

TRENDS IN FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN INDIA

M. Sindhu

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Sree Kerala Varma College, Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the trends in labor force participation of females in India. The study used NSSO data at various rounds and Periodic Labor force participation data for 2017–18 for the analysis. The labor force participation of female in India is very low compared to other countries. The labor force participation rate of female in India is 20.5 percent as per ILO estimates in 2019. Female labor force participation as per PLFS survey is 18.2 percent in rural and 15.9 percent in urban area in 2017-18. The LFPR of male is 54.9 and 57 percent respectively in this year. Social status wise laborforce participation of women also shows that it is below 20 percent among ST, SC and OBC categories. In urban area, the participation of women in regular jobs is higher compared to rural area. Majority of women are employed in self-employment category. Both in the rural and urban area, there exists disparity in the provision of wages/salaries among females and males even in the regular jobs. The study concludes that the labor force participation of female remains very low in India and exists greater disparity among males and females in the rural and urban area, among various social groups, among different categories of employment and in the distribution of wage. The state wise analysis shows that all states in India have low female participation rate compared to male.

KEYWORDS: *Labor Force Participation Rate, Female Employment, Usual Status Employment*