Chapter – 3

WOMEN IN PUNJAB

Punjab has been the most important state of India in the matter of production of wheat and rice and was once called granary of India. It enjoys the credit of carries the green revolution in the country. A development mix of irrigation, fertilizers and high-yielding varieties of seeds laid the foundation of a process, which was additional strengthened by agricultural recognition societies, rural connection roads, village electrification, and a variety of extension services. Punjab today contributes nearly 40 per cent of wheat and 60 per cent of rice obtain for distribution through the public allocation system. Likewise, the state went in for encouraging the white revolution, ensuing in the highest per capita accessibility of milk to the people. A normal agro-based and agro-oriented industrialization has been another well-known attribute of the state economy. No less praiseworthy have been the attempts at increasing the infrastructure, mostly irrigation and power. The increasing effect of all these measures is evident in the highest per capita income of the state, a situation of pride which Punjab has been investment for most of the years since its arrangement in 1966. A inconsistency may be stated here and explained: Despite its comparatively high-income level, the state is renowned for significant out movement to other divisions of India as also migration to several countries. This is qualified not to any distressful condition at home but to hold of greater wealth outside.¹

Punjab, the land of five rivers, inhabits a extremely significant place in India. The name ‘Punjab’ is derived from the Persian words, ‘Punj’ and ‘Ab’, meaning ‘five’ and ‘water’ respectively. So, literally Punjab means the land of five rivers. These five rivers are Sutluj, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jehlum.² History points out that Punjab — because

of its wealth and strategic location in North West India concerned many external invaders and provided almost like Gateway of India. The people of this state undergo many wars and invasions — which ultimately influenced its culture also.³

Punjab was divided into two parts as a result of the partition of the country on August 15, 1947. Its western part, having Muslim majority was transferred to Pakistan and the non-Muslim majority area of eastern Punjab became a part of the Indian Union. On July 15, 1948, a new political area was established within the boundaries of Punjab under the name of PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union). It comprised the territories of the previous princely states.⁴ The limitations of Punjab were distended in 1956 as a result of merger of PEPSU with Punjab.

After ten years later (1966), Punjab was reorganized on linguistic basis into the Punjabi-speaking state of Punjab and the Hindi-speaking state of Haryana. The hilly areas of the compound Punjab were merged in Himachal Pradesh. The city of Chandigarh with some of its neighboring village came to constitute a Union Territory.

**Participation of Punjab women in Freedom struggle Movement:**

The period of participation of the women of Punjab in the nationalist movement can be divided into five phases from first 1901-10, Second phase 1911-20, Third phase 1921-30, fourth phase 1931-40 and the last phase occurred in 1941-47. In the early years of 1900s i.e. from 1901-10, participation of women of Punjab was mostly through the social reformative works. Bibi Harnam Kaur along with her husband Bhai Takht Singh opened school for girls known as ‘Sikh Kanya Mahavidyalaya in Ferozepur in 1894 and in 1907, this institution started its educational journal known as ‘Punjabi Bhain’⁵ Sarla Debi Chaudharni⁶ along with Rambhuj

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³ Census of India, 2001, Series 4, Government of Punjab, India
Dutt Chaudhari established ‘Hindu-Sahayak Sabha’ in Lahore in 1906. The Sabhas were opened to make men and women actually fit as they were trained gymnastics, swordplay, Gatka fights and other actions. The partition of Bengal infused a new strength of nationalism among the women of Punjab and Punjabi nationalists welcomed the Bengali Swadeshi movement, the women in Punjab also stepped into the political spheres. ‘In Lahore, women organized a Ladies segment at the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition of 1909’.

In the first phase from 1901-10, there was a type of participation of the women in Punjab which was extra or less passive in nature in political affairs, where women were more concerned with women’s problems and evil customs. Education was leading on their list, followed by child marriage and the problems of widows and dowry.

The second phase from 1911-20 witnessed many ups and downs in the involvement of women in the political movement in Punjab. The most significant event of the decade was the first World War (1914-18). It brought about critical changes in the political life and socio-economic situations of India. At the staring of 2nd World War, Indian leaders confirmed their understanding and sustain for Britain. In the article ‘Jung, Europe Ate Sikh Deviyan Di Sewa’ of the September issue, it confident the Punjabi people to give their support the Britishers whole heartedly. Another main issue which guided to the straight and dynamic participation of the woman in Punjab was the entry of Mahatma Gandhi in politics.

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9 Radha Kumar, op.cit., p. 42.
11 Bhujangan Pattar, Kairon, 1 Sep., 1917, p. 19.
Thus, in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} phase of 1911-20, women of Punjab became actively participate in the politics. The instant factors which led to their involvement were the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. From mid of 2\textsuperscript{nd} phase 1914-18, some were either pro British or anti British. Though the entry of Gandhi in politics gave a boost to women to involve in freedom struggle but the Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagah tragedy set the phase for active participation of women in freedom struggle.

During the 3\textsuperscript{rd} phase in 1921-30, the women of Punjab hugely participated in the non-violent and Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22). They held the meetings, led the demonstrations, boycotted foreign commodities, adopted the slogan of Swadeshi and indulged in the picketing of foreign cloth shops and liquid shops. This participation of women in great numbers showed clear the doubt that the freedom movement was in the practice of becoming a mass movement. ‘Sarla Devi Chaudhrani, Smt. Parvati Devi of Kamalia, Smt. Puran Devi, Smt. Gauran Devi, Mrs. Duni Chand, Smt. Amar Kaur, Smt. Luxmi Arya, Smt. Pushpa Gujral, Smt. Chand Bai, Smt. Lal Devi, Kumari Lajjavati and Lado Rani Zutshi many of the names of few women who participated in this movement in Punjab. This involvement of women was considered as a training programme for the future Satyagraha programmes of 1930-34 and 1940-42’.

The next few years of 1940s spectator the third chief campaign of M.K. Gandhi – The Satyagraha and the Quit India Movement from 1940-1944. In these two movements, once again a great number of Punjabi women participated and assisted their male counterparts in their freedom movements.

The decade 1931-40 was the period of civil disobedience and women of Punjab became dynamic in disobeying the government polices by following the non-violent methods of Gandhi. The last seven years

\textsuperscript{12} Manju Verma, \textit{The Role of Women in the Freedom Struggle of Punjab}, Abhijeet Publications, New Delhi, pp. 60, 61.
from 1941 to 47 were those when the women of Punjab state came forward and powerfully struggle alongside men. These protester women were so caught up in this struggle, that they overlooked gender factors or put them side until independence had been attained in 1947. The women of Punjab were given praise for their actions as Rajkumari Amrit Kaur of Kapurthala, Punjab was selected as the first women health minister of the free Independent India.

**Geographical Location of Punjab**

The state of Punjab is a component of the world’s first and the older society, i.e. The Indus Valley civilization. It is an earth of five rivers, productive mud and Gurus and warriors. Punjab is located in northwest India between 29°30’ N to 32°32’N latitude and 73° 55” E to 76° 50” E longitude. It is one side linked with bordered by Pakistan on the west, and by four Indian states - Jammu and Kashmir on the north, Himachal Pradesh on its northeast and Haryana and Rajasthan on its south. Punjab inhabits 1.54 percent of the country’s total geographical area (50,362 square kilometers). However, because of its dangerous position in northwest India, the state historically provided as gateway of India — a wealthy purposes for many outsiders worrier.13

**Physical Features of Punjab**

Physically, Punjab may be separated into two parts; one is the Sub-Shivalik slip and the Sutlej-Ghaggar unadorned. The Sub-Shivalik strips cover-ups the upper segment of Ropar, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur districts whereas the Sutlej-Ghaggar plain holds the other districts of the Punjab. Punjab is derived its name from the five rivers that take off through this area, viz., the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum.14 This ground of five rivers is mostly abundant plain. Towards the southeast one locates semi-arid and desert land; a restraint of rolling hills expanding along the northeast at the feet of the Himalayas.

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Climate

The state has a continental weather. Between November and February, daytime least temperature ranges between 5°C and 9°C. However, night time temperature infrequently drops to chilly position. Every day maximum winter temperature ranges between 19°C and 27°C. Humidity in winter season is low. The summers are very hot in Punjab with a normal daily temperature in May and June at 40°C. Temperatures occasionally attain 45°C. Yearly rain fall ranges from about 125 cm. in the Shiwalik Hills to about 35 cm. in the southwest Punjab. Amritsar receives about 65 cm. of rain per year, of which 70 percent falls through the monsoon time period of July to September. About 15 per cent of yearly rainfall is taking by cyclones between December and March.

Administrative Set-up

Chandigarh, the capital city of the state of Punjab is administered individually as a Union Territory since it is also the capital of adjoining state of Haryana. High Court of Punjab and Haryana is also established in Chandigarh but there are split secretariats of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh. Other administrative setup of Punjab state is given below:

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Table no. 3.1
Administrative Setup Punjab

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Districts</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-divisions</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tehsils</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-tehsils</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocks</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities(Census 2011)</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns(Census 2011)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villages(Census 2011)</td>
<td>12581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zila Parishads</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Committees</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement Trust</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Corporations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2013

In Punjab administration setup is 22 districts, 5 divisions, 81 subdivision, 86 sub-tehsils, 146 blocks, 143 towns and 12581 villages.\(^{16}\)

**Population**

In 2011 census figures show that Punjab’s population was 27743,338. During the last 10 years, the population in Punjab has increased by 40.07 lakhs, registering a decadal growth rate of 13.89 percent. The sex ratio had however; turn down from 893 in 1991 to 874 in 2001. The bulk of population is up from 403 in 1991 to 551 now.\(^{17}\)

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\(^{16}\) *Statistical Abstract of Punjab, Government of Punjab, Economic Advisor to Government, Chandigarh.*

Table no. 3.2

Population of Punjab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6007566</td>
<td>7266515</td>
<td>8937210</td>
<td>10788034</td>
<td>12985045</td>
<td>14639465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5127503</td>
<td>6284545</td>
<td>7851705</td>
<td>9503935</td>
<td>11373954</td>
<td>13103873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11135069</td>
<td>13551060</td>
<td>16788915</td>
<td>20281969</td>
<td>24358999</td>
<td>27743338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Census of India, 2011, Primary Census Abstract Data Highlights Punjab, Series 4.

The above table shows figures of male and female population of Punjab at 10 yearly intervals from 1961 to 2011 which has increased very fast. The present ratio is 13:12 between men and women.

Table no. 3.3

Growth Rate

Growth rate of males and females population in Punjab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male (Growth rate)</th>
<th>Female (Growth rate)</th>
<th>Total Growth rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>6007566 (-- )</td>
<td>5127503 (-- )</td>
<td>11135069 (-- )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>7266515 (20.96)</td>
<td>6284545 (22.57)</td>
<td>13551060 (21.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>8937210 (22.99)</td>
<td>7851705 (24.94)</td>
<td>16788915 (23.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>10788034 (20.71)</td>
<td>9503935 (21.04)</td>
<td>20281969 (20.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>12985045 (20.37)</td>
<td>11373954 (19.68)</td>
<td>24358999 (20.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>14639465 (12.74)</td>
<td>13103873 (15.21)</td>
<td>27743338 (13.89)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistical Abstract of Punjab
Growth rate of population of males and females in Punjab from 1961 to 2011 is 25 percent from 11135069 and 277433358. There is also increase of 16408269 people during 1961 and 2011.

**Sex Ratio**

The gender composition in Punjab (the number of females per thousand males) is at rest quite meager due to common social and cultural issues. Punjab is the state with second lowest sex ratio (895 females per thousand males) and is a lot less than the national average (943 females per thousand males). In 1991, Punjab’s sex ratio has slowly enhanced. However in the 2011 Census, it caused a state of alarm crosswise the nation by reducing down to a pre-2001 Census figure of 876. The low sex ratio for India as well as Punjab discloses a long-term imbalance in the gender composition. Some Districts of Punjab also show a miserable picture as per Census of India, 2011.\(^\text{18}\)

**Table no. 3.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Director Census Operations, Punjab

Comparatively the figure of sex ratio of Punjab is less than India. It is seen that, 1961 to 2011 Punjab sex ratio was always less than to India. There is no single time in history when Punjab ration is more than to national average.

\(^{18}\) Baseline Report on “Women and Political Participation in India” by NIAS and coordinated by IWRAW Asia Pacific Advanced (Unedited Version).
Sex Ratio (0 – 6)

Table no. 3.5

Sex ratio (0-6) age group in Punjab
(Female per 1000 males)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Director Census Operations, Punjab

The above table shows that ratio of children 0-6 age group has also done down from 901 to 846 in 2011 Punjab and India. It indicates that Punjab sex ration about children is always less than India’s sex ration. It was also noticed that in the starting years of independence Punjab sex ratio is quite well but with the passage of time in gradually lesser.

**Literacy**

Punjab has shown a considerable upgrading in literacy rate over last the years. In general literacy rate has approximately doubled in the last 30 years. There has also seen an enhancement in the female literacy rate. The state has attained the literacy rate (75.84 percent) in the year 2011. Even though this, Punjab had 16th rank in terms of literacy among all the States/UTs at the national level.
Table no. 3.6

Literacy Rate in Punjab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>42.23</td>
<td>24.65</td>
<td>34.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>51.23</td>
<td>34.35</td>
<td>43.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>65.66</td>
<td>50.41</td>
<td>58.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>75.63</td>
<td>63.55</td>
<td>69.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Director Census Operations, Punjab

The above table shows that Punjab has done very well in removing illiteracy as the literacy rate has gone up to 80.4 percent for males and 70.7 percent for females as her 2011 census which is indicator of human development also.

Marriage Patterns

Marriage patterns are main determinants of fertility and family planning commands. Conventionally, the female age at marriage has been comparatively higher in Punjab than the national average. The NFHS-2 shows that in 1998-99, for women aged 25 to 29, the median age at first marriage was 3.6 years higher in Punjab (20.0 years) than in the country as a entire (16.4 years). Fast pregnancies reason of general health risks to mother and the child. Mothers with longer gaps help child continued existence and help decrease of fertility. NFHS-2 showed that the average interval between two most current births is highest in Kerala (38.1 months) and the lowers in Punjab (28.0 months).

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The age at first birth and the age at last birth are two vital pointers that emphasize the length of the reproductive time in terms of beginning and ending of child bearing. A new trend shown towards restriction of reproductive life in Punjab, in recent times, from 9.0 to 7.4 years has been recognized by the NFHS.

**Fertility Transition**

The state has undergone considerable alteration of its fertility profile throughout the last three decades. After Kerala, Punjab is the second state in the country to have concentrated the total fertility rate, about by half, between early ‘70s to late ‘90s, whilst having totally dissimilar socio-cultural surroundings.

The refuse in fertility is general in the state; and is not restricted to any particular region or community. Punjab has a Total Fertility Rate of 1.7 next to the national figure of 2.68 children per woman (NFHS-3). Rural and urban regions in each district are experiencing evolution in fertility in dissimilar ways depending on the changes in the local circumstances that are frequently important inducements for the determination of family size. The important reduce in fertility in Punjab in spite of some of the key social pointers (such as strong son partiality, sizeable presence of socially backward population, relatively higher infant mortality) being set next to the decline, is a manifestation of primacy of involvement by selected growth factors namely the family planning programme, female literacy and wealth at the household level.

**Economic Activity / Women and Work**

The people of Punjab are identified for their capitalist spirit, hard work and flexibility. In a state like Punjab, where agriculture is the foundation of the economy and the support of the people, the lowest female work contribution rate recorded during Census 1991 remains a mystery. However, in the last years (1991-2011) the women’s work participation rate has improved from 4.4 percent as reported in Census

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21 [http://socialwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in/immoraltraffact.htm](http://socialwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in/immoraltraffact.htm), seen on March 22, 2014.
1991 to 18.7 percent throughout Census 2011.\(^{22}\) In Punjab, the female work participation rate is at rest much lower as compared with the national figures (25.6 percent). All the districts of Punjab have shown a substantial boost in work participation rates of women. However, invisibility of women’s work, household tasks and other odd jobs, view the man as the most important bread earner and consider women as non workers. Even women themselves lean to consider their labor as ‘family responsibilities’ and are therefore, less probable to be occupied in rewarded work.

**Table no. 3.7**

**Economic Status in Punjab**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>3184334 (53.01)</td>
<td>281935 (5.50)</td>
<td>3466269 (31.13)</td>
<td>2823232 (46.99)</td>
<td>4845568 (94.50)</td>
<td>7668800 (68.87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>3838517 (52.83)</td>
<td>7475 (1.18)</td>
<td>3912592 (28.87)</td>
<td>3427998 (47.18)</td>
<td>6210470 (98.82)</td>
<td>9638468 (71.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>6749646 (75.52)</td>
<td>178113 (2.27)</td>
<td>6927759 (41.26)</td>
<td>4132866 (46.24)</td>
<td>7368138 (93.84)</td>
<td>11501004 (68.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>5832852 (54.12)</td>
<td>265522 (2.79)</td>
<td>6098374 (30.07)</td>
<td>4934691 (45.78)</td>
<td>9085289 (95.60)</td>
<td>14019980 (69.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6426028 (49.49)</td>
<td>1409704 (12.39)</td>
<td>7835732 (32.17)</td>
<td>6024832 (46.40)</td>
<td>9206693 (80.95)</td>
<td>15231525 (62.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8074157 (55.15)</td>
<td>1823205 (13.91)</td>
<td>9897362 (35.67)</td>
<td>6565308 (44.85)</td>
<td>11280668 (86.09)</td>
<td>17845976 (64.33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Statistical Abstract of Punjab

The above table indicates that financial position of men workers has been changeable from 1961 to 2011 slightly but over all status has almost stayed same. As regards the financial status of women workers is worried it was quite low from 1961 to 1991 but it has exposed fairly

\(^{22}\) [http://nrcw.nic.in/shared/sublinkimages/64.htm](http://nrcw.nic.in/shared/sublinkimages/64.htm). seen on June 14, 2014.
rise in 2001 and 2011 census. The monetary status of men non-workers has been quite standard since 1961 till 2011 but in respect of women non-workers it has been quite high throughout from 1961 census to 2011 census.

**Women Political Participation**

Political participation of women is important to concern that main concerns and matters of women are included into normal decision-making procedure. However, the number of women in political decision-making bodies is unusually low both in the Parliament and as well as the State Legislatures. This condition has resulted in maintenance of inequalities and favoritism against women. Absence of assenting action, lack of confidence environment in enabling the participation of women in state assemblies and parliament has the consequence of abolishing the satisfaction and exercising the right to political participation and addition to harmful the satisfaction of socio-economic rights.\(^{23}\)

Latest studies have exposed a miserable scenario concerning political contribution of women in Punjab, whether as legislators or as voters. As far as representation of women in Rajya Sabha is concerned, only one women representative has been selected in the Rajya Sabha from the State. In the State Legislative Assembly (SLA), the representation of women has never go beyond 7.43 since 1957. Out of the general elections behavior so far, no woman representative was chosen to the Lok Sabha (LS) in four of the elections. Further, another important sign of political participation, viz., as voters as legislators are given below:

### Table no. 3.8

**Representation of Women from Punjab in Lok Sabha since 1967**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total No. of Candidate</th>
<th>No. of Women Candidate</th>
<th>No. of Seats</th>
<th>No. of Successful Women Candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Election Commission of India.

Data given in the above table shows the status approximately the women candidates who contested for Lok Sabha 1967 beyond as also the women considered who won election from as various as 13 Lok Sabha seats from Punjab. No doubt 17 and 20 women contested in 1996 and 2014 elections respectively but merely one each could win the election. In 2004 election, maximum 4 women ever could win Lok Sabha election out of 13.
Table no. 3.9  
**Representation of Women in Punjab Legislative Assembly Since 1967**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total No. of Candidate</th>
<th>No. of Women Candidate</th>
<th>No. of Seats</th>
<th>No. of Successful Women Candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1(0.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>7(6.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>3(2.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>7(5.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4(3.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>6(5.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>8(6.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>8(6.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>8(6.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1078</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>16(13.67)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Election Commission of India.

In the table with figures of the various State Assemblies of Punjab the difference between the percentage men and women candidates is very clear. In comparison to men the number of women candidates is very less in number and their success rate also has been insignificant.

As the indication in the above table shows that the representation of women legislators in the state assembly is approximately insignificant as compared with men legislators. It is obvious from the figures of the ten successive state assemblies (1967 to 2007) that the female representation never go beyond 6.84 percent in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Even a single women legislator was not elected to the 1969 Punjab Assembly Election. After the reorganization
of Punjab in 1966, first State Assembly election was held in 1967 in which only 0.96 percent of women candidates were chosen to the State Assembly. On the basis of the figures given above, it can be declared that women, who are at smallest amount half the population, have established very little representation in the male dominated Vidhan Sabha of Punjab.

Table no. 3.10
Voting Tendency during Different Punjab Legislative Assembly Election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poll Percentage of Men</th>
<th>Poll Percentage of Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>73.47</td>
<td>68.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>74.54</td>
<td>69.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>70.36</td>
<td>66.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>66.82</td>
<td>63.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>65.64</td>
<td>62.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>68.20</td>
<td>66.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>25.72</td>
<td>21.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>69.51</td>
<td>67.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>65.92</td>
<td>64.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>75.36</td>
<td>75.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>77.58</td>
<td>78.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Election Commission of India

Table 3.9 shows that the poll percentage of women as voters in Punjab in various legislative assembly elections is far improved in assessment to the total number of women candidates and representatives in the State Assembly. Though, the recent years have witnessed an increase in women voters but it has not been escorted by
modify of similar magnitude in the number of women occupying decision making situations.

**Violence against Women**

A comparison of the frequency and rate of crimes dedicated against women with other states proves Punjab to be a low-risk state. In 1996, Punjab’s percentage involvement to all-India occurrences was 0.8 and was ranked 28th in the issue of violence committed against women. However, such figures require to be measured with the understanding that a lot of files also go unregistered. Furthermore, many of the crimes and violence may not be unconcealed acts viz., threats of wife, resorting to pressure tactics or even grudging women the use of health, employment, education and other opportunities. In such conditions, there is obviously a lack of liberty and this is most likely to reason psychological damage to the women. Infanticide and feticide are the harshest criminal offences perpetrated against women. There is a requirement to address these women sensitive matters, with much better consequence than the one given in the past.

**Indian Scenario — Central Support**

The Indian policy maker’s easily understand that all the weak social gradations, given for equality of sexes within the constitution, and even agreed positive discrimination for maintain the female respect of this country. Subsequently, a number of other policies (National Health Policy, Nutrition Policy, National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, etc) and Laws / Acts and committees (Dowry Prohibition, Mental Harassment, Rape, Domestic Violence, Factories Act, Equal Remuneration Act, Contract Labour etc.) were created to support women of India. All these acts are compulsory on all the States. In adding to these laws, India is the participant too many UN charters like CRC, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and furthermore, which did work for the women welfare, development and support of women in the country, also including the State of Punjab. Various central state sponsored schemes
like STEP, AGP, etc were introduced in favour of women belonging to all states that include Punjab.

All these policies, laws or acts, charters, and schemes notwithstanding, the gender prejudice persists and women of the country undergo. Although it must be mentioned here that the position of women has changed now, significantly and many women took benefit of the circumstances and progressed with the favour of their family. Many development gauges of states (including Punjab) show noticeable developments over the years, but not sufficient has been complete to put women on a really equal share with men.

**National Policies for Women**

The awareness and realization of gender inequality and its impact on all development issues was realized after the First World Conference on Women (Mexico 1975), and upon deference of the account by the Committee on Status of Women in India (CSW) (1974), most of the laws of the country paid particular concentration to the main issues relating to women Like National Education Policy, Health Policy, Nutrition Policy etc. have kept particular commands for women’s expansion and benefits. In addition to policies and directives etc for women components, a women specific national policy (2001) also came into reality for the advantage of Indian women in all states, including Punjab.

The turn down in sex ratio in India, over the last few decades has repeated the fact that there is a bleak gender inequality at the very essential levels, preliminary at birth. The kinds of favoritism against women range from social typecast to violence and female feticide. The basis reasons for such cruel gender inequalities are related to social and economic structure and practices. Therefore, women of all sectors or religions, especially the lower sections, face many difficulties in ahead admission to education, health and productive resources and so on. Therefore, they stay mainly marginalized, poor and socially disqualified.
With all these things in mind, the Government of India made the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in 2001.

**National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001**

The in general objective of this Policy is to carry the improvement, enlargement and empowerment of women in all spheres. This Policy supports vigorous participation of all stakeholders for achieves its goal. Particularly, the purposes of this Policy comprise:

i. Creating an environment during optimistic economic and social policies for engaged growth of women to permit them to understand their full probable.

ii. The de-jure and de-facto pleasure of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on identical foundation with men in all spheres — political, economic, social, cultural and social.

iii. Equal admittance to contribution and decision making by women in social, political and economic life of the state.

iv. Equal entrance to women to health care, quality education at all levels, occupation and vocational direction, employment, equal payment, occupational health and security, social security and public office etc.

v. Strengthening lawful systems aimed at removal of all forms of bias alongside women

vi. Shifting public approaches and community practices by dynamic participation and involvement of both men as well as women.

vii. Mainstreaming a gender viewpoint in the expansion process.

viii. Elimination of favoritism and all types of violence against women and the girl child.

ix. Construction and strengthening partnerships with civil society, mainly female’s associations.

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24 National Resource Centre for Women, Dept of Women and Child Development, GoI http://nrcw.nic.in/shared/sublinkimages/65.htm
National Level Legislations and Acts for Support of Women

India has mainly remarkable sets of Laws, be it IPC, Cr, P.C. or Personal laws etc. Indian women of all states including Punjab can take benefits of these laws time by time. Separately from general laws, there are seven women specific rules, connecting to rapes, kidnapping and kidnap, dowry deaths, torture, molestation, sexual harassment, importing girls and five special acts for carry of women victims of violence or exploitation. Moreover, observance in mind the rising challenges and also to recompense the restraint of legal system, other legislation or acts were passed for support of women.

Special Acts for women

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, in 1956

In December 1954, the International meeting for “Suppression of immoral traffic of woman and girls bill, 1950 T1 was established in the Lok Sabha. In 1956 act, titled as “The Suppression of Immoral Traffic of Women and Girls Act, 1956” was approved and came into existence in 1958. The heading was additional edited to its present form “The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956” in 1986. The objectives of this act are as follows:

1) In 1950, the Government of India approved an International conference for the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of others. Under Article 23 of the conference, traffic in human beings is forbidden and any breaking of the barring is an offence punished by law. Under Article 35 such a law has to be approved by Parliament as soon as may be, after the beginning of the Constitution.

2) Legislation on the topic of restraint of wicked traffic does survive in a little States but the rules are neither consistent nor do they go far adequate. In the others States, there is no bar on the matters at all.

3) In the conditions it was essential and desirable that a Central law should be passed which will not only secure consistency but also
would be adequately restriction for the reason. But a particular quality of the Bill is that it gives that no person or authority other than the State Government shall created or maintains any protecting home excluding under a license concerned by the State Government. This was to ensure the institution of homes which were actually lairs for prostitution.25

The Dowry Prohibition Act, in 1961

In 1961 the Dowry Prohibition Act was passed, extends to all states except Jammu and Kashmir, for the reason of stop parties occupied in marriage from taking or giving dowry. Under the act, the meaning of dowry is as follows:

“In this ‘dowry’ act indicates that any belongings or expensive security that are given or decided to be given either directly or indirectly on marriage time (a) by one party to a marriage to the further party to the marriage; or (b) by the parents of either party to a marriage or by some other person, to either party to the marriage or to some other person; at or previous to or any time after the marriage in association with the marriage of said parties but does not comprise dower or Maher in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies.”26

In this Act, persons originate to be giving, taking, demanding or even advertising for dowry, can be imprisoned. The Act also states that any agreement made, for giving or taking dowry will be luxury as canceled. Further, if a dowry has been received by one person other than the woman in link with whose marriage it is known, that person shall transport it to the woman.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, in 1986

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act of 1986, states that it is a punished by offence to “portray in any manner, the shape of a woman; her form or remains or any part thereof in such way as to have the result of being offensive, or disparaging to, or demeaning

25 National Commission for Women, GoI http://ncw.nic.in/page4.htm
26 Department of Women and Child Development, GoI http://wcd.nic.in/commissionofsatiprevention.htm
woman, or is probable to deprave, corrupt or damage the public ethics or morals”

The Act include the exclusion of announcement, publications etc which may hold such offensive representations of women, and which may be spread openly. Additional, this offence not only applies to individuals who represent woman in an insulting way, but to companies doing the similar. The Act applies all over the India, excluding the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, in 1987

Sati system, which means the burning alive of a widow, along with the body of her dead husband, is a terrible action. In fact, under this commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, the expression used to explain sati is “disgusting to the emotions of human personality and nowhere enjoined by any of the religions of India as a vital duty”28. Therefore, in 1986, this act was approved, to prevent the amount of sati. The act is appropriate all over India apart from in Jammu and Kashmir.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, in 2005

This act “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence” was passed in 2005 and came into existence in 2006. The Act explains the expression aggression; enlarge its usually known meaning of physical cruelty, to fit in sexual violence, oral and emotional violence and financially cruelty of women. The Act chiefly covers women who are in a “domestic connection”. This is clarified in the Act as “a connection between two persons who live or have, at any top of time, lived jointly in a common household, when they are connected by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the life of marriage, acceptance or are family members living mutually as a joint family”19. Thus, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, lengthily covers all features of aggression against women (wives, sisters, daughters, mothers etc.) by the performer, and the actions of security given to

28 Department of Women and Child Development, Gol http://wcd.nic.in/wdvact.pdf
these women, by the State and during particular protection officers deployed by the State.

**Other Legislations for Support of Women:**

National Commission for Women Act, 1990  
The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971  
The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994

**Legislations for Support of Working Women:**

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (53 of 1961)  
The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976  
The Factories Act, 1948

**Central Schemes for Support of Girls or Women:**

Government Agencies (both central and State level) accountable for making policies, acts for gender equality, women’s empowerment and towards bear of losses (women or girls) of violence use to realize a number of plans within the services or programmes like RCH, UEE, ICDS etc. Various schemes or plans are shaped for connecting the programmes with earth level actions through society based organization (CBO), Civil Society Organization (CSO), agencies, organizations and professional bodies etc. Number of centrally government support schemes related to all advance sectors like Balika Samriddhi Yojana (BSY), Early Childhood Education (ECE), Total Literacy Campaign, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Support to Training and Employment Program (STEP) etc. are in place for support of Indian women of all states. In adding to these centrally government sponsored plans, many states have also initiated figure of proposals for selling with state explicit matters.

**Punjab State Government Initiatives on Gender and Development Issues:**

The National shames, Legislations acts are related in all States for apply and advantage of women. Under the conditions, the Punjab state
did not want to endorse any particular guiding principle or act for women of the State. However keeping in mind that State situation particular command, the state has recognized the Punjab State Commission for Women and launched a number of proposals for concerned women as also for expansion of women of the state. These steps are in adding to centrally sponsored methods.

**Punjab State Commission for Women**

This commission Punjab State Commission for Women was recognized in June 1998. The commission is working for protecting the Rights of Women, and also to give Justice to them. It also obtains up holders for enquiring into the unfair performs moving Women in the State of Punjab. Since the initiation of Punjab State Commission for Women, about 1280 case have been distributed away. The case that has been treaty with belongs to many kinds of categories like dowry demand, extra marital affairs, physically annoyance at work place, denial of property rights etc. The commission establishment also makes a visit too many jails of State to identify the circumstances of the Women prisoners and also suggest to the jail authorities about the necessary corrective measures. PSWC also provide free legal aid to deprived and meager women. PSWC also make visits to the many factories to know about the real situation of the women workers and also advocate.

**Schemes in Operation for Women’s welfare and Development in Punjab:**

**Bairi Rakshak Yojana**

The purpose of this proposal is to improve distorted sex ratio, to steady population of the state and to reduce child death rate. Under this scheme, an Incentive of Rs. 500/- per month will be given to the girl child given the parents accept mortal method of sterilization after the birth of only one girl. An incentive of Rs. 700/- per month will be also available for two girls given to the family accept incurable technique of sterilization after the delivery of the second girl child. The incentive will
be obtainable till the age of 18 years except the recipient becomes an income tax charge.

**Awareness programme for improving adverse sex ratio (ACA 2606-07)**

The people of Punjab have attitude for boy child to succeed to their feudal assets, to look after them in the old age and as a basis of livelihood for the family. In order to control the propensity of female feticide and to get better the inequity in sex ratio in the state, which is 874 out of 1000 males, the department of social welfare shall make consciousness among the masses through camps, prepared at district and block level regarding serious adverse insinuation of gender inequity in the society.

**Empowerment of Women - Mahila Jagriti Yojana**

The most important purpose of the proposal is to strengthen the social and financial position of women, to make them self dependent, to expand saving custom and to help them adding their family income through monetary activities and to make them conscious about the plans which implemented by the State for the welfare and enlargement of women. Under these plan women self help groups have been created. These groups assume social and economic actions. Association are linked with banks and they can reward bank loans for socio-economic movements to make them self dependent.

**Social Security to the Girl Child (Kanya Jagriti Jyoti Scheme)**

This Scheme was started in 1996-97 in Punjab State. The main purpose of the plan is to betterment for girls and to decrease school withdraw rate. The girls born on or after 26.1.1996 in the families living below poverty line i.e. with annual income below Rs. 20,000/- are covered under this scheme. The family of the receiver is essential to adopt two girl child family norms and only one girl child will be sheltered under the scheme. The State Government invests Rs. 5,000/- for each recipient under Kanya Jagriti Jyoti proposal with Life insurance companies. At the age of six years the child starts getting a
scholarship of Rs. 1200/- per annum up to the age of 12 years, which will be increased at the age of 18 to 21 for Rs. 2400/- per annum. On annihilation of the format, beneficiary would be paid a lump-sum amount if she passes at smallest amount metric.

**Nutrition (Kishori Shakti Yojana)**

Under this scheme, is to prepare the teenager girls to recognize and learn the importance of personal hygiene location, hygiene, first-aid, fitness and nourishment, education, family life, child care etc. This design has two elements: (1) preparation to adolescent girls; and (2) additional nutrition to the adolescent girls. In the year 2000-01, Government of India has authorized this design in 47 blocks.

**Nutrition (under Nourished Adolescents Girls — ACA)**

This pilot scheme was started to honour the declaration of the Prime Minister to give free food grains through TPDS to the families of under nourishes, pregnant and lactating women and teenager girls. The scheme has been in used up in two of the backward districts in each of the main states. In the Punjab State, two districts namely Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur have been selected for this purpose. All scheme of ACA is provided under by central government. The central government of India has accepted the accomplishment of this format during 2005-06 on channel basis for following years. This scheme is being applied as per strategy issued by the Planning Commission earlier with following two amendments:-

1. This plan has to be controlled only to teenage girls.
2. The file of beneficiaries has to be permitted by the Gram Sabha

**Attendance Scholarship to SC Primary Girl Students**

This scheme, the presence scholarship at the rate of Rs. 50/- per student for ten months in a year is honored to the scheduled caste girls who are studying in primary classes to the following situations:

1. Their parents should not have more than two kids in the family.
2. Their parents proved not have more than five acre of land.
3. Minimum 75 percent class attendance is required for this scholarship.
4. Their parents should not be income tax payer.

**Swawlamban Scheme - Vocational Training programme for women**

This Training Programme for Women aspire to improve the lives of poor, needy, justified women between the age group of 15 to 35 years by communicate preparation to them in conventional and non-conventional trades via electronics, watch meeting, essential and advanced computer teaching, garment making, secretariat practice, needlework etc. to ensure them to provide self employment at least in these areas. From 2005-06 years, this scheme has been shifted to the state level funding by Government of India. The department of social security, women and child development, government of Punjab has made Punjab State Social Welfare Board as nodal agency to apply this proposal.

**Ashirwad to SC/Christian Girls and daughters of Widows at the time of their marriages (Replacement of Shagun Scheme)**

This scheme, the girls who belonging to Scheduled Castes or Christian religion and daughters of widows of general category will be provided monetary assistance Rs. 15000/- per beneficiary from 1.4.2006 on the time of their marriage.

**Financial assistance to widows and destitute women**

In the year 1968 this scheme was started for the purpose of this scheme is to provide economic aid to the widows and poor women Rs. 200/- (now enhanced to Rs. 250) per month proposed below following terms:

1) Women under the age of 60 years who have no means of survival or have been miserable of her husband’s hold due some basis of the unmarried women above the age of 30 years livelihood the life of misery are entitled to get the advantage of this proposal.

2) The monthly income of the hopeful, from all resource should be less than Rs. 1000/-.

**Attendance Scholarship to Handicapped Girl Students In Rural Areas**

In order to strengthen the position of the disabled girls in the rural areas and also to make them self dependent, incentive in the form
of turnout scholarship to the handicapped girl students in rural region shall be paid to cover the limited cost of identical and books etc. The state government is charitable scholarship to all handicapped students at the rate of Rs. 200/- per month up to 8th class and Rs. 300/- per month from 9th class onwards from non plan spending.

**Setting up of Social Security Helpline for Women, Children, Older and Disabled Persons in each District**

Women, children, older and disabled persons are the defenseless divisions of the society who are prone to favoritism, annoyance and abandon by the society and need instant defense and protection. The major purpose of the format is to give quality examines to women, children and older persons in need of particular care and protection and to ensure that suitable care is continued till they are transformed. A Toll free Helpline available at all times to them will give quality services where they could get referral services, free legal aid, police assistance, counseling, hospitalization and treatment etc.

To sum up together the central and state government have started huge number of proposals to take care of the weaker women, may be belonging to any category or caste to give them monetary assist as also a group of so various facilities like scholarships, free additional nutrition, medical aid and free lawful help so that they are socially, economically and physically guarded. There is need to livelihood consciousness among them so that they are in a situation to ask for these benefits as a material of right and nobody may take away from them what is fairly due to them.