

I - INTRODUCTION

Gender issues such as discrimination and inequalities have started attracting the attention of policy makers, administrators and implementing agencies. The gender issues varies greatly from one culture to another and may not be homogenous within the same culture, different social classes and income groups. Over the years, gender norms and values within the social systems systematically gave rise to gender inequalities. During the last decade, the issues concerning gender equality have assumed greater importance particularly in the wake of economic liberalisation programmes and enhanced social awareness among women.

The purpose of gender statistics is to go deep into the existing reality of gender relation and to understand the causes that lead to existing gender differentiated outcomes such as gender analyses, gender budgeting and so on.

While the pattern of gender inequalities vary greatly across societies, in almost all countries a majority of women and girls are disadvantaged in terms of their relative power and control over material resources and they often face more severe insecurities. Poor women are thus doubly disadvantageous. Moreover, the lack of autonomy of women has significant negative consequences to the education and health of children.

As far as the U.T.of Pondicherry is concerned, the share of women in the Council of Ministers was zero from 1985 onwards. There was an increasing trend in the incidence of Crimes committed against women. As regards work force participation, small portion of industry is functioning with more females than males. A major 57.10% of women in the work force(main workers) were illiterate as compared to 20.60.% of men.

Social development indices viz., nutrition, health and education are being recognised as important pre-requisites for development of human resources of the country. The nutritional status of vulnerable section of the community i.e. children, pregnant women, lactating mother and adolescent girls is considered as an important indicator for national development.

The status of women is a key factor for determining the development of any society. In the area of gender and development, the Commonwealth have given a blue print for action to all its Member States to transform the Commonwealth vision for women into reality. Efforts will surely bring about a day when women and men will take equal position in all walks of life.

Gender based Budgeting is now-a-days felt essential for the upliftment of women socially and economically. Gender budgeting is to create separate budget for males and females. Attempts should be made to segregate the budget by gender and to assess gender distribution of resources/benefits. It will highlight the different needs of male and female warranting differential allocation of expenditure.

The constitution of India guarantees equality to all citizens before the law, but the reality is that women find it difficult to realize the constitutional rights. The rights and privileges of women in India are given in Chapter - II.