

## CHAPTER - I

# INTRODUCTION

“There is a region called Haryana, which is like a heaven on earth”- *Vikrami Samvat* (1385). Haryana – the land where 3000 years ago, Lord Krishna preached the *Bhagvad-Gita* and admonished Arjuna, “your right is to do your duty and not bother about the fruits”; the land which formed the battleground in the famous epic *Mahabharata*. It was here that Ved Vyas wrote *Mahabharata*. In this epic, this land was referred to a *Bahudhhanyaka*, ‘land of plentiful grains’ and *Bahudhana*, ‘land of immense riches. One myth propagates that *Prajapati* created the world and the four castes at *Prithudaka*, the contemporary Pehowa. Another legend traces the birth of Brahma to Brahmayoni in the same place.

Archaeological excavations reveal Haryana to have been one of the cradles of Indian culture and civilization. It was the home of the legendary *Bharata* dynasty, which has given the name *Bharat* to India. The region has been the scene of many a war as the Gateway to north India. It has witnessed decisive battles with successive streams of Huns, Turks and Afghans. It became the seat of early Indian empires.

In the middle ages, Panipat became the ground for two major battles with the Mughals<sup>1</sup> and by 1556 Mughals had established their rule over this land. Towards the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Marathas had established their sway, but after their defeat in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Panipat, the Britishers assumed power in this region. Haryana and Haryanvis equally held fort during the struggle for independence and Haryana remained one of the major sites for the independence struggle.

Post independence, Haryana became a part of Punjab province, which had been divided during the Partition into East and West Punjab. It was only in 1966 following the Punjab Reorganisation Act, that Haryana emerged as a separate entity in the Indian Political landscape

Located on the doorstep of the national capital, Delhi, Haryana is bounded on the north by the Shivalik Hill range, in the east by the River Yamuna, in the south by the Aravalli Hills and the Thar Desert and in the west by River Sutlej. A number of streams flow down the Shivalik Hills, the most significant ones are the Ghaggar, Markanda, Chautang and the Saraswati. However, there is no perennial river, except for the Yamuna, which flows in the eastern side and irrigates the land. The Haryana plain is part of the Indo-Gangetic plain, formed by alluvial deposits of the Himalayan rivers.

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<sup>1</sup> The First Battle of Panipat took place in 1526 A.D. between Babur and the Lodis. The Second Battle of Panipat was between Akbar and Hemu in 1556 A.D.

It is bordered by Himachal Pradesh in the north, Punjab in the west, Rajasthan in the south and Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in the east. It shares its capital city, viz. Chandigarh with Punjab.

One of the most developed States of India, Haryana has a basically agrarian economy, with about 80 per cent of the population dependent upon agriculture. Haryana, as much as neighbouring Punjab, witnessed the successful Green Revolution, which led to a great deal of prosperity in its rural economy. Along with Punjab, it is a major contributor to the central pool of foodgrains. In per capita production and availability of cereals and milk, Haryana ranks second only to Punjab amongst the Indian States and in pulses to Madhya Pradesh.

It also has a sound industrial base and manufactures the largest number of tractors amongst the States in India, along with a third of the sanitary wares and a fourth of the bicycles produced in India. The city of Panipat is known as the 'weavers city' of India, for its' exquisite handmade woollen carpets and handloom products.

It has one of the highest per capita incomes of the country and the incidence of poverty is relatively low, with only 8.74 per cent of the population below the poverty line in 1999-2000. It ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in this respect after Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh. Significantly, it is the first State in the country to have provided piped drinking water and electricity to all its villages.

It has also made significant strides in the fields of health and education, resulting in a decline in overall mortality and increased life expectancy as well an increase in literacy rates.

A look at Table 1.1 below reveals that Haryana has also progressed in providing basic facilities to its citizens. According to the NFHS-II Survey Report of Haryana, 89.1 per cent of its households are electrified; 47.1 per cent are getting piped water, another 40.8 per cent get water from handpumps, 11.8 per cent draw water from wells. One of the most cumbersome and time-consuming tasks of women is getting water for the household. In Haryana 68 per cent are able to get water in less than 15 minutes. However, from women's point of view sanitation and fuel are equally significant and it is in these that Haryana falls below the expectations. At least 60.9 per cent of the households have no sanitation facility. The problem is worse in rural areas where as many as 80.7 per cent report no sanitation facility. The type of fuel used for cooking equally impacts women's health. A major proportion of women's work consists in preparing food for the family. Studies have revealed that use of wood and cowdung as fuel has resulted in lots of respiratory problems for women due to the smoke emanating from these. It may be seen from the table below that 56.9 per cent of the households are using wood as fuel and only 27.2 per cent use liquefied petroleum gas.

**Table 1.1**  
**Housing characteristics**

**Percent distribution of households by housing characteristic, according to residence, Haryana, 1998-99**

<b>Housing Characteristic</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Electricity</b>			
Yes	98.1	85.0	89.1
No	1.9	15.0	10.9
Total Payment	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Source of Drinking water</b>			
Piped	71.8	35.7	47.1
Hand Pump	27.7	46.9	40.8
Well Water	0.5	17.0	11.8
Surface Water	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other	0.0	0.3	0.2
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Time to get Drinking water</b>			
Percentage < 15 minutes	92.9	56.5	68.0
Median time (minutes)	0.0	9.4	0.0
<b>Method of drinking water purification</b>			
Strains water by cloth	0.9	2.2	1.8
Uses alum	0.2	2.1	1.5
Uses water filter	11.6	0.0	3.7
Boils water	6.2	1.7	3.2
Uses electronic purifier	1.8	0.1	0.6
Uses other method	0.2	0.1	0.1
Does not purify water	80.9	94.3	90.1
<b>Sanitation facility</b>			
Flush toilets	72.1	11.1	30.4
Pit toilet/latrine	9.9	8.0	8.6
Other	0.0	0.2	0.1
No facility	17.9	80.7	60.9
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0

<b>Housing Characteristic</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Main type of fuel used for cooking</b>			
Wood	19.5	74.1	56.9
Crop residues	0.4	1.0	0.8
Dung cakes	4.4	11.3	9.2
Coal/coke/lignite/Charcoal	0.5	0.1	0.2
Kerosene	9.3	3.7	5.5
Electricity	0.2	0.0	0.1
Liquid petroleum gas	65.5	9.5	27.2
Biogas	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other	0.0	0.3	0.2
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Type of house</b>			
Kachha	0.3	8.1	5.6
Semi-pucca	15.6	62.2	47.5
Pucca	83.9	29.5	46.7
Missing	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total percent	100.0	100.0	10.0
<b>Persons per room</b>			
<3	77.8	65.6	69.4
3-4	13.8	22.6	19.8
5-6	6.5	9.0	8.2
7+	1.9	2.8	2.5
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean number of persons per room	2.1	2.6	2.4
Number of house holds	897	1,944	2,841

Totals may add to more than 100.0 because households may use more than one method of purification.  
Source: NFHS-II, 1998-99, Haryana

Minor hiccups apart, Haryana has progressed rapidly on the socio-economic front. These rapid development advances are obvious from a look at the Human Development Index for major States of India.<sup>2</sup> Table 1.2 below reveals that the Human Development Index for India as a whole has increased

<sup>2</sup> Human Development Index measures the human development of a State through the indices of per capita income, life expectancy and adult literacy.

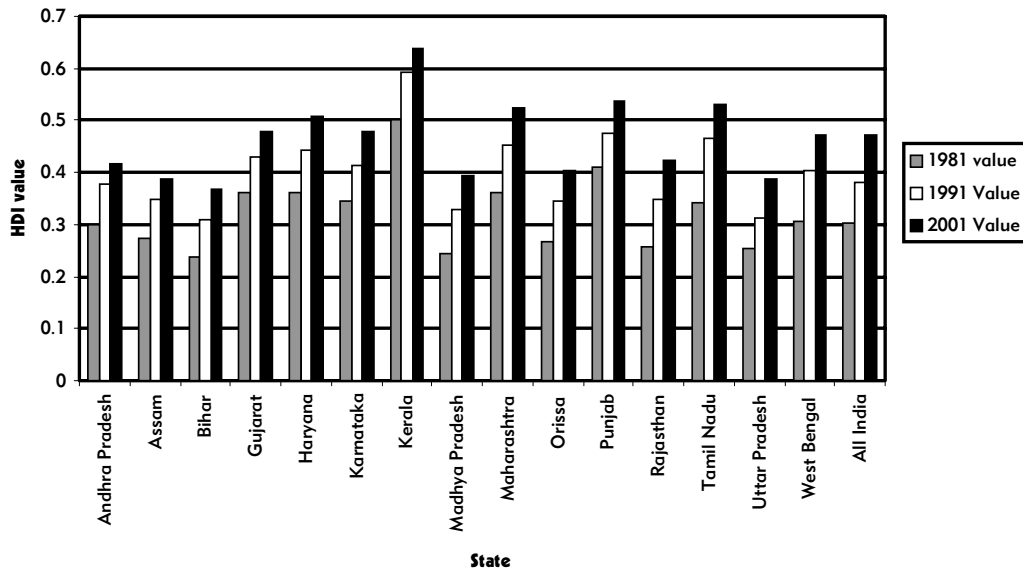
from 0.302 in 1981 to 0.472 in 2001. The corresponding values for Haryana have been 0.360 in 1981 and 0.509 in 2001. Kerala ranks at the top for all three years, followed by Punjab. Haryana has been consecutively ranking 5<sup>th</sup> in all three years.

**Table 1.2**  
**Human Development Index for India**

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>1981 Value</b>	<b>1981 Rank</b>	<b>1991 Value</b>	<b>1991 Rank</b>	<b>2001 Value</b>	<b>2001 Rank</b>
Andhra Pradesh	0.298	9	0.377	9	0.416	10
Assam	0.272	10	0.348	10	0.386	14
Bihar	0.237	15	0.308	15	0.367	15
Gujarat	0.360	4	0.431	6	0.479	6
Haryana	0.360	5	0.443	5	0.509	5
Karnataka	0.346	6	0.412	7	0.478	7
Kerala	0.500	1	0.591	1	0.638	1
Madhya Pradesh	0.245	14	0.328	13	0.394	12
Maharashtra	0.363	3	0.452	4	0.523	4
Orissa	0.267	11	0.345	12	0.404	11
Punjab	0.411	2	0.475	2	0.537	2
Rajasthan	0.256	12	0.347	11	0.424	9
Tamil Nadu	0.343	7	0.466	3	0.531	3
Uttar Pradesh	0.255	13	0.314	14	0.388	13
West Bengal	0.305	8	0.404	8	0.472	8
All India	0.302		<b>0.381</b>		<b>0.472</b>	

Source: National Human Development Report 2001, Planning Commission, Government of India, March 2002

### Human Development in India



This historically progressive social scenario has another side, a carefully fortified patriarchal and feudal society where gender discrimination and inequality are the norms. In the words of Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, "The north-western States, for instance, are notorious for highly unequal gender relations, some symptoms of which include the continued practice of female seclusion, very low female labour participation rates, a large gap in literacy rates, extremely restricted property rights, strong boy preference in fertility decisions, widespread neglect of female children and drastic separation of a married woman from her natal family."<sup>3</sup> Women in Haryana, continue to be subordinated, subjugated and deprived, as evidenced in the extremely low sex ratio, high level of anaemia among women and children and prevalent violence against women.

**Table 1.3**  
**Gender-Related Development Index for Indian States, 1991-2**

GDI Rank	State	GDI	Share of Earned Income (Per cent)		Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) 1990-92		Adult Literacy Rate (Per Cent)	
			Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
1	Kerala	0.565	12.4	87.6	74.4	68.8	80.6	91.7
2	Maharashtra	0.492	29.4	70.6	64.7	63.1	44.2	74.4
3.	Gujarat	0.437	26.8	73.2	61.3	59.1	41.8	70.4
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.432	37.5	62.5	64.2	63.8	35.5	64.4
5.	Punjab	0.424	5.9	94.1	67.5	65.4	41.8	60.5
6.	Karnataka	0.417	25.4	74.6	63.6	60.0	37.7	65.3

<sup>3</sup> Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, **India: Economic Development and Social Opportunity**, OUP, Delhi, 1995, p.47.

GDI Rank	State	GDI	Share of Earned Income (Per cent)		Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) 1990-92		Adult Literacy Rate (Per Cent)	
			Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
7.	Tamil Nadu	0.402	21.4	78.6	63.2	61.0	35.8	65.0
8.	West Bengal	0.399	8.0	92.0	62.0	60.5	42.8	69.3
9.	Andhra Pradesh	0.371	27.2	72.8	61.5	59.0	27.3	52.4
10.	Haryana	0.370	7.0	93.0	63.6	62.2	27.0	64.3
11.	Assam	0.347	23.7	76.3	53.8	54.8	33.9	62.4
12.	Orissa	0.329	19.1	80.9	54.8	55.9	29.0	62.5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.312	25.4	74.6	53.5	54.1	24.3	56.6
14.	Rajasthan	0.309	23.0	77.0	57.8	57.6	17.5	52.7
15.	Bihar	0.306	21.8	78.2	58.3	60.4	18.2	55.3
16.	Uttar Pradesh	0.293	12.9	87.1	54.6	56.8	20.6	53.6
	<b>India</b>	0.388	23.2	76.8	59.4	59.0	33.9	62.4

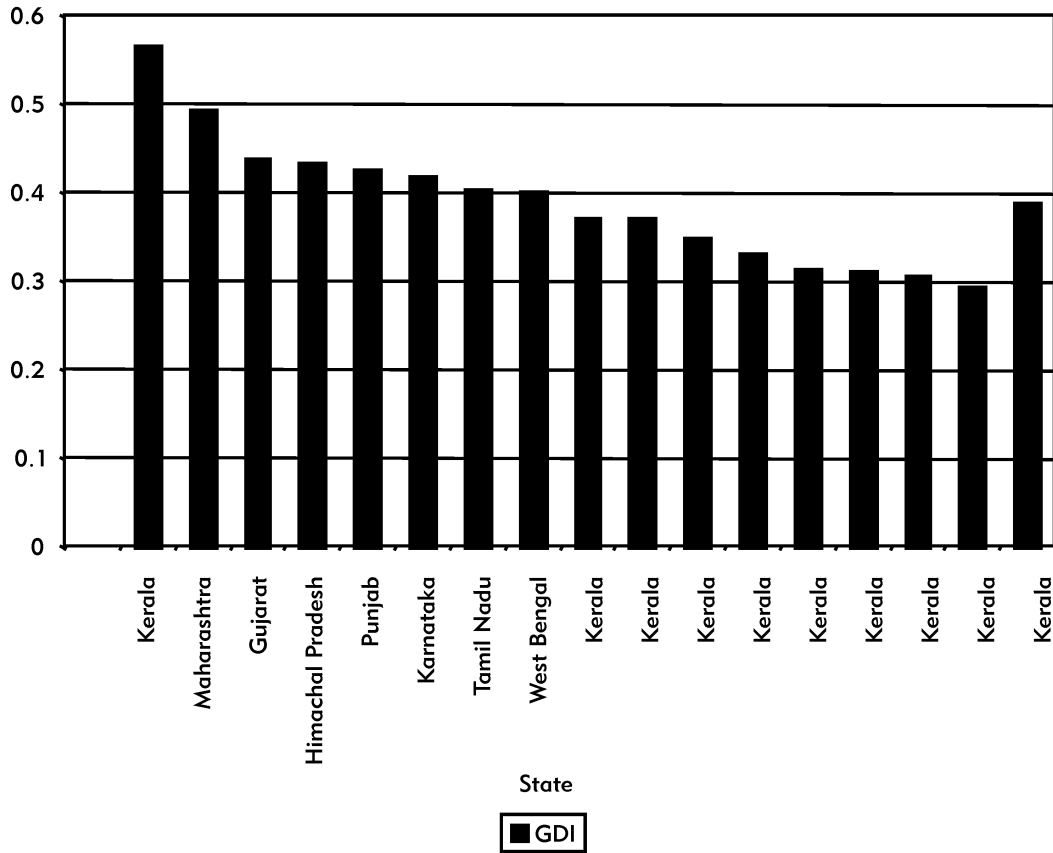
Source: A K Shiva Kumar, "UNDP's Gender-Related Development Index: A Computation for Indian States, *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 6, 1996.

This is reflected through the Gender Development Index (GDI), which measures the unequal achievements of men and women using the same indicators as HDI. The greater the gender disparity in basic capabilities, the lower a country's GDI as compared to its HDI. Haryana's GDI in 1991-2 was only 0.370 as compared to its relatively high HDI in 1991 at 0.443.

Table 1.3 reveals the Gender Development Index (GDI) values of sixteen States vis-à-vis Haryana in 1991-2. Of the 16 States, Haryana ranks a lowly 10<sup>th</sup> with only Assam, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh ranking below it. Haryana's affluence, then, is not reflected in the gender relations scenario. This, on the one hand, highlights the pronounced gender inequalities in these States<sup>4</sup>, and on the other, reinforces the fact that gender inequalities may not be correlated to income levels in any predictable manner, as also alludes to the anti-female bias and systematic deprivation of women.

<sup>4</sup> See A K Shiva Kumar, "UNDP's Gender-Related Development Index: A Computation for Indian States, *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 6, 1996.

GDI, for major states, 1991-92



However, while HDI and GDI provide some indication towards the status of women in any society, in recent years, it is argued, that these indicators are not reliable indices for measuring the status of women as some of the key indicators are non-quantifiable. The real successes and failures in the State in relation to women’s development have to be assessed within the complex socio-cultural situation of the State. The status of women in any society must be assessed in the context not only of the indicators taken for calculating the GDI, but in terms of various demographic criteria, health, education, work, political participation as well as crimes against women, which is the aim and object of the present situational analysis of women in Haryana.

## **CHAPTER – II**

# **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Demographic indicators are significant indices of the status of women in any given society. Haryana, with a territory of 44,212 sq.km, which is merely 1.44 per cent of the territory of India has a total population of 210.83 lakhs, which is 2.05 per cent of the total population of India.

### **Density of Population**

Density of population, i.e. the number of persons per square kilometer, reveals the population concentration in an area. As against an all-India density of population of 324, Haryana has a high density of 477 and ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in terms of density amongst the Indian States and Union Territories. Furthermore, as against an all India increase of 57 points in density over the last Census, the corresponding increase in Haryana, to the tune of 105 points, is almost double the national increase.

### **Growth Rate of Population**

Apart from a higher density of population, as compared to the national average, Haryana also reveals a higher growth rate of population. It is equally significant that while the national growth rate is declining, Haryana is one of the few States which reveal an increase in this rate, bringing it more in the category of the less developed States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland which show an increase in growth rates for the population. A majority of the States in India reveal a decline in this ratio.

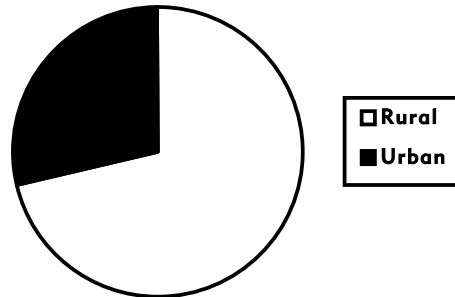
The average annual exponential growth rate of population in India is 1.94 percent, which has declined from 2.14 percent in the last census. The decadal growth rate of population for all of India is 21.34 per cent over the last decade. This too has declined from 23.86 percent in the decade 1981-1991.

In contrast, Haryana shows a decadal as well as annual exponential growth rate of population considerably higher than the national average. At 28.06 percent, the Haryana Decadal growth rate of population is almost 7 per cent higher than the national average. Significantly, while the nation as a whole reveals a decline in the decadal growth rate, Haryana shows an increase from 27.41 percent in the last decade (1981-1991) to 28.06 per cent in 1991-2001. Likewise, the average annual exponential growth rate is 2.47, which is at least 0.54 per cent higher than the national average. In this context too, Haryana reveals an increase over the last census.

## Rural Urban Distribution of Population

Haryana is basically an agricultural State and this is reflected in its population distribution, wherein 71 per cent of the population resides in rural areas and a mere 29 per cent of its population is urban based.

Rural Urban Distribution of Population



## Sex Ratio

A highly masculine sex ratio has been one of the most significant characteristics of India throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even more noteworthy is the fact that this sex ratio has shown an almost continuous decline from 972 in 1901 to 933 in 2001. It would not be out of context to mention that the sex ratio at birth should be somewhere between 943-952<sup>1</sup>. The better physiological strength of girl children, which ensures better survival chances should bring the sex ratio closer to unity. Yet this is not the case in India and the sex ratio in most of the Indian States is adverse to females. A look at Table 2.1 below reveals that Kerala is the only State in India, which has a sex ratio favouring females and Pondicherry is the only Union Territory which has a sex ratio above unity.

**Table 2.1**  
**States and Union Territories Ranked by Sex Ratio, India-2001**

Rank by Sex-Ratio	States/Union Territories	Sex-Ratio	Rank by Sex Ratio	States/Union Territories	Sex-Ratio
	India	933	6	Andhra Pradesh	978
1	Kerala	1058	7	Meghalaya	975
2	Pondicherry	1001	8	Orissa	972
3	Chhatisgarh	990	9	Himachal Pradesh	970
4	Tamil Nadu	986	10	Uttranchal	964
5	Manipur	978	11	Karnataka	964

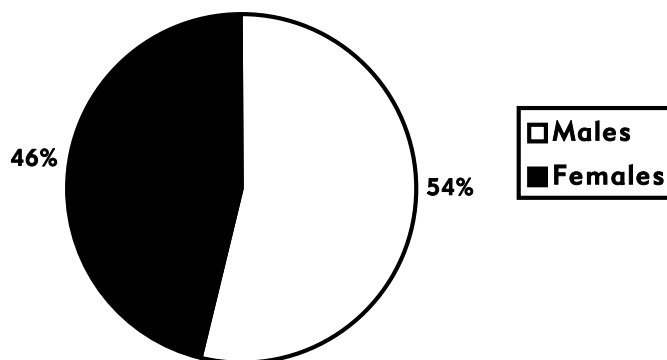
<sup>1</sup> See Census of India, Series 1, 2001.

Rank by Sex-Ratio	States/Union Territories	Sex-Ratio	Rank by Sex Ratio	States/Union Territories	Sex-Ratio
12	Goa	960	24	Nagaland	909
13	Tripura	950	25	Arunachal Pradesh	901
14	Lakshadweep	947	26	Jammu & Kashmir	900
15	Jharkhand	941	27	Uttar Pradesh	898
16	Mizoram	938	28	Sikkim	875
17	West Bengal	934	29	Punjab	874
18	Assam	932	30	Haryana	861
19	Rajasthan	922	31	Andaman & Nicobar	847
20	Maharashtra	922	32	Delhi	821
21	Bihar	921	33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	811
22	Gujrat	921	34	Chandigarh	773
23	Madhya Pradesh	920	35	Daman & Diu	709

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series-4, Punjab (Provisional Population Totals, Paper 1 of 2001)

While this is the general scenario all over India, Haryana has the dubious distinction of ranking at the bottom of the scale amongst the Indian States in respect of sex ratio. Having a sex ratio of 861 in 2001, Haryana ranks 30<sup>th</sup> and is better positioned only in respect to the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar (847), National Capital Territory of Delhi (821), the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (811), Chandigarh (773) and Daman & Diu(709). The demographic scenario is heavily loaded in favour of males, with males constituting 53.73 per cent of the total population and females constituting merely 46.27 per cent of the total population.

**Sex-wise population of Haryana**



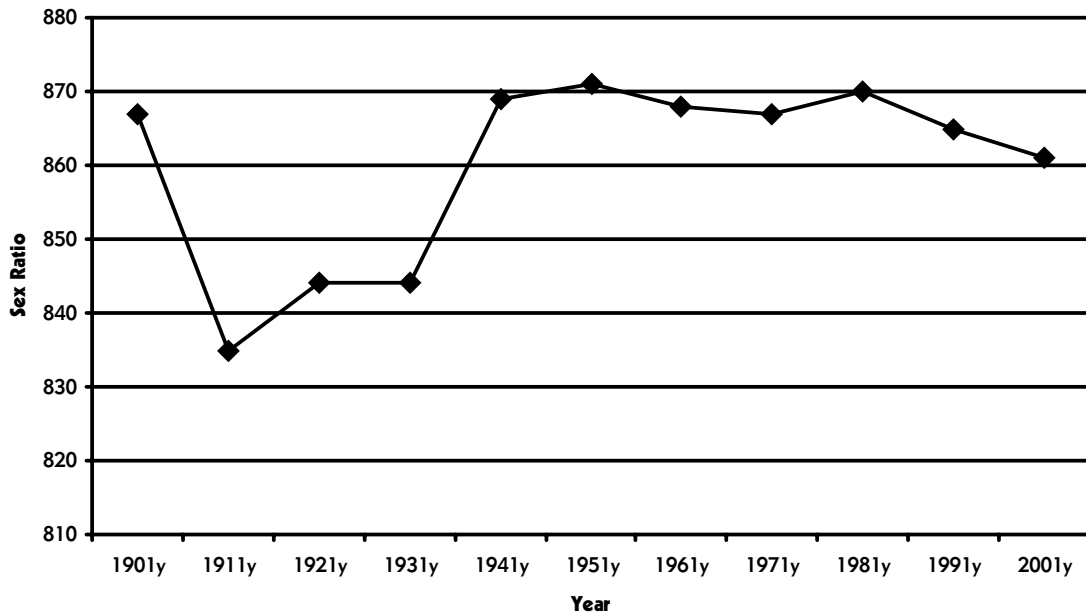
**Table 2.2**  
**Sex Ratio Since 1901 For Haryana and Its Districts**

State/District	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>861</b>
Panchkula	765	747	749	765	805	799	805	819	833	839	823
Ambala	817	755	783	789	795	807	828	882	902	903	869
Yamunanagar	811	763	783	789	580	841	836	848	855	883	863
Kurukshetra	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	858	853	859	872	879	866
Kaithal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	849	837	843	848	853	854
Karnal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	860	853	856	856	864	864
Panipat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	866	857	852	849	852	830
Sonepat	872	850	856	860	908	886	886	866	866	840	839
Jind	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	849	857	860	856	838	853
Fatehabad	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	853	852	870	881	877	886
Sirsa	871	837	877	855	878	843	845	865	877	885	882
Hissar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	871	866	859	859	853	852
Bhiwani	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	880	880	878	897	878	880
Rohtak	883	848	840	845	904	881	885	878	869	849	847
Jhajjar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	911	902	903	891	861	848
Mahendragarh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	972	961	910	939	910	919
Rewari	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	930	926	927	926	927	901
Gurgaon	905	878	858	859	880	895	891	886	880	871	874
Faridabad	905	878	858	859	880	854	848	810	811	828	839

Source: Census of India, Series 7, Haryana, 2001

Significantly, Haryana had started off the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a sex ratio of 867 and it ended it with a sex ratio of 865. It entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century with an even lower sex ratio of 861. What is worse is that while the sex ratio in Haryana had witnessed a sharp drop between the years 1901 and 1911, it had been inching upwards till 1951. The two census years of 1961 and 1971 saw a reversal of this trend with the sex ratio falling. 1981 again witnessed an increase of 3 points over the last census, but the 1991 census again revealed a decline of 5 points followed by another decline of 4 points in the current census, taking the sex ratio to a point below the 1901 ratio.

### Sex Ratio in Haryana



The same grim picture of unfavourable sex ratio prevails at the district level. Table 2.3 below reveals that none of the districts in the State have a sex ratio higher than the national average. As a matter of fact the district with the highest sex ratio, Mahendragarh has a sex ratio which is 14 points lower than the national average. Only two districts, viz. Rewari and Mahendragarh have crossed the 900 mark in respect of sex ratio. All the other 17 districts of this State have a sex ratio falling between 823 and 886. Another noteworthy factor in this respect is the fact that it is Panchkula, a district bordering Chandigarh (which ranks almost at the bottom of the scale in sex ratio) which has the lowest sex ratio in the State. This would seem to give rise to a poser: Does location have an impact on sex ratio?

A considerable variation is noticeable in the districtwise rankings, in this census and the last. Mahendragarh and Rewari have exchanged places at the top. Rewari ranked at the top in 1991 and is now second and vice versa. Panchkula, which ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in 1991 has moved to the bottom while, Faridabad, which was at the bottom has moved to 17<sup>th</sup> place. The most significant change is noticeable in the ranking for Fatehabad, which has moved from 8<sup>th</sup> place in the last census to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the current one.

While the overall sex ratio for Haryana has declined by 4 points, eight districts reveal a positive improvement in the sex ratio. The highest improvement is visible in the district of Jind, where the sex ratio has improved by a marked 15 points from 838 in 1991 to 853 in 2001. This is followed by Faridabad, which shows an improvement of 11 points over the last census. Mahendragarh and Fatehabad, both reveal an increase of 9 points, while Gurgaon, Bhiwani and Kaithal show marginal improvement by 3, 2 and 1 points respectively. Six of these districts, viz. Jind, Mahendragarh, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Bhiwani and Kaithal have reversed the declining trend of the previous census.

**Table 2.3**  
**Ranking of Districts by Sex Ratio**

Rank in 2001	District	Sex Ratio (Number of Females per 1000 Males)		Rank in 1991
		2001	1991	
1	Mahendragarh	919	910	2
2	Rewari	901	927	1
3	Fatehabad	886	877	8
4	Sirsa	882	885	4
5	Bhiwani	880	878	7
6	Gurgaon	874	871	9
7	Ambala	869	903	3
8	Kurukshetra	866	879	6
9	Karnal	864	864	10
10	Yamunanagar	863	883	5
11	Kaithal	854	853	12
12	Jind	853	838	18
13	Hisar	852	853	13
14	Jhajjar	848	861	11
15	Rohtak	847	849	15
16	Sonepat	839	840	16
17	Faridabad	839	828	19
18	Panipat	830	852	14
19	Panchkula	823	839	17

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series 7, Haryana

The improvement in the sex ratio of these districts is effectively countermanded by the immense decline in others. The highest decline amounting to as much as 34 points is noticeable in the district of Ambala, followed by Panipat (22 points), Yamunanagar (20 points), Rewari (17 points). Karnal is the only district which shows no change in the sex ratio between the two census years.

In contrast, in 1991, 10 districts had shown an improvement in the sex ratio over that in the 1981 census. These were the districts of Panchkula, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Panipat, Sirsa, Rewari and Faridabad. Out of these 10, only Faridabad and Sirsa again showed an improvement in the 2001 Census., while the other eight revealed a decline.

**Table 2.4**  
**The Five Best Tehsils In Terms Of Total Sex Ratio**  
**In the State of Haryana in 2001**

<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name of Tehsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
1.	Kosli	Rewari	945
2.	Narnaul	Mahendragarh	921
3.	Mahendergarh	Mahendragharh	917
4.	Bawal	Rewari	905
5.	Feroz – Jhirka	Gurgaon	905

**The Five Worst Tehsils in Total Sex Ratio**

<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name of Tehsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
1.	Sonipat	Sonipat	829
2.	Panipat	Panipat	823
3.	Bahadurgarh	Jhajjar	821
4.	Faridabad	Faridabad	816
5.	Panchkula	Panchkula	810

**Five Best Tehsils In Sex Ratio (Rural / Urban)**

<b>Tahsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Rural Sex Ratio</b>	<b>Urban Tahsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex ratio</b>
Kosli	Rewari	945	Chhachhrauli	Yamunanagar	948
Narnaul	Mahendragarh	929	Punahana	Gurgaon	913
Mahendragarh	Mahendragarh	920	Ferozepurzhirka	Gugaon	907
Bawal	Rewari	908	Loharu	Bhiwani	906
Taoru	Gurgaon	907	Naraingarh	Ambala	903

**Five Worst Tehsils In Sex Ratio (Rural / Urban)**

<b>Tahsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Rural Sex Ratio</b>	<b>Urban Tahsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
Panchkula	Panchkula	774	Faridabad	Faridabad	809
Sonipat	Sonipat	824	Bahadurgarh	Jhajjar	810
Bahadurgarh	Jhajjar	828	Panipat	Panipat	818
Gurgaon	Gurgaon	830	Samalkha	Panipat	828
Kharkhod	Sonipat	830	Thanesar	Kurukshetra	832

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series 7, Haryana

### Sex Ratio (0-6 years) Age Group

While the overall sex ratio may be affected by extraneous factors such as migration, it is the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group, which portrays the trend for the future. In this group, the situation of Haryana is only a little better than that of its neighbour Punjab. Haryana reveals a decline of 59 points in the current census as compared to the previous one, which is second only to that of Punjab which has witnessed a monumental decline to the extent of 82 points. From its 30<sup>th</sup> position in respect of sex ratio of the total population, Haryana slides even further down the graph to 34<sup>th</sup> position amongst the Indian States and Union Territories.

**Table 2.5**

#### **Sex Ratio Of Total Population And Child Population in the Age Group 0-6 : 1991 And 2001, India and States**

State/ UT Code	India/States/ Union territories*	Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)					
		Total population		Child population in the age group 0-6		Population aged 7 and above	
		1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>9.27</b>	<b>9.33</b>	<b>9.45</b>	<b>9.27</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>9.35</b>
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A	900	N.A.	937	N.A.	894
2.	Himachal Pradesh	976	970	951	897	980	981
3.	Punjab	882	874	875	793	883	886
4.	Chandigarh *	790	773	899	845	772	763
5.	Uttaranchal	936	964	948	906	933	976
6.	Haryana	865	861	879	820	862	869
7.	Delhi *	827	821	915	865	810	813
8.	Rajasthan	910	922	916	909	908	925
9.	Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916	863	895
10.	Bihar	907	921	953	938	895	916
11.	Sikkim	878	875	965	986	860	858
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	859	901	982	961	829	888
13.	Nagaland	886	909	993	975	865	899
14.	Manipur	958	978	974	961	955	981
15.	Mizoram	921	938	969	971	911	932
16.	Tripura	945	950	967	975	940	947

State/ UT Code	India/States/ Union territories*	Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)					
		Total population		Child population in the age group 0-6		Population aged 7 and above	
		1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
17.	Meghalaya	955	975	986	975	947	974
18.	Assam	923	932	975	964	910	926
19.	West Bengal	917	934	967	963	907	929
20.	Jharkhand	922	941	979	966	908	936
21.	Orissa	971	972	967	950	972	976
22.	Chhatisgarh	985	990	984	975	986	992
23.	Madhya Pradesh	912	920	941	929	905	918
24.	Gujarat	934	921	928	878	936	927
25.	Daman & Due	969	709	958	925	971	682
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	952	811	1013	973	937	779
27.	Maharashtra	934	922	946	917	931	923
28.	Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	964	972	980
29.	Karnataka	960	964	960	949	960	966
30.	Goa	967	960	964	933	967	964
31.	Lakshadweep*	943	947	941	974	943	943
32.	Kerala	1036	1058	958	963	1049	1071
33.	Tamil Nadu	974	986	948	939	978	992
34.	Pondicherry*	979	1001	963	958	982	1007
35.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	818	846	973	965	790	830

Source: Census of India, Series 1, 2001.

The scenario is equally appalling at the district level with not a single district showing a positive development in this regard. Gurgaon ranks at the top with a sex ratio of 863 and Kurukshetra at the bottom with a sex ratio of 770. Significantly, Mahendragarh, which ranks at the top in respect of overall sex ratio, ranks somewhere in the middle in this age group. Noteworthy is the fact that all the districts reveal a downward trend. The highest decline in this respect is witnessed in the district of Ambala, which shows a decrease of 104 points over the previous census. It is followed by Kurukshetra, which has a decline of 98 points. Noticeably, the lowest decline in this context is 28 points in Faridabad.

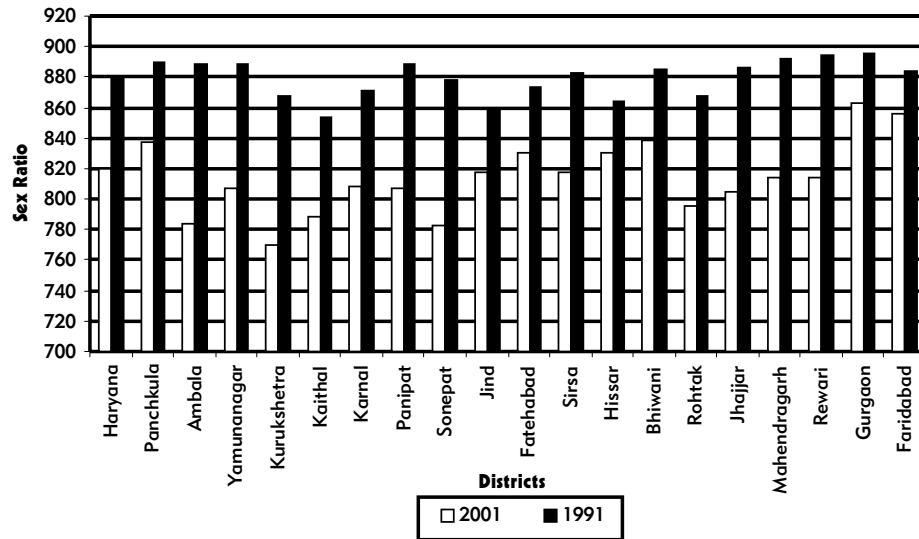
**Table 2.6**  
**Sex Ratio in 0-6 years Age Group, Haryana and Districts**

District	Sex Ratio in 0-6 years Age Group	
	2001	1991
Haryana	820	879
Panchkula	837	890
Ambala	784	888
Yamunanagar	807	888
Kurukshetra	770	868
Kaithal	789	854
Karnal	808	871
Panipat	807	889
Sonepat	783	878
Jind	818	858
Fatehabad	830	873
Sirsa	818	883
Hissar	830	864
Bhiwani	838	885
Rohtak	796	868
Jhajjar	805	886
Mahendragarh	814	892
Rewari	814	894
Gurgaon	863	895
Faridabad	856	884

Source: Census of India, Series 7, Haryana

A comparison of the 0-6 sex ratio with the overall sex ratio reveals that Gurgaon, which ranks 6th in respect of overall sex ratio, ranks at the top in respect of 0-6 years age group. Paradoxically, Panchkula, which ranks at the bottom in the general sex ratio, ranks 4th in this respect of 0-6 years age group and Kurukshetra, which is ranked at a relatively better 8th place in the former lies at the bottom in the latter. As many as 17 of Haryana's 19 districts have a child sex ratio lower than 850.

Sex Ratio (0-6 years) Haryana and Districts, 1991 & 2001



The low juvenile sex ratio is merely one side of the sorry State of affairs. What is even more appalling is the fact that out of the 10 districts in the country having the lowest child sex ratio, 3 fall in Haryana, while the other seven belong to the neighbouring State of Punjab. A slight positive note may be sounded here, in as much as in 1991 4 of such districts fell in Haryana, while the others belonged to Punjab (3), Tamil Nadu (1), Madhya Pradesh (1) and Rajasthan (1). This positive development must, however, be taken with a pinch of salt as the improvement is not due to any improvement in Haryana's child sex ratio picture, but because of the higher decline in Punjab.

**Table 2.7**  
**Districts With The Lowest Child Sex Ratio In India, 2001**

District	State	Sex Ratio
Ambala	Haryana	784
Amritsar	Punjab	783
Sonapat	Haryana	783
Bathinda	Punjab	779
Mansa	Punjab	779
Kapurthala	Punjab	775
Gurdaspur	Punjab	775
Kurukshetra	Haryana	770
Patiala	Punjab	770
Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab	754

Source: Presentation by Mr. Sunil Gulati, Director, Census Operations, Haryana at Regional Data Dissemination Workshop, Chandigarh, July 10, 2001

**Table 2. 8**  
**Ten Worst Tehsils In Sex Ratio Of 0-6 Pop, (Rural / Urban)**

<b>Worst Tahsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Rural Sex Ratio</b>	<b>Worst Tahsil</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Urban Sex Ratio</b>
Shahabad	Kurukshetra	743	Shahabad	Kurukshetra	718
Ambala	Ambala	767	Ballabgarh	Faridabad	722
Thanesar	Kurukshetra	771	Indri	Karnal	736
Narainga	Ambala	772	Kaithal	Kaithal	753
Barara	Ambala	781	Rania	Sirsa	755
Ganaur	Sonipat	784	Sonipat	Sonipat	756
Sonipat	Sonipat	785	Narwana	Jind	763
Kharkhoda	Sonipat	787	Thanesar	Kururshetra	768
Guhla	Kaithal	792	Samalkha	Panipat	770
Gohana	Sonipat	794	Karnal	Karnal	771

Source : Census Of India 2001, Series 7, Haryana

The issue of declining sex ratio in Haryana has become a study in contrasts with no possibility of arriving at some general conclusions. In the first instance, Haryana has a high level of development and ranks comparatively high in the HDI. Thus poverty cannot be cited as the reason for declining sex ratio.

The causes for this phenomenon cannot be traced to literacy either. Notably, the district with the second highest sex ratio, viz. Rewari also has the highest overall and female literacy rate, but the districts with the lowest sex ratio, Panchkula and Panipat (19<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> respectively) are also ranked considerably high in respect of literacy rates. So the linkage with education too becomes slightly far fetched. Nor can industrialisation and urbanisation be accepted as causes.

“The declining sex ratio must be considered along with factors of improved life expectancy, greater availability of health services and declining female mortality. Lower female death rate and higher life expectancy, seen along with a declining sex ratio can only indicate the increasing incidence of female foeticide as well as negligence of the girl child. Sex determination clinics continue to proliferate all over the State and clearly advertise, in clear violation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques

*“The metal plate is repeatedly struck, the sound resonates in the villages of Haryana, announcing the birth of a baby boy. It fills the house with festivity, and celebrations begin. Women dressed in beautiful colours prepare for the feast. The proud mother distributes gifts to her husband’s family. The family has been ‘gifted’ with a baby boy who will grow up to continue the lineage. The little boy’s hand is delicately held to put on a small amulet to protect him against evil spirits and bless him with a ling life. Little girls in Haryana do not have this amulet.”*

Our Daughter, Our Wealth, Population Council, 1999.

(Prevention of Misuse) Act, "Pay Rs 500 now instead of Rs. 5 lakhs later"; there have been no convictions under the Act. Technology, developed to eliminate birth defects, is being used to nip innocent lives in the bud and the girl child is even denied the right to be born. True estimates of female foeticide/infanticide are difficult to get. But the juvenile sex ratio provides a broad picture of this" observes the Punjab Human Development Report. The same causes would hold true for Haryana. Pramod Gouri, director of Search, a government-financed civic-education outfit in Rohtak, offers two explanations "as to why Punjab and Haryana should be so egregiously prone to female foeticide: the region's social norms have proved remarkably immune to "modernity"; and the agricultural "green revolution" put enough money in local pockets to make sex-selection affordable. Abortion is far more prevalent among better-off, town-dwelling, higher-caste and literate women. Smaller families have, as in China, also further encouraged female abortion."<sup>2</sup>

Blaming female foeticide/infanticide for declining sex ratio is like looking at the problem with blinders on. To understand the paradox of declining sex ratio in the face of improvement in other indicators, one needs to examine the entire gamut of socio-economic and cultural variables, which make the Haryanvi women equal yet unequal, marginalized yet valorised. The issues must be identified, the sanctity of girl-child's right to birth and life must be recognised, the mind-set needs to be changed, legal measures need to be evoked; the underlying causes have to be traced and eliminated, before we can reverse this process.

### **Sex ratio of Slum Population**

An even more depressing picture is presented by the sex ratio of the slum population of Haryana. As against a sex ratio of 861 for the total population, the sex ratio of the slum population is merely 824. However, on the positive side, the sex ratio of the child population in slum areas is slightly higher at 837 than the child sex ratio of the total population.

**Table 2.9**  
**Sex Ratio of Slum Population in Haryana 2001.**

	Sex Ratio
Total Population	824
Child Population of age Group 0-6	837

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series 7, Haryana

### **Son Preference in Haryana**

One of the key reasons for declining sex ratio is a high level of son preference. The Table below enumerates the mean number of sons and daughters wanted by ever married women. Obviously the number and percentage of women who want more sons than daughters is high, while the percentage who want more daughters than sons is almost negligible. This factor holds true regardless of residence or literacy. At the same time, it must be admitted that the percentage of women wanting at least one daughter is also high. However, in contrast the percentage of women wanting at least one son is still higher. Thus, notwithstanding

<sup>2</sup> The Economist, April 17, 2003, [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)

the various schemes and attempts made by policy makers and planners, son preference continues to rule the roost so far as families in Haryana are concerned.

**Table 2.10**  
**Indicators of Sex Preference**

**Mean ideal number of sons, daughters, and children of either sex for ever-married woman, percentage who went more sons than daughters, percentage who want more daughters than sons, percentage who want at least one son, and percentage who went of least one daughter by selected background characteristics, Haryana, 1998-89**

Back ground characteristic	Mean ideal number of			Percentage who want more sons than daughters	Percentage who wants more daughters than sons	Percentage who want at least one son	Percentage who want at least one daughter	Number of women
	Sons	Daughters	Either sex					
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	1.1	0.8	0.3	25.9	0.5	84.4	78.4	820
Rural	1.5	0.9	0.2	42.2	0.5	92.0	82.0	2017
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	1.6	1.0	0.2	46.2	0.3	92.4	83.4	1550
Literate < middle school complete	1.3	0.8	0.3	37.3	0.6	89.4	80.0	479
Middle school complete	1.2	0.8	0.3	31.1	0.9	87.6	78.3	234
High school complete and above	1.0	0.8	0.3	16.9	0.7	84.0	76.1	574

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana, 1998-99

### **Birth and Death Rates**

As against an all-India Birth Rate of 27.2 per cent, based on the Sample Registration System, Haryana has a higher SRS birthrate of 28.3. In contrast the NFHS-II data reveals Haryana to have lower birth rate at 23.1 percent. Significantly, the rural birth rate is considerably higher than the birth rate in the urban areas.

**Table 2.11**  
**Crude Birth Rate in Haryana, NFHS-I, NFHS-II, SRS**

	NFHS-1 (1990-82)	NFHS-2(1996-98)			SRS(1997)		
Age	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
CBR	32.9	18.1	25.0	23.1	23.8	29.6	28.3

Note Rates From NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 are for the period 1-36 months preceding the survey. Rates from the SRS are for one calendar

CBR: Crude birth rate, expressed per 1,000 population

Source for SRS: Office of the Registrar General. 1999a

Source : NFHS-II, Haryana, 1998-99

**Table 2.12**  
**Age specific death rates and crude death rates (CDR) by sex from NFHS-1, NFHS-2, and the SRS, Haryana**

	NFHS-1 (1991-92)	NFHS-2 (1997-98)			SRS (1997)		
Age	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 5	22.1	16.7	21.5	18.9	19.7	25.1	22.2
5-14	1.2	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.3
15-49	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.1	2.6	2.9
50-59	12.3	4.3	3.8	4.1	12.3	5.2	8.9
60+	39.3	47.1	45.6	46.4	46.5	40.6	43.3
CDR	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.0

Note Age specific death rates and crude death rates by sex from NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 are based on the annual number of deaths reported or the de jure population during the two years preceding the survey.. The SRS rates are also de jure, based on deaths during 1997. Rates are specified on a per-thousand basis.

Sources for SRS. Office of the Registrar General, 1999b

Likewise, the crude death rate in Haryana is lower than the national average. However, it is noteworthy that while the SRS estimates indicate no difference between male and female death rates, the NFHS-II estimates reveal a higher Crude Death Rate for women as compared to men.

**Table 2.13**  
**Neonatal, post neonatal, infant, child and under five mortality rates for the 10 years period**  
**preceding the survey by selected demographic characteristics, Haryana, 1998-99.**

	<i>Neonatal mortality</i>	<i>Post neonatal mortality</i>	<i>Infant mortality</i>	<i>Child mortality</i>	<i>Under Five mortality</i>
	<i>(NN)</i>	<i>(PNN)</i>	<i>(1q0)</i>	<i>(4q0)</i>	<i>(5q0)</i>
<b>Sex of Child</b>					
<i>Male</i>	32.2	20.6	52.9	13.8	66.0
<i>Female</i>	36.0	30.0	66.0	30.2	94.2

Source, NFHS-II Haryana, 1998-99

It is, however, the mortality rates of infants and children, which are actually indicative of the prevailing gender discrimination and inegalitarian status of women in the State of Haryana. A look at the table above reveals that as against 32.2 per cent of male children dying in the first month of life, 36.0 female children die in this period. This situation becomes even more grim when post neonatal mortality is considered. As against 20.6% of male babies dying in the period between the first month of life but before the first birthday, 30.0 per cent of female babies die in this period. Still more horrifying is the picture for infant mortality where the mortality differentials are 13.1 points. To make the portrait even more horrendous, the child mortality figures (probability of dying between the first and fifth birthdays) reveal a differential of nearly 17 points. On the whole, the under five mortality rate for males is 66.0 as compared to a gigantic 94.2 for females.

Notwithstanding the fact that female babies are supposed to be healthier and sturdier at birth with less chances of dying as compared to baby boys, such prevailing gender differentials in mortality are indicative of the extreme bias and discrimination which continues in this highly patriarchal State. Herein lies one of the causes for the abysmal sex ratio of the State.

### **Life Expectancy**

Paradoxically, higher female mortality rates are accompanied by a higher life expectancy at birth for females as compared to males. Life expectancy at birth for females (as well as for males) has been improving over the years and female life expectancy is higher than male life expectancy since the early eighties. At the all-India level, while the overall life expectancy is 61.1 years, male life expectancy is 60.4 years. Female life expectancy at 61.8 years is at least 1.4 years higher than male life expectancy.

Amongst the major States in India, Haryana ranks at 7<sup>th</sup> position in respect of female life expectancy, with a female life expectancy of 64.6 years. It ranks behind Kerala, Punjab, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Over the period 1992-96 and 1993-97, Haryana has shown an improvement of 0.3 years for female life expectancy. Significantly, there is a six year gap between rural and urban female life expectancy with the latter being much higher at 69.6 years as compared to 63.3 years for rural females.

## Aged Women

Increased life expectancy along with decline in death rates gives rise to another issue that of the aged and elderly. With females having a higher life expectancy, the future is likely to see more aged women, who may be widows as male life expectancy is lower. As the National Human Development Report 2001 notes, "The number of widows among the elderly is about three and a half times more than the number of widowers."<sup>3</sup>

Haryana along with Kerala, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh is one of the States with a high proportion of elderly population. The percentage of the elderly in Haryana in the 1991 census was 7.70, which is at least one percentage point higher than the national average of 6.70. This proportion amongst the males is 7.43, while amongst the females it is higher at 8.01. Significantly the rise in the percentage of females has been at a faster rate from 5.73 in 1981 to 8.01 in 1991. In contrast the percentage of male elderly persons rose from 6.78 per cent to 7.43 percent.

## Age at Marriage

One of the major characteristics of the Indian social and demographic scene is a low age at marriage for girls and boys. This is particularly true for the States of Rajasthan and Bihar. In Haryana, the singulate mean age at marriage is higher than the legally stipulated age of 18 years, yet lower than many of the developed States such as Punjab, Kerala and Maharashtra. A look at the Table below reveals that this age at marriage for females has risen from 17.7 years in the 1971 census to 18.9 years in 1991. NFHS-I estimates held this age to be 18.4 years. In the years of the NFHS-II, however, there has been an improvement of 1.4 years for women and the age at marriage has risen to 19.8.

**Table 2.14**  
**Singulate Mean Age at Marriage**

Singulate mean age at marriage by sex from selected sources, Haryana.  
1971-1998-99

Sources	Male	Female	Difference
1971 Census	20.9	17.7	3.2
1981 Census	21.3	17.8	3.5
1991 Census	22.8	18.9	3.9
<b>1993 NFHS-1</b>			
Urban	24.4	19.9	4.5
Rural	22.6	17.9	4.7
Total	23.1	18.4	4.7

<sup>3</sup> National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission, Govt. of India, March 2002, p. 92

Sources	Male	Female	Difference
<b>1998-99 NFHS-2</b>			
Urban	25.2	21.4	3.8
Rural	24.3	19.2	5.1
Total	24.6	19.8	4.8

Note :Table is based on the de jure population

*In sum*, the demographic dice in Haryana is heavily loaded against women, so much so that the States of Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have been labeled as the 'murderous trio' and India's 'Bermuda Triangle', where girls vanish without a trace. While the very issue of right to birth becomes crucial with the ever decreasing sex ratio, they do not fare much better so far as indicators of birth and death rates, and age at marriage are concerned. Do they fare any better in the field of literacy? This issue forms the essence of the next chapter, Female Literacy in Haryana.

## CHAPTER - III

### EDUCATION

“Education refers to a system of training and instruction designed to provide systematic knowledge, to develop skill, abilities, character and mental powers as the result of such training. All of these can individually become tools of empowerment for both men and women”, observes a UNIFEM report on gender biases and discrimination against women.<sup>1</sup> The Beijing Platform for Action too recognized the education of women and girls as one of the critical areas of concern. At the national level the National Policy for Education equally recognizes education as a vital tool in the empowerment of women. What has been Haryana’s progress in this regard? This is the focus of this chapter.

#### Female Literacy : Improvement and Gender Gaps

Significant progress has been made by Haryana in the area of female literacy. As Table 3.1 below reveals female literacy rates in Haryana have made a quantum jump from a lowly 10.32 per cent in 1971 to an impressive 56.31 per cent in 2001. While the male literacy rates too have registered an improvement from 38.9 per cent to 79.25 per cent in the same period, it is significant to note that the improvement in female literacy rates is almost 5 times while male literacy rates have little more than doubled in the same period.

It is also noteworthy that the increase between 1971-1981 was of about 10 percentage points. This growth rate more than doubled during the next decade and female literacy increased by more than 20 percentage points. Although the relatively high growth rate of female literacy continued in the current census, yet there is slight decline in this growth rate by about 4 percentage points.

**Table 3.1**  
**Literacy Rates**

#### Literacy Rate 1971-2001, Haryana

Year	Persons	Males	Females
1971	25.71	38.9	10.32
1981	37.13	51.86	20.04
1991	55.85	69.1	40.47
2001	68.59	79.25	56.31

Source: Census of India, Series 7, Haryana, 2001

<sup>1</sup> Preet Rustagi, **Gender Biases and Discrimination against Women : What Do Different Indicators Say?** UNIFEM, New Delhi, 2003, p. 35

**Literacy Rate in Haryana, 1971-2001**



However, compare Haryana’s female literacy rates with those of other States and the picture becomes quite dismal. Despite its immense improvement over the last four decades, Haryana remains among the lower category States for female literacy. At the all-India level, Haryana ranks at 16<sup>th</sup> place in respect of overall literacy, 20<sup>th</sup> for male literacy and a lowly 23<sup>rd</sup> in female literacy. While its literacy rate is higher than the national average, it is significant to note that it is much worse than its immediate neighbours viz. Punjab, Himachal Pradesh. and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Apart from the increase in literacy rates, one important indicator for female education is the gender gap in the male and female literacy rates. At the all-India level, this gap was a vast 26.52 per cent in 1981, coming down marginally to 24.84 per cent in 1991. In 2001 this gap has declined by another 3 percentage points to 21.70 per cent. While the overall literacy rates in Haryana are better as compared to the national average, the gender gap in male and female literacy rates is much higher. As Table 3.2 below reveals, this gender gap was a whopping 28.63 per cent in 1991. However, it has declined by almost six percentage points to 22.94 per cent in 2001.

A district-wise analysis reveals a considerable variation in regard to the educational status of various districts vis-à-vis male and female literacy rates. Thus Rewari, which is at the top in male literacy rates, ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in respect of female literacy rate. Mahendragarh reveals an even more paradoxical picture in that it is 2<sup>nd</sup> in respect of male literacy rate and a lowly 12<sup>th</sup> for female literacy rate. In contrast, Yamunanagar, which is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in male literacy is amazingly ranked third in female literacy. Paradoxically, Panchkula, which has the lowest sex ratio in the State is ranked first in female literacy. Only the districts of Kaithal and Fatehabad reveal no variation in ranking for male and female literacy rate and are uniformly placed at the bottom.

**Table 3.2**  
**Literacy Rate by Sex for State and Districts, 2001**

State/District	Literacy rates						Gender gap		
	Males		Ranking by male literacy rates	Female		Ranking by female literacy rate	Male	Female	Rank
	1991	2001		1991	2001		1991	2001	
Rewari	82.31	89.04	1	46.34	61.25	6	35.97	27.79	17
Mahendragarh	77.17	85.31	2	36.75	54.61	12	40.42	30.7	19
Rohtak	76.73	84.29	3	48.25	63.19	4	28.48	21.1	8
Sonepat	75.64	83.95	4	45.74	61.65	5	29.9	22.3	10
Jhajjar	78.09	83.26	5	46.12	59.88	8	31.97	23.38	12
Ambala	75.45	83.01	6	56.78	68.48	2	18.67	14.53	2
Panchkula	74.15	82.74	7	56.17	68.98	1	17.98	13.76	1
Faridabad	74.15	82.49	8	42.12	56.8	11	32.03	25.69	14
Bhiwani	70.73	81.19	9	35.07	53.5	13	35.66	27.69	16
Yamunanagar	69.81	79.28	10	50.16	64.08	3	19.65	15.2	3
Panipat	69.22	79.16	11	42.78	58.48	9	26.44	20.68	7
Kurukshetra	68.92	78.23	12	46.56	60.76	7	22.36	17.47	4
Hissar	65.01	77.62	13	33.41	52.09	14	31.6	25.53	13
Gurgaon	67.87	77.11	14	34.94	48.29	17	32.93	28.82	18
Karnal	65.36	76.74	15	41.92	58.42	10	23.44	18.32	5
Jind	60.93	74.69	16	29.86	48.97	16	31.07	25.72	15
Sirsa	57.21	70.93	17	34.02	50.31	15	23.19	20.62	6
Kaithal	54.85	69.81	18	28.78	47.6	18	26.07	22.21	9
Fatehabad	54.71	68.71	19	29.77	46.4	19	24.94	22.31	11

Source: Census of India, Series 7, Haryana, 2001

A look at the data for gender gap in literacy rates reveals a uniformly high gender gap across all the districts with Mahendragarh having the highest gender gap. It is to be noted (at the risk of repetition) that Mahendragarh has the highest sex ratio in the State and Panchkula the lowest. While the gap has declined over the past 10 years, it continues to be high. Significantly, it is Panchkula which has the lowest gender gap in male and female literacy rates in the State.

What are the causes of such a gender gap? The Human Development Report of South Asia, published by the Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Centre, succinctly points out the causes for the prevailing gender gap in education: "Low female participation in the education system is primarily the outcome of two factors: low parental demand for girls' schooling; and the public and private sectors supply of educational services that do not respond to the communities' needs". It also refers to the "opportunity costs" of sending girls to school as they perform more chores at home as compared to boys.<sup>2</sup>

### **Enrolment and Dropout Rates**

Literacy rates are only a partial indicator. For real empowerment, the number of years spent in schools is a crucial factor. Hence the study of enrolment and dropout rates becomes vital to an understanding of the status of women in any area.

**Table 3.3**  
**Enrolment Ratio in Classes I-V and VI-VIII of Schools for General Education (All Students), 1999-2000, Haryana and India**

State/India	Classes I-V (6-11) years			Classes VI-VIII( 11-14 years)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
India	104.08	85.18	94.9	67.15	49.66	58.79
Haryana	81.22	82.98	82.04	64.58	59.02	62.00

Source: Preet Rustagi, **Gender Biases and Discrimination against Women: What Do Different Indicators Say?**, UNIFEM, New Delhi, 2003

The above Table 3.3 reveals that at the national level, as against 104.08 per cent of boys aged 6-11 years enrolling in school, merely 85.18 percent of girls of the same age get enrolled in school. However, in Haryana more girls than boys are enrolling at the primary stage. This is in sharp contrast to the national and Statewise trend where more boys than girls enrol at the primary stage. Punjab is the only other State which has more girls than boys enrolling at this stage.

It is also noteworthy that the State average of boy's enrolment is about 23 percentage points lower than the national average, while the difference in regard to female enrolment is a little more than 2 percentage points.

However, in the next stage of classes VI-VIII, a marked drop in enrolment ratios is witnessed at both national and State level. This drop is higher for the nation as a whole where the enrolment for boys declines from 104.08 per cent to 67.15 per cent and for girls from 85.18 per cent to 49.66 per cent. At the State level, boys enrolment rate shows a decline from 81.22 per cent to 64.58 per cent and that for girls from 82.98 per cent to 59.02 per cent. Furthermore at the middle school level, while the State's average for boys enrolment continues to be lower than the national average, the enrolment

<sup>2</sup> **Human Development Report of South Asia**, The Gender Question, 2000, p. 116

ratio of girls is higher than the national average. However, the trend of higher girls' enrolment, noticeable at the primary stage is reversed at this stage with boys recording a higher enrolment rate.

Low enrolment of girls is compounded by higher dropout rates for girls. The causes are many, including inadequate facilities for girls in schools, absence of female teachers, insecurity, etc.

**Table 3.4**  
**Gross Dropout Rates in Classes 1-VI, I-VIII, I-X, 2000-2001**

State/India	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Haryana	23.74	19.68	21.88	13.56	22.48	17.69	31.37	42.65	36.51
India	39.71	41.90	41.67	50.33	57.95	53.67	66.41	71.51	68.58

Source: DWCD Annual Report, 2002-03, Ministry of HRD, GOI

A look at Table 3.4 above reveals the high dropout rates at both the national and State level. While the dropout rates at the national level are certainly higher than those at the State level, what is significant from the perspective of the present analysis is the gender differential in those rates. The gender differential is much higher at the State level as compared to the national level. Also noteworthy is the fact that, while at the national level, girl dropout rate is uniformly higher than that for boys, in Haryana, at the primary stage more boys than girls are dropping out of school. At the next stage, however, the percentage of girls dropping out is not only higher than that of boys, but the gender differential is also quite high.

### **School Attendance**

Another significant indicator of education, as against mere literacy is school attendance. The table below reveals a decline in school attendance with an increase in age for both boys and girls. While this decline exists for both boys and girls, it is much higher in the case of girls as compared to boys. Furthermore, an areawise analysis reveals that rural areas show a much lower percentage of females attending schools as compared to urban areas.

**Table 3.5**  
**School Attendance**  
**Percentage of the household age 6-17 years attending school by**  
**age, sex, and residence, Haryana, 1998-99**

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
6-10	92.7	92.5	92.5	92.0	89.3	89.9	92.4	91.0	91.4
11-14	90.9	88.3	89.1	86.8	77.3	80.0	89.0	83.0	84.7

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
15-17	71.8	66.3	68.0	75.2	40.0	50.3	73.3	54.4	60.0
6-14	91.9	90.8	91.1	89.6	84.1	85.5	90.9	87.7	88.6
6-17	87.1	85.4	85.9	86.1	74.7	77.8	86.7	80.5	82.2

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana, 1998-99

What are the reasons for poor attendance in schools? A look at the table below reveals these reasons to include factors such as education not considered necessary; required for household work; education is expensive; not interested in studies among others. A closer look at this table reveals a gendered variation between the reasons given for not attending school. While the highest percentage of girls cite education not considered necessary (24.0 %); amongst boys the highest percentage are not interested in studies (25.3%).

**Table 3.6**  
**Reasons For Children Not Attending School**

Percent distribution of children age 6-17 years who never attended school by the main reason for never attending school and percent distribution of children age 6-17 years who dropped out of school by the main reason for not currently attending school, according to residence and sex, Haryana, 1988-89.

Reasons	Urban		Rural		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Main reason for not Attending the school</b>						
School too far away	0.0	0.0	0.9	2.5	0.6	2.1
Education not Considered necessary	12.8	22.5	6.9	24.2	8.4	24.0
Required for house Hold work	7.7	8.5	4.4	17.9	5.2	16.5
Required for work on farm/family business	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	2.6	0.0
Required for outside work for payment in cash or kind	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.5	2.0	0.4
Costs too Much	35.8	31.5	19.9	16.4	23.9	18.7
No proper school facilities for girls	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	5.9
Required for care of siblings	2.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.9
Not interested in studies	18.1	22.9	27.8	14.5	25.3	15.8

	Urban		Rural		Total	
Reasons	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Other	23.1	14.6	33.2	15.4	30.6	15.3
Don't Know/missing	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Children	39	35	114	200	154	235
<b>Main reason for not currently attending School</b>						
School too far away	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.1
Transport not available	0.0	4.6	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.8
Further education not Consider necessary	1.9	4.5	2.0	6.2	2.0	5.9
Required for House Hold work	7.9	34.0	7.3	27.7	7.4	28.8
Required for work on farm/family business	9.9	0.0	4.0	0.0	5.5	0.0
Required for outside work for payment in cash or kind	7.8	0.0	4.6	0.0	5.5	0.0
Costs too much	15.8	9.1	9.3	11.3	10.9	10.9
No proper school facilities for girls	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	2.1
Not interested in Studies	48.7	43.2	69.5	41.5	64.2	41.8
Repeated failures	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.0	0.5	1.7
Got married	0.0	2.2	0.0	6.7	0.0	5.8
Other	7.9	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.5	0.0
Don't Know/missing	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.0	0.0
Total percent	100.0	10.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of children	51	44	151	195	202	239

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana, 1998-99

Another gender discrimination is revealed in that 16.5% of the girls are unable to attend school as they are required for household work as against merely 5.2% of the boys. Similar arguments are presented for currently not attending school with only a slight percentage variation.

### **Educational Infrastructure**

Haryana has definitely made progress in the field of education. One of the major reasons is the vast institutional set up. In 2001-02, Haryana had a total of 4 Universities, 154 Arts and Science

Colleges; 1 college for Physical Education; 20 Teachers Training Colleges; 4,494 High/Senior Secondary Schools; 2170 Middle/Senior Basic Schools; 11,208 Primary/Junior Basic Schools; 27 Per-Primary Schools; 17 Teachers Training schools and 6 schools for Handicapped.<sup>3</sup> In 2003-04 a new University, Ch.Devilal University has been established at Sirsa; 4 Government colleges have been established at Gurgaon, Bhiwani, Murthal and Hisar, out of which 3 are exclusively for women. At present reports the Economic Survey of Haryana (2003-03) there are 187 colleges, out of which 63 are girls colleges.

This vast network of institutions, notwithstanding, the number and percentage of girls schools at various levels is quite low as the table below reveals.

**Table 3.7**  
**Classification of Schools, 2001-02**

School	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage of Boys school to Total	Percentage of Girls Schools to Total
High/Senior Secondary School	3973	521	4494	88.41	11.59
Middle Schools	1976	194	2170	91.06	8.94
Primary (Including Pre-Primary/Balwari)	9581	1654	11235	85.28	14.72

Source: Statistical Abstract, Haryana, 2001-02

The percentage of girls schools is very low as compared to boys schools. It is highest at the Primary level and lowest at the middle level. However, it is significant that schools are accessible, one of the major causes of girls' dropping out of school, within a radius of 1.44 kms, 1.75 kms and 3.08 kms at middle, high and senior secondary level respectively. Primary education facilities are available within a distance of 1.11 kms in the State.

**Table 3.8**  
**Sex Ratio and Literacy Rates**

District	Rank by Sex ratio, 2001	Ranking by 0-6 sex ratio	Ranking by Literacy Rates
Mahendragarh	1	9	9
Rewari	2	10	3
Fatehabad	3	5	19
Sirsa	4	8	17
Bhiwani	5	3	13

<sup>3</sup> Statistical Abstract, Haryana, 2001-02

District	Rank by Sex ratio, 2001	Ranking by 0-6 sex ratio	Ranking by Literacy Rates
Gurgaon	6	1	15
Ambala	7	17	2
Kurukshetra	8	19	10
Karnal	9	11	12
Yamunanagar	10	12	7
Kaithal	11	16	18
Jind	12	7	16
Hisar	13	6	14
Jhajjar	14	14	6
Rohtak	15	15	4
Sonepat	16	18	5
Faridabad	17	2	8
Panipat	18	13	11
Panchkula	19	4	1

Source: Derived from Census of India, Series 7, Haryana, 2001

A general assumption is that sex ratios would improve with improved literacy rates. The Table above reveals the fallacy of this assumption. A comparison of the overall sex ratio with literacy rates shows that Mahendragarh which has the highest sex ratio in the State is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in terms of literacy and Fatehabad which is ranked third in sex ratio ranks last in terms of literacy. On the other hand, Panchkula which is ranked at the bottom in terms of sex ratio is at the top in respect of literacy rates.

A comparison of the literacy levels with the district ranking in 0-6 age group also upholds the claim that no positive correlation can be traced between literacy and sex ratio. Rewari, which is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in terms of 0-6 sex ratio is ranked third in respect of literacy and Fatehabad, which is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in terms of 0-6 sex ratio, is 19<sup>th</sup> in respect of literacy. On the other hand, Gurgaon, which tops in sex ratio in this age group, ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in respect of literacy.

The implications of this need to be assessed and analysed for improvement in sex ratios and the status of women.

In sum, Haryana has made rapid strides in the field of education. Yet it lags far behind in the goal of universal elementary education, which is a basic necessity for empowerment and development of women.

## CHAPTER - IV

### HEALTH

Haryana has started the new century with a large number of 'missing women'. Is this demographic imbalance indicative of the low status of women's health in Haryana? Recent years have witnessed a considerable reduction in the average family size, decline in fertility rates and falling mortality rates, pointing towards an improved health status. Nevertheless, globalisation and privatisation have had their impact in as much as free health services are replaced with user fee, a development, which negatively impacts women's health. A look at a few of the health indicators will reveal the true state of women's health in Haryana.

#### Fertility Rates

NFHS-II estimates reveal that an average Indian woman gives birth to three children in her reproductive span. This rate is higher in some of the States such as Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar and lower or closer to the replacement rate in a few States; Kerala being one of them. As against the all-India average of 2.85 Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Haryana has a slightly higher total fertility rate at 2.88. A look at the table below reveals that this TFR has declined from 3.99 in the period covered by NFHS-I. However, the SRS survey for the same period reveal a much higher TFR at 3.42. It is also noteworthy that as against a TFR of 2.24 in urban areas, rural areas have a much higher TFR of 3.13. Going by the age groupings, it would be noticed that the highest TFR is visible in the age group of 20-24 years, followed by 25-29, while the lowest is in the age group of 45-49 years.

**Table 4.1**  
**Current Fertility**

**Age- Specific And Total Fertility Rates And Crude Birth Rates From NFHS-1, NFHS-2,  
And The SRS By Residence, Haryana**

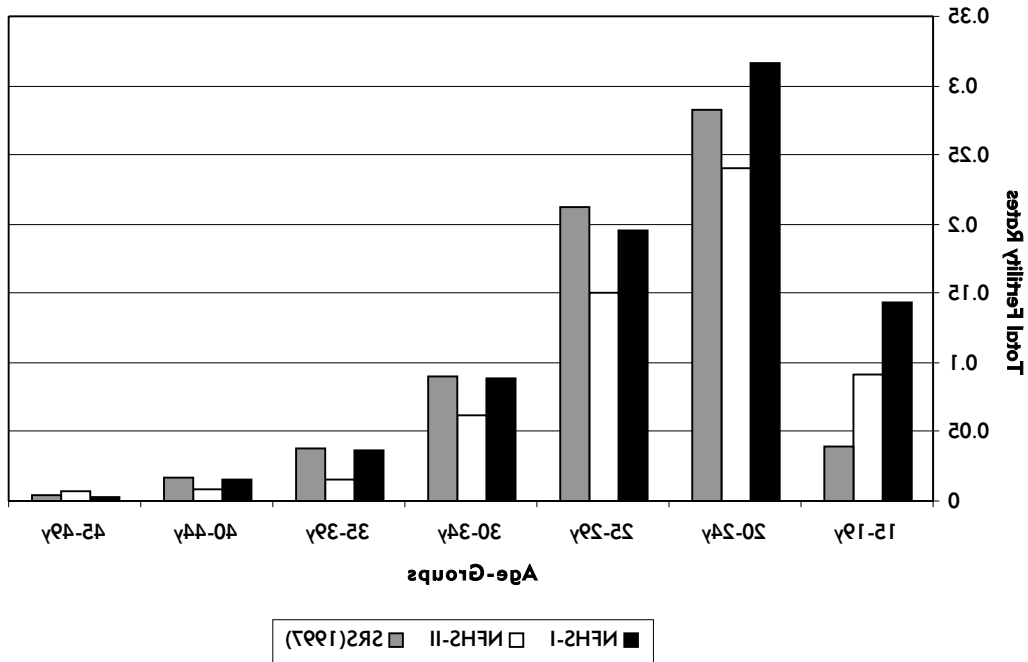
Age	NFHS-1 (1990-82)	NFHS-2(1996-98)			SRS(1997)		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
15-19	0.143	0.031	0.116	0.092	0.019	0.044	0.039
20-24	0.316	0.186	0.260	0.240	0.208	0.305	0.283

NFH2-1 (1990-82)		NFH2-2 (1995-98)			SR2 (1997)	
25-29	0.196	0.121	0.120	0.120	0.192	0.212
30-34	0.088	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.078	0.090
35-39	0.036	0.011	0.018	0.012	0.021	0.038
40-44	0.012	0.000	0.013	0.009	0.010	0.017
45-49	0.003	0.006	0.008	0.007	0.003	0.004
TFR 12-44	3.97	2.21	3.09	2.84	2.64	3.40
TFR 12-49	3.99	2.24	3.13	2.88	2.66	3.42

Note Rates from NFH2-1 and NFH2-2 are for the period 1-36 months preceding the survey. Rates for the age group 45-49 might be slightly biased due to truncation. Rates from the SR2 are for one calendar year. Age-specific and total fertility rates are expressed per woman.

TFR: Total Fertility rate  
 Source for SR2: Office of the Registrar General, 1999

**Age-wise fertility rates in Hariana**



Source: NFH2-II, Hariana

A look at the time-series analysis of fertility rates reveals the consistent decline in fertility rates over five year periods. The fall in fertility rates, paradoxically, is slightly higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas.

**Table 4.2**  
**Fertility Trends**

**Age Specific Fertility Rates for Five-Year Periods Preceding the Survey by Residence,  
Haryana, 1998-89**

Age	Years Preceding Survey			
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
<b>URBAN</b>				
15-19	0.039	0.091	0.115	0.101
20-24	0.214	0.259	0.298	0.280
25-29	0.143	0.173	0.187	0.249
30-34	0.059	0.081	0.099	[0.104]
35-39	0.013	0.030	[0.058]	U
40-44	0.002	[0.010]	U	U
45-49	[0.005]	U	U	U
<b>RURAL</b>				
15-19	0.127	0.157	0.187	0.137
20-24	0.272	0.329	0.362	0.350
25-29	0.154	0.199	0.248	0.287
30-34	0.062	0.096	0.120	[0.211]
35-39	0.023	0.047	[0.073]	U
40-44	0.013	[0.013]	U	U
45-49	[0.007]	U	U	U
<b>TOTAL</b>				
15-19	0.102	0.137	0.166	0.125
20-24	0.255	0.308	0.341	0.325
25-29	0.151	0.190	0.226	0.275
30-34	0.061	0.091	0.113	[0.178]
35-39	0.019	0.042	[0.068]	U
40-44	0.010	[0.012]	U	U
45-49	[0.006]	U	U	U

U - Unavailable

Source: NFHS-II

## **Anaemia among Women**

NFHS-II reveals that 51.8 percent of women in India suffer from some degree of anaemia. 1.9 percent are affected by severe anaemia, while 14.8 per cent and 35 percent are impacted by moderate and mild anaemia respectively. This is indicative of the continuing gender bias in nutrition. Haryana, notwithstanding the Green Revolution and its fame as the land of milk and curd, in spite of its high per capita income and low level of poverty has 47 percent of its women suffering from anaemia of one form or the other. While this looks better compared with underdeveloped States such as the BIMARU States, nevertheless it is an indicator of the low State of women's health in a land of plenty.

An age-wise analysis reveals that the highest percentage of women suffering from any anaemia fall in the age category of 20-24 years, which it will be remembered is also the group with the highest TFR. While the prevalence of anaemia in the other age groups is lower, yet it is only marginally so. The lowest percentage of anaemic women (42.3 %) fall in the 30-34 age group.

A more detailed analysis reveals that a higher percentage of married women suffer from anaemia as against unmarried women; more rural women as compared to urban women and illiterate women as compared to literate women. In the last category another paradox becomes evident in that while the percentage of middle school pass women suffering from anaemia is 39.3 per cent, 42.6% of the high school and above educated women suffer from anaemia.

Also noteworthy is the fact that a higher percentage of women working in the family farm/business and those who have not worked in the past 12 months suffer from anaemia (48.3% and 48.0% respectively) as against a much lower percent of those women who work for somebody else (37.3). Another paradoxical feature emerges from a religion-wise analysis. It would be seen that the prevalence of any anaemia is highest among Muslim women. Yet when it comes to severe anaemia, it is the Sikh women who are the worse affected.

Significantly as many as 55.5 per cent of the pregnant women are suffering from anaemia which adversely impacts the MMR. These facts require a more detailed analysis and must weigh during policy-making.

**Table 4.3**  
**Anaemia Among Wwomen**

**Percentage of ever married women classified as having iron-deficiency anaemia by degree of anaemia, according to selected background characteristics, Haryana, 1998-99.**

Background characteristic	Percentage of Women with any anaemia	Percentage of women with			
		Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	Number of women
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	49.8	26.9	21.8	1.1	168
20-24	53.5	29.0	22.6	1.8	487
25-29	49.1	31.9	14.9	2.3	575
30-34	42.3	29.9	11.6	0.7	521
35-39	44.6	32.4	10.6	1.6	984
<b>Martial Status</b>					
Currently married	47.2	30.9	14.7	1.6	2639
Not Currently					
Married	40.0	29.7	10.3	0.0	96
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	45.8	34.1	10.4	1.3	787
Rural	47.5	29.6	16.2	1.7	1948
<b>Education</b>					
Illiterate	49.7	32.6	15.3	1.8	1503
Literate, <Middle School Complete	47.1	28.3	16.9	1.9	457
Middle School Complete	39.3	25.9	12.2	1.3	230
High School Complete And above	42.6	30.6	11.3	0.7	545
<b>Religion</b>					
Hindu	46.6	30.8	14.4	1.4	2433
Muslim	56.4	36.9	18.6	1.9	111
Sikh	46.7	29.0	12.9	4.8	183
<b>Caste/tribe</b>					
Scheduled Caste	52.5	33.1	17.1	2.3	558
Other Backward Class	41.9	27.0	13.1	1.8	597
Other	47.0	31.6	14.1	1.2	1578

Background characteristic	Percentage of Women with any anaemia	Percentage of women with			
		Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	Number of women
<b>Work Status</b>					
Working in Family Farm/business	48.3	32.9	13.3	2.1	89
Employed by Someone else	37.3	28.9	8.0	0.4	234
Not worked In past 12 months	48.0	31.0	15.3	1.7	2391
<b>Standard of Living Index</b>					
Low	53.5	37.0	14.3	2.2	267
Medium	48.5	30.0	16.7	1.7	1250
High	43.9	30.3	12.3	1.3	1203
<b>Pregnancy/Breastfeeding status</b>					
Pregnant	55.5	20.6	33.1	1.8	174
Breastfeeding (not pregnant)	56.1	33.3	20.3	2.5	649
Not pregnant/not breast feeding	43.1	31.0	10.8	1.3	1912
<b>Height</b>					
< 145 cm	57.1	37.8	16.9	2.4	127
> 145 cm	46.5	30.6	14.4	1.5	2607

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

### Children's Health

Related to the issue of mother's health is that of the child, particularly the girl child, for malnourishment in early years, adversely impacts the cognitive development and learning achievements as well as enhancing mortality and morbidity. The all-India rate of anaemia among children is quite high at 74.3 per cent. However, Haryana surpasses this all-India average and achieves a dubious distinction of being the bread basket of the nation and having the highest percentage of children suffering from any anaemia. Having a total of 83.9 percent of its children suffering from any anaemia, Haryana stands out as a State of penury amidst plenty. Even States like Rajasthan and Bihar have a lower percentage of children suffering from any anaemia. It is equally noteworthy that 7.1 percent of the children suffer from severe anaemia. Only Rajasthan (9.5) and Karnataka (7.6% ) report a higher level of severe anaemia among children.

Although, it seems ironical, a gender disaggregated analysis reveals a slight positive side to this appalling picture. A lower percentage of female children (81.0) suffer from any anaemia as compared to male children(86.3). This conclusion holds true for all three forms of anaemia, whether mild, moderate or severe.

**Table 4.4**  
**Anaemia Among Children**

**Percentage of children age 6-35 months classified as having iron-deficiency anaemia by selected background characteristics, Haryana, 1998-99**

Back Ground characteristic	Percentage Of children With any anaemia	Percentage of children with			Number of Children
		Mild Anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
<b>Age of child</b>					
6-11 months	73.9	26.4	43.8	3.7	130
12-23 months	86.8	13.9	65.2	7.7	3.9
24-35 months	85.3	18.6	58.7	8.0	298
<b>Sex of child</b>					
Male	86.3	18.1	59.9	8.3	407
Female	81.0	17.9	57.4	5.7	330

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

However, notwithstanding this slightly positive development so far as the girl child is concerned, she is again given short shrift in childhood vaccinations. A look at the table below reveals that the girl child is less likely to have received childhood vaccinations as against the boy child.

**Table 4.5**  
**Childhood Vaccinations By Background Characteristics**

**Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received specific vaccinations at any time before the interview (according to the vaccination card or the mother) and percentage with a vaccination card that was shown to the interviewer by selected background characteristics, Haryana, 1998-99.**

Back Ground Chract-eristic	BGC	Polio	DPT			Polio			Measles	All	None	Percentage Showing Vaccination card	Number of children
			1	2	3	1	2	3					
Sex of Child													
Male	87.6	7.2	90.3	86.0	71.6	90.8	98.7	75.3	71.5	62.4	9.2	26.2	186
Female	85.9	4.8	88.6	82.6	70.5	89.2	84.5	73.1	73.2	63.2	10.8	22.2	149

## Maternal Health

One of the most drastic consequences of high level of anaemia is a high maternal mortality rate (MMR). The number of maternal deaths in the age group 15-49 year per 100,000 live births in India stands at a high 407 in 1998. Hence the need to stress on safe motherhood which can be assessed through various indicators such as proportion of women receiving antenatal, delivery and postnatal care. At the all -India level, only about 20 per cent of the women receive three or more antenatal checkups, two or more tetanus toxoid injections and iron and folic acid tablets. Even in this low percentage there is substantial inter-State variation with developed States like Kerala and Goa reporting a high level of maternal care, and BIMARU and other less developed States reporting a very low level of such care. This factor is further compounded by the fact of a very low percentage of women all over India, who have deliveries in an institutional setting and from a trained, competent person. According to NFHS-II statistics, only 33.6 per cent of births in India take place in an institutional setting, and 42.3 per cent deliveries are assisted by a health professional.

Haryana, here, presents an extremely paradoxical picture. As compared to the all-India average and many States including Punjab, Haryana had a lower MMR of 103 in 1998. However, in the maternal health indicators, as the table below reveals Haryana stands at a relatively low place amongst 15 major States of India. According to the NSS 52<sup>nd</sup> Round, Haryana ranks at 11<sup>th</sup> place for women registered with a health institution among these 15 States, at 10<sup>th</sup> place for two doses of TT, at 11<sup>th</sup> place for Iron and Folic Acid tablets, at 9<sup>th</sup> place for delivery in Institutions and again at 11<sup>th</sup> place of post natal care.

**Table 4.6**

### Some Maternal Health Indicators of 15 Major States

State	Pre-natal Care			Natal Care	Post-natal Care
	Number registered per 1000 pregnant women	Number received per 1000 pregnant women	Iron and Folic Acid Tablets	Delivery in Health Institutions Per 1000 deliveries	Number Registered per 1000 mothers
		Two doses of Tetanus Toxoid			
Andhra Pradesh	772(3)	546(5)	670(3)	365(5)	416(5)
Assam	650(6)	377(11)	615(7)	135(12)	366(6)
Bihar	99(15)	231(15)	125(15)	95(15)	74(15)
Gujarat	644(7)	474(8)	629(6)	332(6)	419(4)
Haryana	421(11)	441(10)	416(11)	202(9)	251(11)
Karnataka	721(5)	531(6)	646(5)	458(4)	364(7)

State	Pre-natal Care			Natal Care	Post-natal Care
	Number registered per 1000 pregnant women	Number received per 1000 pregnant women	Iron and Folic Acid Tablets	Delivery in Health Institutions Per 1000 deliveries	Number Registered per 1000 mothers
		Two doses of Tetanus Toxoid			
Kerala	874(1)	644(1)	783(1)	924(1)	495(3)
Madhya Pradesh	417(12)	270(12)	399(12)	164(10)	304(8)
Maharashtra	734(4)	490(7)	665(4)	462(3)	518(2)
Orissa	489(10)	453(9)	520(9)	131(13)	277(9)
Punjab	585(9)	586(3)	502(10)	242(8)	268(10)
Rajasthan	270(13)	234(14)	289(13)	147(11)	120(14)
Tamil Nadu	828(2)	600(2)	743(2)	718(2)	554(1)
Uttar Pradesh	192(4)	246(13)	177(14)	106(14)	141(13)
West Bengal	637(8)	580(4)	573(14)	312(7)	246(12)
All India	455	381	424	254	271

Source: Sarvekshana, Vol. XXIII, No. 3, Jan-March, 2000, Issue No. 82, NSS 52<sup>nd</sup> Round, July 1995-June 1996.

Table 4.7 below reveals that 79.7 percent of the women received two or more tetanus toxoid vaccinations during pregnancy, while 5.4 per cent received only one TT vaccination. 67 per cent of the women received iron and folic acid tablets. Of these 79.6 percent received three months supply and 88.3 per cent consumed all the supply.

**Table 4.7**  
**Tetanus Toxoid Vaccination And Iron And Folic Acid Tablets Or Syrup**

**Percent distribution of birth during the three years preceding the survey by the number of tetanus toxoid injections received by the mother, percentage of births for which the mothers were given iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets or syrup during the pregnancy and among those who received iron and folic acid tablets or syrup, percentage who received enough for these months or longer and percentage who consumed all the supply given, according to selected background characteristics, Haryana, 1998-99.**

Back Ground Characteristic	No. of Tetanus Toxoid injections				Percentage given iron and folic acid tablets or syrup	No. of births	Percentage Who Received Supply for 3 + Months	Percentage Who consumed all the supply	Number of births whose mothers received IFA
	None	One	Two Or more	Total Percentage					
Mother Age at Birth									
< 20	12.1	7.8	80.1	100.0	71.4	205	74.1	85.7	146
20-34	15.0	4.8	80.1	100.0	66.6	825	81.0	88.7	550
35-49	(33.2)	(3.5)	(63.3)	100.0	(46.4)	30	*	*	14
Birth order									
1	9.3	3.3	87.4	100.0	74.1	308	79.1	85.1	228
2-3	12.5	6.1	81.4	100.0	70.7	489	83.6	89.2	346
4-5	24.4	6.6	69.0	100.0	52.5	184	74.9	94.8	96
6*	30.0	6.3	63.7	100.0	49.8	80	(59.9)	(82.5)	40
Residence									
Urban	8.2	4.9	86.9	100.0	74.3	246	87.1	92.3	183
Rural	17.0	5.5	77.5	100.0	64.8	814	77.0	86.9	527
Mother Education									
Illiterate	23.3	5.4	71.3	100.0	56.2	540	72.9	88.8	303
Literate, <Middle School Complete	9.6	7.8	82.6	100.0	67.6	206	75.0	88.5	139
Middle School Complete	7.2	4.2	88.5	100.0	76.9	95	86.3	86.2	73
High School Complete And above	2.7	3.6	93.6	100.0	88.6	219	90.9	88.2	194
Religion									
Hindu	13.7	5.2	81.1	10.0	69.4	913	79.7	88.0	634

Back Ground Characteristic	No. of Tetanus Toxoid injections				Percentage given iron and folic acid tablets or syrup	No. of births	Percentage Who Received Supply for 3 + Months	Percentage Who consumed all the supply	Number of births whose mothers received IFA
	None	One	Two Or more	Total Percentage					
Muslim	35.9	8.3	55.8	100.0	37.7	73	(77.8)	(88.7)	27
Sikh	10.1	5.8	84.2	100.0	65.1	69	(78.1)	(93.5)	45
<b>Caste/tribe</b>									
Scheduled Caste	17.5	3.7	78.8	100.0	61.1	268	77.5	90.2	164
Other Backward Class	16.8	7.1	76.1	100.0	65.5	257	77.9	86.8	168
Other	12.6	5.4	82.0	100.0	70.7	535	81.3	88.1	378
<b>Standard of living</b>									
<b>Index</b>									
Low	26.8	7.9	65.3	100.0	44.1	138	70.2	90.1	61
Medium	17.7	6.0	76.3	100.0	64.1	531	74.3	88.5	340
High	6.7	3.4	89.9	100.0	79.2	385	87.5	88.2	305
Total	15.0	5.4	79.7	100.0	67.0	1060	79.6	88.3	710

Note Table includes only the two most recent births during the three years preceding the survey. Total includes a small number of births to mothers belonging to other religions, scheduled-tribe mothers, and births with missing information on religion and the standard of living index, which are not shown separately.

( ) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

● Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.

1 Among births whose mothers received iron and toxic acid tablets or syrup.

2 Not belonging to a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, or an other backward class

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

Furthermore, 22.4 per cent of births are delivered in a medical institution and 42 per cent of deliveries assisted by a health professional. At the all-India level, 16.5 per cent of women going in for non-institutional deliveries go for a medical check-up within two months after child birth and only 2.3 per cent within two days. Haryana has an even lower rate of 15.7 per cent of non-institutional deliveries with a post partum checkup within two months of birth and only 2.5 per cent within two days of childbirth.

Women may experience any number of problems during pregnancy. The table below reveals the problems most commonly reported during pregnancy. These are excessive fatigue (38.7 %); anaemia

(22.8 %); swelling of body parts (18.9 %); blurred vision (14.0 percent). A small percentage also reports convulsions, not from fever; vaginal bleeding and night blindness in that order.

**Table 4.8**  
**Health Problems During Pregnancy**

**Among births during the three years preceding the survey, percentage of mothers experiencing specific health problems during pregnancy by residence, Haryana 1998-99.**

Problems during pregnancy	Urban	Rural	Total
Night blindness	1.6	0.9	1.0
Blurred vision	10.8	14.9	14.0
Convulsions not from Fever	2.9	2.9	2.9
Swelling of the legs, Body, or face	18.5	19.1	18.9
Excessive fatigue	39.3	38.6	38.7
Anaemia	30.3	20.5	22.8
Vaginal bleeding	3.3	1.2	1.7
Number of births	246	814	1060

Source: *NFHS-II, Haryana, 1998-99*

Apart from these problems during pregnancy, women also suffer from a large number of reproductive health problems, which include abnormal vaginal discharge, itching, bad odour, lower abdominal pain, urinary tract infection among others. The table below reveals that quite a large percentage of ever-married and currently married women suffer from such problems.

**Table 4.9**  
**Symptoms Of Reproductive Health Problems**

**Percentage of ever-married women reporting abnormal vaginal discharge or symptoms of a urinary tract infection during the three months preceding the survey and percentage of currently married women reporting painful intercourse or bleeding after intercourse by background characteristics, Haryana 1998-99**

Back Ground Characteristic	Any Abnormal Vaginal Discharge	Vaginal Discharge Accompanied by					Symptoms of a UTI	Any Abnormal Vaginal Discharge or UTI	No of Ever Married Women	Pain Inter Course (Often)	Bleeding After Inter Course (ever)	Currently Married Women	
		Itching Or irritation	Bad odour	Severe Lower Abdominal pain	fever	Other Problem						Any Reproductive Health problem	No of Currently Married women
<b>Standard of Living Index</b>													
Low	33.0	25.1	20.9	20.7	5.0	9.3	15.1	36.3	280	8.7	0.4	39.9	265
Medium	32.7	26.1	21.3	17.1	2.7	6.8	12.7	36.6	1331	7.1	1.1	39.2	1272
High	30.0	22.9	17.9	16.6	2.0	7.0	11.5	33.4	1279	9.5	1.0	36.8	1245
<b>Work Status</b>													
Work In Family] Farm/Business	40.7	31.5	21.3	20.3	3.2	11.2	16.3	43.8	97	3.4	0.0	45.9	86
Employed by Someone else	35.6	28.6	21.8	22.7	4.1	12.1	15.4	37.6	247	7.9	1.3	40.7	228
Not Work in past 12 months	30.7	23.8	19.4	16.5	2.5	6.4	12.0	34.5	2542	8.5	1.0	37.6	2467
<b>No of Child Ever Born</b>													
0	24.5	18.2	14.5	15.9	3.2	3.7	9.0	26.7	221	19.6	3.2	36.0	219
1	23.1	17.4	14.3	12.5	0.6	5.7	12.6	28.6	350	9.4	0.9	33.0	339
2-3	32.0	26.4	20.8	18.4	2.7	8.2	12.3	36.4	1348	6.8	0.8	38.5	1300
4-5	36.9	27.6	22.6	19.2	3.5	7.8	13.4	40.3	682	8.9	0.9	42.7	652
6+	27.4	23.1	18.6	14.7	2.6	5.2	13.7	32.6	306	4.1	0.3	24.7	288
<b>All ever-Married Women</b>	31.6	24.6	19.7	17.3	2.7	7.1	12.5	35.2	2908	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>All Currently Married Women</b>													
<b>Married Women</b>	32.2	25.0	20.1	17.6	2.7	7.1	12.6	35.9	2799	8.3	1.0	38.2	2799

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

However, the general aversion to seeking medical advice is very much visible in this aspect. Even when they do seek medical advice, more often than not it is a private doctor or even a nurse. The table below reveals that 36.9 per cent of the women seek medical help from the private medical sector, while 12.2 percent seek help from the public medical sector. An areawise analysis reveals that almost double the number of urban women take medical advice for reproductive health problems as compared to rural women.

**Table 4.10**  
**Treatment Of Reproduction Health Problems**

**Among women with a reproductive health problem, percentage who sought advice or treatment from specific providers by residence, Haryana 1998-99**

Provider	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Public Medical Sector</b>	14.5	11.4	12.2
Government Doctor	10.9	7.4	8.3
Public Health nurse	0.4	0.2	0.3
ANM/LHV	3.3	3.7	3.6
Male MPW/Supervisor	0.0	0.1	0.1
Aganwadi Worker	0.0	0.1	0.1
Village Health guide	0.0	0.1	0.1
<b>Private Medical sector</b>	51.7	31.7	36.9
Private sector	42.7	24.8	29.4
Private Nurse	5.1	4.4	4.6
Vaidya/Hakim/homeopath	2.5	2.5	2.5
Dai (TBA)	2.6	1.5	1.8
Traditional Healer	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other Private Medical Sector	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1
None	39.6	61.3	55.7
No of women	281	809	1089

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

### **Health Infrastructure**

Haryana has a network of 50 Government Hospitals, 64 Community Health Centres, 404 Primary Health Centres, 2299 Sub Centres, 12 District Tuberculosis Centres, 39 Dispensaries, 14 Mobile Dispensaries and 2 Mobile Dental Dispensaries.<sup>1</sup> In addition there is a Post Graduate Institution of

Medical Education and Research Centre at Rohtak and a Medical College at Agroha, Hissar. According to the Economic Survey of Haryana, 2003-04, the per capita expenditure on health for this year is Rs 184.57.

*In conclusion*, it would be apt to say that while significant improvement has been made in the status of women's health, Haryana still lags behind in a number of indicators. In these it's health record is more in line with the less developed States as compared to the more developed States and in sharp contrast to its status as one of the economically more developed States in India. Poverty definitely is not the reason. Education could be one such reason, but Haryana shows comparatively a better status in women's education. Hence, it must be emphasised that in order to improve the health status of women in Haryana, awareness campaigns have to be accompanied by a pro-active role of the Government and NGOs in the field. In policy making in this field women's multiple roles must be kept in the foreground; only then can any health policy actually impact women's health.

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Survey of Haryana, 2003-04, [web1.hry.nic.in](http://web1.hry.nic.in)

## CHAPTER - V

### WORK

Discrimination in all other spheres of life is reinforced by economic deprivation , which is the general lot of women. This, in turn, perpetuates their low status, which leads to further discrimination resulting in a vicious circle which is difficult to break. The Human Development Report of South Asia, 2000 reports that "Some degree of statistical invisibility of women in the economy is a worldwide phenomenon, but in South Asia it is particularly pervasive because of historical, traditional and cultural reasons."<sup>1</sup>

The same report citing a study by Jain and Chand (1982) ,observes, "In India, women reported as non-workers in the Census were found to be spending up to 4 hours a day in activities such as groundnut picking and sowing the fields or spending time grazing cattle and cutting grass, threshing and parboiling, or working as domestic servants for as many as 8-10 hours a day."<sup>2</sup> The same Report also cites another study, which reveals that in one village in India where the 1971 Census had counted only 38 women workers, there were a total of 239 workers and 444 women workers in another village where the Census had reported only 9.<sup>3</sup> This fact was emphatically emphasised in Shramshakti, "Although women work for longer hours and contribute substantially to the family income, they are not perceived as workers by either the women themselves or the data collecting agencies and the Government as all of them do not recognize the multidimensional functions of women which include their productive and reproductive labour. Women quite often are the major earners for their families. This also goes unrecognized."<sup>4</sup>

Such statistical invisibility of women in the workforce is particularly pervasive in the Indian States of Punjab and Haryana; women are reduced to economic non-entities. This is the result not of women's non-work, but of gender blindness in data collection which results in under-enumeration of women's work.

Thus, reliable and comprehensive information about women's workforce participation rate is almost non-existent. However, the Census of India has attempted to integrate gender into the accounting of work. The statistics presented by the Census remain the major source of information on women's work, yet a number of gaps remain and studies continue to reveal the statistical invisibility of women

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<sup>1</sup> **Human Development in South Asia**, Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre, OUP, Karachi, 2000, p. 52

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 54

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 54

<sup>4</sup> Shramshakti, p. 7

in the workforce. However, before going into an analysis of women's place in the workforce in Haryana, it would be relevant to see how work is defined in the Census of India.

Work is defined by the Census of India as "participation in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit. Such participation may be physical and/or mental in nature. Work involves not only actual work but also includes effective supervision and direction of work. It even includes part time help or unpaid work on farm, family enterprise or in any other economic activity."<sup>5</sup> The workers are further classified into Main Workers and Marginal Workers. Main worker is a person who has worked for 6 months or more during the last one year, while a marginal worker is a person who has worked for less than 6 months (*may be even for one day*) during the last one year.

On this basis, the Census of India estimates reveal that India has a total workforce participation rate of 39.3. The male workforce participation rate is 51.9 per cent, while that of females is half that of males, a mere 25.9 per cent.

Haryana's overall workforce participation rate is only marginally better than the all-India average at 39.8 per cent. It is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> amongst the Indian States in this category. In respect of male workforce participation rate, however, Haryana's average is lower than the national average (50.5 per cent), ranking 23<sup>rd</sup> amongst the States, while its performance in female workforce participation rates is slightly better with a FWPR of 27.1 per cent and a rank of 18 among the Indian States. Notably, its neighbouring State of Punjab is much worse off in this regard and was ranked at the bottom of the scale in the last census. (It has marginally improved its ranking in the current census.)

**Table 5.1**  
**Ranking of States/UTs by Work Participation Rate: 2001**

India/State/UT	Work Participation Rate							
	Total		Males			Females		
	WPR	Rank	India/State/UT	WPR	Rank	India/State/UT	WPR	Rank
<b>India</b>	<b>39.3</b>		<b>India</b>	<b>51.9</b>		<b>India</b>	<b>25.9</b>	
Mizoram	52.7	1	Daman & Diu	65.6	1	Mizoram	47.6	1
D. & N Haveli	51.8	2	D. & N Haveli	62.4	2	Him Pradesh	43.7	2
Him Pradesh	49.3	3	Tamil Nadu	58.1	3	Manipur	40.5	3
Sikkim	48.7	4	Sikkim	57.6	4	Chhatisgarh	40.0	4
Chhatisgarh	46.5	5	Mizoram	57.5	5	D& N Haveli	38.7	5
Daman & Diu	46.0	6	Karnataka	56.9	6	Sikkim	38.6	6
Andhra Pradesh	45.8	7	And. & Nic. Islands	56.7	7	Nagaland	38.3	7
Manipur	44.8	8	Andhra Pradesh	56.4	8	Arun Pradesh	36.5	8

<sup>5</sup> Census of India, Series 4, Punjab, 2001, Paper 3 of 2001, p. 25.

India/State/UT	Work Participation Rate							
	Total		Males			Females		
	WPR	Rank	India/State/UT	WPR	Rank	India/State/UT	WPR	Rank
Tamil Nadu	44.8	9	Chandigarh	56.1	9	Meghalaya	35.0	9
Karnataka	44.6	10	Gujarat	55.0	10	Andhra Pradesh	34.9	10
Arun Pradesh	44.0	11	Goa	54.9	11	Rajasthan	33.5	11
Maharashtra	43.5	12	Himachal Pradesh	54.7	12	Madhya Pradesh	33.1	12
Madhya Pradesh	42.7	13	West Bengal	54.2	13	Maharashtra	32.6	13
Nagaland	42.7	14	Punjab	54.1	14	Karnataka	31.9	14
Rajasthan	42.1	15	Maharashtra	53.5	15	Tamil Nadu	31.3	15
Gurjarat	42.1	16	Pondicherry	53.3	16	Gujarat	28.0	16
Meghalaya	41.5	17	Chattisgarh	53.0	17	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>18</b>	Orissa	52.8	18	Uttaranchal	27.1	18
Orissa	38.9	19	Delhi	52.2	19	Jharkahand	26.4	19
Goa	38.9	20	Madhya Pradesh	51.6	20	Orissa	24.6	20
And. & Nic. Islands	38.3	21	Tripura	50.8	21	Goa	22.2	21
Jharkand	37.6	22	Arunachal Pradesh	50.7	22	J & K	22.0	22
Chandigarh	37.6	23	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>23</b>	Tripura	21.0	23
Punjab	37.6	24	Kerala	50.4	24	Assam	20.8	24
Uttaranchal	36.9	25	Rajasthan	50.1	25	Bihar	18.8	25
West Bengal	36.8	26	Assam	49.9	26	Punjab	18.7	26
J&K	36.6	27	J & K	49.8	27	Daman & Diu	18.3	27
Tripura	36.3	28	Manipur	48.9	28	West Bengal	18.1	28
Assam	35.9	29	Jharkhand	48.2	29	Pondicherry	17.4	29
Pndicherry	35.1	30	Meghalaya	47.8	30	And. & Nic. Islands	16.4	30
Bihar	33.9	31	Bihar	47.7	31	Uttar Pradesh	16.3	31
Delhi	32.8	32	Uttar Pradesh	47.3	32	Kerala	15.3	32
Uttar Pradesh	32.6	33	Nagaland	46.8	33	Chandigarh	13.7	33
Kerala	32.3	34	Uttaranchal	46.4	34	Delhi	9.1	34
Lakshadweep	25.3	35	Lakshadweep	42.5	35	Lakshadweep	7.2	35

Source: Census of India, 2001

A look at Table 5.2 below, however reveals another reality to this picture. Of the total 39.76 per cent workers, main workers constitute 29.62 per cent and marginal workers 10.14 per cent. Amongst

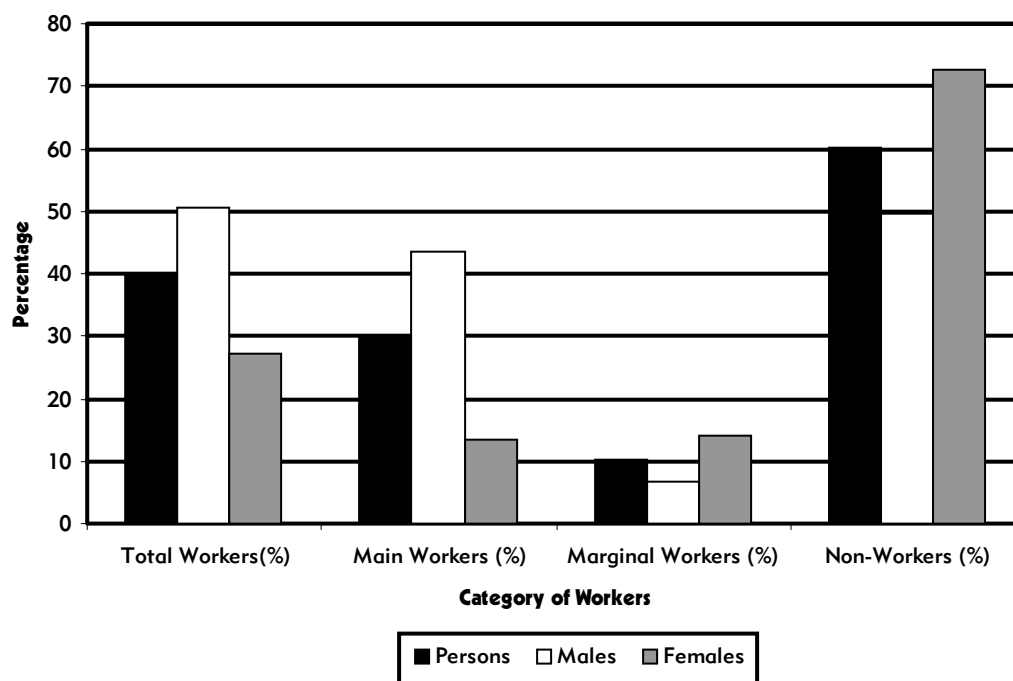
the males too, main workers constitute a high proportion of the total male workers, at 43.63 per cent, while marginal workers are merely 6.86 per cent. In contrast amongst the females, marginal workers constitute 13.94 % of the total female workers,, while main workers are merely 13.37 per cent. This, in itself is illustrative of the fact that women are concentrated in the unorganized sector, which is not governed by labour laws. Apart from this, statistics report a whopping 72 per cent of the women as non-workers.

**Table 5.2**  
**Workers And Non-Workers In Haryana, 2001**

	Total Workers (%)	Main Workers (%)	Marginal Workers (%)	Non-Workers (%)
Persons	39.76	29.62	10.14	60.24
Males	50.49	43.63	6.86	49.51
Females	27.31	13.37	13.94	72.69

Source: Census of India, Series 7 Haryana, 2001

Workers and Non-Workers in Haryana



It is also noteworthy that women constitute the preponderant labour force amongst cultivators, agricultural labourers and workers in the household industry, while males are a significant majority amongst other workers. As Preet Rustagi observes, "Most of these primary sector activities offer

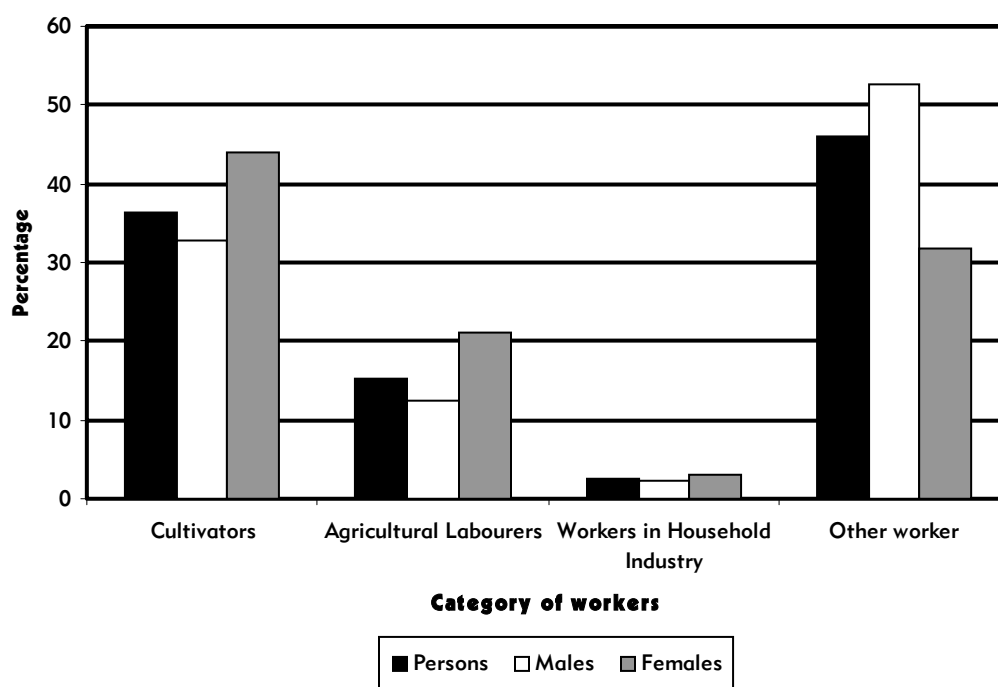
subsistence employment and are either low paid or unpaid activities.”<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, the predominant involvement of women in home-based activities results in lack of social security, low wages and poor working conditions.

**Table 5.3**  
**Category Of Workers (Main and Marginal)**

	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Workers in Household Industry	Other worker
Persons	36.34	15.22	2.47	45.97
Males	32.76	12.46	2.19	52.59
Females	44.02	21.16	3.06	31.76

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series 7, Haryana

**Category-wise Distribution of workers**



A districtwise and gender segregated analysis reveals Panchkula to be at number one position in male work participation rates with 54.78 percent of its males engaged in productive work. Gurgaon is at the bottom of the scale, notwithstanding its location relative to the capital of the country, Delhi. Moreover, while Panchkula has maintained its number one position from the 1991 census, Gurgaon has actually declined in ranking from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> place. Hisar, Jind and Jhajjar reveal a considerable

<sup>6</sup> Preet Rustagi, **Gender Biases and Discrimination against Women : What Do Different Indicators Say?**, UNIFEM, New Delhi, 2003, p. 52

variation in ranking over the 1991 census from 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> place to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

Paradoxically, in respect of female work participation rates (FWPR), Panchkula is at the bottom of the scale at 17<sup>th</sup> rank. It is Mahendragarh (38.23) followed by Rewari (36.81), which move to the top of the scale. Ambala reveals the lowest female workforce participation rate in the region with just 9.96 percent of its women included in the workforce. Although an improvement over the 3.53 per cent FWPR reported in the last census, it is the only district in the State, which has not entered the double digits for FWPR, inspite of the expansion of the definition of work in the Census enumeration. Thus, it has shown the least improvement in FWPR over the last census while Rewari has shown the most (25.20 per cent).

The statistical invisibility of women in the workforce in Haryana is tellingly illustrated by a study conducted by Savita Singal of the Haryana Agricultural University. She concludes:

1. Analysis of **women's** work pattern on farm and dairy revealed that **women** played a key role (as unpaid workers) in dairy as well as agricultural production. There is a need for re-defining the concept of 'worker' and giving a monetary status for these activities. These should also be reflected in Gross National Product.
2. **Women** were actively found sharing livestock and farm work while men's sharing of housework (including childcare) was totally absent. Even among children, only female children were extending a helping hand, which could be at the cost of their schooling. There is a need, for changing the traditional attitude of men and awakening in them a more progressive outlook towards sharing of housework for overall benefit of the family.
3. Analysis of rural **women's** work, especially kitchen activities, showed that they were increasing the drudgery of the household work because of lack of elementary knowledge of work simplification techniques. The method adopted by them for doing the work involved more costs in terms of time and energy. Non-formal education emphasizing work simplification, time and energy management can considerably reduce the physical costs of work, thereby releasing more time and energy for economically productive activities. In this respect, specialists in Family Resource Management discipline can contribute a lot through their extension division.
4. Analysis of work place also presented another disquieting picture. Kitchen work, was performed in most un-conducive environment, lacking all basic facilities at the place of work. The work centre concept in the arrangement of simple tools, storage and cooking stove was found to be absent. The use of dustbin, placement of water for cooking near the preparation centre etc. which can save unnecessary energy consuming efforts was found totally lacking. Education programs on such areas can be incorporated in rural programs transmitted through radio and television.
5. The study revealed that the entire dairy management is done by **women**. Surprisingly when it comes to training programs, it is offered to be men, which reflects poor manpower planning.

This needs due attention of the organizers of such training programs. Whenever training is given, **women** should be identified as special target group along with or without the males.

**Table 5.4**  
**Ranking Of Districts By Male Work Participation Rate : 1991-2001**

Rank in 2001	State/District	Work Participation 2001	1991	Net gain 1991-201	Rank in 1991	Rank in respect of gain
	HARYANA	50.49	48.51	1.98	—	—
1	Panchkula	54.78	52.78	2.00	1	9
2	Fatehabad	54.62	52.33	2.29	3	7
3	Sirsa	53.23	52.76	0.47	2	16
4	Hisar	52.07	49.28	2.79	10	6
5	Jind	51.79	48.93	2.86	11	5
6	Jhajjar	51.61	45.43	6.18	16	2
7	Kurukshetra	51.40	50.25	1.15	5	13
8	Panipat	51.33	49.52	1.81	9	10
9	Ambala	51.17	50.01	1.16	7	12
10	Kaithal	51.06	50.50	0.56	4	15
11	Karnal	50.40	49.75	0.65	8	14
12	Yamunanagar	50.34	50.08	0.26	6	19
13	Rewari	49.86	42.73	7.13	19	1
14	Sonipat	49.79	48.00	1.79	13	11
15	Rohtak	49.56	47.36	2.20	14	8
16	Bhiwani	49.38	45.37	4.01	17	3
17	Faridabad	48.45	48.07	0.38	12	18
18	Mahendragarh	48.08	44.76	3.32	18	4
19	Gurgaon	46.99	46.52	0.47	15	17

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series 7, Haryana

**Table 5.5**  
**Ranking of Districts by Female Work Participation Rate: 1991-2001**

Rank in 2001	State/District	Work Participation Rate		Net Gain/Loss 1991-2001	Rank in 1991
		2001	1991		
	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>27.31</b>	<b>10.76</b>	<b>16.55</b>	-
1.	Mahendragarh	38.23	15.90	22.33	2
2.	Rewari	36.81	11.61	25.20	9
3.	Jhajjar	35.78	13.97	21.81	5
4.	Bhiwani	35.40	17.42	17.98	1
5.	Jind	34.77	12.81	21.96	8
6.	Fatehabad	34.32	9.58	24.74	11
7.	Hisar	33.17	14.44	18.73	4
8.	Sirsa	30.59	13.75	16.84	6
9.	Sonepat	30.40	12.98	17.42	7
10.	Gurgaon	27.79	15.46	12.33	3
11.	Rohtak	27.71	10.42	17.29	10
12.	Kaithal	25.73	8.74	16.99	13
13.	Panipat	25.73	7.43	18.30	14
14.	Faridabad	21.91	8.91	13.00	12
15.	Kurukshetra	21.31	3.99	17.32	17
16.	Karnal	18.90	5.84	13.06	16
17.	Panchkula	17.92	6.14	11.78	15
18.	Yamunanagar	11.38	2.75	8.63	19
19.	Ambala	9.96	3.53	6.43	18

Source: Census of India, Series 7, Haryana, 2001

**Female Literacy, Sex Ratio and Female Work Participation Rate**

It would also be relevant to examine the inter-linkage of work participation with literacy rates. Table 5.6 below reveals a very intriguing picture. The district with the highest level of female literacy, viz. Panchkula is 17<sup>th</sup> in female workforce participation rate. Ambala, which has the second highest female literacy in the State, has the lowest female work force participation rate. As against this Fatehabad, which has the lowest female literacy rate in the State, ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in FWPR and Mahendragarh, which is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in terms of female literacy rate, is at the top in FWPR. The probable inference, which can be drawn from such statistics is that women are employed more in the informal and

unorganised sector which has little or no need for literacy. Hence, the contradiction in the general assumption of education leading to economic empowerment of women.

Are the economic activity correlations with sex ratio any more positive? On the face of it this would seem to hold true for Panchkula, last in sex ratio is almost at the bottom in terms of FWPR; Rewari, second in sex ratio is second in FWPR and Mahendragarh, at the top in sex ratio is also first in FWPR. But then there are districts such as Ambala which is 19<sup>th</sup> in FWPR and 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of sex ratio, while Jhajjar is 3<sup>rd</sup> in FWPR and 14<sup>th</sup> in sex ratio. Such contradictory findings leads one to conclude that no generalisations can be made either about literacy or about sex ratio and their positive or negative correlations with female work participation rates.

**Table 5.6**  
**Female Literacy versus Female Work Participation Rate, 2001**

State/District	Literacy Rate		Female Work Participation Rate	Rank in FWPR	Rank in Sex Ratio
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>56.31</b>		<b>27.31</b>		
Panchkula	68.98	1	17.92	17	19
Ambala	68.48	2	9.96	19	7
Yamunanagar	64.08	3	11.38	18	10
Rohtak	63.19	4	27.71	11	15
Sonipat	61.65	5	30.40	9	16
Rewari	61.25	6	36.81	2	2
Kurukshetra	60.76	7	21.31	15	8
Jhajjar	59.88	8	35.78	3	14
Panipat	58.48	9	25.73	13	18
Karnal	58.42	10	18.90	16	9
Faridabad	56.80	11	21.91	14	17
Mahendergarh	54.61	12	38.23	1	1
Bhiwani	53.50	13	35.40	4	5
Hisar	52.09	14	33.17	7	13
Sirsa	50.31	15	30.59	8	4
Jind	48.97	16	34.77	5	12
Gurgoan	48.29	17	27.79	10	6
Kaithal	47.60	18	25.73	12	11
Fatehabad	46.40	19	34.32	6	3

Source: Census of India, 2001, Series 7, Haryana

On the whole, Haryana is relatively better placed than its equally patriarchal neighbour, Punjab, but much worse off than its other neighbour, Himachal Pradesh, where female work participation rates are concerned. Furthermore, as against the general assumption that it is poor educational level and lack of formal training which act as constraints to women's participation in the economic sector, Haryana reveals a contradictory feature in as much as it is the districts which have low literacy, which are high on the scale of FWPR.

## **CHAPTER - VI**

### **WOMEN AND DECISION-MAKING**

The political empowerment of women and their full participation in power structures and decision making makes it an imperative for women to be in the corridors of power and have the power to negotiate a better deal for themselves. Only then can they influence policy decisions impacting upon them. Empowerment of women in all spheres, in particular the political sphere is crucial for their advancement and the foundation of a gender-equal society. It is central to the achievement of the goals of equality, development and peace. Yet women remain absent unheard and marginalized in decision-making bodies. The Human Development Report of South Asia reports that in South Asia women occupy only 7 per cent of the parliamentary seats and only 9 per cent of the cabinet members are women.

India is no exception to this trend in South Asia and only 8.83 percent of the elected representatives in the Lower House are women and women occupy only about 15 per cent of the Rajya Sabha seats.

A gendered analysis of decision-making in Haryana reveals the reality and severity of women's subordination. For the purpose of Parliamentary elections, Haryana is delimited into 10 constituencies. From its creation as a State in 1966, till date, Haryana has witnessed 10 Parliamentary elections. However, only 3 women have ever entered the Lok Sabha from Haryana. These were Ms Chandrawati (6<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha), Ms. Shelja Kumari (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) and Prof Kailasho Devi (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Lok Sabha's). Significantly, at no time has Haryana had more than one woman representative. There has been no woman representative from Haryana in all the other 6 Parliamentary elections.

A similar situation prevails in respect of women's representation in the Upper House. Only three women have ever represented Haryana in the Rajya Sabha. These were Ms Vidya Beniwal (199-96), Ms. Sushma Swaraj (1990-96) and Ms Sumitra Mahajan (2002-2008). Incidentally, Ms Sushma Swaraj continues to be a Member of the Rajya Sabha, but in the current term she is representing not Haryana, but Uttar Pradesh.

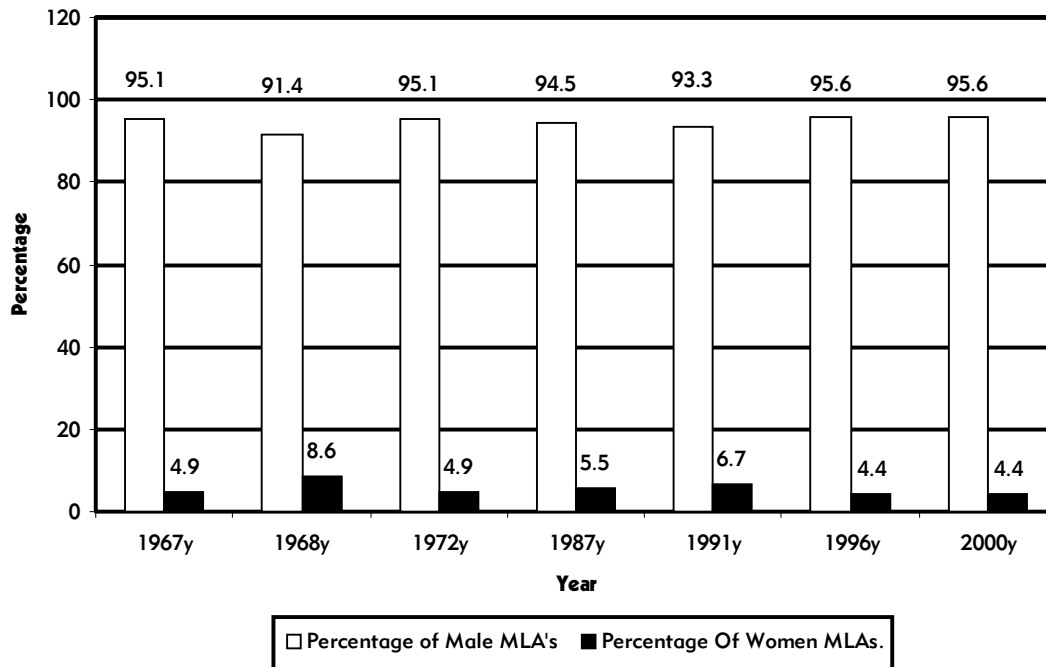
A look at the figures for the State Assembly reveal an almost equally gloomy picture so far as women's representation is concerned. Out of a total of 81 seats in 1967, 1968, and 1972, the percentage of women was merely 4.9, 8.6 and 4.9 respectively. Thereafter, the number of seats were increased to 90, but women's representation increased only marginally from 4.9 to 5.5 in 1987 and again to 6.7 in 1991. Even this marginal improvement was, however, not sustainable. It declined back to an even lower level and has been a mere 4.4 in the last two elections.

**Table 6.1**  
**Women's Representation in the Legislative Assembly, 1967-2000**

Year	Total No. of Seats	Number of Women Contestants	Number of Seats Won By Women	Percentage of Women MLAs
1967	81	8	4	4.9
1968	81	12	7	8.6
1972	81	12	4	4.9
1987	90	35	5	5.5
1991	90	41	6	6.7
1996	90	93	4	4.4
2000	90	49	4	4.4

Source: Election Commission of India

**Gender Segregated Representation in Haryana Legislative Assembly**



Likewise, a gendered analysis of the electorate also reveals the marginalisation and subordination of women in the political sphere. It is also reflective of the imbalance in the sex ratios in the State. At no time did women as electorate constitute 50 per cent of the total electorate. The highest proportion of women electorate has been in the year 1996 when women as electorate constituted 48.55 per cent of the total electorate. This proportion, however, declined in the last elections to merely 45.48 per cent, a decline of 3 percentage points, which takes it back to a pre-1968 position.

**Table 6.2**  
**Electorate in Haryana, 1967-2000**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Electorate</b>	<b>Women Electorate</b>	<b>Men Electorate</b>
1967	4387980	—	—
1968	4552539	2130120 (46.78)	24222419 (53.21)
1972	5091082	2399536 (47.13)	2691546 (52.87)
1987	8700628	4059951 (46.66)	4640677 (53.34)
1991	9731912	4484426 (46.07)	5247486 (53.93)
1996	11155242	5146835 (48.55)	6008407 (53.86)
2000	11153183	5072844 (45.48)	6080339 (54.52)

\* Figures in parenthesis are the percentage calculated by the researcher.

Source: Election Commission of India.

The participation of women in decision-making, however, improves at the grassroots level. The reason is not far to seek and does not lie in any automatic empowerment of women at the grassroots, but in the enabling provisions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments. Following these Amendments, women have entered Panchayats and Municipal Councils in large numbers and now constitute 33 per cent both of the total members as well as the Chairpersons.

**Table 6.3**  
**Number of Elected Women in Panchayats**

	Gram Panchayat			Panchayat Samiti			Zilla Parishad		
	Women	Total	%	Women	Total	%	Women	Total	%
Women Panches	17928	54159	33.10	807	2418	33.37	101	303	33.33
Women Chairpersons	6015	18264	32.94	558	1661	33.59	84	252	33.33

Source: Towards Equality: An Unfinished Agenda, National Commission for Women, New Delhi, 2002

Has this improved representation resulted in de facto empowerment of women? Only time will tell.

## **Women in Household Decision-making**

While women's representation in decision-making bodies is low, women's personal lives have been equally male dominated. The question is, to what extent are women in control of their own lives? Can they take decisions even in simple household matters such as what to buy and what to cook? Or are they directed even in these by the male members of their families?

NFHS-II data reveals that at an all India level, 9.4 per cent of the women are not involved in any decision-making in the household. The highest per cent of women not involved in any decision-making is in Uttar Pradesh (16.4 %), while the lowest is in Nagaland (0.4%).

In Haryana, 3.4% of the women are not involved in any decision-making. Significantly, the highest percentage of women are involved in decision making on what to cook (93.5%). This is followed by purchase of jewellery in which 77.8 % of the women are involved, own health care (67.2%) and staying with parents/siblings (64.5%). However only 36.7 and 20.8 per cent of the women do not need permission to go to the market or visit/friends and relatives respectively. Thus a majority of the women would need permission to step out of the house. An age wise segregated analysis reveals that the highest percentage of women not involved in any decision-making is in the age group of 20-24, followed closely by the age group of 25-29. The lowest percentage of such women not involved in any decision-making is in the age group of 40-44. It is women in this last age group who reveal the maximum autonomy in regard to various decisions such as what to cook and own health care, while it is women in the age group of 35-39, who have more autonomy in respect of purchasing jewellery and women in the age group of 15-19, who have maximum autonomy in respect of visiting parents/siblings. However, the maximum number of women who do not need permission to go to the market or visit friends and relatives, fall in the age group of 45-49.

Literacy seems to make a difference in that only 2.6 per cent of the women who have completed middle school are not involved in any decision-making. However, this fact is contradicted by another fact that a lower percentage of illiterate women are not involved in any decision-making as against a much higher percentage of women who are literate, but have not completed middle school.

Religion-wise, Muslim women seem to have the maximum autonomy as against the generally known stereotype of Muslim women as suppressed and subordinated. A caste-wise analysis reveals that it is the scheduled caste women who report the least percentage of women not involved in any decision-making.

Another paradoxical picture is presented by the figures for cash employment. The table below reveals that 4.6 percent of the women working for cash are not involved in any decision-making, while only 2.3 per cent and 3.3 per cent of those working, but not for cash and those who have not worked for the past 12 months are respectively not involved in any decision-making.

**Table 6.4**  
**Household Decision Making**

Percent distribution of ever-marked women by person who makes specific household decisions,  
according to residence, Haryana 1998—89

Household Decision	Respondent only	Husband Only	Respondent With husband	Others in household only	Respondent with Others in household	Missing	Total percent
<b>URBAN</b>							
What items to cook	77.4	2.9	3.4	4.2	12.2	0.0	100.0
Obtaining health care for herself	32.1	30.5	25.9	3.6	7.9	0.0	100.0
Purchasing jewellery or other major household items	4.0	14.9	55.6	3.8	21.6	0.0	100.0
Going and staying with her parents or siblings	6.8	31.4	42.5	2.9	16.5	0.0	100.0
How the money she earns will be used	60.1	6.5	31.8	0.0	1.7	0.0	100.0
<b>RURAL</b>							
What items to cook	76.5	20.4	20.7	4.0	14.6	0.0	100.0
Obtaining health care for herself	33.9	27.8	21.0	4.5	12.8	0.0	100.0
Purchasing jewellery or other major household items	4.5	17.7	43.8	5.9	28.2	0.0	100.0
Going and staying with her parents or siblings	6.8	31.7	33.7	4.3	23.6	0.0	100.0
How the money she earns will be used	56.7	11.4	29.3	0.0	2.0	0.6	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>							
What items to cook	76.7	2.5	2.9	4.0	13.9	0.0	100.0
Obtaining health care for herself	33.4	28.6	22.4	4.2	11.4	0.0	100.0

Household Decision	Respondent only	Husband Only	Respondent With husband	Others in household only	Respondent with Others in household	Missing	Total percent
Purchasing jewellery or other major household items	4.3	16.9	47.2	5.3	26.3	0.0	100.0
Going and staying with her parents or siblings	6.8	31.6	36.2	3.9	21.5	0.0	100.0
How the money she earns will be used	58.2	9.3	30.4	0.0	1.8	0.3	100.0

For women earning cash

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

A look at the table above provides an areawise analysis of household decision-making on these aspects. It reveals minor variations in different aspects. A majority of the women can take their decision in regard to what items to cook, although this proportion is only slightly lower for rural areas. However, in respect of other factors such as obtaining health care for herself, or purchase of jewellery or staying with parents/siblings, a large majority have to seek permission from others in the household.

**Table 6.5**  
**Women's Autonomy**

Percentage of ever-married women involved in household decision making, percentage with freedom of movement, and percentage with access to money by selected background characteristics, Haryana, 1998-99

Back ground characteristic	Percentage Involved in Decision Making on						Percentage who do not Need Permission to		
	Percentage not involved in any decision making	What to cook	Own health care	Purchasing Jewellery etc.	Staying with her parents/siblings	Go to the market	Visit friends/relative	Percentage with access to money	Number of women
<b>Age</b>									
15-19	4.4	89.0	67.1	82.5	72.0	19.1	5.5	67.3	182
20-24	5.2	90.9	62.1	76.5	65.5	24.2	9.7	63.5	515
25-29	5.1	92.0	66.4	76.5	63.6	31.3	16.6	66.6	606

Back ground characteristic	Percentage Involved in Decision Making on						Percentage who do not Need Permission to		
	Percentage not involved in any decision making	What to cook	Own health care	Purchasing Jewellery etc.	Staying with her parents/siblings	Go to the market	Visit friends/relative	Percentage with access to money	Number of women
30-34	2.8	94.5	67.6	77.8	61.5	38.0	20.9	70.2	559
35-39	2.4	95.0	67.1	80.4	65.0	43.6	28.1	75.7	418
40-44	1.2	98.0	72.0	77.2	64.5	48.8	28.9	75.9	347
45-49	1.4	94.3	71.8	77.1	65.0	54.9	39.2	83.3	281
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	3.7	92.9	65.9	81.3	65.7	49.9	32.0	85.8	837
Rural	3.3	93.7	67.7	76.5	64.0	31.4	16.3	64.8	2071
<b>Education</b>									
Illiterate	2.9	94.5	68.8	77.5	64.7	33.5	18.2	65.4	1605
Literate, < Middle School Complete	6.0	89.3	60.9	72.9	59.2	32.2	16.4	68.8	486
Middle School Complete	2.6	93.6	64.8	78.6	59.7	32.6	15.1	72.3	234
High School Complete And above	3.3	94.1	68.9	82.5	70.3	51.0	34.1	86.9	583
<b>Religion</b>									
Hindu	3.6	93.2	66.9	78.3	64.8	36.5	20.9	70.9	2590
Muslim	0.9	94.7	63.9	78.6	53.7	20.4	11.9	60.8	118
Sikh	2.6	95.9	73.9	71.1	66.5	48.1	24.5	74.4	190
<b>Caste/tribe</b>									
Scheduled Caste	2.5	94.9	66.5	73.4	62.8	37.3	17.5	64.0	597
Other Backward Class	5.4	91.7	64.1	78.7	65.5	30.6	18.8	66.6	629
Other	3.0	93.6	68.6	79.2	64.8	38.7	22.8	74.9	1679
<b>Cash Employment</b>									
Working For cash	4.6	94.3	71.2	82.2	69.3	58.8	40.5	80.1	281

Back ground characteristic	Percentage Involved in Decision Making on						Percentage who do not Need Permission to		
	Percentage not involved in any decision making	What to cook	Own health care	Purchasing Jewellery etc.	Staying with her parents/ siblings	Go to the market	Visit friends/ relative	Percentage with access to money	Number of women
Working But not For cash	2.3	92.9	68.4	88.3	79.1	41.9	29.1	74.4	85
Not Worked in Past 12 Months	3.3	93.4	66.7	77.0	63.5	34.1	18.4	69.7	2542
<b>Standard of living Index</b>									
Low	3.2	95.8	67.9	69.4	59.0	33.1	17.1	60.6	280
Medium	4.0	95.3	66.9	76.9	63.7	34.1	18.0	65.2	1331
High	2.9	93.2	67.6	80.7	66.7	40.4	24.8	79.2	1279
Total	3.4	93.5	67.2	77.8	64.5	36.7	20.8	70.8	2908

Note: Total includes 7 women belonging to other religions, 2 women belonging to scheduled tribes, and 2 and 18 women with missing information on religion and the standard of living index, respectively, who are not shown separately.

Not belonging to a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, or another backward class.

*In sum*, women in Haryana are not merely denied the right to take birth, have higher mortality rates, are discriminated in the spheres of education, health as well as work, but their voices go unheard in both the public and the private sphere. In the public sphere they lack representation, while in the private sphere, the patriarchal system is so well entrenched that they are unable to take any major decisions. Such subordination and suppression of women equally perpetuates violence against women, which is the focus of the next chapter.

## **CHAPTER - VII**

# **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

“Any act ... that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life” is the broad all-encompassing definition of violence against women adopted by the Beijing Platform for Action. Violence against women was recognized alongwith health, education and political empowerment as one of the critical areas of concern and the determination of the international community to “prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls” was categorically emphasized.

Women, however, continue to be subjected to violence over the entire life cycle. Before birth they are condemned to sex selection and female foeticide; during infancy and childhood they are subject to infanticide or malnutrition; if they do manage to pass the age of five, they are neglected in medical care and education as well as subjected to sexual or physical violence; in adolescence and adulthood, they are faced with situations of early marriage, early pregnancy, sexual violence, domestic violence, harassment for dowry, desertion, branded as witches, dying during child birth; and as older women and widows condemned to a life of desertion and neglect. New modes of victimization are constantly emerging.

The northwestern region is well known for the kind of inegalitarian gender relations that are linked to gender violence. While Punjab is more known for the singular impact of partition, wherein women were raped, killed, mutilated, kidnapped or simply left behind to die, it must be remembered that Haryana was as much impacted by the madness at the time, having been a part of undivided Punjab. Violence over the life cycle is equally pervasive in the region.

While the term violence includes both mental and physical violence, it must be remembered that mental violence is non-quantifiable; it is possible only to identify instances of physical violence, which are recognized as crimes against women by the Indian Penal Code. However, it must be remembered that the various situations which result in marginalisation and deprivation of women including foeticide, infanticide, lack of access to education, lack of opportunities as well as neglect in health care are not only a part of gender violence, but lead to increased violence against women. These have been analysed in the previous chapters. The focus of the present chapter is on cognizable crimes against women and domestic violence.

The reported instances of violence are merely a tip of the iceberg , because for every one reported case there are many which go unreported. Comparison of the incidence of rate of crime in Haryana against other States shows Haryana to be ranked at 15<sup>th</sup> place in the percentage contribution to all India crimes against women with at rate of 2.4%. Thus Haryana is a relatively higher risk State than even the neighboring State of Punjab or the National Capital Territory of Delhi, which are ranked 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Table 7.1**  
**Incidence & Rate Of Crime Committed Against Women In States And UTs During 2001**

Sl. No.	State/Ut	Incidence	Percentage contribution to All-India Total	Population@ (In Lakhs)	Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes	Rank *	Rank **
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Andhra Pradesh	16477	11.5	757.3	21.8	2	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	180	0.1	10.9	16.5	8	23
3	Assam	4243	3.0	266.4	15.9	12	13
4	Bihar	5356	3.7	828.8	6.5	28	12
5	Chhattisgarh	3989	2.8	208.0	19.2	4	14
6	Goa	83	0.1	13.4	6.2	30	28
7	Gujarat	5805	4.0	506.0	11.5	20	9
8	Haryana	3393	2.4	210.8	16.1	11	15
9	Himachal Pradesh	890	0.6	60.8	14.6	13	20
10	J & K	1656	1.2	100.7	16.4	9	19
11	Jharkhand	2229	1.6	269.1	8.3	26	18
12	Karnataka	6002	4.2	527.3	11.4	21	8
13	Kerala	5450	3.8	318.4	17.1	5	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	14549	10.1	603.9	24.1	1	3
15	Maharashtra	12524	8.7	967.5	12.9	17	4
16	Manipur	112	0.1	23.9	4.7	31	27
17	Meghalaya	66	0.0	23.1	2.9	33	29
18	Mizoram	126	0.1	8.9	14.1	15	25
19	Nagaland	30	0.0	19.9	1.5	34	31
20	Orissa	5357	3.7	367.1	14.6	14	11

Sl. No.	State/Ut	Incidence	Percentage contribution to All-India Total	Population@ (In Lakhs)	Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes	Rank *	Rank **
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
21	Punjab	2361	1.6	242.9	9.7	22	16
22	Rajasthan	12175	8.5	564.7	21.6	3	5
23	Sikkim	24	0.0	5.4	4.4	32	32
24	Tamil Nadu	10111	7.0	621.1	16.3	10	6
25	Tripura	438	0.3	31.9	13.7	16	22
26	Uttar Pradesh	20227	14.1	1660.5	12.2	19	1
27	Uttaranchal	749	0.5	84.8	8.8	24	21
28	West Bengal	6570	4.6	802.2	8.2	27	7
	<b>Total (States)</b>	<b>141172</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>10105.62</b>	<b>14.0</b>		
29	A & N Islands	34	0.0	3.6	9.6	23	30
30	Chandigarh	150	0.1	9.0	16.6	6	24
31	D & N Haveli	19	0.0	2.2	8.6	25	33
32	Daman & Diu	10	0.0	1.6	6.3	29	34
33	Delhi	2291	1.6	137.8	16.6	7	17
34	Lakshadweep	0	0.0	0.6	0.0	-	-
35	Pondicherry	119	0.1	9.7	12.2	18	26
	<b>Total (Uts)</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>164.53</b>	<b>15.9</b>		
	<b>Total (All-India)</b>	<b>143795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10270.15</b>	<b>14.0</b>		

@ Actual based on 2001 census

Source: Crime in India, 2001, <http://ncrb.nic.in>

As a percentage of total cognizable crimes in the State, crimes against women (CAW) in Haryana are 16.1 per cent as against an all-India rate of 14 per cent. In this Haryana slides lower down the scale, as it is 11<sup>th</sup> in ranking amongst the States. The highest is Madhya Pradesh and the lowest is Nagaland.

A look at the table below reveals the incidence and rate of crimes committed against women in Haryana, category wise and the percentage to the all India total along with the all-India incidence of such crimes. Of the total cognizable crimes in Haryana, incidence of CAW is 16.2 per cent. Of

these, the highest percentage come from the category of cruelty by relatives, followed by molestation, rape and eve-teasing come next, but constitute a mere 1.9 per cent of the cognizable crimes. Kidnapping and abduction and dowry deaths are next in the scale of importance, while at the bottom comes crimes committed under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.

Paradoxically, there is no case registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act or the Importation of Women Act, while media has been highlighting cases of the last, particularly in the districts bordering Punjab. A study by Shakti Vahini reveals large scale trafficking of women to Haryana, Punjab and Delhi from Assam, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa. The reason was traced to poverty and an imbalanced sex ratio.<sup>1</sup> It would not be out of context to mention that the present researcher was also contacted by the Tripura State Commission for Women to look into a case of alleged trafficking from Tripura to Haryana. The Economist also reports that "some men in Haryana are buying "brides" (for between 10,000 and 20,000 Rupees) from other parts of India or Bangladesh. There are an estimated 15,000 such women. Many, though, are treated as slaves. Even their children are shunned."<sup>2</sup>

**Table 7.2**  
**Incidence Of Crimes Committed Against Women During 2001, Haryana and India**

Type of CAW	Haryana			India		
	I	R	P	I	R	P
Rape	398	1.9	2.5	16075	1.6	
Kidnapping and abduction	297	1.4	2.0	14645	1.4	
Dowry deaths	285	1.4	4.2	6851	0.7	
Cruelty by husbands and relatives	1513	7.2	3.1	49170	4.8	
Molestation	478	2.3	1.4	34124	3.3	
Eve-Teasing	401	1.9	4.1	9746	0.9	
Importation of Girls	0	0	0	114	0.0	
Sati-Prevention Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
Immoral Traffic Prevention Act	21	0.1	0.2	8796	0.9	
Indecent Representation Act	0	0	0	1052	0.1	
Dowry Prohibition Act	0	0	0	3222	0.3	
Total	3393	16.1	2.4	143795	14.0	

I - Incidence; R - Rate; P - Percentage Contribution to all India Total

Source: National Crime Records Bureau, *Crime in India, 2001*, <http://ncrb.nic.in>

<sup>1</sup> The Hindu, December 12, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> The Economist, April 17, 2003, [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com).

### Crimes against Women and Sex Ratio

A declining sex ratio is supposed to lead to enhanced crimes against women. The Economist also reports a District Councillor of Rohtak as alleging that as a result of the female shortage, unmarried young men are turning to crime and violence against women has increased. <sup>3</sup>

However, the following Table 7.3 leads us to no general conclusions in this respect. Definitely, Panchkula and Panipat, which are 19<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in ranking in sex ratio are ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in respect of crimes against women and both have a similar incidence of 0.41. At the top in terms of CAW is the District of Jhajjar, which is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in sex ratio. Likewise, the Districts of Fatehabad and Mahendragarh, which are ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> respectively in respect of sex ratio, also reveal the lowest incidence of crimes against women. However, the other districts present a mixed picture, with some of those ranked at a relatively higher position in terms of sex ratio also showing a high crime rate against women. For instance, Ambala which is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of sex ratio is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in respect of incidence of crimes against women.

**Table 7.3**  
**Crime against women and Sex Ratio**

District	Crimes per 1000 Females	Ranking in Crimes Against women	Sex Ratio	Ranking in Sex Ratio
Jhajjar	0.42	1	848	14
Panchkula	0.41	2	823	19
Panipat	0.41	3	830	18
Ambala	0.39	4	869	7
Kurukshetra	0.38	5	866	8
Kaithal	0.35	6	854	11
Karnal	0.32	7	864	9
Gurgoan	0.32	8	874	6
Sirsa	0.31	9	882	4
Faridabad	0.31	10	839	17
Jind	0.27	11	853	12
Yamunanagar	0.25	12	863	10
Hisar	0.24	13	852	13
Rohtak	0.24	14	847	15
Sonipat	0.22	15	839	16

<sup>3</sup> The Economist, op.cit.

District	Crimes per 1000 Females	Ranking in Crimes Against women	Sex Ratio	Ranking in Sex Ratio
Rewari	0.22	16	901	2
Bhiwani	0.18	17	880	5
Mahendergarh	0.17	18	919	1
Fatehabad	0.16	19	886	3

Source: Census of India, Series 7, Haryana, 2001

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence or battery of women within the household has only recently gained recognition as a form of violence against women which merits public concern. Domestic violence is not merely physical assault. Rather, to recognize domestic violence means to understand the dynamics of violent intimate relationships-particularly gendered relationships. It encompasses a range of behaviours employed to hurt, intimidate, coerce, isolate, control or humiliate a partner or dependent. Research has revealed that the home has become a 'den of terror' for millions of women across the globe and women's safety, security and sanity are under greatest threat from their own family members and within the four walls of their homes.

What's more, it is often justified on one pretext or another. Wife battering is often seen as a reflection of the husband's masculinity. The UNIFEM Report "A Life Free of Violence: It's Our Right" (1998) reveals that 3-4 million women are battered worldwide each year; one in six women are the victims of rape in industrialized countries and between 16 and 52 per cent of women surveyed were assaulted by intimate partners. According to a WHO report 16.52 per cent of women all over the world experience violence in intimate relations. The International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) reports that between 22 to 60 per cent of Indian women have reported being subjected to physical violence.

NFHS-II survey in Haryana found some of the major reasons given for a husband beating his wife. These include a suspicion that the wife is unfaithful, natal family does not give expected money or other items; wife shows disrespect to in-laws, wife goes out without telling her husband, she neglects the house or children, does not cook food properly. The table below reveals that 26.2 per cent of the women agreed with at least one reason. The highest percentage viz. 20.1 per cent of the women justified wife beating on grounds of a wife's unfaithfulness. Second reason in order of importance was wife going out without telling her husband followed by neglect of house or children. Next was showing disrespect to in-laws, followed by not cooking food properly. Only a miniscule 0.2 per cent justified wife beating on grounds of natal family not giving expected money or other items.

**Table 7.4**

**Reasons Given For Justifying A Husband Beating His Wife**

Percentage who agree with specific reasons								
Backgrounds Characteristic	Percentage who Agree with at least one reason	Husband suspects wife is unfaithful	Naatal Family does not give expected money or other items	Wife shows disrespect for in-laws	Wife goes out without telling husband	Wife neglects house or children	Wife does not cook food properly	Number of Women
<b>Age</b>								
15-19	23.0	17.5	0.0	8.3	12.6	8.3	7.1	182
20-29	26.9	20.2	0.2	10.6	12.8	11.7	7.2	1,121
30-39	27.1	21.9	0.4	10.0	12.5	9.5	7.1	977
40-49	24.6	18.0	0.0	8.8	11.5	9.1	6.2	628
<b>Marital Duration (in years)</b>								
<5	24.0	18.1	0.0	9.6	12.0	9.9	7.1	656
5-9	26.6	21.1	0.5	10.6	12.5	11.8	7.0	420
10 or more	27.9	21.3	0.2	10.1	13.0	10.3	7.1	1,724
Not currently married	11.0	10.1	0.0	3.7	4.5	3.7	3.7	109
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	17.5	12.6	0.0	5.0	7.6	6.5	4.1	837
Rural	29.7	23.2	0.3	11.8	14.4	11.7	8.1	2071
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	29.8	22.8	0.2	10.7	14.7	11.5	7.5	1605
Literate, < middle School Complete	29.6	23.7	0.2	10.9	13.2	11.1	9.5	486
Middle school complete	28.4	21.5	0.9	13.8	12.1	11.6	7.8	234
High school complete and above	12.6	9.1	0.0	5.2	5.6	5.3	3.1	583
<b>Religion</b>								
Hindu	26.8	20.9	0.2	10.3	13.1	10.3	7.4	2590

Percentage who agree with specific reasons								
Backgrounds Characteristic	Percentage who Agree with at least one reason	Husband suspects wife is unfaithful	Naatal Family does not give expected money or other items	Wife shows disrespect for in-laws	Wife goes out without telling husband	Wife neglects house or children	Wife does not cook food properly	Number of Women
Muslim	20.5	11.9	0.0	6.8	8.5	11.1	2.6	118
Sikh	21.6	14.1	0.5	5.2	5.8	7.4	3.7	190
<b>Caste/tribe</b>		23.3					8.2	
Scheduled caste	29.5	22.2	0.0	11.0	14.2	10.9	8.4	597
Other backward class	29.2	18.2	0.5	11.0	14.8	13.2	6.0	629
Other	23.8	16.0	0.2	8.9	10.8	8.8		1679
<b>Cash employment</b>							8.2	
Working for cash	21.3	61.0	0.4	8.5	11.3	8.2	8.4	281
Working but not for cash	50.1	45.4	0.0	23.3	15.2	17.4	6.0	85
Not worked in past 12 months	25.9	19.7	0.2	9.5	12.4	10.2	6.7	2542
<b>Standard of living index</b>								
Low	27.3	21.0	0.0	8.6	13.5	8.2	6.8	280
Medium	29.5	22.8	0.5	11.3	15.1	12.1	8.8	1331
High	22.5	17.2	0.0	8.6	9.4	8.7	5.1	1279
Total	26.2	20.1	0.2	9.8	12.4	10.2	7.0	2908

Note : Total includes 7 women belonging to other religions. 2 women belonging to scheduled tribes, and 2 and 18 women with missing information on religion and the standard of living index respectively, who are not shown separately.

Not belonging to a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, or an other backward class

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

**Table 7.5**  
**Women's Experience With Beatings Or Physical Mistreatment**

Percentage of ever-married women who have been beaten or physically mistreated by their husband, in-laws, or other persons since age 15, according to selected background characteristics, Haryana 1998-99.

Back ground Characteristic	Percentage Beaten or physically Mistreated Since age 15	Percentage Beaten or Physically Mistreated Since age 15 by			Number of women
		Husband	In-laws	Other persons	
<b>Age</b>					
15-19	8.2	4.9	1.1	4.3	182
20-29	13.3	10.7	2.4	3.4	1121
30-39	14.9	12.9	2.5	3.6	977
40-49	11.7	9.5	2.2	2.7	628
<b>Martial Duration (in years)</b>					
<5	10.6	7.1	1.5	4.4	656
5-9	13.1	10.7	2.9	3.1	420
10 or more	14.2	12.2	2.3	3.2	1724
Not currently married	12.8	12.8	4.6	0.9	109
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	11.7	9.1	1.9	3.9	837
Rural	13.8	11.5	2.4	3.2	2071
<b>Education</b>					
Illiterate	15.2	13.6	2.9	2.8	1605
Literate, <middle School Complete	15.5	11.1	1.9	3.9	486
Middle school complete	11.1	8.0	1.7	4.7	234
High school complete & above	6.6	3.8	1.4	3.8	583
<b>Religion</b>					
Hindu	13.6	11.1	2.4	3.5	2590
Muslim	13.5	12.7	3.4	1.7	118
Sikh	7.9	6.8	0.5	2.1	190

Back ground Characteristic	Percentage Beaten or physically Mistreated Since age 15	Percentage Beaten or Physically Mistreated Since age 15 by			Number of women
		Husband	In-laws	Other persons	
<b>Caste/tribe</b>					
Scheduled caste	17.8	15.2	2.5	4.3	597
Other backward class	13.6	11.7	2.9	2.9	629
Other	11.4	8.9	2.0	3.2	1679
<b>Household type</b>					
Nuclear household	15.4	13.1	2.0	3.7	1406
Non-nuclear Household	11.1	8.7	2.6	3.1	1502
<b>Cash Employment</b>					
Working					
For cash	16.4	15.3	2.8	4.3	281
Working But not for cash	10.5	8.2	4.6	1.2	85
Not Worked in Past 12 Months	12.9	10.4	2.2	3.3	2542
<b>Standard of living Index</b>					
Low	18.9	16.4	3.2	3.2	280
Medium	16.0	14.0	2.5	3.5	131
High	9.0	6.3	2.0	3.3	1279
<b>Living children</b>					
No living children	7.4	3.7	1.2	4.1	245
Only daughters	9.9	7.3	2.7	3.3	303
Only sons	13.2	11.0	2.7	3.6	675
Both daughters and sons	14.6	12.4	2.2	3.2	1685
Total	13.2	10.8	2.3	3.4	2908

Note : Total includes 7 women belonging to other religions, 2 women belonging to scheduled tribes, and 2 and 18 women with missing information on religion and the standard of living index, respectively, who are not shown separately.

Not belonging to a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, or an other backward class.

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

The table above reveals that at least 13.2 per cent of the women admitted to being physically mistreated since age 15. Of these the largest percentage of women were beaten or physically mistreated by husband (10.8%), 2.3 per cent by in-laws and 3.4 per cent by others.

8.1 per cent of the women reported having been beaten many times in the past 12 months preceding the survey; 12.5 percent reported a few times; 18 per cent reported having been beaten once. Thus out of the total, 39 percent of the women admitted to having been beaten at one time or the other during the 12 months preceding the survey and only 61 percent reported not having been beaten during the past twelve months.

**Table 7.6**  
**Frequency Of Beatings Or Physical Mistreatment**

Percent distribution of ever-married women who report being beaten or physically mistreated since age 15 by frequency of beating or physical mistreatment in the 12 months preceding the survey according to selected background characteristics Haryana 1998-99.

Background Characteristic	Beaten or physically mistreated in Past 12 months				Total percentage	Number of Women
	Many times	A few Times	Once	Not beaten		
<b>Age</b>						
20-29	16.8	14.1	21.3	47.8	100.0	149
30-39	2.1	13.7	18.7	65.6	100.0	146
40-49	2.7	6.7	10.7	79.9	100.0	74
<b>Marital Duration (in years)</b>						
<5	11.5	16.0	20.3	52.2	100.0	69
5-9	16.3	12.6	19.7	51.3	100.0	55
10 or more	5.3	12.2	18.0	64.5	100.0	246
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	9.3	11.4	16.6	62.8	100.0	98
Rural	7.7	12.9	18.5	61.0	100.0	285
<b>Education</b>						
Illiterate	7.8	13.1	17.2	61.9	100.0	244

Background Characteristic	Beaten or physically mistreated in Past 12 months				Total percentage	Number of Women
	Many times	A few Times	Once	Not beaten		
Literate, <middle School Complete	7.9	10.8	24.0	57.3	100.0	75
Middle school complete	7.8	19.2	15.3	57.6	100.0	26
High school complete & above	10.4	7.7	13.1	68.8	100.0	39
<b>Caste/tribe</b>						
Scheduled caste	13.2	13.1	14.8	58.9	100.0	107
Other backward class	5.8	15.1	23.4	55.7	100.0	86
Other	6.3	11.0	17.3	65.4	100.0	191
<b>Household type</b>						
Nuclear household	7.0	13.8	19.9	59.3	100.0	217
Non-nuclear Household	9.5	10.8	15.5	64.2	100.0	167
<b>Cash Employment</b>						
Working for cash	6.7	6.5	23.8	63.0	100.0	46
Not Worked in Past 12 Months	8.5	13.4	17.4	60.8	100.0	329
<b>Standard Of living Index</b>						
Low	9.5	15.2	11.2	64.1	100.0	53
Medium	8.0	13.1	23.5	55.5	100.0	213
High	7.8	10.4	11.3	70.5	100.0	115
<b>Living children</b>						
Only daughters	6.8	19.8	16.4	57.0	100.0	30
Only sons	4.4	15.7	21.3	58.6	100.0	89
Both daughters and sons	8.9	11.0	17.9	62.2	100.0	246
Total	8.1	12.5	18.0	61.4	100.0	383

Note : Total includes 15 women from age group 15-19, 14 women not currently married, 9 women working but not for cash, 18 women having no living children, and 2 women with missing information on the standard of living index, who are not shown separately.

(i) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

Not belonging to a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, or an other backward class.

Source: NFHS-II, Haryana

At the end, it is essential to emphasize that the impact of violence upon women is both physical (physical impairment, even death at the hands of spouses) and psychological (high levels of stress, even mental disorder). Besides the psychological and physical trauma experienced by battered women, domestic violence has also led to enormous economic loss for nations. Thus, while developing countries like Chile are faced with a loss of \$1.56 billion in wages as women failed to report for work in the victimized State, developed countries like the US reported a loss of \$ 5-10 billion because of this.<sup>4</sup>

It is equally noteworthy that the cases registered with the police are not a true index of the crimes against women as for each case reported, many go unreported. Second, it is difficult to quantify the covert acts of violence, which result in psychological harm or suffering to the woman. Thirdly, while women are the victims of overt violence on the one hand, on the other their very subordinated and discriminated status leads to further overt violence against women. Stopping gender violence requires looking at and challenging the particular social and cultural norms for femininity and masculinity that influence inequality in the power relations between men and women. Where women are supposed to submit and men to dominate, there is likely to be gender violence.

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<sup>4</sup> The Times of India, August 22, 1999.

## ***Missing sisters***

### ***A shortage of girls will haunt India for decades***

*IN THE* district of Rohtak, a fairly well-off town in northern India's farm belt, it is estimated that one in every six girls conceived is aborted. Modern ultrasound technology, coupled with a traditional preference for boys, has led to mass female foeticide. Progress does not help: rising prosperity, public-education campaigns and strict-looking laws have all failed to curb the practice. But the resulting dearth of females is already wreaking social damage, which can only worsen.

Demographers have long puzzled over India's skewed sex ratio. Throughout the 20th century, it grew ever more unbalanced, from 972 women for every 1,000 men in 1901, to 927 in 1991. Encouragingly, it then climbed to 933 in 2001. This, however, masked a sharp imbalance among children under the age of seven: from 945 girls per 1,000 boys in 1991, to 927 in 2001. Data on the sex ratio at birth are scanty, because many births are not registered. Figures must be gleaned from the ten-yearly censuses, and from local surveys.

These show wide regional disparities. In the south, especially in the State of Kerala, there are many more girls. But in 48 of India's 577 districts, the sex ratio among children is below 850. Of these, 34 are, like Rohtak, in Haryana or its neighbouring State, Punjab. In Rohtak there are 847 females for every 1,000 males, and just 796 girls for every 1,000 boys.

A strong preference for boys is common in agricultural societies. Boys inherit the family name and land, and provide an old-age insurance policy. Girls join their husbands' families, and need dowries. When mobile ultrasound units started touring rural Haryana in the late 1980s, their advertising pitch was, appallingly, "Pay 500 rupees now and save 50,000 later."

Pramod Gouri, director of Search, a government-financed civic-education outfit in Rohtak, offers two explanations as to why Punjab and Haryana should be so egregiously prone to female foeticide: the region's social norms have proved remarkably immune to "modernity"; and the agricultural "green revolution" put enough money in local pockets to make sex-selection affordable. Abortion is far more prevalent among better-off, town-dwelling, higher-caste and literate women. Smaller families have, as in China, also further encouraged female abortion.

In 1994, sex tests were made illegal. But in Haryana only three cases have been filed: the law is hard to enforce, since ultrasound scans are now widespread. For doctors, there is good money—3,000-5,000 rupees (\$60-100) a time—to be made from (illegal) abortions.

Already, the female shortage is making itself felt. Urmila, a district councillor in the countryside near Rohtak, says unmarried young men are turning to crime, and violence against women has increased. Some men in Haryana are buying "brides" (for between 10,000 and 20,000 rupees) from other parts of India, or Bangladesh. There are an estimated 15,000 such women. Many, though, are treated as slaves. Even their children are shunned.

Despite the shortage of brides, Urmila says that dowries have risen, not fallen. In Rohtak, a middle-class family will typically spend 600,000-800,000 rupees—several years' earnings. Touring her district, she finds people anxiously asking her if she knows of any marriageable girls. This, she hopes, may be the first sign of a change in attitudes. But it may be too late to avoid serious social trauma.

[www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)

## **ANOTHER WOMEN**

Today another woman died  
and not on a foreign field  
and not with a rifle strapped to her back,  
and not with a large defense of tanks  
rumbling and rolling behind her.

She died without CNN covering her war.  
She died without talk of intelligent bombs  
and strategic targets  
The target was simply her face, her back  
her pregnant belly.

The target was her precious flesh  
that was once composed like music  
in her mother's body and sung  
in the anthem of birth.

The target was this life  
that had lived its own dear wildness,  
had been loved and not loved,  
had danced and not danced.

A life like yours or mine  
that had stumbled up  
from a beginning  
and had learned to walk  
and had learned to read.  
and had learned to sing.

Another woman died today.  
not far from where you live;  
Just there, next door where the tall light  
falls across the pavement.

Just there, a few steps away  
where you've often heard shouting,  
Another woman died today.

She was the same girl  
her mother used to kiss;  
the same child you dreamed  
beside in school.

The same baby her parents  
walked in the night with  
and listened and listened and listened  
For her cries even while they slept.

And someone has confused his rage  
with this woman's only life.

-Carol Geneya Kaplan

## CHAPTER - VIII

# GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES FOR WOMEN

The previous chapters reveal the diminished and marginalized position occupied by women in this highly patriarchal State. This, however, is not to say that the Government of the State is making no efforts at improving the situation. A number of schemes are running in the State; some of these are joint initiatives of the Centre and the State, while others are initiated by the State Government itself. Furthermore, some of the schemes are general schemes, whose benefits are supposed to trickle down to women, while others are women specific schemes. In this chapter, only the women specific schemes will be dealt with.

### **Poverty**

Haryana has a relatively low incidence of poverty. Nevertheless, feminisation of poverty is as much an established fact here as elsewhere. Hence the need for specific poverty alleviation programmes which have an explicit focus on women. Here, it must be emphasized that while most of the anti-poverty programmes are general in nature, women, as they are the worse impacted by poverty, form a special target group of each of these.

**Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** is a poverty alleviation programme with a holistic approach covering all aspects of self-employment such as organizing self-help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure, marketing etc. The target group consists of families living below the poverty line. Likewise the **Sampuran Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)** aims to provide additional wage employment opportunities to rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around their place of living.

In urban areas **Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SGSRY)** provides gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed through setting up of self-employment ventures providing wage employment through skill development training.

**Tau Devi Lal Old Age Pension Scheme** provides a pension @ Rs 200 per month to the really poor and needy persons above the age of 60 years. **Widow pension scheme** is also being implemented to provide security and financial assistance to widows and destitute women aged 18 and above who have no other financial support @ Rs 200 per month. An innovative programme launched by the Government is that of **Devi Rakshak Yojana**. Under this scheme, if an earning member of a family dies an unnatural death, the survivors are given a grant to the tune of Rs 1,00,00. A number of women have benefited from this scheme since its launching.

Under **Kanyadan** scheme, the families belonging to Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes living below poverty line are given Rs 5100/- on the marriage of their daughter.

## **Health**

As seen in Chapter IV, Haryana has made significant progress on the health front. Yet women continue to be in the back seat. A number of health programmes are running in the State. Some of these are national level programmes, which the State is implementing with full gusto. Others are innovative State schemes launched for specific target groups. Apart from the general programmes such as **National Tuberculosis Programme**, **Pulse Polio Programme** and organizing health camps, a **Swasthya Jagruti Maah** was observed from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2004. During this a 3 day health Mela was organised in the 10 Parliamentary constituencies in the State.

Apart from these general programmes, the **Reproductive and Child Health Programme** was launched in 1997-98 with the aim of providing quality Reproductive and Child Health Services.

**Devi Rupak Scheme** is an novel scheme which was introduced in 2002 to stabilize the declining sex ratio. Under the scheme, Rs 500 per month will be given to every couple that have one girl child for 20 years and have adopted terminal method of family planning. Similarly, Rs 200 per month will be given to those couples that adopted this method after one male child or after the birth of second girl child.

An innovative scheme **Swasthya Aapke Dwar** has been launched in 2003 under which specially constituted teams of Health Department will visit each village to medically examine and provide medicines free of cost.

**Apni Beti Apna Dhan** scheme was another unique scheme initiated by the Haryana Government with a view to stem the declining sex ratio. Under this scheme, a girl child born to parents living below the poverty line is provided a Gift Certificate upon her birth which can be cashed upon her attaining the age of 18 years, provided she remains unmarried. As the scheme is yet young and the beneficiaries are to attain the age of 18 years, it is too early to assess its impact.

**Integrated Child Development Services Scheme** is being implemented in 116 blocks through 13546 Anganwari centers , which provide supplementary nutrition to children and pregnant and lactating mothers. **Kishori Shakti Yojana** is also being implemented in 85 ICDS projects to provide supplementary nutrition.

## **Education**

An **Education Policy for the State of Haryana** was adopted in 2000. It has a three fold target: ensure excellence in Higher Education; make education forward looking, progressive and job oriented and to minimize wastages to ensure optimum utilization of resources. **Haryana Prathamik Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad** completed the implementation of **District Primary Education Programme** in June 2003. **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**, aiming at the universalization of Elementary Education was started in the year 2001-02 and presently it is going on, in all the 19 districts of the State.

With a view to enroll and retain children particularly girls, belonging to Scheduled Castes and Weaker Sections of society, a number of **incentives and schemes** have been introduced. These include: **Free uniforms to SC/Weaker Sections girls; attendance prize to SC girls; free stationery;** among others. The State Government is also implementing **cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme** in a phased manner after monitoring its impact on education and enrolment, retention and dropout rate of students.

Apart from these efforts are made to **provide drinking water and toilet facilities** with separate toilet facilities for girls in all Government .Primary Schools.

**Ballika Samridhi Yojana** attempts to change social attitudes towards girls.

From the next academic session, 2004-05, it is reported that the State Government will provide **free cycles to the girl students** of those villages which do not have middle schools.

### **Institutional Mechanism**

The **Department of Women and Child Development** is functioning in the State for overall development of women and children. The **Haryana State Commission for Women** is functioning to protect the constitutional and legal rights of women and to improve their status. **Haryana Women Development Corporation** attempts to promote activities for development of women, awareness generation, vocational training and arrange institutional finance for self employment to ameliorate the conditions of women belonging to weaker sections. It is implementing a World Bank IFAO assisted Swa-Shakti Project, known as Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project.

**WAMA, Women Awareness and Management Academy**, a State Training Institute is functioning at Rai, Sonapat for providing training to grassroot level workers.

**On the whole**, a number of innovative schemes have been launched by the Government of Haryana for improving the status of women in the State as well as generally for improving the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections. However, these schemes have to implemented by functionaries working very much within the patriarchal mode of the State and in order to effectively implement these schemes, it is very essential that these functionaries are first sensitized towards women's issues and problems. Only then will they approach and apply these schemes in a gender sensitive manner. Furthermore, it is not enough that a woman be appointed to take charge of the schemes relating to women, for the woman may herself have absorbed the patriarchal mindset.

**CHAPTER - IX**

**SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN IN HARYANA :**  
**A STATE PERSPECTIVE**

Having presented a situational analysis of the status of women in Haryana from various sources, it would also be relevant to examine the reports of various Government Departments as to the status of women in the State. It must be mentioned at the outset that NCW had distributed a questionnaire relating to various aspects of women's life in the State. The analysis of these questionnaires is presented in this chapter. The questionnaires filled out by the various Departments are annexed as Annexure I.

**Education**

Haryana, as seen in Chapter III has made rapid progress in the field of education, particularly female literacy. For this credit must be given to the large educational infrastructure which has been set up at various levels. **The Directorate of Secondary Education in response to NCW's questionnaire reported that in 2001-2 there were 1652 Primary Schools for Girls in the State, 468 Middle Schools and 247 Higher Secondary Schools. These, it may be seen from Table 9.1 constitute merely 14.74 per cent, 8.85 per cent and 17.96 per cent of the total Primary, Middle and Higher Secondary Schools respectively. No data was, however, provided in respect of co-educational schools. The positive point is that both Primary and Secondary Schools are situated within a distance of 1.12 and 1.7 kilometers; only the Higher Secondary Schools are situated at a distance of more than 4 kilometers.**

**Table 9.1**  
**No. of Schools (2001-2002)**

	Co-Ed	Girls	Total	Avg. Distance (Kms)	Percentage of Girls School to the Total Schools
Primary	—	1652	11208	1.12	14.74
Secondary	—	468	5286	1.7	8.85
Higher Secondary	—	247	1375	4.08	17.96
Others	—	—	—	—	

The Directorate of Secondary Education reported that there were no vocational schools functioning in the State for boys or girls. It was also reported that there were no non-formal educational centers catering to girls, or any female adult education centers. A slight lack of coordination may be noticed among the various Departments in that there is a Department of Vocational Education, which is running institutes for vocational education. The confusion probably arises from the fact that different Departments filled out the questionnaires relating to their specific field and did not consider the overall aspect of the issue. A special note was made that girls can study in all of the boys' schools in the State.

**Table 9.2**  
**No. of Females Enrolled at Different Levels**

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Primary	15.28%	20.92%	30.53%
Secondary	26.27%	22.14%	19.67%
Higher Secondary	21.54%	—	1.93%
Vocational Schools	—	—	—
Non-Formal Centers	—	—	—
Female Adult Education Centers	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—

The information regarding the enrolment percentage too seems to be incomplete. A comparison with the statistics presented in the previous chapter reveals a discrepancy in as much as the enrolment ratios presented in Chapter III are considerably higher. It was reported that for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, there were no women enrolled in any distance education centers or in any correspondence courses.

**Table 9.3**  
**No. of Teachers at Different Levels**

	Sanctioned	In Position
Primary & Secondary	52547	—
Higher Secondary & Vocational	62200	59310
Non-Formal Centers	—	—
Female Adult Education Centers	—	—
Others	—	—

The Directorate of Secondary Education supplied no gender segregated information regarding the number and percentage of teachers appointed at different levels. Nor was there any information regarding the availability of buildings for existing education institutions. The only information available

was regarding Secondary schools, which Stated that there were no Kuccha buildings and all the existing (3920) were Pucca.

However, a number of incentives are provided for increasing the enrolment ratios and retaining girl children in schools. These include: Free uniforms for SC/BC/Other weaker sections, female education is being encouraged in the State by starting separate primary, middle, high and senior secondary schools for girls. So far, 89,000 girls have benefited under this scheme.

### **Vocational Education**

The Director of Industrial Training and Vocational Education (EDUCATION) reported that there were 25 Industrial Training Institutes for Women (ITIW), while 6 ITI's had special women's wing attached to them. In 1999-00, there were 2032 women enrolled in ITIW. In 2000-01 there were 1932, and in 2001-02 the number increased to 2153. Between the ITI (W) and the ITI (WW), 151 teachers have been sanctioned, but there only very few have been appointed. The exact figures have been: 114 in 1999-00, 11 in 2000-01 and 103 in 2001-02.

It was further reported that there were 118 co-ed schools for vocational training, but none especially for girls. Furthermore, there were no non-formal educational centers catering to girls.

Mention was made of special incentives for girls in vocational education. However, the only incentive which was specifically mentioned was a stipend of Rs. 100 to SC candidates and Rs 45 to general candidates.

### **Welfare Schemes**

The Director of the Welfare for SC&BC and Haryana State Social Welfare Advisory Board (Welfare Schemes For Women Below The Poverty Line, Including Slum Dwellers And Welfare Of SC's And BC's) reported that no separate component plan for SC women is prepared, but schemes are being implemented for the welfare of SC women. The various schemes are:

- **Education** : Various educational incentives are being provided which include: scholarships, prizes for attendance, free uniforms and stationary, etc. For upgrading of educational standard of meritorious scheduled Caste students residing in rural areas, a Scheme of providing free residential facility is being provided in the cities. Under the scheme, a scholarship @ Rs 700/- per month is given. In addition to this Rs 2,000 per annum is given for purchase of books and Rs 1500 per annum for other miscellaneous expenditure. Similarly remedial and special coaching is provided to Scheduled Caste students at school stage for their academic improvement before/ after school hours. The girl students belonging to SCs are also drawing all the benefits along with other students under these schemes. Further to encourage Scheduled Caste girls students, merit scholarships @ Rs 80/-, Rs 100/-, Rs 120/- and Rs. 140/- per month is given to the students of 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> classes respectively.
- **Employment** : To provide employment opportunities to Scheduled Caste women, tailoring training is provided to Scheduled Caste widows/destitute women/poor girls in 108 community centers run

by this department. A sum of Rs 100 per month as scholarship and Rs 50 per month as cost of raw material as well as a free sewing machine is provided after the completion of the training.

- **Victims of Atrocities** : Financial assistance is provided to the victims of atrocities under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules 1995. the relief to victims of atrocities ranging from Rs 15,000 /- to Rs 2 Lakhs for various offences including wrongful occupation of land, murder, dacoity, rape and massacre is given.
- **Other Welfare Schemes** : Kanyadaan Scheme has been introduced with effect from 1.11.99 for providing financial assistance to Rs 5100/- as *kanyadaan* on the occasion of the marriage of girls of those Scheduled Caste persons who are domiciled in Haryana and are living below the poverty line. At the time of marriage, minimum age of the girl should be 18 years. This benefit is given for two girls in a family. Under this scheme the amount spent and number of beneficiaries from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is given as under:

**Table 9.4**

Year	Amount Spent (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries
1999-2000	79.10	1555
2000-2001	168.91	3312
2001-2002	270.30	5300

Financial Assistance to the tune of Rs 10,000/- is also given for the marriage of the daughters of Scheduled Caste/Vimukt Jati widows who are living below the poverty line. Under this scheme amount spent and number of beneficiaries from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is as follows:

**Table 9.5**

Year	Amount Spent (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries
1999-2000	85.0	850
2000-2001	88.20	882
2001-2002	89.30	893

Loans are also provided in the joint name of husband and wife which will not only ensure the empowerment of women, but also result in creation of assets.

The Haryana State Social Welfare Advisory Board Stated that the Government of India had not allotted funds during the year 2001-2002 for the Central Social Welfare Board, and hence the scheme was not implemented for that year.

The Forest Department is also running a number of welfare schemes for women. It organized a socio-economic scheme for the welfare and development of women through IGAs and SHGs in the Haryana Community Forestry Project. 75 SHGs benefited through the above-mentioned government

schemes. A total of 1092 women thus benefited in 2001-02.

Under the Haryana Community Forestry Project women experienced in nursery techniques are being identified to assist the Department in raising fruit plants. They will be provided with inputs like seeds, compost, polythene bags etc. They will also be given the know-how for raising species required for the project. All healthy seedlings will be purchased by the project at a price after deducting the cost of inputs provided earlier.

### Grassroots Empowerment

In accordance with the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of India elections to the various urban local bodies were held in December 1994, June 1998, April 2000 and April 2002. However, no information was provided by the Director, Urban Development Programme as to the number of seats contested by women representatives. The seats won by women were as follows: SC- 55, ST- nil, OBC/ BC- 40 and General- 211.

**Table 9.6**  
**No. of Women Office Bearers**

Chairman				Vice Chairman				Vice-Chancellor			
SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
4	—	2	11	—	—	—	2	NA	NA	NA	NA

The need for training of these women entering the decision-making sphere at the grassroots level is emphasized by scholars as well as activists in the field. However, no regular arrangement for training women for urban administration has been made as yet by the State Government according to the Director, Urban Development Programme. Nevertheless, the Department sponsored a total of 16 women representatives in the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh and 266 women representatives in HIPA, Gurgaon for various training courses in 2001 and 2002.

The Director of Panchayats reported that the total participation of women in local self-government was 21373. The State Government has held elections to the various tiers of Panchayats as per the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution on 12 March 2000 and 16 March 2000.

**Table 9.7**  
**Women Representatives**

Level	Seats Contested				Seats Won			
	SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
<b>Gram Panchayat</b>								
Sarpanches	1203	—	—	805	1203	—	—	805
Panches	11846	—	—	6510	11846	—	—	6510
<b>Total</b>	<b>13049</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7315</b>	<b>13049</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7315</b>

Level	Seats Contested				Seats Won			
	SC	ST	OBC	GEN	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
<b>Panchayat Samiti</b>								
Chairman	28	—	—	23	28	—	—	23
Member	551	—	—	291	551	—	—	291
Total	574	—	—	319	574	—	—	319
<b>Zila Parishad</b>								
President	4	—	—	3	4	—	—	3
Member	67	—	—	42	67	—	—	42
Total	71	—	—	45	71	—	—	45

In keeping with the provisions of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment, the State Finance Commission was constituted on 31 May 1994 and submitted its report in March 1997.

Special attention is also paid to the training of these women. The State Government has made regular arrangements for training women for Panchayati Raj administration. The two existing centers are: Haryana Institute of Rural Development and Principal State Community Development Center. In the year 2000-01, all of the women representatives of the various Panchayati Raj institutions were given empowerment training at HIRD, SCDTC Nilokheri and at the block level.

### Employment

Employment or waged work is recognized as one of the most significant paths to overall empowerment of women. In keeping with the responses, employment is variously sub categorized into general employment, agricultural, dairy development etc.

The Directorate of Employment reported that there are currently no special employment exchanges for women.

**Table 9.8**  
**No. of Women Registered for Employment**

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Total Registrations	50851	40915	32395
Total Placements	393	237	153

In the general employment exchanges, however a large number of women were found to be registered. However, the placements as can be seen from Table 9.7 above were quite low. Furthermore, no category wise (SC, ST, OBC etc.) information is provided.

Incidentally, the Directorate reports that there were no entrepreneurial development programs organized for women in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002; and no women trained in either traditional

or non-traditional entrepreneurial skills in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. As there were no women trained, there was no information on how many of them were either employed or self-employed. Nor have there been any surveys conducted recently for finding the potential for females in non-traditional areas such as electronics, Para-medical areas, agro-industries etc.

Apart from these, the setting up of a complaints Committee to deal with cases of sexual harassment at the workplace is still pending. The only benefit which is provided to women workers is maternity leave, which is granted as per the established rules. There are no guidelines/orders to initiate special incentives for providing facilities such as crèches, education, separate toilets, lunch facilities etc. to female employees/laborers at the work site.

### **Agricultural Employment**

Agricultural sector continues to be the major employer of women. Nevertheless , not only are very few women actually owners of the land which they till, nor are there many special training programmes directed at them. The Directorate of Agriculture reported that two main programs for the entrepreneurial development of women had been launched. These are **Women in Agriculture programme**, which is a central Government sponsored programme running in Hansi, Hisar and Tohana and **Capacity Building Programme**, which is running in Kandi Area. The second programme has benefited 600 women both in 2000-01 as well as 2001-02. Another programme, which is cited by the Directorate has no connection with Agriculture, that is Setting up of Stitching Centres in Villages. Twenty women facilitators have been recruited in a project on contract, in order to strengthen women's participation in the organization in the form of SHGs and capacity building.

The Department also reports:

"Apart from these programmes **Integrated Watershed Development (Hills-II) Project** is being implemented in Haryana with the objectives of increasing productive potential of the area using community participatory approaches. For achieving these objectives, village level institutions called Village Development Committees (VDC's) are being formed and registered under Societies Registration Act. To strengthen women's participation in these VDCs, 50 per cent of the members are women with at least 33 per cent women members in the VDC executive. Further they are being organised to form Self Help Groups and so far 125 SHGs have been formed in project villages in addition to already existing groups formed by DRDA and other agencies.

For upliftment of women and other disadvantaged groups lots of stress is being laid on their capacity building. There is a lot of demand for training in stitching and tailoring especially in villages which are inaccessible. Stitching and tailoring centers which are being run by women from the village only have been in operation in 85 villages and so far 1729 women have been trained. The women so trained are able to stitch their own clothes and of their children and are thus able to save their expenditure. In addition about 10 women from different villages have also taken up stitching as income generating activities handout of these 6 women are from Scheduled Caste. Women in 10 villages have been given training in candle making, durrie making and dyeing of dupattas using tye and dye method

to take these up as IGA. The women have also been imparted training on Food Preservation and nutritional aspects.

Furthermore, as the table below reveals very few women have received training. The number of women receiving training in traditional skills is almost negligible, while that of non-traditional skills is slightly, though only marginally better. The Directorate reports that a study was conducted on the potential and viable income generating activities available for women, landless, and the disadvantaged groups in the Kandi region of Haryana, however, the conclusions of the study are not presented in the report.

**Table 9.9**  
**No. of Women Trained in Traditional & Non-Traditional Entrepreneurial Skills**

Year	Traditional	Non-Traditional
1999-00	10	152
2000-01	25	490
2001-02	30	575

A committee headed by a Class I officer has been constituted to redress any complaints regarding the sexual harassment of women working in the agricultural department. The directorate also reports granting of special facilities such as maternity leave, casual leave etc. as per the rules of the Haryana Government. Separate toilets have been provided to women workers. Separate space in the canteen has also been provided to them. The latter facilities probably refer only to women working in the Directorate itself, because there are and cannot be any separate canteen or toilet facilities for women working in the fields.

The Dairy Development Department too provides special self-employment programs for educated/uneducated young men and women from rural as well as urban areas. In 2000-01, the number of female beneficiaries was 156, and in 2001-02, the number was 337. In 1999-00, 251 women were trained in traditional entrepreneurial skills. In 2000-01 the number was 195, and in 2001-02, it increased manifold to 422. Due to the nature of the program (self-employment), of that number of trained women, nil were employed and the following were self-employed: 201 in 1999-2000, 156 in 2000-01 and 337 in 2001-02.

#### **ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN**

The Police department has separate cells for dealing with rape, abduction, dowry deaths, sexual harassment etc. of women. It reported that it has recorded the following cases:

**Table 9.10**

Type of Crimes	No. of Female Victims		
	2000	2001	2002
Rape	409	387	230
Abduction	289	318	223
Dowry Death	253	259	155
Sexual Harassment	517	477	357
Domestic Violence	1169	1345	905
Bigamy	14	13	11

**Women in Prisons**

A number of reports at the all –India level have gone into the state of affairs of prisons in India. The special needs of women need to be addressed in a special manner. In this context the Director General of Prisons responded that out of 18 jails, female inmates are lodged in 6.

The approved capacity of jails during 2001-02 was 4019 (male) and 117 (female). However, the actual number of inmates lodged during this time was 10,084 (male) and 403 (female). There were 155 female under trials kept in the jail custody/remand homes for up to 6 months, 65 kept for 6-10 months and 66 kept for over 10 months. However, contrary to allegations there were no physically or mentally handicapped women inmates during the years 2000-01 or 2001-02.

Furthermore, it was reported that hospitals have been setup in the jails to attend to sick prisoners. Each jail hospital has a post of medical officer and pharmacist and specialists from civil hospitals visit the jails regularly. Separate arrangements are made to ensure a special diet for women prisoners who require it. Such measures are implemented on the recommendation of the presiding medical officer. Sanitation facilities have also been provided. Specifically there are 43 latrines, 1 urinal and 32 baths.

Attempts are also made to educate the inmates and there are two female teachers posted (to educate female inmates) in B.I. and J. Jail Hisar. A number of recreational facilities such as sports/ games/yoga, music/prayers, TV/radio, religious discourses, libraries and other cultural activities exist for the female prisoners.

However, there are no rehabilitation programs run by the jails after the release of women prisoners, as the department claims that their families supervise and handle caring for them. Nevertheless, during 2001-02, 96 women prisoners were engaged in vocational occupation activities. The wages paid to them were: Rs. 16 per day (skilled) and Rs. 10 per day (unskilled).

In the event that female under trials are accompanied by children, special provisions are made. Only children upto the age of 6 are allowed. Accommodation, food as well as medical care/nursing

is provided, but education is not. Female under trials are allowed to meet with their families twice a week and with their friends eight times a month. Female convicts are allowed to meet with their families once a week and with their friends four times a month.

It was reported that NGOs frequently visit the jails to interact with the prisoners and present programs on AIDS awareness, Vipasana, Art of Living, spiritual discourse and Yoga.

The inmates also have the opportunity to air their grievances through three main channels: Complaint boxes, Direct reporting and Periodical reporting. Certain appointed advocates provided women prisoners free legal aid during 2001-02. 36 women benefited under this provision.

To conclude, the Government of Haryana has made a lot of efforts to improve the situation of women. Yet women continue to be subordinated and suppressed. Statistics may often hide more than they reveal as becomes obvious from the next chapter which shows the NGO Perspective on the Situation of Women in Haryana.

## **CHAPTER - X**

### **STATUS OF WOMEN IN HARYANA : NGO PERSPECTIVE**

Statistics reveal one part of the story of women in Haryana. It is, however, the people working in the field and at the grassroots level who are able to tell of the day to day problems faced by women. In order to get the perspective of such NGO's working in Haryana, a two fold approach was adopted: one the Haryana State Commission for Women, at the behest of National Commission for Women, organised a Consultation with NGOs. Second, a questionnaire was distributed amongst the NGO's of the State and their responses were sought on various issues and concerns of women. Accordingly, the present chapter is divided into two sections, the first presents a concise report of the Consultation and the second deals with the NGO responses to the issues and concerns of women.

#### **NCW Consultation with NGO's : A Report**

The Consultation was organised on April 22, 2003 with the basic objective of assessing the progress of development for women in the State. 68 NGO's from all the 19 Districts of Haryana participated in this Meeting which was inaugurated by Sh.Om Prakash Chautala, Honourable Chief Minister of Haryana. In his Inaugural Address, he referred to various schemes and policies of his Government for women's empowerment. The highlight of his address was his declaration that in the coming elections his party would give thirty-three percent tickets to women candidates.

The Meeting brought to light the women's concerns of grassroots levels relating to multifarious issues impacting women. The Workshop was divided into three sessions: Women in Difficult Circumstances, Socio-economic empowerment of Women and Political Empowerment of Women. The concerns, issues and suggestions, which emerged from all the three sessions are given hereunder.

#### **Education**

One of the major problems highlighted was that of illiteracy, accompanied by lack of vocational or skill training. It was stressed that socio-cultural taboos resulted in girl-children not being sent to school. The presence of Ballika Mandals notwithstanding, people are simply not willing to send girls to school. The problem, it was emphasised, was further exacerbated by the absence of middle schools at close places. As a result most of the girls drop out after primary school.

Further the existing schools suffered from lack of teachers. Many of the schools in the State have only one teacher for many classes. It was also stressed that some places had no separate Government Colleges for girls.

A positive factor which emerged was the effort of an NGO in Gurgaon to try and get rag-pickers to attend school. It had asked the schools to open their doors in the afternoon. About 25 schools had come forward for this.

### **Employment/ Economic Issues**

Economic independence or lack of it was identified as a major obstacle in empowerment of women. Some of the NGO's reported that women are not getting the minimum wages fixed by the State. One NGO from Sonapat alleged that women were merely paid Rs 15-20 Rs for working eight hours. Men are also paid less than the minimum wages but higher than the wages paid to women. Lower wages for women is accompanied by lack of control over money . women have no access to liquid cash, are insolvent and hence have nothing to fall back upon in cases of emergency.

The issue of child labour also came up and the high prevalence rate of child labour in Haryana was brought to the notice of the house.

Various obstacles which prevent women from working outside the house were also identified. The most significant one which was emphasised was the lack of crèches.

While Self-Help Groups were posited as solution to women's economic problems, a number of impediments were identified in setting them up. These included:

- Women are not able to make decisions on their own
- Caste considerations come into play. Ultimately SHG's which come into existence are divided on the basis of caste.
- The SHG's work under the shadow of men who are curious and suspicious of what the womenfolk are doing.

### **Health**

The declining sex ratio in Haryana is an obvious indication of the prevalence of female foeticide. Yet no cases are registered under the PNDT Act. The Consultation with NGOs highlighted the continued prevalence of female foeticide, notwithstanding the PNDT Act. It was alleged that the midwives (dais) take the women to private nursing homes and get their pieces of silver, and abortion is done in these nursing homes.

Son preference in the region is so strong that quacks have resorted to advertising that they can guarantee the birth of a son. One such advertisement titled "*Putra Daata Aushdalaiya*" in Yamunanagar was brought to the notice of the house.

It was also admitted that in Kurukshetra the Chief Medical Officer was taking strict action and no ultrasound could be done without producing a doctor's slip.

Another major problem identified was the prevalence of nutritional anaemia among women. One of the causes was identified to be marriage at a young age of 15-16 years and quickly bearing a child. Furthermore most of the deliveries are not conducted in institutions or even by trained professionals.

The health status of Minority women was found to be particularly backward. There was high rate of prevalence of anaemia, leucorrhia, TB, Cervical Cancer etc.

### **Social Problems**

Apart from these health and education related problems, a number of social problems were highlighted. Second Marriage by males without divorcing the first wife was recognised as a major social problem. The cause was mostly found to be economic; a working woman was chosen as the second wife, while the first non-working wife was relegated to the background. Cases of desertion of women by their husbands were also highlighted.

There was a division of opinion regarding the prevalence of child marriage in the State. Some NGO's alleged that it was occurring with impunity, others held that there was no child marriage in Haryana.

Not only is a girl child neglected, but cases of the girl child being abandoned were also highlighted. There were also newspaper reports of a father selling his two minor daughters to repay a debt.

Punjab and Haryana are two States where the practice of *chador andaazi* is quite prevalent. An incident of an elder brother taking the younger brother's wife, upon the latter's death, and trying to get his own wife certified insane was highlighted.

It was also observed that many areas of the State had no sanitation facilities for women. This was particularly true of rural areas. This has an adverse impact on women's health as well as leads to increased incidence of violence against women. Some of the Districts, it was declared, also have no *nari nikan*.

### **Atrocities against Women**

It was alleged that Government officials/ politicians played a mischievous role in most cases of atrocities against women. The village Panchayat too was held to be guilty in sheltering persons indulging in atrocities against women.

Interestingly, it was alleged that many of the dowry cases filed under Section 498 A of the IPC were fake.

Jind, Rohtak and Hissar districts have a tradition called *Seedi Pratha* which implies bonded labour. Such bonded women labourers are subject to sexual harassment. In Mahendragarh District, bonded labour is employed in agriculture. The upper caste men folk use them for sexual gratification and run a veritable brothel particularly in border districts.

### **Custodial Justice**

The behaviour of the police, it was alleged was mostly apathetic and their language abusive. So women, for the most part did not want to go to the police with complaints. One NGO complained that

when they sent any case to the Crimes against Women Cell of the local police station they were not informed about its outcome.

### **Participation of Women in Local Self-Government/Panchayats**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution have brought a large number of hitherto apolitical women into the political landscape. Yet in Mahendragarh, it was stated that none of the unmarried girls cast their vote.

However, at the same time, it was also asserted that reservation has sufficiently empowered women, that they are now beginning to get their work done. Women are now becoming more assertive and aware. Official sources revealed that a number of training programmes for elected women are being conducted.

Emphasis was again laid on formation of self help groups. It was asserted that once women become economically empowered, they also become socially empowered.

### **Disabled Women**

There is no support for mentally challenged women. A case of Rewari was highlighted where a mentally challenged woman who roamed the streets, got pregnant and delivered a child. When authorities were asked to admit her to an asylum, questions were raised as to her guardians. The issue raised was that if she had a guardian, she would not be roaming the streets.

### **Miscellaneous**

It was found that most of the NGOs were not aware of many programmes and policies for women's welfare. For instance only 3 were aware of the provision for Dowry Prohibition Officer and 6 were aware of the provision for Rescue Officers under PNDT Act.

It was also asserted that Government schemes do not reach the rural areas. This was disputed by the woman Sarpanch of Raipur Rani who maintained that she is able to carry out all developmental works in her village. Emphasis was laid upon organising capacity Building Programmes during which awareness should be given about Governmental schemes and activities. Another NGO stressed the need to sensitise NABARD and other financial institutions which are not cooperating with SHG's.

Last, but not the least they lamented about Political interference in NGO's, which does not let them work effectively and freely.

### **Suggestions**

A number of workable suggestions for improving the status of women in Haryana emerged from the Consultation with the NGO's. These include:

- Women should be given training in some professional skills.

- 70-80% of the time of women is spent on agriculture and agriculture related activities. However, most of the training given to them is on things like stitching, tailoring, beauty courses, etc. Such training, it was emphasised should be agriculture linked.
  - Women could be trained to undertake organic farming and make vermi-compost.
  - Women could also be given training to make value addition to Dairy products, e.g. making different varieties of cheese.
- Make self-help groups.
- The need to diversify training programmes so as to include non-traditional aspects was emphasised.
- Need to have shelter homes for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS
- It was suggested that Distance Education mode be used for training the elected women. A short term Certificate Course could be started on Local Governance and Political Empowerment for elected women and those who want to contest elections.

#### **Status of Women in Haryana : the NGO Perspective**

Apart from the Consultation Meeting with the NGO's, a questionnaire was also distributed to them to solicit their views and observations on various issues impacting women. An analysis of these questionnaires is presented hereunder.

- A total of 31 NGOs responded to the questionnaires. Their areas of focus were as follows:
  - (a) Education – 27
  - (b) Health – 24
  - (c) Legal – 15
  - (d) Visually, orthopedically, hearing, mentally challenged – 14
  - (e) Campaign against social practices – 20
  - (f) Prostitution – 4
  - (g) Water management – 12
  - (h) Upliftment of socially oppressed women – 17
  - (i) Improving the condition of women in jails – 5
  - (j) Improving the condition of women in asylums – 5
  - (k) Domestic violence – 11
  - (l) Sexual harassment – 9
  - (m) Campaign against alcoholism – 13
  - (n) Nariniketan – 6
- Some NGOs are operating under an even wider scope. Other areas of focus include: Vocational training [DISHA- Sirsa and HPSWS- Hisar], craft centers for rural women and children [BGMS-

Fatehabad], aged welfare skill development [CVS- Rohtak], youth programmes for the girl child [NNWS- Rewari], socio-economic development for women [SVPK- Bhiwani], capacity building and promoting local governance [PRIA- Panchkula], Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) [The Rationalist Society- Yamunanagar].

- Eleven of the NGOs had recently carried out work for the NCW. These programs covered the following areas:
  - (a) Cutting and tailoring course [SDET- Jhajjar and LGUM- Kaithal]
  - (b) SHGs, IGAs, and health camps [VGUM- Panipat and HDES- Bhiwani]
  - (c) Child rape, and other rape cases [ICSW- Chandigarh and NSKSA- Jind]
  - (d) Organizing Lok Adalats [Bharitya Mahila Kalyaan Smiti]
  - (e) AGP [Reeds- Ambala Cantt.]
  - (f) Setting up family counseling centers [AIMSS- Rohtak]
  - (g) Education in the slums [The Rationalist Society- Yamunanagar]
- Two of the NGOs had carried out work for the State Commission for Women. The two projects that were organized are:
  - (a) A perspective plan for the women of Haryana [Reeds- Ambala Cantt.]
  - (b) Setting up family counseling centers [AIMSS- Rohtak]
- Some of the NGO's managed a number of facilities such as Old Age Home, Short Stay Home, Rehabilitation Center, Female Adult Education Center, Day Care Center for the Aged, etc.

### **EDUCATION**

The NGOs were asked to evaluate the various aspects of education within their districts. The findings of the 19 NGOs that responded are summarized below.

- Roughly half of the NGOs thought that the numbers of schools for each level (primary, secondary, middle and higher studies) were sufficient.
- 35% felt that the condition of the school building was poor, 20% felt it was average, 35% felt it was satisfactory, 12.5% felt it was good and only 2.5% believed it was very good.
- When asked about the condition of basic amenities available for the students such as toilets, water, transport, medical facilities etc., 45% thought they were poor, 25% thought they were average, 15% thought they were good and a meager 5% thought they were very good.
- 65% of the NGOs reported that all the posts of teachers were filled in the schools, while 35% reported some vacancies.
- When asked to assess the quality of teaching, most of the NGOs (45%) thought it was average, 15% thought it was good, 25% thought it was satisfactory and 15% thought it was poor.

- Quite favorably, 75% reported that there were special incentives for children in their districts, and 25% felt that there was a great need for improvement in this area.
- Around 55% of the NGOs thought that there were sufficient science secondary schools/colleges for girls. However, a large percentage (45%) believed that the facilities are nowhere near adequate in their districts.
- Grimly, 85% of the NGOS reported that there were no female adult education centers within their districts, and only 15% reported that they were present.
- On a more positive note, 100% of the NGOs reported that there were no scams or malpractices within the education system that they were aware of.
- Most alarming however, were the figures for the rate of school dropouts. A staggering 45% of the NGOs reported a dropout rate of over 20% in their districts, 10% reported a rate between 15-20%, 30% reported a rate between 10-15% and 15% reported a dropout rate between 0-5%. Among the **reasons** provided for these enormous dropout rates the main causes are:
  - (a) Family problems and school environments
  - (b) Lack of awareness, dire poverty, mentality of the
  - (c) Children want to work and earn money
  - (d) Long distances, the middle and high schools are far away

### **Suggestions**

The NGO's made a number of workable suggestions for improvement in the field of education. These include:

- (a) The school staff should be sensitized
- (b) Non-formal schooling for dropouts
- (c) More NGOs should involve themselves to ensure better communication and prevent dropouts
- (d) Short-term courses and more vocational training should be provided
- (e) Free and equal education for all must be implemented
- (f) Efforts should be made to evolve better guidance and awareness among the population to decrease the dropout rate.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

- Only 19 NGO's responded to the questions relating to employment. Of these only one said that there was a special employment exchange for women in the district while all the other 18 reported that there were no such separate employment exchanges. A majority of the responses consisted of suggestions for improving the current situation of employment. These were:

- (a) There is a dire need for making good career guidance programs available and accessible
  - (b) There should be measures taken to bring about a marked increase in self-employment and awareness among women
  - (c) There should be co-operative facilities available where women can sell the products they produce
- However, when asked if these suggestions had been made to the State authorities, all of the NGOs reported that they had not done so.

### ***ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN***

- Around 60% of the NGOs who responded, reported that there were no arrangements for dealing with complaints relating to sexual harassment at the workplace. 40% reported that they did have some sort of facilities to deal with such complaints, and had successfully dealt with reported cases.
- More than half (67%) of the NGOs found that there were no social security measures for women workers covering maternity benefits, health, unemployment or accidents at their place of work. 33% reported that at least one or two of the aforementioned benefits were available to working women in their districts.
- The condition of availability of facilities such as crèches was also dismal according to the NGOs. Overall, only 18% reported that such facilities were available in the unorganized sector, while the remaining 82% said that there was no such provision.
- In the matter of whether they were satisfied with the enforcement agencies' action against the victimization of crimes such as rape, abduction, dowry death etc. against women, only around 40% of the NGOs said that they were. The rest indicated that it was not up to par. Certain specific areas of concern, which they believed needed immediate attention included:
  - (a) Cases of domestic violence
  - (b) Child marriages and female illiteracy
  - (c) Dowry deaths
- It was reported by approximately half of the NGOs that their districts had a woman police cell in every *thana*. Some of the other NGOs mentioned that they had suggested this to higher authorities and it was under consideration.
- Among this 10%, 4/5<sup>th</sup> confirmed that they had taken some follow-up action to the complaints of sexual harassment brought forth to them, while 1/5<sup>th</sup> said that they took no action.

### ***FAMILY COURTS***

- When asked about the condition of family courts in their respective areas of work, most of the NGOs [20 out of 31] said that they were unaware of the existence or functioning of any.

- Out of the remaining NGOs that did have information, only 4 reported the existence and working of family courts, while the other 7 said that there were no such courts set up in their districts.
- It was also reported that only one of the four believed that the working of these family courts was satisfactory, while the remaining believed there was need for improvement if they were to be effective.
- Further, all these NGOs reported that there wasn't a single woman judge in any of the established family courts.
- Information was also gathered on the setup and working of Mahila Courts in the various districts of Haryana. Similar to the question on family courts, a large percentage of the NGOs said they were unaware of any such courts but distressingly, all of the NGOs whom did have information, reported that there were none functioning at all.

### **TRAFFICKING**

Trafficking in women, as highlighted in the chapter on Violence Against women has become a major social issue in Haryana, particularly in the context of declining sex ratio. Twenty NGOs responded to the questions on trafficking of women.

- When asked if there were any known red light areas in their districts, 98% said no, while the remaining 2% said that certain known areas did exist. However, most of the NGOs, who reported that there weren't any *known* red light areas, made a special mention that there were indeed illegally active areas.
- 75% of the NGOs reported that they were not at all satisfied with the working of the special police officers or rescue officers under the PITA. In fact, some NGOs even expressed that such officers while present, did not fulfil their duties, while others even said that they had no information regarding these officers, thereby indicating their abstinence from work.
- Furthermore around 3/4<sup>th</sup> reported that a State Advisory Board for checking trafficking had not been set up in their districts, while 1/4<sup>th</sup> relayed that they didn't have any knowledge pertaining to the issue and were thus, unaware of the necessity of it's existence.

### **CUSTODIAL JUSTICE**

- Most of the NGOs seemed to have extremely limited knowledge on the subject of custodial justice. Only 9 out of the 31 NGOs responded to the questions, and even these expressed a lack of information on the topics concerned.
- 90% of the NGOs reported that there wasn't a separate jail for women. Roughly half of these NGOs mentioned that the construction of such a facility had been under consideration, but there was no word on whether any concrete plans had materialized.
- The NGOs unanimously stated that the condition of the existing jails (whether common or specially for women) was miserable.

- There was a similar response concerning the well-being of the inmates in these prisons. Greater part of the NGOs whom responded labelled the situation as “poor” [MGPS- Rewari] and specifically noted that “women are badly off” [Reeds- Ambala Cantt.].

### ***CONDITION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES***

- (a) The NGOs were asked to comment on the situation of SC/ST women in their respective districts. Some of the NGO’s believed that there was an improvement in the situations, others held it to be satisfactory, while some believed that the situation of the Scheduled Caste and Tribes women is not so good or even poor. The last held that the women are not well off in matters of health or economically as it tends to be a male dominated society [MGPS- Rewari, BSST- Faridabad]. Some of the NGO’s however, opined that many of them do benefit; but the others live in abject poverty and are in dire need of assistance [Reeds- Ambala Cantt.].

### ***SLUMS***

- Out of the 18 NGOs who answered the questions relating to slums, 11 reported that they did have slum areas in their districts, while 7 reported that there were no such areas.
- Most of the NGOs felt that the Government has not taken adequate steps to ameliorate the condition of slum dwellers. Besides the launch of the NSDP in the Rohtak district of Haryana (according to CVS and HNYKS- Rohtak), it has been reported that there is a gaping hole in terms of Government help and remedial programs.

### **Suggestions**

The NGOs furnished certain suggestions for improving the condition of slum dwellers and eradicating slums altogether:

- (a) Shelters should be provided to the homeless
- (b) Basic amenities such as water, electricity, school and medical facilities should be provided
- (c) Women should be empowered. CSWs should be rehabilitated through IGAs

### ***PANCHAYATI RAJ***

The subject of Panchayati Raj and it’s implementation has been by far the most positive in terms of overall response by the NGOs and as far as positive results, by their findings.

- 100% of the NGOs who had correct information, confirmed that there had been Panchayat elections carried out in their respective districts.
- 99% further reported that the condition of 33 ½% reservation for women was respected and enforced.

### ***HEALTH ISSUES***

- In matters of health, the NGOs once again seemed to possess an acute shortage of information. Most of them were unaware of the number or the existence of any Mahila hospitals in their districts.

- 91% of the NGOs who responded, reported that there were no facilities for detecting cancer within their districts. 9% confirmed that there was some availability of this facility.

### **Suggestions**

The NGOs provided the following suggestions to improve the situation:

- (a) Mobile health facilities, and medical consultation facilities at the village level
- (b) Increase awareness on matters of hygiene
- (c) Introduce separate hospitals for women

### **NCW PROGRAMS**

- The NGOs were asked if they were aware of certain programs organized by the NCW:

	Yes	No
(a) Legal Awareness	80%	20%
(b) Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat	73%	27%
(c) Prevention of violence against women	67%	33%

- The NGOs seemed extremely positive and each declared that they would be able to organize such camps in their districts.

### **Issues Requiring Immediate Attention**

The NGOs put together a list of specific issues which they felt required the immediate attention of the government:

- (a) Legal matters, domestic violence and atrocities at the work place
- (b) NGO involvement must be enhanced
- (c) More work opportunities should be provided
- (d) Condition of women in jails
- (e) Acknowledge the presence of CSWs
- (f) Health programs, handicraft programs
- (g) PNDDT

The above discussion reveals a few significant factors about the situation of women in Haryana, such as continuation of female foeticide, lower health awareness, lower literacy etc. However, it as much reveals a lack of awareness among many of the NGOs in regard to the issues concerning and impacting women. Only a few of the NGO's have repeatedly answered most of the questions, while others have left the questionnaires blank. This as much shows the ill-health of NGOs in the State as the ill-health of women in the State.

## CHAPTER - XI

# CONCLUSION

Haryana, the *karma-bhoomi* of the *Mahabharat*, the land which gave birth to the immortal teachings of the Gita, wherein Shri Krishna preached to Arjuna the rightfold path. Haryana is one of the most progressive States of the Indian Union, with a high per capita income, low level of population below the poverty line, high growth of industrialisation, almost 100 per cent electrification, the harbinger of the Green Revolution, a land of milk and curds, where nutrition is aplenty. It has made significant advances in the field of education and health, resulting in a decline in mortality, increase in life expectancy and an improvement in the overall health status of the population.

This highly progressive socio-economic scenario, however, has another side and reality for half of its population- the women. In a land where a girl child is bestowed names such as *mooli*(radish), where gloom envelops a household when a girl child takes birth, where she is considered a burden, the social condition of women continues to be relatively static.

The declining sex ratio is merely one instance of this. Its implications are far reaching and a major cause of concern. While the decline in the overall sex ratio is worrisome, it is the major decline in the 0-6 years sex ratio which has highlighted the grim situation of women in the State. Significantly, three of the ten districts with the worst child sex ratio in the country fall in this State. It is indicative of the continuation of the practice of female foeticide, notwithstanding the ban imposed by the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act. New techniques for bearing only sons are constantly emerging in a society where son preference predominates the psyche of the people. Pre-conception sex selection is rapidly replacing ultrasound as a technique of sex determination. The age-old practice of *Babas* and *quacks* supplying medicine to bear a son, of course continues uninterrupted with some waves raised by NGOs and women's organisations from time to time. It would also not be out of context to mention another technology which has gained ground in the region- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), which has extended women's childbearing years. However, this technology is being used by aged couples who want to bear sons.

This is not to say that no action is being taken. India Today reports "Jat land, the second biggest culprit after Punjab in the downslide in the child sex ratio, has also earned praise for the most proactive drive for the anti-female foeticide crusade. It is led by Dahiya, an ordinary looking Haryana Jat with extraordinary zeal."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> India Today, November 10, 2003, p. 20

Declining sex ratio apart, the picture is no better on the front of mortality rates for females, both infants and in the general population. Notwithstanding the vast network of health infrastructure, vast gender differentials continue in mortality rates of women and the girl child, indicative of a gender bias in accessing these health services.

Other demographic features such as Birth Rate, Age at Marriage and proportion of aged women also do not present a very rosy picture of the state of affairs in Haryana. The birth rate in Haryana continues to be relatively high. Age at Marriage is lower than many of the developed States such as Punjab, Kerala and Maharashtra, while it has a high proportion of the aged in its population.

Undoubtedly Haryana has made significant strides in the field of literacy particularly female literacy which has risen by almost five times in the past four decades. Yet again the gender gap remains high. Not only this, it continues to stand among the lower category States in respect of female literacy. It is also significant that there is higher enrolment of girls at the primary stage, but the enrolment drops in succeeding stages. Low enrolment is compounded by higher dropout rates for girls.

A look at some health indicators too is revealing of the prevailing bias. Haryana has a higher total fertility rate as compared to the national average, notwithstanding the consistent decline in this rate over the past few years. Although relatively better ranked amongst the Indian States in respect of anaemia among women, almost ever second woman in Haryana continues to suffer from iron-deficiency anaemia. The situation is even more pathetic where children are concerned, for Haryana has the highest prevalence of anaemia among children in India. Nor does Haryana perform any better so far as maternal health indicators are concerned, although its maternal mortality ratio is low as compared to many States in India.

Even while participating in all major activities, women continue to be statistically invisible in the workforce. Yet women's workforce participation rate in Haryana is almost half that of males. This is not to deny the fact that Haryana's performance in this regard is better than its neighbouring state of Punjab and Haryana is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> amongst the Indian States on this front. Yet 72 per cent of the women continue to be considered as non-workers. What's more, more than half of the female work force is in the marginal workers category, where chances of exploitation are extremely high, while only a small proportion of the males come in this category.

In such a scenario, women's issues and concerns need to be reflected at the policy making level and who better to present women's viewpoint than women themselves? However, women in Haryana have been virtually unrepresented in the national Parliament and they have had a mere nominal representation in the State Legislative Assembly. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution of India saw a large number of women emerging out of the four walls of the household and taking their place in the field of decision-making at the grassroots level. Haryana was no exception to this. However, these new entrants to the political scene are novices in the field of politics and it is alleged that they are merely rubber stamps or proxy candidates for their husbands and other menfolk. Nor do women fare any better in decision-making in the private sphere. NFHS-II statistics reveal that a large

majority of women have to seek permission for even minor matters such as going to the market or visiting friends and relatives.

In terms of violence against women, Haryana continues to be a high risk State. It is indeed noteworthy that it is ranked higher in the scale of crimes against women than even Delhi, the crime capital of the nation.

These facts and figures indeed, present a very gloomy picture of the status of women in Haryana. Nevertheless, it is also essential to emphasise that the Government of Haryana has initiated a number of measures aimed at improving the status of women. These include innovative schemes such as Apni Beti Apna Dhan, Devi Rakshak Yojana and Devi Rupak Yojana, which are supposed to stem the declining sex ratio as well as provide financial help to destitute women, incentives for promoting educational status of the girl child including mid-day meals and free cycles to girls where schools are situated at some distance, free uniforms, various measures aimed at reducing poverty and promoting employment, innovative health schemes such as Swasthya Aapke Dwar and Swasthya Maah, which are supposed to bring health services right to the doorstep of the people, etc. Some of these schemes have shown results, while others are still in their infancy and yet to show the promised results. Only time will tell how effective they are. The strategies adopted to uplift the status of women indicate a shift in emphasis from mere welfare to women's development. Their success is contingent upon a number of factors ranging from design to delivery and implementation.

At the moment, however, women continue to be discriminated over the entire life cycle, whether it be in the field of sex ratio, education, health, work participation, decision-making or simple everyday routine matters.

The reasons for this state of affairs definitely do not lie in inadequate infrastructure, for as with everything else, Haryana has made rapid advances in the field of infrastructure. The *raison d'être* lies in a culture which perpetuates discrimination against women and the girl child whether in the field of health or education or simply in the matter of the right to take birth. There is a need to counter the mindset which devalues and degrades the girl-child, objectifies and commodifies women, celebrates the oppression of women by women and legitimises female foeticide and infanticide. The traditional household bias and focus on women's traditional roles in matters of policy making needs to be changed and their concerns and issues integrated into mainstream policies.

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**A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS  
OF  
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HARYANA**

**BY  
PAM RAJPUT**



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
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.

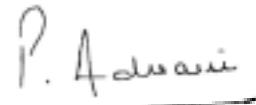
The half-century of struggle and reform has undoubtedly had considerable impact on women's world. Some of the key indicators of development have perked up significantly; women's life expectancy has risen; education levels have improved; economic participation has grown. But there are areas of darkness 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 Haryana was anchored by Prof. Pam Rajput while the NCW team comprising Dr. Poornima Advani, Chairperson; Mrs. Sudha Malaiya, Member; Mrs. Sunila Basant, Member Secretary & Shri H. Kumar, Senior Research Officer facilitated the dialogue with the Haryana Administration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P. Advani', written in dark ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Poornima Advani**

## HARYANA AT A GLANCE

Sr No	Item	Period	Unit	State Position
1.	<b>DIVISIONS</b>		No.	4
2.	<b>DISTRICTS</b>		No.	19
3.	<b>SUB-DIVISIONS</b>		No.	47
4.	<b>TEHSILS</b>		No.	67
5.	<b>SUB-TEHSILS</b>		No.	45
6.	<b>BLOCKS</b>		No.	116
7.	<b>TOWNS</b>	No.	106	
8.	<b>VILLAGES(including un-inhabited)</b>	Census 2001	No.	6955
9.	<b>Geographical Area</b>	Census 2001	Lakh Sq.Kms	0.44
10.	<b>Percentage of Area Under Forest to Total Area</b>	2002-2003	%	3.52
11.	<b>Percentage of Net Area Sown to Total Area</b>	2001-2002	%	81.56
12.	<b>Percentage of Net Irrigated Area to Net Area Sown</b>	2002-2003	%	83.0(P)
13.	<b>Yield of Foodgrains</b>	2002-2003	Qtl./Hect.	31.07(P)
14.	<b>Yield of Wheat</b>	2002-2003	Qtl./Hect.	40.53(P)
15.	<b>Population (total)</b>	Census 2001	Lakh No.	210.83
	<b>(a) Rural Population</b>	Census 2001	Lakh No.	149.69
	<b>(b) Urban Population</b>	Census 2001	Lakh No.	61.14
	<b>(c) Percentage of Rural Population to Total Population</b>	Census 2001	%	71
	<b>(d) Percentage of Urban Population to Total Population</b>	Census 2001	%	29
	<b>(e) Percentage of Population in Age Group 0-6 to Total Population</b>	Census 2001	%	15.46
	<b>(f) Decennial Growth Rate</b>	1991-2001	%	28.06
	<b>(g) Literacy rate (Overall)</b>	Census 2001	%	68.59
	<b>Male</b>	Census 2001	%	79.25
	<b>Female</b>	Census 2001	%	56.31
	<b>(h) Birth Rate</b>	2002	Per thousand	26.5(P)
	<b>(i) Death Rate</b>	2002	Per thousand	7.0(P)

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>State Position</b>
	<b>(i) Infant Mortality Rate</b>	2002	Per thousand	62.0 (P)
	<b>(k) Life Expectancy - Male</b>	2002-2006	Years	64.64
	<b>- Female</b>	2002-2006	Years	69.30
	<b>(l) Population Density</b>	Census 2001	Person/Sq. Kms.	477
	<b>(m) Sex Ratio Females per 1000 Males</b>	Census 2001	Per thousand	861
	<b>(n) Sex Ratio (0-6) Females per 1000 Males</b>	Census2001	Per thousand	820
	<b>(o) Sex Ratio Among Literates (Females per 1000 Males)</b>	Census 2001	Per thousand	617
<b>16.</b>	<b>Per Capita Consumption of Electricity</b>	2002-2003	KWH	530
<b>17.</b>	<b>Consumption of Fertilizer</b>	2002-2003	Kg./Hect.	164(P)
<b>18.</b>	<b>Per Capita Availability of Milk</b>	2002-2003	Gm/per day	656 (P)
<b>19.</b>	<b>Per Capita Income</b>			
	<b>(a) At Constant (1993-94) Prices</b>	2002-2003	Rs.	14757 (Q)
	<b>(b) At Current Prices</b>	2002-2003	Rs.	26632 (Q)

**P = Provisional Estimates      Q = Quick Estimates**