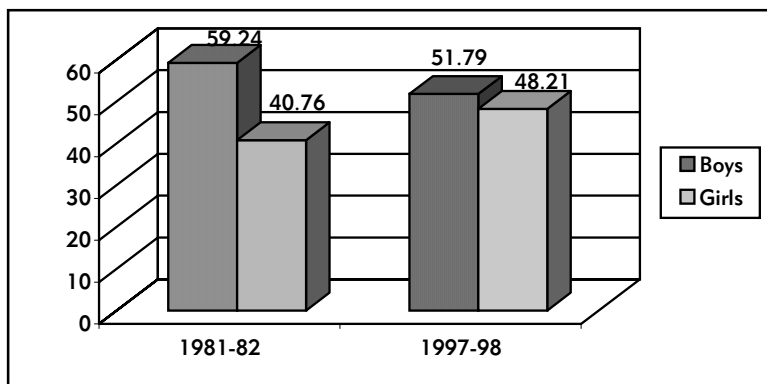
The rural urban differentials are huge. The lowest gap is in district Una, while the differentials are very high and to an unacceptable level in district Chamba. The regions where the differentials are quite high are Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Solan, Sirmour and Shimla. While Hamirpur, Kangra, and Una

have lesser gaps in female literacy. Though the phenomena is not gender specific, but overall literacy gap between rural and urban regions does exist.

Enrolments at primary levels:

Enrolment levels, at primary level, in the state has witnessed increase and increased female enrolments have been observed.. Between 1981 and 1998, the enrolment levels increased by three times in the state. The tribal districts of the state, namely, Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti, had more girls enrolled than the males in year 1997-98. Same situation is observed in Hamirpur, where more girls did enroll than the males. Lowest enrolment of girls has been observed in the Chamba district, and Chamba is the district having lowest female literacy rate in the state.

Enrolments at Primary Level

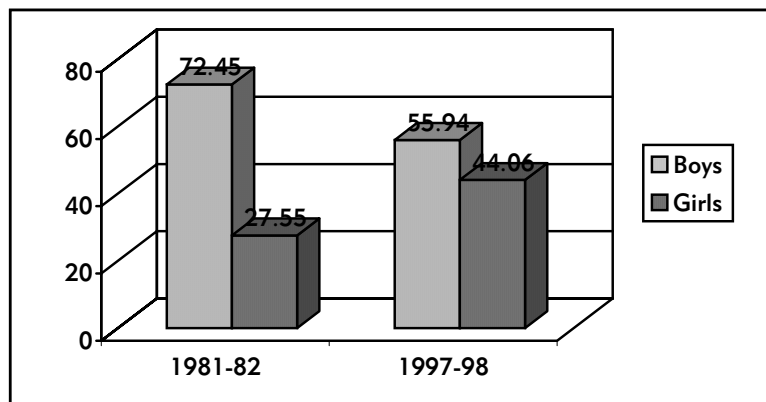


In the period between 1981 to 1998, the enrolment ratios for the boys and girls have increased significantly with little gap between the two.

Enrolment at secondary levels:

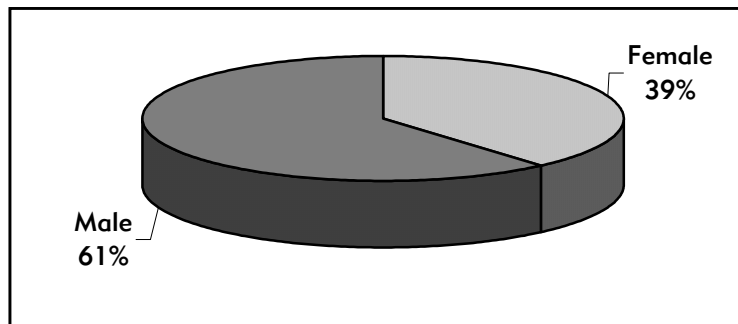
In the state, the enrolment at secondary level rose by three times between 1981-1997, in terms of absolute numbers. While in 1981, the boys and girls enrolment ratios were 72.45 & 27.55 percent, the distribution has become more equitable in 1997-98, at 55.94 & 44.06 percent.

Enrolments at Secondary Level in Himachal Pradesh



The number of schools in Himachal Pradesh have shown a very healthy growth, and one middle school in 2001 serves on an average 5.3 villages, while in 1992-93, this figure was 8.42. However as per the requirement of schools on the basis of population norm are yet to be achieved, while State requires 1.8 schools per village, the availability is 0.6 school per village. There are privately run schools in the state, which are bridging the gap, but their distribution is unequal. There are total of 108 private schools in the state.

Ratio of Male-Female Teachers at Primary Level



Female teachers to the total number of teachers in the state is up to the tune of 38.54 percent in year 1997-98, at the primary school level. The achievements in literacy program are due to relentless thrust by the government on education with special emphasis on the girl child. The education for the girls is free in state, and have often provided incentives in form of scholarships, free books to check the drop out ratios, especially for the girls.

However survey carried out in DPEP districts show the number of girls who are out of school are double the number of boys. There are 10211 out of school girl children in comparison to 5787 boys in the four districts, namely Chamba, Kullu, Sirmaur and Lahaul & Spiti. The total outlay on education, of the state gross domestic product is 6.53 percent.

Select indicators for India and H.P. are placed for comparison purposes. Though in all indicators, Himachal has better performance than Indian averages, but in absolute terms, there is need to bring more gender parity in rural-urban regions, in SC, and ST sections of the society.

Comparison of Educational Indicators of Himachal with India Literacy in India

Region	1981			1991			2001		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
H.P	64.27	37.72	51.18	75.36	52.13	63.86	84.57	67.08	75.91
India	56.38	29.76	43.57	64.13	39.29	52.21	75.64	54.03	65.20

Source : 1981- census of India social and cultural tables: 1991- Paper 2 of 1992, series 1, Census of India 1991; 2001-based on preliminary Census 2001 estimates.

Literacy rate of Scheduled Casts

Region	1981			1991		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
H.P	41.94	20.63	31.50	64.98	41.02	53.20
India	31.12	10.93	21.38	49.91	23.76	37.41

Source : 1. Literacy Digest, NLM, Directorate of Adult Education, MHRD, 1988
 2. Selected Educational Statistics 1997-98, Department of Education, MHRD, page 21

Literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes

Region	1981			1991		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
H.P	38.75	12.82	25.93	62.74	31.18	47.09
India	24.52	8.04	16.35	40.65	18.10	29.60

Source : 1. Selected educational Statistics 1997-98, Department of education MHRD, page 21
 2. 1981- Literacy Digest, NLM, Directorate of Adult Education, MHRD, GOI, ND, 1988.

Literates/Illiterates in the age group 7-14 years

Region	Boys				Girls				Children			
	Literates		Illiterate		Literates		Illiterate		Literates		Illiterate	
	81	91	81	91	81	91	81	91	81	91	81	91
H.P	81.8	89.95	18.20	10.05	63.40	81.52	36.60	18.48	72.79	85.83	27.21	14.17
India	60.58	71.44	39.42	28.56	41.57	56.23	58.43	43.77	51.49	64.16	48.51	35.84

Source : 1. For 1981, calculated from Census of India, as reproduced in Selected Educational Statistics 1997, MHRD 1999.
 2. For 1991, Working Children in India-An Analysis of the 1991 Census Data, RGI, Table 4, page 84-91.

Adult Literacy Rate-Combined

Region	1981			1991		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
H.P	58.17	28.95	43.72	70.93	43.45	57.28
India	54.92	25.72	40.83	61.89	34.09	48.54

Source : Census of India & 1991, Age, Sex and Educational Level Table C-2, RGI, New Delhi.

Adult Literacy Rate-Urban

Region	1981			1991		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
H.P	82.05	65.23	74.90	87.61	74.47	81.75
India	76.29	51.90	65.11	80.14	59.86	70.68

Source : Census of India, 1981 &1991, Age, sex and educational Level, Table C 2, New Delhi.

Girls Enrolled in Various School Stages 1993 - Urban

Region	I-V			VI-VIII			IX-X			XI-XII		
	All	SC	ST	ALL	SC	ST	ALL	SC	ST	ALL	SC	ST
H.P	46.65	47.94	46.15	47.37	47.92	38.76	48.15	48.49	37.59	38.29	35.05	33.82
India	46.71	45.97	45.52	45.06	42.69	42.73	41.72	37.41	38.24	39.73	34.03	29.64

Source : Sixth All India Educational Survey, NCERT, 1999, Vol 4, Table is 132, pages 127-130

Girls Enrolled in Various School Stages 1993- Rural

Region	I-V			VI-VIII			IX-X			XI-XII		
	All	SC	ST	ALL	SC	ST	ALL	SC	ST	ALL	SC	ST
H.P	47.83	46.47	46.77	44.49	42.04	40.27	41.24	38.23	36.39	34.15	31.91	36.82
India	41.96	40.47	40.96	36.43	33.02	34.04	32.23	28.89	29.88	29.76	25.53	26.29

Source : Sixth All India Educational Survey, NCERT, 1999, Vol 4, Table is 132, pages 127-130

Adult Literacy Rate - Rural

Region	1981			1991		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
H.P	55.61	26.09	40.82	69.02	40.61	54.76
India	47.39	17.60	32.79	54.89	24.92	40.34

Source : Census of India, 1981 &1991, Age, sex and educational Level, Table C 2, New Delhi.

Drop – out Rates in Classes I-V

Region	1981-82			1992-93			1998-99 (provisional)		
	Boys	Girls	Child.	Boys	Girls	Child.	Boys	Girls	Child.
H.P	28.7	30.7	29.6	27.54	28.97	28.22	31.20	31.03	31.12
India	51.1	57.3	53.5	43.83	46.67	45.01	38.23	41.34	39.58

Source : 1. 1981- trends of Drop-Out Rates for years 1980-81 to 1993-94
 2. Education in India 1992.93- vol 1(s), Department of education, MHRD
 3. Annual report 1998-99, Department of education, MHRD

Drop – out Rates in Classes I-VIII

Region	1981-82			1992-93			1998-99 (provisional)		
	Boys	Girls	Child.	Boys	Girls	Child.	Boys	Girls	Child.
H.P	36.30	60.10	46.10	16.64	24.17	19.61	28.45	28.05	28.26
India	68.50	77.70	72.10	58.23	65.21	61.10	54.40	60.09	56.82

Source : 1. 1981- trends of Drop-Out Rates for years 1980-81 to 1993-94
 2. Education in India 1992.93- vol 1(s), Department of education, MHRD
 3. Annual report 1998-99, Department of education, MHRD

Intensity of Formal Education - 1993

Region	Rural			Urban			Combined		
	Boys	Girls	Child.	Boys	Girls	Child.	Boys	Girls	Child.
H.P	5.25	4.88	5.08	7.01	6.72	6.88	5.49	5.12	5.32
India	4.41	3.99	4.25	5.63	5.36	5.51	4.77	4.46	4.64

Accessibility to Schools in Rural Areas-1993

Region	Population with primary schools			Population with upper primary schools		
	Within Habitation	Up to 0.5 km	Total up To 0.5 km	Within Habitation	Up to 0.5 km	Total up To 0.5 km
H.P	45.07	11.09	56.16	17.33	19.82	37.15
India	77.81	7.69	85.50	37.02	19.89	56.91

Teacher- Pupil Ratio

Region	1982-83			1992-93			1997-98		
	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary
H.P	38	17	28	33	23	35	30	18	31
India	40	34	29	45	43	29	42	37	29

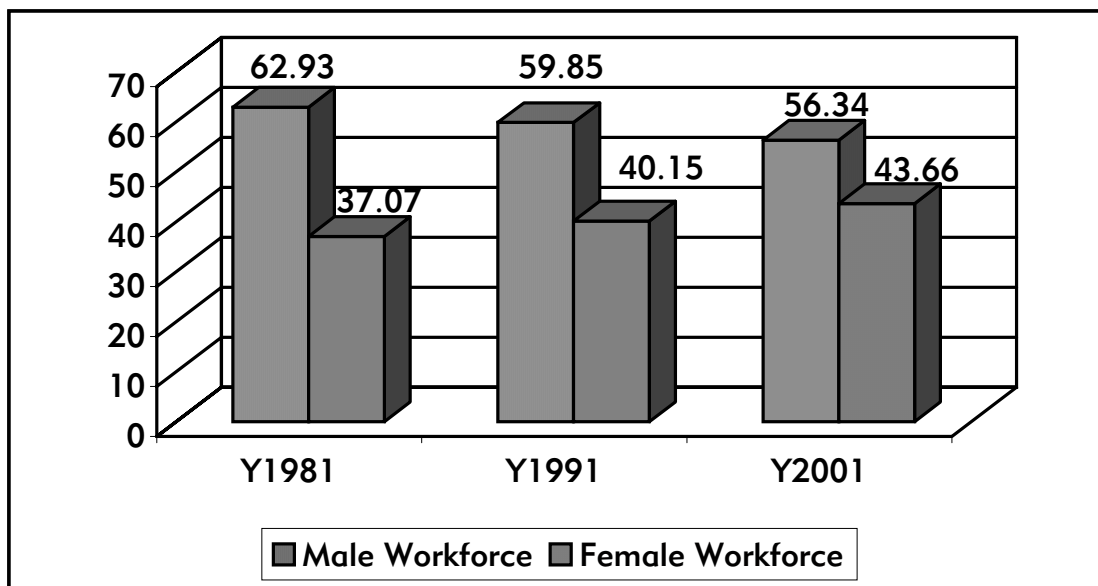
Number of Schools per Thousand Population

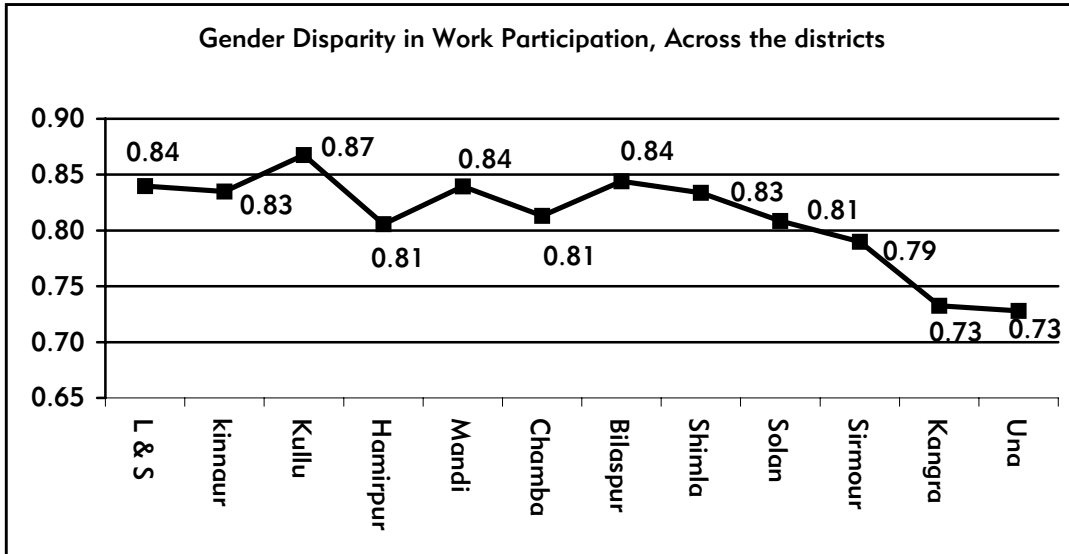
Region	1982-83		1992-93		1997-98	
	Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary	Primary	Upper Primary
H.P	13.37	3.70	12.78	3.07	10.03	2.19
India	5.70	2.44	5.75	2.69	5.04	2.75

WORK FORCE PARTICIPATION

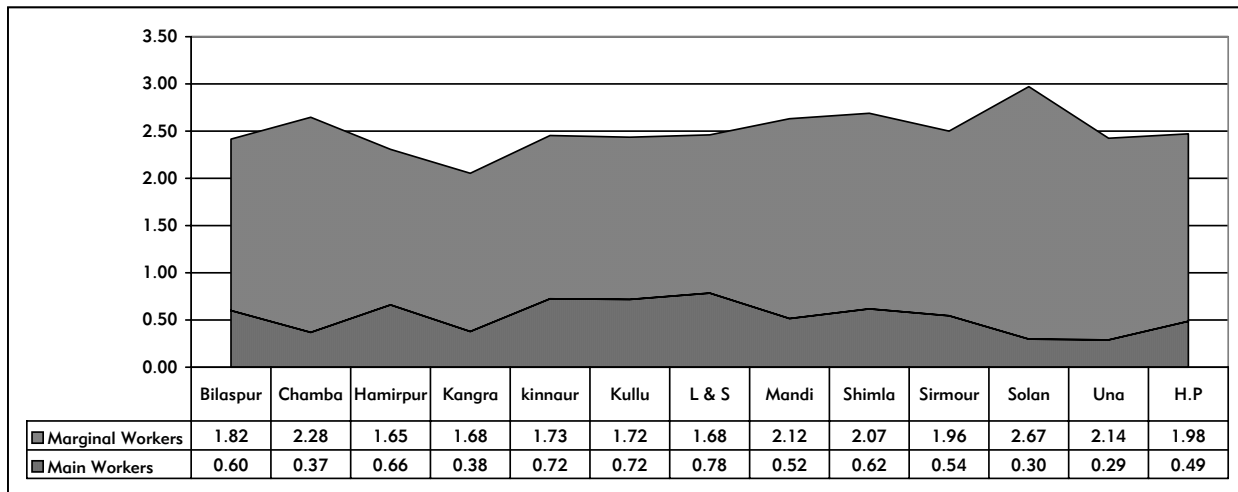
Human Development is viewed as composite of indices, namely economic empowerment, health and educational status. Women economic empowerment, their participation in the work is an important component towards measuring the Gender equality or inequality. Since per capita income continues to be important indicator of economic well being, the data constraints make it unable to estimate the per capita income of women in the state, another data gap if looked at from the gender perspective. Further a large number of women work in the farms, agricultural lands and their own orchards, where their wages are not measurable in absence of time use surveys or economic estimations in the state. Nevertheless the workforce numbers indicate the increasing healthy trend of increased female participation in the workforce. There has been gradual increase in the proportion of women to the total workforce and gender disparity has reduced over the decades. While in 1981, females made up the 37.07 percent of total work force, in 1991 and 2001 this proportion has increased to 40.15% & 43.66 percent respectively.

Gender Disparity in terms of the share of Females in Total Workforce





In terms of absolute work participation, there is less gender disparity all across the state, In terms of gender disparity district Hamirpur has maximum gender parity among all the districts, while Una which had maximum gender disparity, the situation has improved over the decade. However further analysis reveals that data masks the inequalities in a big way. Looking at the proportion of main workers to the marginal workers, it comes out that most of women are marginal workers. Which implies that women are engaged in less productive and infrequent employment.



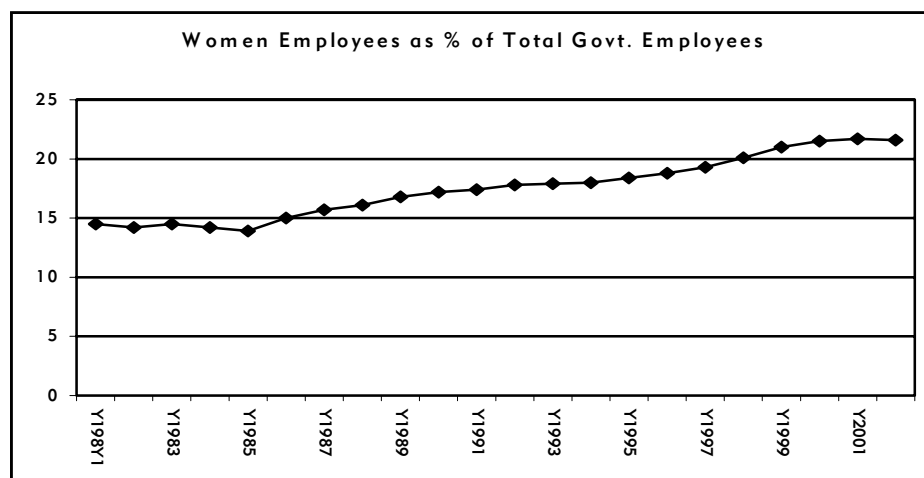
PROPORTION OF MARGINAL WORKERS TO THE MAIN WORKERS

As it is clearly evident, the marginal workers form the majority of female workforce in the state. It signifies that though the participation in the workforce has increased, yet it is below par and females need leveraged field and more opportunities. Further if growth rates of main and marginal workers are analyzed by sex, it is again evident that in the two decades spanning 1981-2001, the compound growth for females has been more for the marginal worker category than the main worker category. While for the females, the compound growth for the main worker category stood at 2.36, for the marginal category compound growth is witnessed to be 4.55 percent. However, the same trend has been observed for the males too, though their compound growth rate has been less than females, as evident in overall increase in workforce participation by females. The only district, which witnessed the decline in the female participation in the workforce is Lahaul & Spiti. Overall compound growth rate for the state is 3.38 percent.

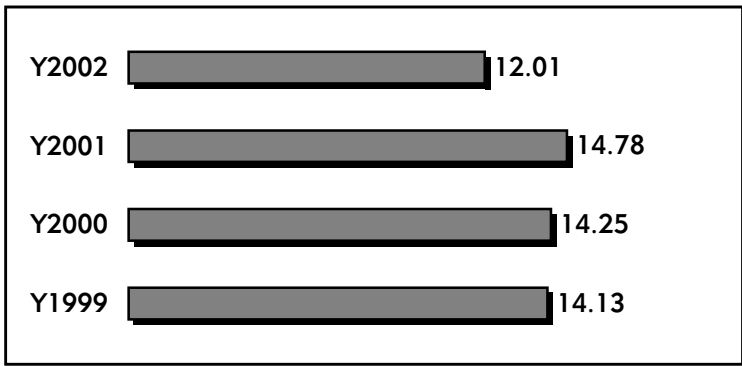
District	Bilaspur	Chamba	Hamirpur	Kangra	Kinnaur	Kullu
Growth Rate	3.08	3.07	3.25	4.55	1.65	3.14
District	L&S	Mandi	Shimla	Sirmaur	Solan	Una
Growth Rate	-0.08	2.58	1.93	3.65	4.16	8.3

Compound Growth Rate of female Workforce in Himachal 1981-2001

Source : Himachal Pradesh Human Development Report



Females constitute 49.23 percent of total population of the state, and despite their representation in total workforce is favorable and have shown the healthy compound growth rates which are higher than their male counterparts, their participation in the government jobs is mere 17.2 percent of total government workforce, and have remain more or less static over the years. Further in addition to this, the total number of female gazetted employees have decreased over the years as total proportion to total gazetted employees in the state. This implies lesser participation in the policy making and administrable jobs.



% OF FEMALE GAZETTED EMPLOYEES TO THE TOTAL GAZETTED EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE

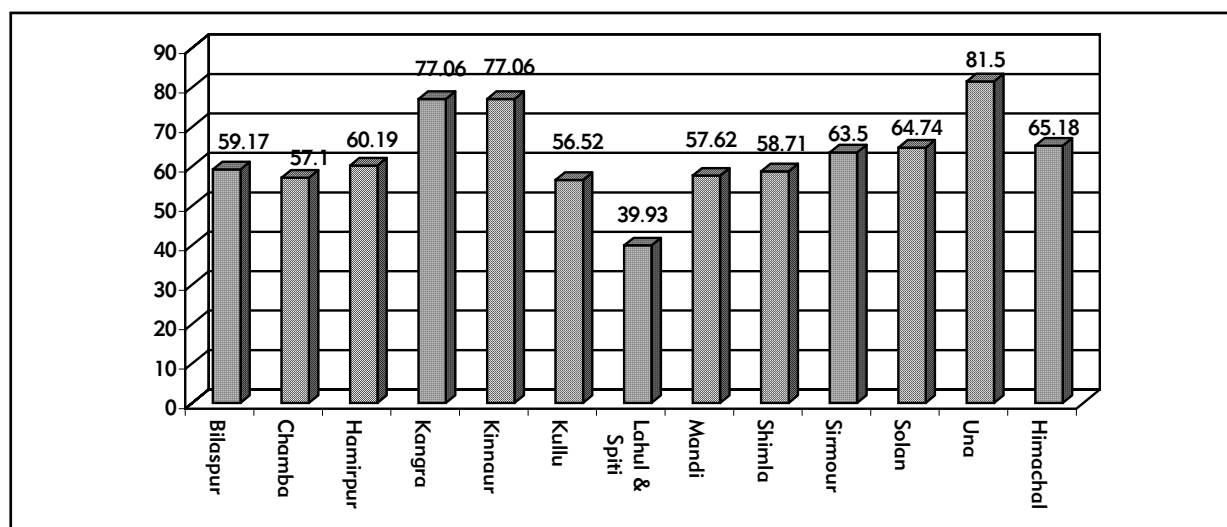
Labour force participants and Labour force participation rate (LFPR) in the state has been 74.39 percent, in the age group of 15-29 years. Labour Force Participation rate for the men is 87.58 percent for males and 59.44 percent for females.

District	Bilaspur	Chamba	Hamirpur	Kangra	Kinnaur	Kullu
Growth Rate	67.09	69.27	64.04	64.04	70.88	67.41
District	L&S	Mandi	Shimla	Solan	Una	Sirmaur
Growth Rate	87.57	68.73	64.54	56.91	29.58	59.14

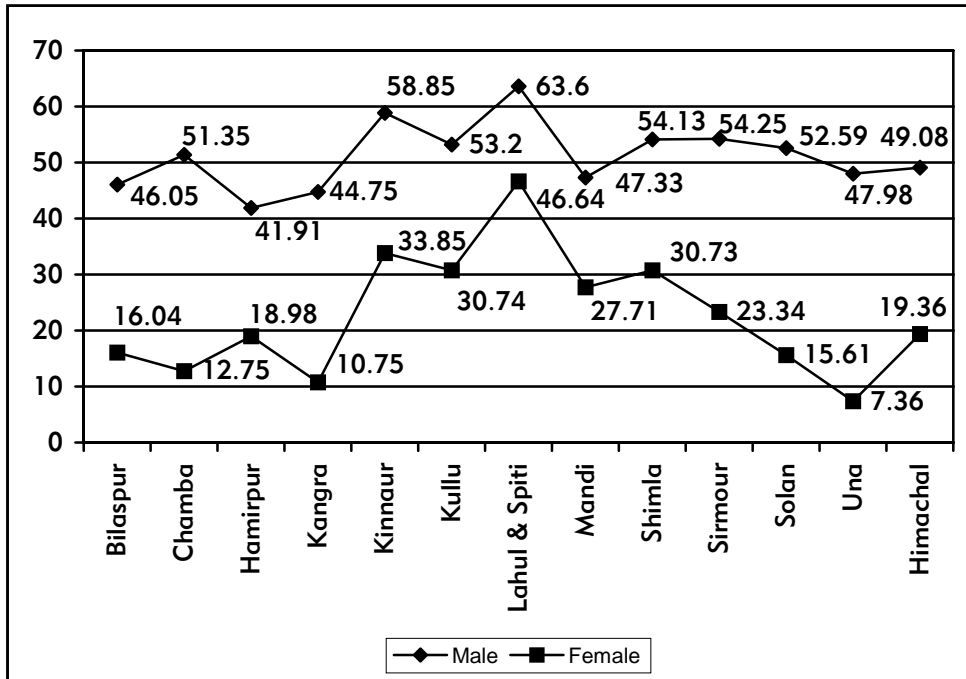
Labor Force Participation Rates for Females-District Wise Source Census 1991

Lahaul and Spiti District has highest labour force participation rate, and is the district, which did witness the decrease in workforce participation over the decades. This suggests that it may be due to lack of employment opportunities in the region that the work force participation has decreased than any other factor. While Una has lowest LFPR, and had recorded maximum compound annual growth rate in workforce participation for females.

Gender Profile of Non-Workers Females as percentage of total Female Population-Adapted from State Human Development Report-2002



Adapted from State Human Development Report-2002



PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Women participation in politics is an important step towards social equality, economic development of any society. Hitherto women have been denied equality of status and opportunities in the social, economic and political spheres. Despite constituting more than half of the country's population, women have remained marginal to the democratic process. Women have been remained inadequately represented in various policy and decision-making bodies at various levels, which so vitally influence their lives. Perhaps the main reasons for this deep-rooted gender baise is social attitudes and practices and lack of organization to voice their concern.

The continued low level non-representation of women in the democratic institutions was called for affirmative action at the highest levels. The enactment of the 73rd constitutional amendment in 1993, which clearly mandates 33.3 % reservation of seats for them in the local bodies, has brought about a radical change and women participation and representation at the grass root level has increased considerably. This landmark constitutional amendment has paved the way for women finding a prominent place among the Panchayat representatives. Reservation of seats at the grass root level i.e. Gram Panchayats has opened a new era of opportunities for the women, previously only the women hailing from privileged sections of the society had the chance to participate in the decision making processes. The 73rd constitutional amendment has proved to be a boon for women especially the rural women enabling them to contribute in their own way to the society, thus enabling them to think beyond their home and hearth.

Role and Participation level of Women in the PRIs in Himachal Pradesh

Prior to the enactment of the 73rd constitutional amendment, Himachal Pradesh had introduced reservation for women in the Panchayat elections held in the year 1992. The percentage of reservations however varied in different Panchayats, depending upon the total number of members in each Panchayat. For a Panchayat, which had 5 members, one seat was reserved for 5 members, 2 for 7 and 3 for more than 7-members.

Provisions of reservation for women in PRIs under the H.P. Panchayati Raj Act 1994

- One third of the seat are reserved for women (including that of SC, and ST) in all the three tier of Panchayati Raj institutions. These seats will be allotted by rotation to different constituencies of a Panchayat.

- Seat are reserved for Sc and St in proportion to their population in a particular area .One third of these seats are also reserved for women belonging to SC, ST community.
- One-third seats of the total number of seats for the offices of chairpersons at each level were reserved for women.
- Seat are also reserved for Backward Classes in proportion to their population in a particular area. One third of these seats are reserved for women.
- Up–gram sabha will nominate 15% of the families to participate in gram sabha in which 33% should be women.

In Himachal Pradesh there are total 3037-Gram Panchayats, 75 Panchayat Samities and 12 Zila Parishads. Out of this total number of 8478 seats are reserved for women in all the there tiers of PRI, including Chairpersons as well the members belonging to Sc, St and BC.

	SC	ST	BC	General	Total	
G.P chair person	270	66	75	615	1016	G.P level
G.P Member	1993	337	—	4452	6782	G.P level
P.S chair person	07	03	02	15	27	P.S level
P.S Member	155	35	42	330	562	P.S level
Z.P chair Person	01	01	01	01	04	Z.P level
Z.P member	24	07	08	48	87	Z.P level

A study carried out by NGO shows the general profile of elected women representatives:

Age:

- Average age at Gram Panchayat level is 38
- Average age at Panchayat Samiti and Zila parishad level is 32

Education:

- 16% of the women representatives are illiterate
- 22% have studied up to primary level
- 20%upto high school
- 30% up to 10+2 & above

Occupation

- 77% of the women representatives come from a agricultural background
- 19% are housewives
- 4% are running /managing family business

Marital Status

- 93% are married
- 2% are unmarried
- 5% are widows

However, decision to contest, still in majority of cases is due to reservation criteria and because the decision is being taken by others on their behalf.

S.No.	Decision Taken by	%
01	Self	19
02	Husband	07
03	Other male relative	04
04	Community	50
05	Self and husband	03
06	Husband and Community	03
07	Self, husband &Community	05

Reservation of seats for members of Gram Panchayats in 1995

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	946	170	93	13	6	0	0	205
Chamba	1526	242	76	311	174	0	0	292
Hamirpur	1325	228	80	0	0	0	0	329
Kangra	4354	759	253	0	0	0	0	1058
Kinnaur	350	70	48	153	79	0	0	0
Kullu	1107	331	105	30	2	0	0	237
L&S	205	19	5	115	66	0	0	0
Mandi	2582	529	243	29	1	0	0	582
Shimla	1970	581	197	5	0	0	0	423
Sirmaur	1311	276	146	10	6	0	0	308
Solan	1240	404	209	6	2	0	0	293
Una	1349	215	86	0	0	0	0	409
Grand Total	18265	3824	1541	672	336	0	0	4136

The above table clearly depicts that in the 1995 elections for the three tiers of the PRIs, there were 18265 seats in total, out of which 1541 seats were reserved for Scheduled caste women which accounts for 8.43% of the total seats for the members of the Gram Panchayats .In the Scheduled tribe category 336 seats were reserved for women, which represented 1.83% of the total seats, besides this 4136 seats were reserved for the General women which accounted for 22.6% of the total seats of members throughout the state. Thus total seats reserved for women in the elections of members of Gram Panchayat were 6013,which accounts for 32.92 of the total seats.

Reservation for Chairpersons of Gram Panchayats in 1995

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	130	22	12	0	0	0	0	31
Chamba	264	36	17	58	28	0	0	42
Hamirpur	209	34	16	0	0	0	0	53
Kangra	708	104	53	0	0	0	0	183
Kinnaur	62	10	6	31	15	0	0	0
Kullu	181	35	19	2	1	0	0	40
L&S	41	3	0	27	11	0	0	0
Mandi	382	74	37	0	0	0	0	90
Shimla	316	60	30	0	0	0	0	76
Sirmaur	217	48	23	2	1	0	0	47
Solan	195	43	23	0	0	0	0	44
Una	217	34	16	0	0	0	0	56
Grand Total	2922	503	252	120	56	0	0	662

The above table shows that for the post of Chairpersons of Gram Panchayats out of total 2922 posts 662 were reserved for women from the general category, whereas 252 were reserved for women from scheduled caste category and 56 posts of chairpersons of Gram Panchayats were reserved for the women from scheduled caste category. It was for the first time that women were provided with a opportunity of this large scale in these institutions of democracy, thus paving way for their participation in policy and decision making at the grass root level.

Reservation for members of Panchayat Samiti in 1995

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	93	16	8	0	0	0	0	23
Chamba	135	16	9	33	16	0	0	21
Hamirpur	119	18	10	0	0	0	0	30
Kangra	372	53	27	0	0	0	0	98
Kinnaur	45	12	4	18	11	0	0	0
Kullu	98	20	10	1	1	0	0	22
L&S	30	2	0	20	8	0	0	0
Mandi	241	48	24	0	0	0	0	57
Shimla	179	30	17	0	0	0	0	43
Sirmaur	119	26	12	2	0	0	0	28
Solan	114	21	14	0	0	0	0	25
Una	116	18	9	0	0	0	0	31
Grand Total	1661	280	144	74	36	0	0	378

The table provides a picture of the participation of women in the Panchayat Samitis. Out of the total 1661 seats 144 were reserved for scheduled caste women, providing them a share of 8.66% of the total members of the Panchayat Samiti members in the state. District of Lahul and Spiti had no seats reserved for women from scheduled castes whereas district Mandi accounted for the highest representation under this category. There were 36 seats reserved for women from the scheduled tribes which accounts for 2.16% of the total seats and 378 seats were reserved for general women, which accounts for 22.7% of the total seats.

Reservation for the post of Chairperson at Panchayat Samiti in 1995

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women
		General	Women	General	Women	General	Women	
Bilaspur	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chamba	7	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Hamirpur	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kangra	13	2	1	0	0	0	0	3

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women
		General	Women	General	Women	General	Women	
Kinnaur	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Kullu	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
L&S	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Mandi	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Shimla	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Sirmour	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Solan	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Una	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	72	14	6	3	3	0	0	14

The above given table explicitly shows that out of the total 72 seats for the post of Chairpersons of Panchayat Samiti in the state 6 were reserved for women from the scheduled caste women, 3 for women from the scheduled caste and 14 for women from general category.

Reservation for the members of Zila Parishad in 1995 elections

State	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		General Women
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
H.P	252	46	20	14	7	0	0	57

Out of 252 seats for the members of Zila Parishad 20 were reserved for women from scheduled caste, 7 for scheduled caste category and 57 for women from general category.

Reservation for the post of Chairpersons of Zila Parishad in 1995 elections

State	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		General Women
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
H.P	12	2	1	1	1	0	0	2

Out of 12 seats for the posts of Zila Parishad 1 seat each was reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women, whereas 2 seats were reserved for women from general category. Thus 33.33% reservation was provided to women in the Zila Parishads throughout the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Reservation trends in 2000

Reservation for the members of Gram Panchayats in 2000 elections

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		General Women
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	962	115	139	12	12	0	0	230
Chamba	1544	221	72	286	177	0	0	316
Hamirpur	1333	213	106	0	0	0	0	338
Kangra	4432	777	256	0	0	0	0	1080
Kinnaur	350	70	36	152	92	0	0	0
Kullu	1136	151	193	28	3	0	0	262
L&S	205	1	23	122	59	0	0	0
Mandi	2692	354	444	2	21	0	0	780
Shimla	1981	255	336	0	5	0	0	466
Sirmour	1317	272	142	10	6	0	0	304
Solan	1242	261	159	5	2	0	0	265
Una	1355	215	87	0	0	0	0	411
Grand Total	18549	2905	1993	617	377	0	0	4452

The table above shows that out of 18549 seats for the members of Gram Panchayats 10.74% of the total were reserved for scheduled caste women, 2.03% for the schedule tribe and 24% for general category women 24% seats were reserved.

Reservation for the post of Chairpersons of Gram Panchayats in 2000 elections

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	136	22	13	3	2	0	0	31
Chamba	270	36	18	60	29	3	1	42
Hamirpur	215	33	18	0	0	13	8	46
Kangra	732	107	53	0	0	73	36	154
Kinnaur	62	0	0	41	21	0	0	0
Kullu	192	37	21	2	1	0	0	44

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
L&S	41	1	2	26	12	0	0	0
Mandi	422	79	47	0	0	7	4	97
Shimla	331	60	36	0	0	7	6	71
Sirmour	219	48	23	1	1	14	7	42
Solan	198	44	23	0	0	6	3	41
Una	219	34	16	0	0	21	10	47
Grand Total	3037	501	270	133	66	144	75	615

The table above shows that out 3037 total seats 8.89% seats were reserved for scheduled caste women, 2.17% for Scheduled tribe women, 2.46% for backward class women and 20.2% for Men women were reserved for the post of chairperson of Gram Panchayats.

Reservation for the members of Panchayat Samiti in 2000 Elections

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	93	16	8	0	0	1	2	21
Chamba	135	16	9	34	16	1	1	20
Hamirpur	125	25	11	0	0	9	3	25
Kangra	372	54	27	0	0	38	18	80
Kinnaur	45	8	5	22	10	0	0	0
Kullu	98	20	10	1	1	0	0	22
L&S	30	0	2	20	8	0	0	0
Mandi	241	45	28	0	0	2	3	56
Shimla	171	30	20	0	0	1	4	35
Sirmaur	119	26	12	1	0	8	5	23
Solan	114	26	13	0	0	4	2	23
Una	115	16	10	0	0	12	4	25
Grand Total	1658	282	155	78	35	76	42	330

Out of 1658 seats for members of Panchayat Samiti 155 were reserved for scheduled caste women, 35 for scheduled tribe women, 42 for backward class women and 330 for women

Reservation for the post of Chairpersons of Panchayat Samitis in 2000 elections

District	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women From General Category
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Bilaspur	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chamba	7	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Hamirpur	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Kangra	14	2	1	0	0	1	1	3
Kinnaur	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Kullu	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
L&S	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Mandi	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Shimla	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Sirmour	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Solan	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Una	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Grand Total	75	12	7	4	3	3	2	15

Out of 75 seats for the post of Chairpersons of Panchayat Samitis 7 accounting for 9.33%, 3 accounting for 3.9 % of the total seats. For women from backward class 2 seats accounting for 2.6% of the total were reserved. Women from Men category had 15 seats reserved for them, which accounts for 19.9 % of the total seats.

Reservation for the members of Zila Parishad in 2000 Elections

State	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Women
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
H.P	251	41	24	14	7	11	8	48

Out of the 251 seats for the members of the Zila Parishad 9.56% were reserved for scheduled caste women, 2.7% for scheduled tribe women, 3.18% for backward class women and 19.12% for Men women.

Reservation for the post of Chairpersons of Zila parishad in 2000 elections

State	Total seats	Scheduled caste		Scheduled tribe		Backward Class		Men
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Women
H.P	12	2	1	1	1	0	1	1

For the posts of Chairpersons of the Zila Parishads 4 seats were reserved for women

(Reservation of seats for SC women needs to be compared with SC population percentages to the total population. Women getting elected to the post of Up-Pradhan needs to be included)

Comparative analysis of participation of women between 1995 and 2000 elections to these bodies

It is noted that the participation of women under various categories has shown a marginal increase. Scheduled caste women share for the seats in the Gram Panchayats has gone up from 8.4% in 1995 to 10.74% in the 2000 round of PRI elections. However schedule tribe women and main women category have also registered a miniscule growth of 0.17% and 1.4% respectively.

For the post of chairpersons of Gram Panchayats women from main category have registered decline of 2.4%. Women from scheduled caste and scheduled tribe have registered negligible growth of .2% and 0.26% respectively as compared to the 1995 round of PRI elections.

In the Panchayat Samitis as compared to the 1995 elections, the 2000 elections have shown that reservation for the scheduled tribe women has increased, but for scheduled caste women it has decreased. In the 2000 PRI elections, seats were reserved for the backward class category and accordingly 2.53% of the total seats for the members of the Panchayat Samiti were reserved for women from backward class.

For the chairpersons of the Panchayat Samitis, the number of the seats increased to 75, and the reserved seats for scheduled caste women increased by a single seat, the no of reserved seats for the scheduled tribe remained the same, whereas backward class women had 2 seats reserved.

In the Zila Parishads the share of the scheduled caste women rose by 4 seats with the number of reserved seats for them being increased from 20 to 24, the share of scheduled tribe women remained the same, with their share remaining at 7 seats out of the total 252 seats. There was no reservation for the backward class during the 1995 elections, but for the 2000 elections 8 seats were reserved for women from this category.

From the above trends it is clear that women have been facilitated increasingly and are encouraged to be active participants by ensuring their participation in all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj. The most significant outcome is the representation ensured to the women from the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and backward class, thus ensuring representation and participation to women from the marginalized sections of the society. Providing legislative sanction to ensure participation women in the

decision making process has paved way for a more decisive and important role for the women, who had all along been denied any role in the decision making process.

However the majority of the women representatives lack the necessary exposure and especially those who have been elected for the first time are not fully conversant with the rules and the various guidelines, powers and functions. External facilitation through training programmes by NGOs & government can play a crucial catalytic role in realizing optimum utilization of their qualities.

Some positive out comes of the increasing association of women in the PRIs have been

- 80% of the quorum is fulfilled in gram Panchayat meetings
- Majorities of women representatives use to attend G.P meeting regularly.
- They raised issues related to income & expenditure and development work other socio-economic issues
- Most of the women representatives have been elected for the first time. Lack of exposure has resulted in lack of awareness, knowledge and skills as well as self confidence (especially women ward members)
- 33% of the women representatives belong to families with prior or present political association.
- There is still a lot of dependency regarding official matter on the male guardian or up-pradhan.

Participation in Gram sabha :-

- Hardly any representation of women in gram sabha meeting.
- Wherever women attended the gram sabha meeting, they used to raise issue related to their day to day life.
- In many cases due to the intervention of N.G.Os women are started coming to the G.S meeting.

Women elected representatives as leader :-

- In the case of Himachal Pradesh women are more active in the affairs of PRI. They try to shoulder responsibilities and able to exercise their powers to a large extent.
- Secondly as far as the accountability and transparency is concerned, women have really proved themselves the women of substance.

Hindrances :-

Nevertheless issues remain, while women have been influencing and making positive strides in all the three tiers of the PRIs, majority of them also encounter some common hindrances.

- Family acted as both hindering as well as enabling factors. In most of the cases it has been found that women representatives are able to exercise their power but due to family interference

especially by the spouse and other male members of the family they could not able to effectively exercise their powers as elected representatives.

- Apathetic and indifferent attitude of Govt officials towards women elected representatives;
- Nexus between Panchayat secretary and the ex-male pradhan/Up-pradhan
- Social taboos like caste, class, *purdah*, male domination etc.
- Poor exposure to the out side world.
- Lack of education, information and access to media limits their performance.

However, NGOs intervention in capacity building, Economic empowerment, Orientation & training by the Government, Providing moral support to women representatives by the family & community and governments commitment at policy level shall go A long way for the women representatives to be more effective.

There is Need to change the attitude of the male representatives as well as Government officials. And building their skills to develop skills to be more affirmative in taking right decision & greater devolution of power especially for ward members. Specific role and responsibilities should be given to them.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

There are 68 constituencies in the state legislative assembly of Himachal Pradesh, spread over an area of 55673 sq kilometers. District wise break up of the assembly constituencies and constituencies reserved for SC/ST.

Number of constituencies			
General	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Total
49	16	3	68

Out of the 68 constituencies 16 are reserved for Scheduled caste and 3 are reserved for scheduled tribes.

Presently out of 68 seats in the state assembly only 4 are held by women depicting, a very low level of representation of women in the highest elected body of the state and with little bargaining power because of small representation in the political process. only one woman from a total of 68 legislators holds a ministerial portfolio, further demonstrating the low level of representation of women in the state assembly.

To ensure due and adequate representation to women legislative sanction for reserving a minimum of 33% seats in the state assembly is necessary to ensure a rightful place for women in the highest decision making body in the state.

Report of Vidhan Sabha Elections from 1977 onwards

Years	No. of Seats	No. of Electors	
		Female	Total
2003	68	2019973	4101093
1998	68	1801571	3628864
1993	68	1624429	3267725
1990	68	1511087	3058394
1985	68	1183713	2356932

Years	No. of Seats	No. of Electors	
		Female	Total
1982	68	1109961	2211524
1977	68	969744	1997405

Over the years, more women have exercised their right to vote and choose the government of their choice for the governance. In the current elections, female voters turnout was more than their male counterparts. It is significant indicator to judge the women awareness and desire to be a part of decision making process. However number of women candidates is abysmally low, and even lower is their winning ratio.

No. of contestants

Male	Female	Total	Successful female candidates
77	31	108	4
344	25	369	6
399	17	416	3
436	18	454	4
284	10	294	3
432	9	441	3
321	9	330	1

The political parties have to make sure that they give adequate representation to the women, while deciding about the electoral candidates.

Year wise voter turnout has shown that they have outnumbered their male counterparts in exercising their voting rights and the political parties have to take cognizance of this and create policies that have gender in the center of framework.

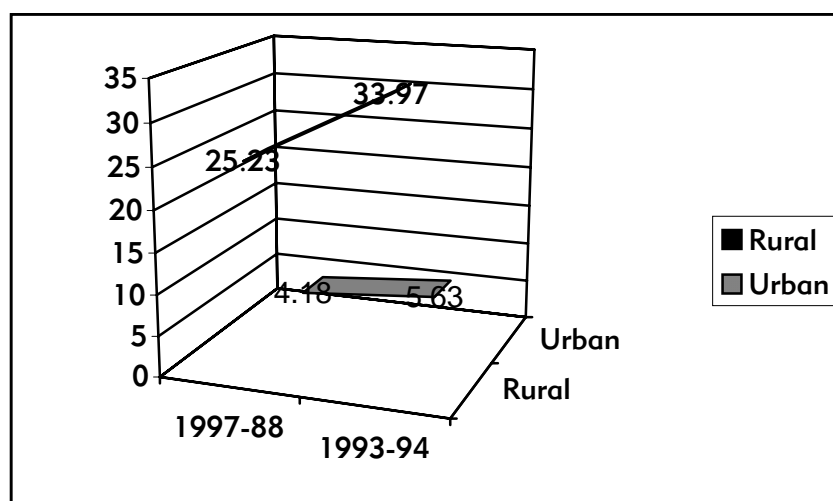
Voter turnout				Poll %age
Year	Male	Female	Total	
2003	1522140	1533570	3055710	74.51
1998	1283473	1301315	2584788	71.23
1993	1186657	1156886	2343543	71.72
1990	1075078	996803	2071881	67.74
1985	843623	814803	1658426	70.36
1982	807311	764263	1571574	71.06
1977	638849	531045	1169894	58.57

Comparing the participation of women in PRIs Vis a vis the Legislative assembly it can be safely deduced that legislative sanction mandating 33% reservation for women in the PRIs has paved way for active and adequate participation for women in these bodies. It seems that a similar kind of constitutional amendment to ensure adequate representation for women in the state assembly is the need of the hour. Adequate representation to women at the lower levels of decision-making is rendered useless since they have a inadequate representation at the highest levels

SITUATION OF POVERTY IN THE STATE

Evidence shows that incidence of poverty has increased in the state, till 93-94, and has shown signs of slight reduction in income inequality afterwards for year 2001. And it is estimated on the basis of per capita monthly consumption & expenditure & Heads count ratio.

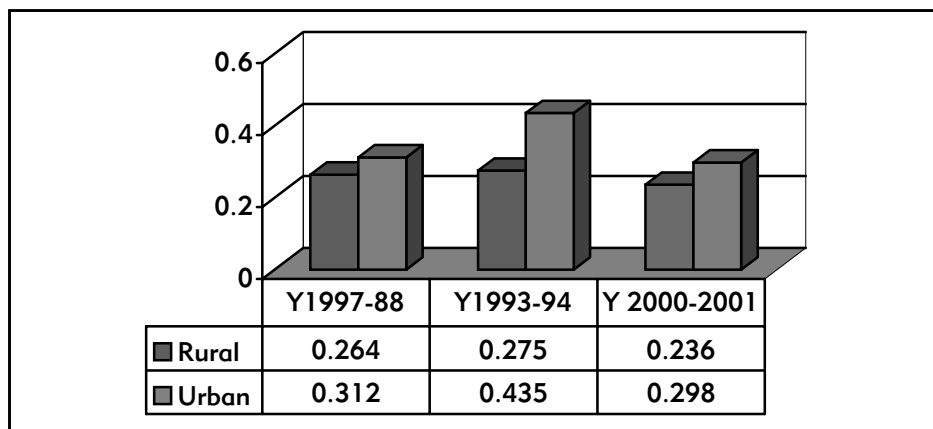
Increase in Heads Count ratio on the basis of official poverty line



Source : Department of Statistics-Government of India

The increase in poverty has been more pronounced for the rural areas than the urban ones. Head count ratio, calculated by NSSO on the basis of official poverty line show increase from 4.18 to 5.61 for urban areas, while for rural areas, the increase in head count ratio is more pronounced from 25.23 to 33.97.

However Gini ratio calculation suggests that though inequality did increase from 1981 to 1991, it has decreased from 1991 to 2001.



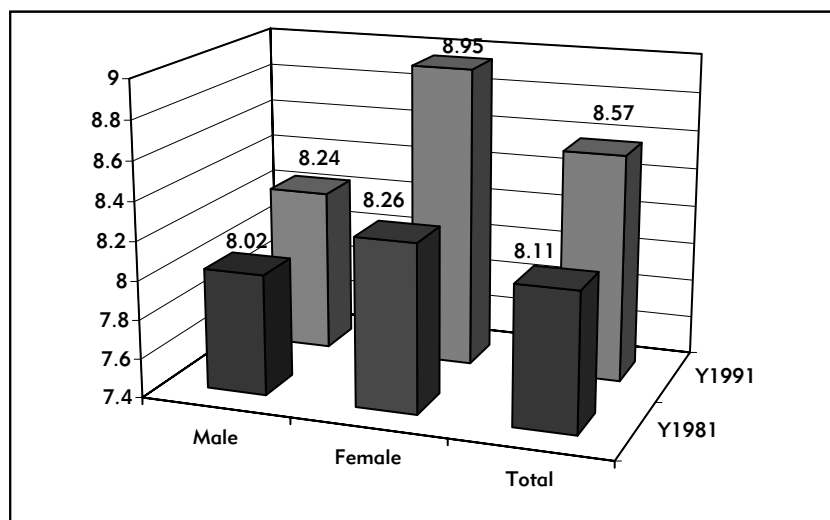
Source : NSS Rounds on Consumption Expenditure

Year	Himachal		India	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1997-88	0.264	0.312	0.298	0.33
1993-94	0.275	0.435	0.282	0.34
2000-2001	0.236	0.298	0.258	0.341

Gini Ratio for Himachal & India

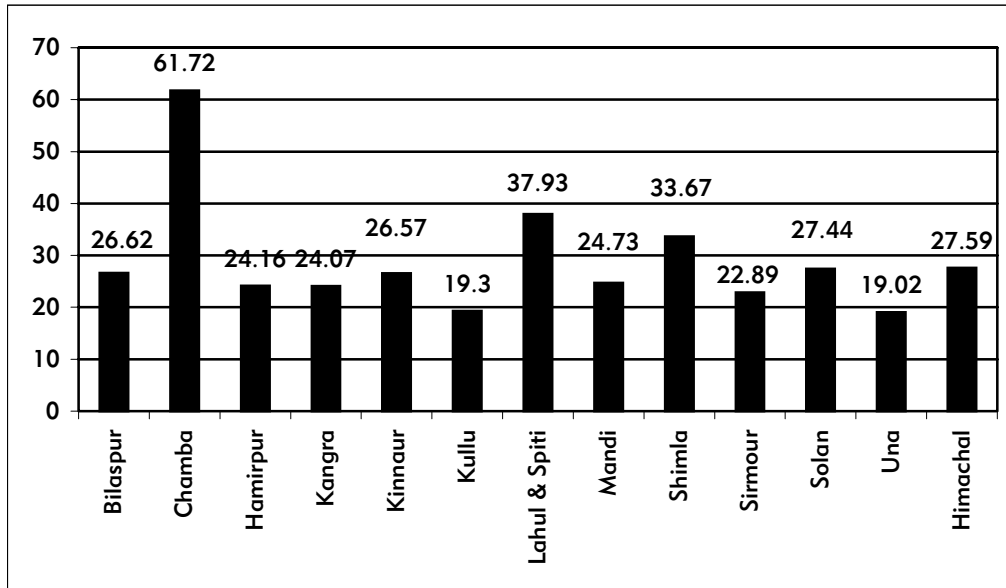
Further old age dependency ratio has increased in the state over the time, and has been more pronounced for females than males. Poverty in general affects women more than men, but increase in the old age dependency ratios more in comparison to males show that with time their situation worsens.

Increase in Old Age Dependency Ratio-Source National Human Development Report



However, the increase in old age dependency ratio on national level is much more pronounced than the state. Department of rural development estimates on poverty in the districts are generated through its survey that was conducted in year 1998-99, however they measured the rural poverty only. However some estimates on urban poverty are available with department of economics and statistics. In overall as per the estimates, 27.62 percent of families live below the poverty line. The poverty is maximum in Chamba district followed by Lahaul & Spiti.

Percentage of Families Living below Poverty Line In Himachal Pradesh Department of Rural Development Survey



Una has minimum number of families living below the poverty line. It is worthwhile to recall that in last decade, Una has experienced the maximum compound annual growth rate for females in work force participation and has minimum number of labour Force participation rate.

GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDICES & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

National human development report 2001, ranks number one in Gender equality, a very laudable and impressive achievement, for this small hilly state, which has invested heavily in education and health and results are showing up. Himachal Pradesh, though was ranked number four in the eighties, has made impressive gains over the last decade, as far as the human development report suggests. In estimating the index, the report has taken into account the proportion of female workforce to the total main workforce, which has improved significantly from 1980s to the present scenario. As advocated in the report, work population ration, in context of developing countries, is much more significant as it measures the direct empowerment of females in the society. National Human development report has taken three criteria for computing the Gender Equality Index:

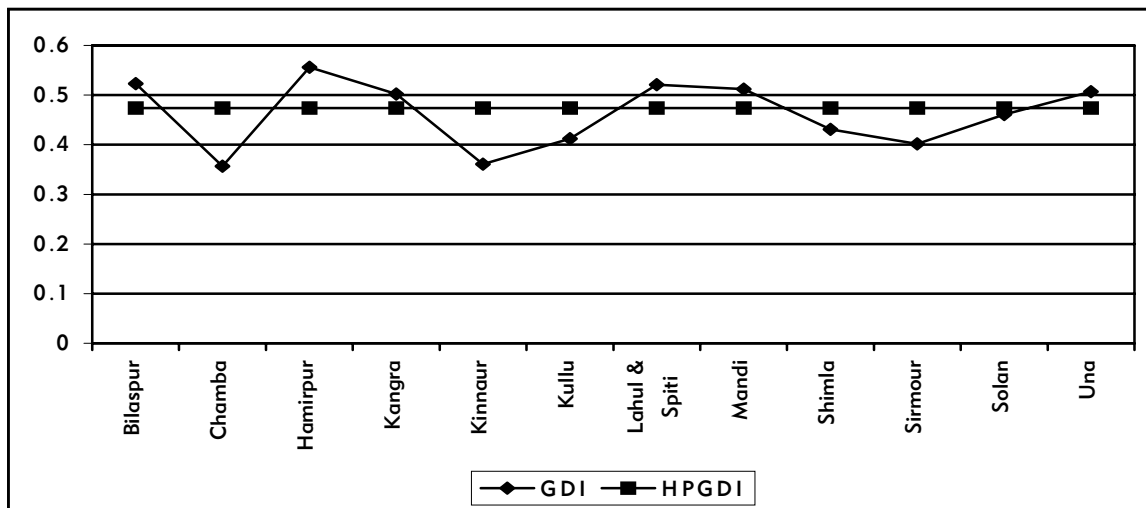
1. Longevity: Life expectancy at the age of 1 and Infant Mortality Rate
2. Education Attainment 7 + and intensity of formal education
3. Work Population Ratio

Human Development report ranks the urban population of Himachal Pradesh number 1 in Human Development Index-HDI, with score of .700, while the score for rural population is .442 with 12th rank, with overall score of .469, and 13th ranking. In Gender disparity index, which takes into account the command over resources, Himachal is ranked fourth. However, The Gender equality, as stated earlier, which considers the work force participation ranks Himachal number one. This all implies the favorable position, Himachal Pradesh occupies in the national scenario.

State Human Development Report 2002, for Himachal which looks at regional development and ranks the districts accordingly, also indicate the progress state has made and the areas which need more attention and regional imbalances.

In Gender Development Index scores, District Hamirpur tops the lists with highest score of .556, indicating highest gender equality region in the state. The GDI score for the state as a whole is .474.

Gender Development Indices for Himachal Pradesh-State Human Development Report



Districts that have lower gender development indices than the state average are Chamba, Kinnaur, Kullu, Sirmour and Solan. The gender development index has been created by compositing three individual indexes: Equally distributed income index, Equally distributed life Index and Equally Distributed Educational Attainment Index.

District Wise Ingredients of Gender Development Index:

If the individual attainments are looked at, one thing clearly is evident, that all districts have scored very low on the index created on the basis of equally distributed income. One thing is clear economic empowerment need to be scaled up before a clear economic empowerment of the women emerges.

District	Equally Distributed Income Index	Equally Distributed Life Index	Equally Distributed Educational Attainment Index
Bilaspur	0.167	0.663	0.739
Chamba	0.166	0.443	0.462
Hamirpur	0.171	0.701	0.796
Kangra	0.139	0.621	0.747
Kinnaur	0.162	0.298	0.622
Kullu	0.165	0.448	0.622
Lahul & Spiti	0.17	0.744	0.65
Mandi	0.17	0.674	0.692
Shimla	0.164	0.461	0.668

District	Equally Distributed Income Index	Equally Distributed Life Index	Equally Distributed Educational Attainment Index
Sirmour	0.157	0.503	0.545
Solan	0.156	0.568	0.659
Una	0.119	0.652	0.751

Sirmaur, Chamba and Kinnaur Districts have the lowest Gender Development Index. Chamba district has both the educational attainment and Health Index have shown poor performance. While Kinnaur district has performed worst on the life attainment index, pulling its overall Gender Development index to the 11th Rank. It highlights the need to do away with the regional inequalities and creation of policy level measures, which places proper emphasis on underserved and unserved areas on the basis of indicators rather than the official service reach figures.

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

The problem of violence against women is not new. Women in the Indian society have been victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation for as long as we have written records of social organization and family life. Today, women are being gradually recognized as important, powerful and meaningful contributors to the life of men; but till a few decades back, their condition was pitiable. Ideologies, institutional practices and the existing norms in society have contributed much to their harassment. Some of these behavioral practices thrive even today. In spite of the legislative measures adopted in favour of women in our society after independence, the spread of education and women's gradual economic independence, countless women still continue to be victims of violence. They are beaten, kidnapped, murdered, raped and burnt.

The cases of criminal violence against women can be obtained from the records compiled by the police department according to the figures {table-1} given by police department, the crime figures pertaining to various types of violence against women in Himachal Pradesh in the six years between 1991 to 2004 {up to 31.05.04} indicates that these crimes have been constantly increasing every year. Broadly speaking, every year about 125 rapes, 300 molestation, 100 kidnapping, 270 cases of cruelty to women, 33 cases of murder and few cases of dowry deaths take place.

TABLE-1

Sr. No.	Head of Crime	Registered crimes						
		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average	2004 (up to 31.05.04)
1	Murder	38	34	36	28	31	33	14
2	Culpable Homicide	3	2	1	-	-	1.2	-
3	Rape	109	129	124	137	126	125	60
4	Dowry Deaths	5	3	10	6	6	6	1
5	Kidnapping/Abduction	100	97	106	119	96	103.6	55
6	Molestation	295	284	315	347	250	298.2	98
7	Abetment To Commit Suicide	71	65	84	52	50	64.4	27

Sr. No.	Head of Crime	Registered crimes						
		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average	2004 (up to 31.05.04)
8	Cruelty To Women	258	304	326	234	221	268.6	89
9	Eve-Teasing	24	16	20	11	-	14.2	4
10	Chain Snatching	1	1	-	-	11	2.6	-
11	Dowry (Prohibition) Act	2	3	9	4	5	4.6	-
12	Immoral Traffic (P) Act	-	1	1	2	5	1.8	-
	Total	904	939	1032	920	801	919.2	348

Source : Department of Home, GOHP

In 1999, the numbers of different cases recorded were murder: 38; rape; 109; kidnapping and abduction: 100; molestation: 295; eve-teasing: 24; and cruelty to women 258. In 2002 rape cases increased to 137; kidnapping/abduction to 119; molestation to 347.

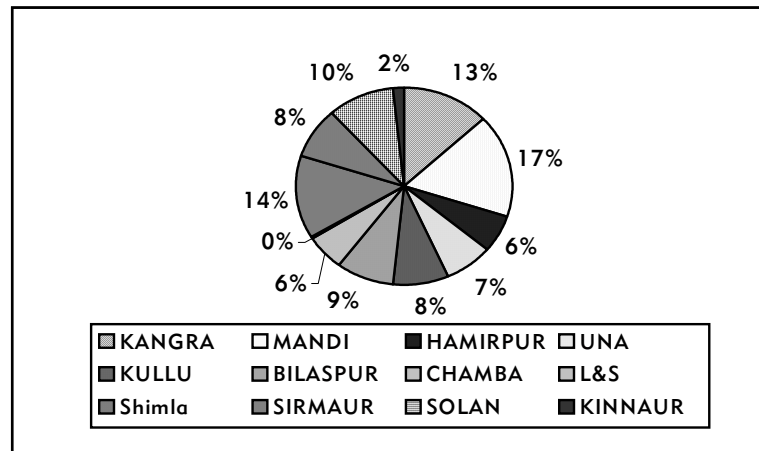
Of the total crime against women under IPC every year {about 900}, 4 percent are murder cases, 14 percent are rape cases, 11 percent are kidnapping/abduction, 32 percent molestation cases.

TABLE-2

Sl. No.	Year	Reported	Cancelled	Untraced	Pending Investigation	Convicted	Acquitted	Compromise	Pending In Court
1	1999	904	157	20	1	44	243	35	404
2	2000	939	138	17	20	37	155	26	546
3	2001	1032	147	18	72	19	71	11	694
4	2002	920	88	7	265	3	16	7	534
5	2003	801	104	8	60	10	39	14	566
	Average	919.2	126.8	14	83.6	22.6	104.8	18.6	548.8

The above Table -2 depicts the number of reported cases between 1999 to 2003. On an average about 900 cases are reported every year in the state under various categories of crime against women. Half of the reported cases are pending in the court due to lack of evidences.

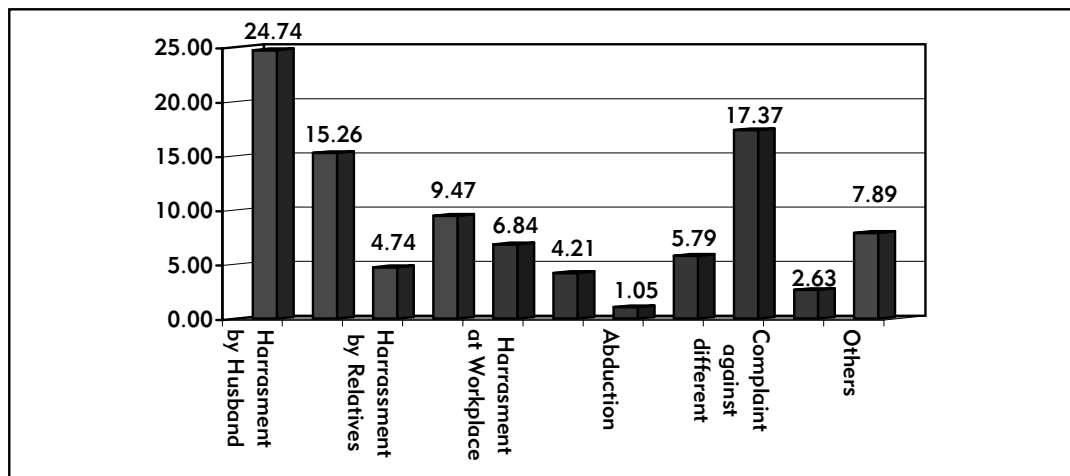
Percentage wise distribution of the crime committed against women districts from 1995 to 2003 in the year



The highest crime among districts in 2003 was reported in district Mandi (17%), followed by Shimla (14%), Kangra (13%), and Solan (10%). The least crime against women reported in the remote/tribal districts Kinnaur (2%) and Chamba (6%). While in Lahaul & Spiti, no crime was reported. But this is just a tip of an iceberg. Most of the cases are not reported and reported figures are underreported figures. However there are no studies in the state, which can point out the exact or estimated number of under reporting. But the media reports, common incidences of eve teasing, which are overlooked, sexual harassment at workplace, the concept which needs sensitization are the issues which need to be tackled.

Analysis of complaints handled by State women commission suggest that majority of cases do go unreported. Domestic violence is the major issue in the state. 44.74 percent of all the cases, reported to state women commission in 2000, were related to harassment of women by their husbands, in laws and relatives.

Nature of Complaints Handled by State Women Commission Analysis on year 2000 complaint data



Harrassment at workplace is another area, that needs attention, almost seven percent cases were related to harassment at workplace. It is very likely that this represents a very small proportion of number in terms of absolute figure, but the percentages, assuming the equal underreporting indicates the broad break up of crime that is perpetrated against women in the state.

DISTRICT WISE TOTAL CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN FROM 1995 TO 2003

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	TOTAL
KANGRA	160	153	174	169	163	174	186	129	104	1412
MANDI	140	157	152	127	127	170	168	151	137	1329
HAMIRPUR	57	51	40	55	65	59	71	67	48	513
UNA	41	50	41	58	49	49	63	46	60	513
KULLU	39	45	41	29	35	26	37	58	66	376
BILASPUR	71	82	67	62	60	117	114	88	69	730
CHAMBA	40	44	70	62	76	44	80	71	47	534
L&S	4	2	5	1	2	—	4	2	3	23
SHIMLA	116	119	116	111	135	122	123	122	109	1073
SIRMAUR	95	84	81	103	92	86	88	73	66	768
SOLAN	84	96	86	101	76	76	80	95	80	774
KINNAUR	36	23	19	14	18	15	16	21	14	176
TOTAL										8221

Figures for year 2003, till May 2003 are available.

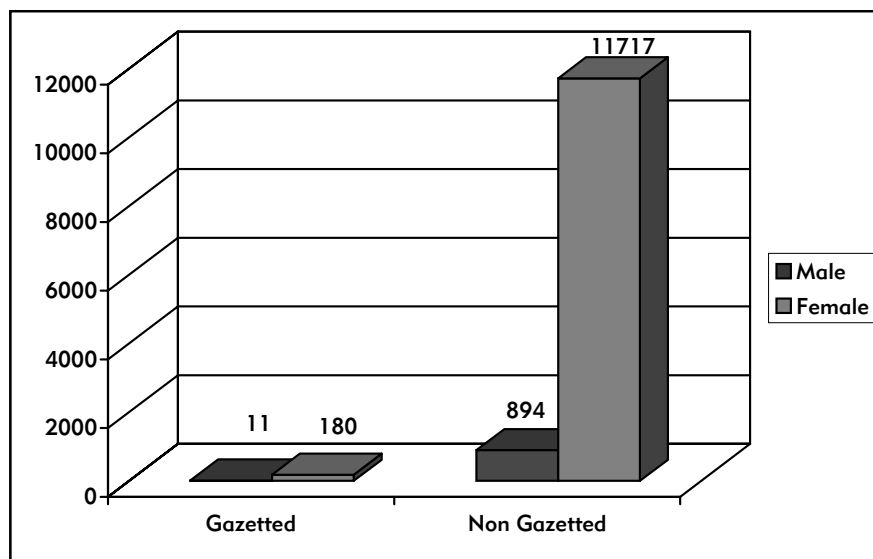
WOMEN IN UNIFORM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Personnel in uniform is often an occupation, which is associated with masculinity and exclusively male bastion. A study by Dr. Rekha Pande and Shri Subhash Joshi points out that police profession is associated with strength, action and danger. However study points out that:

- Patient and more kind and helpful with cool temperament.
- Better behaved and less corrupt and greater acceptability.
- Better empathy with women and weaker sections.
- Dependable, sincere and having determination.

In Himachal, there is no specific study on the women personnel in uniform, that can highlight the gender bias or achievements and recommended line of action.

Female Police Employee vs Male Police Employee



Source : Department of Economics & Statistics

There are 11 gazetted female employees as compared to 180 men, 5.5 percent of total gazetted employee population. And females make up .07 percent of total police workforce a number almost negligible.

STATUS OF WOMEN CRIMINALS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

There is very low incidence of crimes perpetrated by women in the state, as per the official records. There are just 36 female prisoners in the state. Out of which the 30 are under trial and 6 convicted.

STATE	NUMBER OF JAILS				CAPACITY			
	C. J	D. J	S. J	TOTAL	C. J	D.J	S. J	TOTAL
HIMACHAL PRADESH	2	2	7	11	526	156	196	878

CJ = Central Jail

DJ = District Jail

SJ = Sub Jail

FEMALES (CONVICTED AND UNDERTRIALS)		
CONVICTED	UNDERTRIALS	TOTAL
6	30	36

SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE OF WOMEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPTT OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. WOMEN'S WELFARE:-

In Himachal Pradesh various programmes and schemes has been implemented by the state government with the help of central government for the upliftment/welfare/empowerment of women in the state. Some of the schemes/programmes are as under:-

(a) Self Employment Programme for women:

Under the self employment programme women are identified on the basis of their annual income. In other words those women are provided Rs.2500 for carrying income generating activities whose annual income is less than Rs. 7500.

Rs. In lakh

BUDGET PROVISION FOR 2003-04	EXPENDITURE IN 2003-04	PHYSICAL TARGET	PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS
3.00	2.875	120	115

(b) Marriage Grant to Destitute Girls:-

The government of Himachal Pradesh providing marriage grant up to Rs.2500 to the Parents/guardians of the girl or to the girl herself whose annual income does not exceed Rs.7500

Rs. In lakh

BUDGET PROVISION FOR 2003-04	EXPENDITURE	PHYSICAL TARGET	PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS
26.75	24.725	1070	989

(c) Working Women Hostels:

In the state there is 13 working women hostels constructed by the Social Justice & Empowerment Department. These hostels were constructed by various voluntary Organizations with the help of grant-in-aid @ 75% from government of India and 25% from the state government. During the year 2003-04 Rs. 35.65 lakhs wee spent on the construction/ maintenance of these hostels.

(d) State Homes:

For destitute and deserted women, women ex-prisoners, victims of sexual abuse and crimes, including those trafficked and rescued from brothels, migrant or refugee women who have been rendered homeless due to natural calamities like flood, cyclone, earthquake, mentally challenged women, women victims of terrorist violence etc. State Homes at Chamba, Mandi and Mashobra {Shimla} are being run by the Social Justice & Empowerment Department. The inmates of these state homes are provided free boarding and lodging facilities and training in craft, tailoring and embroidery etc. for the rehabilitation of such women after leaving state Homes financial assistance up to Rs. 6000/- per women is also provided.

Rs. In lakh

BUDGET PROVISION FOR 2003-04	EXPENDITURE
37.10	37.23

2. PENSION SCHEME:

(A) Deserted/Widow Pension:

Widow Pension is provided @ Rs, 200 per month by the government to those widows/deserted ladies irrespective of their age, whose annual income does not exceed Rs.6000/- per annum. the income of earning sons should not exceed Rs.11000 per annum. Presently government of Himachal Pradesh providing widow pension to total 56762 ladies.

Rs. In lakh

BUDGET PROVISION FOR 2003-04	EXPENDITURE	PHYSICAL TARGET	PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS
1029.17	1184.97	45025	56314

3. CHILD WELFARE:-

(a) BAL/BALIKA ASHRAMS:-

For the welfare of children especially orphans, semi orphans and destitute children the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is providing grant-in-aid for running and maintenance of Bal/Balika Ashrams at various places in the state. in these ashrams the inmates are provided free boarding and lodging facilities and education upto 10+2 standard. After leaving the ashram, they are being given financial assistance of Rs. 6000/- for self employment and rehabilitation. Assistance is also provided to them for higher education after 10+2.

(b) ICDS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) launched in the state in 1975 in the POOH Block of Kinnaur District of the state. In 1995-96 during the universalisation phase of ICDS the government of India expanded the scheme to all community development blocks. Presently the ICDS is operating in all the 72 blocks. Out of these 65 projects known as rural projects and remaining 7 tribal projects. In all the blocks ICDS is operationalised. In the state only one ICDS project is being run by NGO.

STRENGTH OF SANCTIONED AWWs

Sr.No.	NATURE OF ICDS AREA	NO. OF SANCTIONED AWWs
1	RURAL	6756
2	TRIBAL	367
3	URBAN	231
	TOTAL	7354

Above table shows the strength of AWWs that has been sanctioned by the government of India. About five lakh population which constitute 65% of the total child population in 0-6 age group being covered under ICDS.

1. SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAMME UNDER ICDS:

Under this scheme children in the age group 0-3 years are to be covered but govt. of India has given relaxation to Himachal Pradesh being a special category state to cover children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant & lactating mothers and malnourished children. Under this nutrition programme 300 calories and 8-10 grams protein are required to be supplemented to the children and 500 calories and 20-25 gram protein to the lactating & pregnant mothers and double diet to the malnourished children daily.

PROGRESS UNDER ICDS DURING THE YEAR 2003-04:-

Component	Target In Numbers
ICDS Projects	72
Anganwadi Centres	7354

Coverage under Anganwadi centre is as under:

1	Supplementary nutrition: pregnant and lactating mothers	2,81,967
2	Pre school education	1,17,404

The ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme. The state government receives grant-in-aid from the Govt. of India for implementation of the scheme. The state govt. formulates annual budget proposals

keeping in view the last year expenditure & sanction of addition project/AWCs by the Govt. of India to the state. Expenditure incurred upto 31-03-2004 is as under:-

(Sex disaggregated data is awaited)

Rs. In lakhs

ICDS PROJECTS	28,30,50,264
SNP/PMGY	1076.10

2. BALIKA SMARIDHI YOJNA:-

BALIKA SMARIDHI YOJNA is a centrally sponsored scheme introduced by Govt. of India on 15th August 1997 to provide benefits under the scheme to the girls belonging to below poverty line families born on or after 15.08.1997.

Components of the Scheme:-

- a post birth grant amount of rs.500
- Annul scholarships when girl child born on or after 15.08.1997 starts attending the school. Scholarships rates ranges between Rs. 300 to 1000 per annum (up to matric). However amount of scholarships can be utilized for purchase of textbooks and uniforms for the girl child with authorization of her parents/guardians.

Up to 31.03 2004, progress is as under

		No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
1.	Post Birth Grant	24150	1,20,75,000
2.	Scholarship	93	27,900

3. KISHORI SHAKTI YOJNA:-

- KISHORI SHAKTI YOJNA aimed at improving nutritional and health status of adolescent girls and promoting self development, awareness of health, hygiene, nutrition, family welfare & management so that there could be significant improvement in health and nutrition status of women & there decision making capabilities is promoted.
- Scheme has been introduced in 15 blocks of state i.e. entire districts of Hamirpur, Una, Kinnaur, L & S and Karsog block of Mandi district.
- In these selected blocks adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are being covered.
- Annul budget provision under the scheme is Rs.1.10 Lakh per block.
- In the state more than about five lakh girls fall in this age group.

4. SWAYAMSIDA SCHEME IN HIMACHAL PRADESH(UP TO 31.03. 2004):-

For the empowerment of rural women in the country, govt. of India has launched SWAYAMSIDA scheme in selected blocks in the country. In the state of Himachal Pradesh this scheme is being implemented in 8 development blocks i.e. Pachhad, Karsog, Rohru, Baijnath, Lambagaon, Jhandutta, Solan and Chamba. This scheme is based on the information of women self help groups and aims at empowerment of women through awareness generation, social & economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes. (data on beneficiaries is awaited)

Promoting Female Literacy among the Underprivileged Sections of Society in H.P.

- The Government of Himachal Pradesh has been focusing on female literacy in general, and on literacy among the scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) girls, in particular, over the last couple of decades.
- Keeping in view the low female literacy among the underprivileged sections of the society and a very high drop out rate after Class V, i.e. Classes VI–VIII, the State Government introduced a scheme of attendance scholarships from Class VI onwards for SC/ST in the year 1980–81 which envisage attendance scholarship of Rs 30 per month and one time Grant of Rs 100 for uniform and books etc.
- The scholarship was by way of the opportunity cost for retaining these girl children in schools rather than becoming domestic help or becoming a wage earner for the family. The compensation was raised later on to Rs 50 per month and a one time grant of Rs 200.
- The results achieved are amazing as is borne out by the following data on enrolment ratios:

Category	All girls 1980-81	All girls 1997-98	SC girls 1980-81	SC girls 1997-98	ST girls 1980-81	ST girls 1997-98
Class I-V	79	105	71	105	47	105
Class VI-VIII	37	90	20	77	16	77
Class IX-X	11	69	4	71	5	71

- This scheme was lauded by the Ministry of Welfare in the eighties and was recommended for replication by all States for promoting literacy among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe girls.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This chapter tries to attempt the reasons, and qualitative factors for the present situational analysis findings. However one striking feature is absence of studies that focus on the gender issues, lack of data on district level and even on state level that may act as reference. Data is often found scattered, reliability in question and most of the time non existent and non functional.

Few issues at institutional and structural level that need mentioning here:

- State has no state policy for women, there is need for state policy for women with framework in place. State commission for women though is involved in redressal of complaints against women; it needs to have more wider and proactive role.
- Though NGO sector in Himachal is in nascent stage and most of NGOs lack institutional capacity and though, NGOs are playing active role in RCH and other female oriented programs, gender sensitization is required.
- Active dissemination of studies carried out by the state, research scholars, NGOs and research institutions need wide dissemination for wider awareness of issues, avoidance of duplication, to bring evidence based advocacy into picture and to take the task ahead.
- Gender budgeting and auditing needs to move beyond the lip service, and state has to take initiative to introduce the concept of gender budgeting to create the gender responsive governance and lead by the evidence.
- And proper documentation of the records and creation of central databases. Most of the times it is not absence of information, but unavailability of information. The data with administration is Menly not available easily and is very much fragmented.

Issues that reflect the social attitudes and need effective IEC strategy:

The decline in juvenile sex ratio, took the policy makers, NGOs and public all by surprise, the state's clean report card got the blemish. Evidence that turned out through the census 2001 figure is a hard hitting and throws very important pointer. Few concerns that immediately are raised are:

- Female Foeticide
- Misuse of MTP
- In effective PNDDT Act

The declined sex ratio, in the 0-6 age group, showed that despite attaining high literacy, increased participation of women in workforce did not result in the equality per say. The preference for male child still distorts the equation and shows us that male child is a privilege, while a girl child still a major burden. Ironically the areas which show the high index of gender equality and higher literacy are the ones which have witnessed the adverse sex ratio than other regions. Question arises, is literacy negatively affecting the sex ratio? Not because literacy per say is negative factor, but may be it is imparting the knowledge about sex selective tests and where these can be carried out. Has the empowerment resulted in empowering one to decide the fate of unborn child, who simply happens to be girl? Three studies carried out by the leading NGOs in the state give a clue:

- The missing Child by Voluntary Health Association of India which shows that dip in second and third birth order sex ratio. is alarming.
- Attitudes regarding the female foeticide in Himachal Pradesh by SUTRA, which suggests that dowry, inability to contribute economically for parents because of social structure and difficulty in raising the female girl child.
- And effectiveness of PNDT act in Himachal Pradesh (yet to be published), by Himachal Pradesh Voluntary Health Association, which suggests that PNDT act has been ineffective in the state. Though the efforts and recent developments promise hope that there will be stricter implementation of act in future.

The missing girl child issue opens up whole lot of another issues, the increasing menace of dowry practice in the state & mental attitudes. Dowry prohibition officers in the state are unheard of and hence can be concluded that they don't exist to the public. Though dowry prohibition act is their in the state, but it is ineffective, as people hardly perceive dowry as crime but more of a norm and cultural aspect.

Women trafficking is an area, that needs attention and the problem is more pronounced in district Sirmaur, and trafficking is known phenomena to the parts of adjoining state Haryana. Though the media has published the reports over the time, it needs thorough investigation and community mobilization along with NGOs interventions to put the end to the practice. Selling a woman for the money on the pretext of marriage renders the governments achievement quite futile and puts a dark spot on rather impressive gains.

Work Participation

Though Himachal has highest female workforce participation, issue still remains. She is more of a marginal worker rather than the male worker. So she is one who is underpaid despite the equal wage act in place and firmly implemented. Her economic contribution, as she toils the longer hours in agricultural land, is not considered and does not account for. Her labor doesn't have any monetary value placed to it, as there are no time use surveys in the state. Representation of women workforce is merely 17 percent of total government employees, and only 12 percent of females are gazetted

employees in comparison to the total gazetted employees. Despite the females constitute 49 percent of total population in the state.

Participation of Women in Panchayati Raj:

The amendment in Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and effective communication has resulted in the more participation of women in the collective well being. This is evident by the fact that almost 77 percent of women come from agricultural background Himachal being a rural economy and increasing participation of women in the administration has very important ramifications. Women have to now move away from the rubber stamp Sarpanchs, that is what they perceived to be, to create an identity that shows their innate strength and their work needs to translate into policies that should further the cause of their fellow sisters and a stepping stone towards policies where women have their rightful place than mere compulsion of 33 percent provision.

As one of survey indicates, it is only 14 percent of women who contested the Panchayat elections because they wanted to, rest were participants in the process because the community or others wanted them to contest the election. The real triumph will emerge for the women, when it shall be taken as a step of merit and because she is effective than the seat is reserved for the women candidate. However in the present set up, though slow and incremental changes are taking place, it is going to take a while, with continuous support from government and conducive policies that the situation shall attain its rightful place. There is need to change the attitudes of male members of panchayats and government officials for the women to be heard and taken seriously. And there need to be more active role of government in capacity building of women representatives, as most of them, it has been observed are the first time members. It has been observed that in Gram Sabha meetings women participation brings the issues closer to home that affect the day to day activities of women and are the core issues which affect the quality of life, the very basic issues, which are envisaged in basic philosophy of human development.

Rural Urban Divide:

All the indicators, in health, education, economic empowerment and socio-economic factors show great variation in the attainments. The rural population though constitutes more than 90 percent population of the state, yet there is significant gap between the two populations. This rural urban population divide is evident and universal for all indicators. A survey carried out by Basic Health Project, Himachal Pradesh suggests that in rural areas, it is the access to the service, i.e. supply side that determines accessibility to the population in primary health care. However in urban areas and secondary health care, it is the choice of services that determines the utilization. It clearly shows that access, despite the far better than national health infrastructure, is major prerequisite for the service utilization. In addition, in the hilly state like Himachal, it is the travel time to the health center that affects the accessibility rather than the radial distance from the health center, which is conventionally used. Another factor that puts the rural population at disadvantage is poverty. Poverty estimates by NSSO , old age dependency ratio and head count ratio all suggest that poverty is more prevalent in

rural areas than urban areas, hence affecting the access significantly, which gets more pronounced as almost 80 percent of the total expenditure is out of pocket expenditure.

Regional Imbalances:

Segregation of indices at district level, indicates that pace of development has been uneven, and few areas have lagged behind than others. While district like Hamirpur, and Kangra show overall better performance, district Chamba has less than 20 percent institutional deliveries, female literacy is abysmally low at 49 percent and require remedial actions. Further, there is need of sex and gender wise data on the various health, economic and educational indicators at district levels, to make the relevant comparisons. There is need to determine the life expectancies at district level for males and females and burden of disease estimations to help the policy makers to frame the policies and make changes to the existing ones.

Himachal Pradesh, as a state has achieved a lot of milestones, yet it has miles to go before it reaches the destination.

Role of NGOs:

The NGO SECTOR IN Himachal Pradesh is comparatively nascent stage. Barring few NGOs, most of NGOs lack institutional strength and are in the process of evolution. But their contribution in the sensitization, awareness creation can not be under estimated. Besides they have a very strong edge in the community mobilization. It is an opportunity to involve in gender empowerment programs. Despite the fact that every NGO has special emphasis on women development in its own way, the NGO sector need more expertise and capacity building and Gender perspective. The mother NGOs working for RCH program, are the ones which already have institutional capacity and skilled manpower, can be catalyst and act as technical support to impart the training to smaller NGOs and taking the drive of gender empowerment to every nook and corner of Himachal Pradesh. NGOs like SUTRA, that already is engaged in Gender sensitization programs, HPVHA, which has good network of NGOs and outreach in the Himachal, SAVE, which has mobilized mahila mandals and self Help Groups and PRIA, which is actively working in effective functioning of PRIs, have good institutional capacities and can be used to strengthen the government efforts.

State Women Commission

State women commission, located in the state capital Shimla is actively involved in promoting gender equality and acknowledge that crime and domestic violence against women is real issue. It is involved in sensitization of law enforcing agencies and advocacy for women rights. However, women commission needs to take more proactive stance, with effective negotiation power to its credit to influence the policies. As seen by the nature of complaint analysis, majority of cases are related to harassment with in the household, by husband, inlaws and relatives. There is need to have studies on domestic violence, estimation of underreporting of the cases to the police so that effective policy and implementation measures can be taken on the basis of evidence.

REPORT OF THE VISIT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TO HIMACHAL PRADESH FROM 15TH TO 16TH JULY, 2004

The National Commission for Women (NCW), a statutory body set up under the National Commission for women Act 1990, is mandated to evaluate the status of the women under the states and Union territories in the country. The Commission is also mandated to participate and advise on the planning process of the socio economic development of women under the Union and the states. In consonance to this mandate, the Commission has been visiting the states/Union territories in the country and has been preparing Gender profiles of women and girls of that state. The Commission visited the Himachal Pradesh from 15th to 16th July, 2004 in accordance with the above mentioned mandate. The team consisted of Dr. Poornima Advani, Chairperson NCW, Sri H.Kumar, Senior Research Officer and Shri S.K. Garg, Under Secretary. The team held an interactive session with the NGO's, Women Activists, Lawyers, elected representatives on the 15th July, 2004. The interactive meeting was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Veer Bhadra Singh and the valedictory address was delivered by Smt. Vidya Stokes, Minister (NPP & Power, Science & Technology). There were about 200 participants in the interactive meeting. The Chief Minister briefly outlined steps taken by the State Government to elevate the status of women. He also mentioned the peculiar problems being faced by the state due to customary laws prevalent in tribal areas. He mentioned that the State Govt. continue to endeavour to resolve the tribal issues by involving them. The issues raised by the NGO's etc during the interactive session were discussed with the Secretaries of the State Government in a meeting held on 16.07.04 which was co chaired by Chairperson, NCW and Addl. Chief Secretary Smt. Renu Sahni Dhar. The position on the issues along with the response of the administration are given in the following paragraphs.

ISSUES RELATING TO HEALTH:

NGO's Voice

Female foeticide and sex selection abortion are quite common and ample evidence existed adverse sex ratio is strongly correlated with third birth order. There is strict implementation of PNMT Act. Not even a single case of violation of PNMT act has been reported, through indicators and apprehensions of the people do indicate otherwise. PNMT team should have representatives from NGO's as doctors tend to favor and protect their own fraternity. It was reported that lack of infrastructure in remote areas & frequent unavailability of female health workers are affecting the health particularly the RCH programs, especially the institutional deliveries, which is just 34 percent in Himachal and below 20 percent in district Chamba.

Administration's stand

All the ultra sound machines have been registered. The returns of Appropriate Authority are being monitored regularly.

COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

It was observed that in certain blocks of Solan District no daughter was born in a particular month. Thus, it is evident that sex determination of foeticide is being done in a clandestine manner. Therefore, the matter should be examined thoroughly and properly monitored to check sonography through mobile vans. A Committee should be constituted by drawing representatives from Departments of Social Justice, Health, Home and Rural Development so that holistic approach is decided and the matter does not get delayed while consulting/making references from one department to another in term authority and jurisdiction. The suggestions of the Commission was welcomed by the State Government. The Additional Chief Secretary also ensured to look into the vacancy position of different grades of Health Department for taking steps to fill them up expeditiously.

Education:*NGO's Views*

There were no toilet facilities for girls in many schools and where toilets existed some were not functional. Teacher to student ratio is inadequate especially in remote areas. Curriculum was gender biased. Mid day scheme was implemented ineffectively. Continuous Educational Program is not operational in Himachal.

State Government Stand.

The data and statistics about the availability of the schools in terms of the number, distance, the teacher student ratio were presented.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission pointed out that the State Government should make detailed study of drop out rates and ensure that not only separate toilets for girls and women are made available but they are also properly cleaned. For this purpose, the State Government should carry out surprise checks in the schools particularly located in remote areas.

Property Rights:*NGO's Concern*

Right to property is denied to women, especially in District Kinnaur.

State Government Stand

The area is a scheduled area as it is inhabited by tribals and, therefore, State Government cannot interfere in their customary laws.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION

Commission noted the position and advised the State Government to enhance the nomination of the women in the Advisory Council and create awareness among the tribals about the problem, its implications and remedies to have a plausible solutions to the problem so that grudging of the effective women is mitigated.

Polygamy/Polyandry

NGO's observation

Practice of Polygamy/Polyandry in select pockets of District Kinnaur and District Sirmaur existed.

State Government Stand

Commission was informed that State Government has enacted law for compulsory registration of marriage. However, the punitive action for non-registration of marriage and the procedure for awarding the punishment could not be explained. The State Government assured to furnish a note explaining the position.

COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Campaign should be launched by the State Government to create awareness of Sections 494 & 495 of IPC to bring change in the societal attitude.

Dowry

NGO's Views

Dowry, which was not common in Himachal a few years back, has touched its tentacles in the society. Due to this marrying the daughter has not only become burdensome but also has affected the quality of life and many case under Section 498A were registered and certain dowry deaths were reported. They were not aware of the details of Dowry Prohibition Officer declared by the State Government for their area.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There should be wide publicity of Dowry Prohibition Officer.
2. Dowry Prohibition Officer should be given Orientation training about their role in curtailing the menace.
3. Their should be regular meetings of DPOs to have the stock of the work being done by them.

State Government Assurance

The State Government assured the Commission to implement above suggestion and furnish ATR.

Trafficking

Women Trafficking especially in Sirmaur District is rampant.

State Government View

Women trafficking is not rampant though stray cases have been reported.

Commission's Stand

The problem does not manifest and there is an imperative need to check all the loopholes in the system. Therefore, inter-state action should be taken in joint consultation with the States of Uttaranchal, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

Working of Complaint Committee to deal with cases relating to sexual harassment at work place

Review with the head of departments about formation and working of the complaint committees in pursuance to supreme court directives indicated that in most of departments the complaint committees were without third party representation Hence affecting the letter and spirit of directions.

State Government's Assurance

State Government assured the Commission that the instructions for constituting the committees properly and their functioning would be reiterated by the department immediately.

Violence against Women

NGO's observation

Insensitive and indifferent attitude of police towards women and result in many cases unreported. The problem gets aggravated by under reporting of harassment cases by women because of prevailing societal attitudes. Domestic violence is most prevalent form of violence and widespread across all the district and sections of the society. Women call are not functional. Inadequate number of lady constables.

State Government Stand

Secretary, Home and Director-General of Police indicated that the initiative taken by the State Government to deal with the scenario and make the police force gender friendly such as flexi timings, no night duty for expecting and lactating mothers working in the police force. They have issued instructions for dealing with the rape victims and to carry out prompt medical examination of rape victims. Gender sensitization courses have been arranged for various grades of the courses at the induction and at the orientation stage.

Commission's Recommendations

Many a times, police force has been indulging into counseling in family disputes. It was decided that police should confine their role only in registering the complaints of the aggrieved women.

A network of trauma counseling would be created to deal with victims of different forms of violence against gender.

A HELP LINE should be created by providing three digit toll free number. The services should widely publicized by displaying it promptly on the buses, colleges, bus stands, etc.

Enhance the strength of women police constable by making reservation policy in the recruitment itself.

Family Courts

NGO's concern

Family as a unit of quorum in Himachal Pradesh, while in other states it is an individual, which discourages women participation.

State Government Assurance

The State Governments assured the Commission to establish the family courts in accordance with the extant instructions on the subject by appointing the maximum number of women judges and providing counseling facilities to the victims on the model of Maharashtra Government in consultation with Tata Institute Social Science.

Pachayati Raj Institution

NGO's observations

Panchayat secretaries have been allotted quite a large number of panchayats, therefore they are unable to do justice with work affecting the working of panchayats which is further affected by non cooperation with women pradhans. The funds have not been released for long durations spanning even years in many a cases. There should be training for women PRI members. Two child norm affecting women, especially dalit and poor women and preventing them to contest for the pradhan elections.

State Government observations

The situation is not so critical. The State Women Commission was asked to bring to the notice of the state Government specific cases so that remedial action could be taken by the State Government.

Empowerment of Women

NGO's observation

State has not enunciated policy for women. There is need to strengthen State Women Commission in terms of manpower and research activities should be strengthened.

State Government assurance

State Government informed that they have evolved the action plan for implementation of National Policy on Empowerment of Women. They assured the Commission to take necessary steps to the

strengthen the State Women Commission. Chairperson, National Commission for Women mentioned that it is obligatory for the State Government to consult the State Women Commission on all policy matters concerning women.

Joint Pattas

State Government Assurance

The State Government informed that instructions were issued some time back for making allotment of land in joint name of husband and wife and they would ensure that instructions are translated into action while making allotments.

Modernization of Food Processing Industry

State Government should furnish a note to the Commission for taking up the matter with the Central Government.

Development of Scheduled Area

Separate girl hostels should be prepared in the Scheduled Area so that drop out rate is checked.

Awareness programme for the Women

Course curriculum prepared by the NCW was prepared by the National Commission for Women for District Empowerment Camps would be sent to the State Government so that specific awareness camps could be launched.

Annexure-Abortion Scenario & MTP Act in Himachal Pradesh, based on observations during Abortion Assessment Workshop Conducted in the State

- In 80 percent of all the MTP cases, reason cited for MTP was contraceptive failure
- In Himachal Pradesh, there is no availability of data from the private clinics and nursing homes, and there is very little evidence based information on the activities taking place in these non government institutions.
- Kangra and Hamirpur districts, which have witnessed most adverse sex ratio in the state, have witnessed least number of MTP cases.

There is need to create the mechanism to bring transparency and more accountability from private practitioners and strategy development from the health department to tackle the issue with in depth analysis & conscious effort. And following issues need to be addressed:

- Abortions, issue of safety, legal issues.
- Sex Selection Techniques, MTP and issues of Female Feticide
- And people-centric role of Health department, NGOs, PRIs and other voluntary organizations.

Condom Use Scenario in State:

- The number of condoms distributed does not constitute the condom usage number, and there is difference between two and should be kept in mind while estimating couple protection rate.
- ORG-MARG study has estimated condom usage rate of more than 50 percent, which is based on primary data, nevertheless if condom usage figures of H.P. for 94-95 are compared with figures of 2003, the condom usage in the state has come down.
- Condom use is often equated with loss in pleasure factor and may result in lesser usage than actual distribution.
- Poor still don't have access to the condoms.
- Further IEC campaigns should hit upon the mental attitudes, correct information should be provided, and literate word in this context should be substituted with medically educated for effective performance.

Participants were of the opinion that there existed **the lacuna in the policy**, as far as abortions are concerned. It was voiced that more often than not abortion was not a women decision but a family decision. And where it was decision of woman, she is at receiving end due to procedures of consent and legal issues, as majority of providers are reluctant to carry out the MTP if no one accompanies woman. And these very experiences provide the evidence that standards are different for men & women. The NGOs are of opinion, that abortion and use of MTP is linked with sex selection abortion in Himachal Pradesh. Evidence over the time shows that though generally male preference doesn't play major role in case of first child, but in case of second child, likelihood of adoption of sex selection procedure and willingness to go for the male child takes precedence. And **contraceptive failure** as the reason to opt for MTP is more often than not is an excuse and is just tip of iceberg of situation that lies underneath. It has often been pointed out, that the officials, often record term- 'contraceptive failure', for the convenience, recording and justification purposes. So it becomes an easy escape route.

Though conventionally it is assumed that economic empowerment of women helps her in making the independent decisions, yet abortion has very strong gender issue. And status of woman in the household is linked with the male progeny she has produced. He cited the findings from the NFHS-II survey where 2 out of the three women thought that violence against them in household was just fine. Unless the changes in the mindset of society, and undue preference for male child is dealt with social campaigns, legal provisions shall be less effective than desired.

Few of the factors, which help in defining the abortion scenario in the state, are:

- Small family norms, which has resulted into ideal family notion of one boy and girl. So of the first child is girl, sex selection likelihood increases considerably.
- Poverty and population has strong linkages, concept of more working hand doesn't apply to relatively better off Himachal and has implications towards male child preference again because of small family norm.

- Lack of sex education for adolescents, stigma attached with teenage pregnancy results in unsafe abortions and more often than not in uncertified facility.

The consultations, discussions and arguments with NGOs over time have resulted in identification of following issues that need to be addressed:

- There is need to develop the mechanism, where private nursing homes act with full transparency, divulge all the details and share their data with government.
- Involvement of NGOs to strengthen the governments efforts, bridge the gaps and mobiles support to inform and educate communities against quacks, motivate people to use government facilities and tackle the issue of preference for male child in holistic way.
- Defining the benchmarks and minimum quality standards for the private nursing home staff, and their periodic mandatory training in government institutions.

Further at the policy level, there is need

1. to de link the MTP from Family Planning
2. Treatment of MTP as reproductive right.

It is estimated that 60 percent of MTP cases are linked with family planning, and it needs to be viewed as reproductive right of women than as means of family planning method, as per the international treaty.

State Scenario:

In 1977, rules for MTP were framed, list of places and people who were authorized to conduct MTP was published, however due to lack of regular update, this directory is more or less defunct. At present state has facility of MTP in 35 institutions. Certain issues in the state that affect the utilization of MTP services:

Supply side:

- Accessibility
- Quality
- Manpower

Demand Side:

- Awareness about reproductive rights
- Economic prosperity
- Ethical issues and mindset of General Population

Reason for flourishing Private Sector in Abortion Business

- In private sector, it becomes lucrative for doctor to conduct MTP and hence more compromise.
- Flow of patients is quite high in hospitals, and hence despite the good attitude of doctors, at times they fail to provide the adequate time for counseling.
- More than the physical accessibility, due to legal complications, the government facilities become less accessible.
- Most of doctors, to avoid the consumer protection act, to avoid the legal hassle, do defensive practice and discourage the MTP, this results in public opting for private clinics and higher out of pocket expenditure.

There should be focus on the changing scenario, to bring the changes in the mind set of service providers, shaping up of the attitudes of the society, the evolution of responsive mechanisms that continuously evolve.

Over the time mean age for marriage has increased from 22 to 24 and along with Himachal has witnessed increase in the number of teenage pregnancies. It is estimated that almost 15 percent of all MTP cases are from the unmarried women. Virginitly taboos are less. Mr. Mendhapurker observed that teenage and unmarried pregnancies lead to unsafe abortions which result in increased reproductive morbidity and related complications.

It is important to recognize in the state context that these are the second generation issues, and require furtherance in the capacities, conceptual clarity, changes in mindsets, techniques to do the same. While first generation did invest in Health, Education and RD, second generation is required to deal with issues of quality of service delivery, reproductive rights, safe motherhood, declining sex ratios. And the prime challenge is for the training institutions to build their own capacities to raise the capacities of implementing agencies. Good governance would require gender responsive mechanisms, greater accountability, transparency and willingness to adapt.

**A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**BY
VIJAY VAIDYA**



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NEW DELHI**

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FOREWORD

The existential pathos of a woman's life has been inimitably captured by the great Hindi poet, Shri Maithilisharan Gupta, in a memorable couplet which says, "Alas, woman! Thy destiny is eternal sacrifice, eternal suffering!"

Despite the exalted position given to women in some of India's religious texts and the exceptional attainments of individual women in fields as diverse as philosophy, statecraft and even warfare, the profile of the average woman through the ages has been that of a perpetually poor, perpetually pregnant and perpetually powerless being.

Independent India has tried to redeem the situation by proclaiming equality of the sexes as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution and directing state policy towards removing the various disabilities that thwart women in realising their potential. Five decades of Independence have also seen a plethora of laws passed by the State and Federal Governments to protect women from violence and discrimination and to strengthen their entitlements in the social and economic fields. Numerous committees and commissions have x-rayed the position of women, the advances made by them and the obstacles faced by them, and they have made umpteen recommendations to improve the situation. Scores of schemes have been floated by various Ministries of the Government to address women's problems, particularly those relating to education, health, nutrition, livelihood and personal laws. In the institutional area, independent administrative departments to give undivided attention to women's problems have sprung up at the Centre as well as in the States. Development corporations were an innovation of the Eighties to energise economic benefit schemes. The Nineties saw the setting up of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and State Commissions in various States to inquire into the working of various legal and constitutional provisions concerning women, to investigate cases of violation of women's rights and generally to advise on the socio-economic policy framework in order to mainstream women's concerns. In recent years, the Governments, Central and State, have also articulated comprehensive policies for the empowerment of women through



a variety of instruments and approaches focusing on an explicit vision of equal partnership of women in all walks of life.

Credit must also be given to a robust women's movement which has often given forceful expression to women's aspirations and joined issue with all the organs of state — legislative, executive and judicial — for reviewing the age-old prescriptions of a patriarchal society. Often they have networked effectively with the international community and fora in the quest for worldwide solidarity on issues affecting women. These interactions have often times changed the idiom of discourse on women's right to justice and development.

The half-century of struggle and reform has undoubtedly had considerable impact on women's world. Some of the key indicators of development have perked up significantly; women's life expectancy has risen; education levels have improved; economic participation has grown. But there are areas of darkness too; crimes against women, both at home and outside, continue unabated; traditional economic occupations have withered in the face of global competition; there is increasing commodification of women's persona and vulgarisation of their image in the media's marketplace. The new economic regime, where Sensex swamps sensibility, has meant the precipitate withdrawal of the state from many fields leaving the weak, including women, in the cold. Similarly laws change; minds don't. Therefore between progressive legislation and sensitive enforcement falls a long shadow. Critics also point out that whatever advances have been made remain confined to urban India and the vast hinterland resists change obstinately.

The overall picture is thus a mixed one leaving the profile of the average Indian woman not substantially altered. But in this vast country there is no average Indian woman. As in all other matters, diversity marks the Indian woman's picture too. How society and economy are coping with the forces of modernisation differs substantially from region to region. The geography of a state provides its own constraints and opportunities; history gives its own moorings to values and momentum to change. Thus the regional profile is superimposed on the national profile. The NCW has therefore commissioned these studies to gauge how women's life has been changing or not changing in different States of the country, and to situate these studies in the historical and geographical context of each region or State so that progress can be measured across time and across space. Such spatial comparisons can highlight what lessons there are to be learnt from the 'leading' areas and equally they help in focusing the attention on the 'lagging' areas. Regionally disaggregated data helps in benchmarking progress of different regions, areas or districts, and can be used for improving performance by attempting to raise the performance levels of the laggards to the average of the State and then matching the State's average to the national average. Interesting insights can also be gleaned from the experience of implementing agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, in dealing with different problems. Some of these may be rooted in the soil of the region and may not lend themselves

to replication but many others can be useful examples to emulate. That is how Best Practices become common practices.

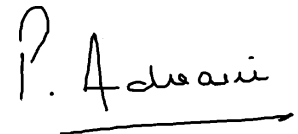
These studies have been carried out by different research groups having special knowledge and interest in the area — its people, its history, its administration, its cultural ambience etc. They have interacted with official agencies as well as with leading NGOs working with women in the respective areas. The NCW has given a helping hand by providing information from its own database where available and also by interacting with the government of the State to set the stage for these exercises. The result is in your hands.

The research effort in respect of Himachal Pradesh was anchored by Vijay Vaidya while the NCW team comprising **Dr. Poornima Advani**, Chairperson; Mr. H. Kumar, Senior Research Officer; Mr. S.K. Garg, Under Secretary facilitated the dialogue with the Himachal Pradesh Administration.

It is our hope that this effort will eventually result in the compilation of a comprehensive index of gender development focusing on the key issues in women's lives thus enabling comparisons of achievements and gaps regionally and nationally. This will help scholars and administrators alike.

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 7.12.2004


(POORNIMA ADVANI)

