ABSTRACT

The status of women in India has been subject to great changes over the past few millenniums. In ancient times, Indian women used to enjoy equal status with men. Many reformers and social workers protected the rights of women either because of the role of women in the society or their special character as described in *Upanishads*. But during the Medieval period, the rights of women have declined in spite of arguments and support from many reformers and scholars. In modern India, women have been holding several high positions in administration, corporate sector and politics. They held high positions such as President, Prime Minister Speaker of Loksabha, etc., in Indian Parliament. Despite these facts, women in modern India are exposed to various social problems and issues. Women development of any nation can be determined by female work participation rate, female literacy rate as well as by some health indicators like female life expectancy. Thus changes in female labour force participation, female literacy and health status determine the level of women development in India. Development of women in any civilization shows the stage of evolution at which, the civilization has arrived. The term ‘status’ includes not only personal and proprietary rights but also duties and liabilities disabilities. In the case of a women, it means her personal rights, proprietary rights, her duties, liabilities and disabilities vis-à-vis the society is a very important indicator of socio-economic development. But unfortunately women in Unnao District have not well to education, employment, power and their counterpart men even after 68 years of independence.

Besides it geographical religion, cast, education, sex ratio and regional characteristics of population in Unnao district have been taken in depth interview of women (400) to know their life situation and some quantitative tools is used to explain the women and their development under different categories such as socio-economic development, health and occupational development, power of decision making, perception forwards development programs etc. the study area Unnao district have been divided in 16 blocks, which select two village per block. We have used purposive sampling because the topic is based on women Development. Selected samples are classified in four groups for study purpose of the basis of age, religions, social groups and education. On the basis of the problem, objectives and hypothesis of the study area the data were processed and analyzed.
and interpreted with the help of statistical tools like percentages, averages, standard deviation, chi-square test, Bivariate Correlation and Women Development Index (WDI).

In the study area female literacy rate is low compared to male literacy. The male literacy rate is 75.05 percent and female literacy 56.76 percent in 2011. Gender gap in literacy is also easily noticed in the study area. Due to less engaged in workforce some are engaged in workforce mostly in unorganized sectors. The study area contains to belonged not developed state of India so as men possess traditional authority in their family women cannot take decision regarding family size, family important matters and related to family planning matters. Sex ratio in the study area is 907 (1000/male). The sex ratio of a community affects the social and economic condition in a variety of ways. The marital status and marriage ability, the strength of man power, availability of different type of labor force, growth rate of population the extent of employment of women outside the home and many other socio-economic aspects are more or less directly related to sex ratio. Migration wars and such a like disturbances influence the sex ratio in large extent. Various programs are lunched by government for the development and empowerment of women. No doubt women’s development has been a focal point in many of the programs run by the government but after almost 6 decades of planned development women have not attain expected success in the main stream of development. Dowry, violence against women, negligible role of women in decision making processes, less preference and many such other factors are the obstacles behind poor development of women in India as well as Unnao district.

The opportunities for considerably widened. Still inequalities which have been the lot of women have only been surreptitiously acknowledged. Women continue their struggle for receiving their due rights and place in the society. The successive five year plans have implemented programmes for the development of women in the fields of education, health employment and training, but it is not enough for a healthy district. Several legislative enactments have been made to promote the legal status and political participation of women. Despite the concerted efforts made during the last 66 years of political independence, the full potential of women is not harnessed and integrated into socio-economic mainstream of life. This is not to deny development of women during the past six and half decades. In fact, there have been several positive developments affecting the status of women such as rising life expectancy, failing mortality, rising enrollment and retention of girls at various levels.
of education and improving participation of women in political, economic and administrative decision making. Overwhelming the positive indicators are upsetting negative indicators such as decaling sex ratio, high degree of female literacy, relatively low enrollment and high dropout rate among girls at various levels of education, low participation rate, high and slowly declining fertility rate, predominance of women in the agriculture sector working for long hours and receiving meager wages, inadequate access to ownership of land, credit and other productive resources, low participation of women in politics, administrative and judicial services and the foremost growing crime against women. Nodal position of Unnao district has always remained the point of focus for establishing industrial and commercial ventures, spectacular rise in population from 9.7 lakh (female population: 4.07 lakh) in 1901 to 31.8 lakh (female population: 14.7 lakh) in 2011 is testimony to it. A period of low growth is continuing. Due to migration influence and large base population this low growth even adds a large number of population in district. The female population of Unnao district registered slow growth during 1901 to 1941, then a constant increase from 1951 to onwards. In the period of 1901-1931, the district experienced a slow growth of population due to the occurrence of famines and several epidemics such as Cholera, Malaria, Small Pox, Influenza etc. the rapid growth of population during 1951-1971 was mainly because of a large number of immigrants poured into the district the period of second world war and then after partition by 193 page is left Displaced persons. A constant decline in mortality rate due to increase in medical facilities also contributed to high growth. Unnao district is considered, the decreasing trend from 1901-1921 is observed. It was noted that 213 persons per sq. km. in 1901, whereas 178 persons per sq km. in 1921. After 1921 the density of population is continue increasing trend from 1931-2011 is analyzed. It was observed that 186 persons per sq. km. in 1931, but now in 2011 the population density became 677 persons per sq. km., due to higher growth in population, industrialization, urbanization, rural to urban migration and other infrastructural developments. Density of population is marked increasing trend from last 9 decades. Composition of male-female share according to their sex represents the broad base of dependent young population with 35.3 percent of total population and old age group with 4.64 percent.

In second chapter education has been considered as an important instrument to bring about the social and economic change. It is very essential to bring up the status and position of women. To make a society cultured and progressive, it is very essential to provide proper
education to women at par with men. In study area female literacy is 56.76 percent (2011) and percentage of male literacy is remained always higher (75.05 percent in 2011). Male – female differential in literacy has found 18.29 percent which has decreased till 6.40 percent in next decade. But this differential gap is very high once we talk in absolute number of female illiterate in study area. Low female literacy in comparison to male is because of the traditional mentality and due to patriarchal society. Large number of girls are required for domestic chores. 89.8 percent respondents are thinking that if the daughter get higher education there will be trouble to find out suitable partner for marriage at affordable level of dowry. So higher education for girls is considered as a course for parents. 88.8 percent respondents provide equal opportunities of education for girls. In general, poor parent’s activity seek education for their male children as the best means of improving their income-earning option, but overburdened mothers may be forced to take daughters out of school to assist with childcare and chores. In contemporary Indian urban society, the percentage of educated women is increasing day by day. The modern facilities and awareness have helped to increase the tendency among the parents to send their girls for higher education. But still in some traditional family’s female education is treated futile because they think it has no bearing on future marital and economic role. And this mental setup helps to create the platform of male-female differential in various aspects of life.

In third chapter we discussed about socio economic status of women. The occupational structure of women is the real scale to measure the women’s status and position in the family and so in the society. Besides female participation in gainful professions outside the home is increasing still female differential in main workers is quite high. In 2001 it was 25.9 percent and increase till 32.26 percent in the next decade. Female participation in marginal workers in 2001 (25.99 percent). But in 2011(32.66 percent) its increased.

The modern machine age with the introduction of new technology has opened many new avenues for women to work. Besides increasing economic pressure, demand and prices of goods have compelled the society to accept women’s employment. This economic hardship has encouraged women to seek employment outside the four walls of house. Out of total main workforce, female workers are 35.6 percent in 2001 which is increased in 2011 up to 36.2 percent of total female population. 24.8 percent respondents are non-worker (House wife), 22.3 percent engaged in Agriculture sector and 14.5 percent daily wedge earner. In patriarchal society boys drew more attention for education whereas girls help the
family in supplementing income by their labour. They are mostly engaged in Agriculture/unorganized sectors as domestic servants. The sex ratio of workers is increasing day by day. Earlier males used to rural-urban area for employment leaving the family at home but now they come along with their families. To supplement the income, females join some low paid jobs. Maximum number of female workers (12.5 percent) are found in other services. Number of female’s workers are increasing day by day every group but still they are high differential gap is prevailing with respect to their counterparts. Numbers of women who are qualified in technical jobs with high degree are very less.

The other millennium Goals of reducing gender inequalities in education, infant and child death rates, decreasing maternal mortality rates, improving access to reproductive health services and reducing the incidence of major diseases by 2015 are still far behind in study area. As gender disparity is a global issue with far reaching consequences. It is evident in rich as well as poor countries that are diverse as well as those that are not. In all situations, whether it is access to health services access to educational facilities, women and girls affected on account of social norms and biological factors.

The chapter fourth discussion on women health status and her related problems, with the help of different variables (mortality, fertility, No. of PHC/CHC and decision making problems) through method of X²-squar text. And also we discussed in chapter six women health status by Composite Index. Only 35 PHC in study region, Ayurvedic 43 Hospitals and Homeopathic hospitals 32. 52 percent women married in 20-25 age group respectively, but we can’t deny that 39.8 percent women married under 20 years due to reason lack of education, tradition and economic problems. Now in present time 22.8 percent women not attained hospital at delivery time, which behind responsible factors lack of awareness, proper ambulance facility, distance of health center. For example, whose women’s lived in near Ganga Katri areas, in flood season they comes on the road and lived in plastic tent. That times they faced so problems pregnant women (food, fresh water, and medicines problems). 8.5 percent women’s suffering with any diseases at the pregnancy time, 34.9 percent women faced Anemia. Only 61.0 percent women take three-time food. 24.5 percent women’s take only two times food. So they are suffered very big problems. In all situations, whether it is access to health services access to educational facilities, women and girls affected on account of social norms and biological factors.
Chapter fifth has focused on the women development and awareness. We discussed about development programmes with the help of different variables, programmes and interpretation Bivariate correlation. 78 percent respondents received benefit of different development programmes (JSY, KSY UJJVLA, Matratav Yojna etc.) and different variables (cast, religion, income and education). 51 percent women benefited by JSY then RCH (39.5 percent), ICDS (38.00 percent) and so on. 37 percent women aware by radio and television about these programmes. Almost awareness found in Hindu women and by cast found in General category, because they are more educated and availability of source. We find out that the development programme and education is highly correlated, significant level is 0.01. About six chapter we discussed on women development and its different determinants. Generally, determinants are used to ascertain women’s socio-economic status. Women has been computed among the various factor that influenced education, violence against women, monthly income, expenditure, savings and decision making power (freedom of movement, Family matters, to purchase home assets and family planning. This chapter we analyzed through Women Development Index(WDI), WDI conclude by Composite Index at the block level. Highest WDI found in only Six block out of Sixteen. So we can proof it that socio economic structure is very weak in study area.

Women in Unnao district are not a homogenous category. There are enormous variations among them according to spatial location, identities, social group, religion, diverse class, political and economic position, professions and educational pursuits and so on. Women are also divided on the basis of religious identities, either through differences in codes of conduct for prescribed followers or through the politicization of religion. Similarly, poor women of Unnao district face a different kind of problems and labor from those of their rich rural-urban counter parts. This problem has further been accentuated with the diverse level of economic development, interference of new technology, educational expansion, development activities of state, spread of mass communication networks etc. as these have contributed enormously towards the growing regional imbalances, class and caste polarization against these backdrops it is very difficult to generalize the status of class and caste polarization. Due to heterogeneity in social configuration it is also very difficult to generalize the status of women in Indian society.