

GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN TAMIL NADU INDIA: MAPPING THROUGH SEX RATIO

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Abstract

This article is mainly focused how the gender equality helps to reach the sustainable development goals in Tamil Nadu on 2030, which directly involved in the sex ratio. Tamil Nadu is one among the state from India always forefront in the path of Women development and being a role model for other states. Both country and the state development is not only depends on the growth of economy alone, but also depends on the empowerment of women and girls. Hence, the sustainable Goals (SDG-5) listed gender equality and women empowerment and girls and moving towards the achievement before 2030. Women are faced lot of difficulties from womb to tomb, because before the birth female babies identified and killed in the womb. A women's position is measuring scale of the nation's pride. Without safeguard women a nation will not get top position. Hence, a country or Government plan to protect women and given tremendous schemes and programmes for the same. However, the sex ratio has revealed the reality of the women position in India and Tamil Nadu. When the female sex ratio should reach as equal as men (1000-1000) will be the good indicator for Tamil Nadu and India, then it resulted to achieve the SDG5 in 2030.

Keywords: Sustainable Goals, Women Empowerment, sex ratio, feticide, infanticide, gender equality.

Introduction

Tamil Nadu is one among the state from India always forefront in the path of Women development and being a role model for other states. Both country and the state development is not only depends on the growth of economy alone, but also depends on the empowerment of women and girls. Hence, the sustainable goals (SDG-5) listed gender equality and women empowerment and girls and moving towards the achievement before 2030. ¹India has termed as 'mother country' and Tamil Nadu state called as 'Thaiman' (means mother land). Also this land has compared with Goddesses or family deity (*Matru Eva Bhava*-Sanskrit term).² Women have been glorified in Tamil literature as the "lamp of home" (*Kuthuvilaku*)³ However, the reality has differed from the documents and traditional attributes. Women are the faced lot of obstacles from archaic to modern period, and surveyed their life because being women. After Independence, the Indian constitution (Article 14-42)⁴ has given equal rights to the women with men, but the patrimonial society neglected the rights over the years. Indeed, their status would be cruel and they disciplined as second grade citizens. The only tool to transform the position of women is to given the status as equal as men. The sex ratio is the indicator of the status of women in Tamil Nadu. This ratio has been decreased from last few decades. Sex ratio affects the growth rate of population.⁵ The world countries uniformly accepted the goals of sustainability and move through the agenda. On the path, Tamil Nadu state also accepted the goals and implemented innovative schemes and programmes for achieving the goal completely. This article is mainly focused how the gender equality helps to reach the sustainable development goals in Tamil Nadu on 2030, which directly involved in the sex ratio.

Objectives

1. To reveal Gender equality is related to empowerment of women and girls
2. To express how the Gender equality might be indicator for measuring sustainable goals
3. To exhibit how Sex ratio related to Gender equality and women empowerment
4. To reveals the significance of State of Tamil Nadu and its path of sustainable goals

Tamil Nadu profile

Tamil Nadu is geographically located in southern part of Indian sub-continent, with an estimated area of 1,30,058 sq.km.⁶ It lies between latitude 8° 04' and 13° 34' N and longitude 76° 14' and 80° 21' E. The State is bounded on the northern side States of Andhra Pradesh and Karanataka, on the western side by State of Kerala, on the eastern side by the Bay of Bengal (earlier it was called as Coromandel Coast), and the southern side by Indian Ocean. Tamil Nadu has possessed the male population 36,137,957 (2011), and female population 36,009,055.⁷

Status of Women in Tamil Nadu

Women are glorified in the period of Sangam Age in Tamil Nadu. During medieval period some of the women lost their status, and the Europeans upgrade their status in Modern Age. Nowadays, the women only enjoy freedom and getting opportunities in privileged and dominant classes. In India families men are considered as the head of their families, and hence when there is an opposition from their in-law side or husband side, women are forced to withdraw themselves from their advancement tasks. Before entering the British also the British period the lot of social evil prevailed in Indian subcontinent like polygamy, sati, infanticide, and feticide. The women were only took responsibility over the household activities. ⁸The British dominance and post independence made revolutionary change in the status of women. Perhaps, women are given equal opportunities to the male dominated society.⁹ But some of the fields may differ in Tamil Nadu.

Gender Equality

Womenfolk as mother, wife, and daughter feed the family, take care of the children and in these roles, they sustain and preserve the tradition despite external invasion and upheavals. But women does not take care of themselves also other family member negated them. The empowerment of women will complete when women get opportunities to born, live and death. During their life, they are getting equal opportunities in all fields, such as Education, Employment, and Health. Women are populated nearly half in the world but they discriminated in the society. Moreover, they perform two-third of the world's work receive one-tenth of its income and own less than one-hundredth of its property.¹⁰ The only tool or hope for women empowerment might be getting proper education. During 21st century, the nation has to goals to achieve sustainable development and education for sustainability.¹¹

Education is the landmark of the women empowerment. Quality of health is another important determinant of social development. It is a key factor in the process of national development. It is a key factor in the process of national development. Health is person's greatest possession. Possession of good health by women reduces considerable financial burden of the family. The access of health care facilities for women, has led to women's assumptions of range of social roles. The progress of empowerment moves to increasing the choices and capacities of the poor, to transform the power structure in the society. Empower means to enable or to promote the self-actualization or influence of oneself. The term empowerment consists of a very conspicuous word 'power' which means control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology. Empower means making one powerful or equipping one with the power to face the challenges of life to outcome disabilities, handicaps and inequalities. All the above they should reach the number in equal as same as (1000 males-1000 females) might the matrix of sustainability and lead the social change.

Cruel practices

Women are faced lot of difficulties from womb to tomb, because before the birth female babies identified and killed in the womb. In modern period also infanticide and feticide prevailed in Tamil Nadu. Out of 195 countries in the world, the five countries leading in front to a category of 'killing women' viz., China, India, Korea, Bangladesh and Pakistan. India ranks 133 out of 167 countries in women peace and security index (GIMWPS) in 2010.³ According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), vulnerability of a girl or women has increased up to 44% in the last 10 years⁴. Based on sex the female children killed for burden faced from family like dowry, marriage expense and stigma over female.

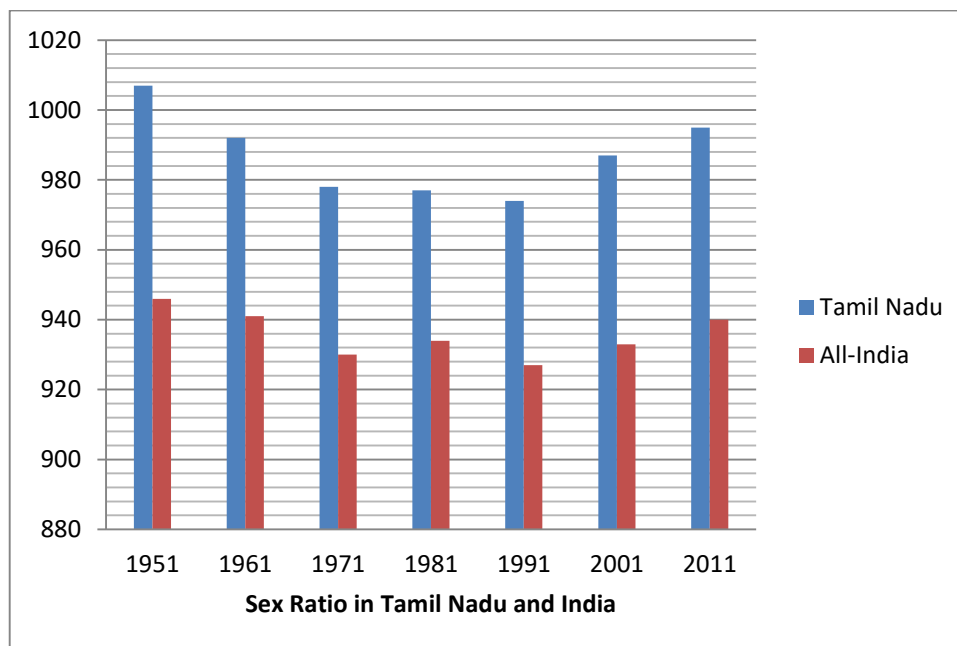
The cruel practices like Female feticide and infanticide has been followed from yesteryear to present day. These social evils affected sex ration over the years. Female feticide is a procedure or abortion to abolish female fetus on the baby womb of mother. The biological parents made scanning to known the fetus whether female or male, atone they decided to abort the same, because of female. Increased availability of modern technological advancement, especially ultra- scan, has been single important factor responsible for decrease the sex ratios and increase in female feticide.¹² The cruel practice called infanticide means to kill after born. The methods have been followed to eliminating girl babies after birth, by poisoning, spiriting the throat, starvation, and drowning. Both practices still prevailed in the society which becomes the setback for achieving the sustainable goals.

Table 1: Sex Ratio in Tamil Nadu and All-India

Census Year	Tamil Nadu	All-India
1951	1007	946
1961	992	941
1971	978	930
1981	977	934
1991	974	927
2001	987	933
2011	995	940

Source: Directorate of Census operation, Tamil Nadu¹³

The process of sustainability, a state would consider about the sex ratio levels, and implement innovative scheme to enhance the levels and save the female babies. The sex ratio data has given the clear picture about the women empowerment and their living suitability. This data signaled that the sex ratio has much better than the All India statistics which exhibit the positive side of Women empowerment. However, the cruel practice should be abolished over the year and improve the status high esteem.



The gender based sex selection prevailed in the society as social evil. The sex ration has been scaled with comparison of male and female born per year. It has been signaled the positive and negative impact of social equality and helps to extend the ambiance. The implementing schemes and programmes may enhance the position of women and safeguard the women ever. The implementing schemes and programmes may enhance the position of women and safeguard the women ever. The SDGs main objective to give gender equality and women empowerment, but the female children might be saved from womb to death. Then only the equality prevailed and reaches the sustainable goals.

Conclusion

A women's position is measuring scale of the nation's pride. Without safeguard women a nation will not get top position. Hence, a country or Government plan to protect women and given tremendous schemes and programmes for the same. However, the sex ratio has revealed the reality of the women position in India and Tamil Nadu. Though it gradually decreased might be the signal to the society, must focus to save the women and given the full-fledged reservation. By implementing the equal rights in the social, political and economical phenomenon it gradually raised their position rapidly. The lack of awareness, illiteracy, rural background, social stigma leads the scheme to fail. The path of sustainable goals, especially SDG5 will be succeeding while Government of Tamil Nadu should take necessary steps in form of Schemes and programmes like Cradle baby schemes. When the female sex ratio should reach as equal as men (1000-1000) will be the good indicator for Tamil Nadu and India, then it resulted to achieve the SDG5 in 2030.

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