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Introduction
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The degree of integration of women in economic development is always an indicator of women’s economic independence, social status and also a measure of women’s contribution to economic development.¹ The role of women in social and economic development of nation has acquired a new and crucial dimension stemming from the imperatives of social change and modernization. The past two decades have witnessed the awareness and realization of the need for the total involvement of women in the process of change, progress and development.

The International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries have prepared a comprehensive report called, “The Role of Women in Developing Countries”, for the World Conference on Women held in 1985 at Nairobi. According to this report, the role of women in development is most intimately related to the objectives and goals of comprehensive socio-economic development, and is a strategic question for the planned development of all the societies. Any development strategy which neglects the need for enhancing the role of women cannot lead to comprehensive socio-economic development. The point of departure is to recognize the role of women as dynamic factor and an indispensable asset for the overall process of development. Evidence shows that the characteristic process of marginalization of women in several countries, has also led to their marginalization in the actual process of development. The marginal position of women in the society can no longer be justified. The structural changes in the economies of developing countries which are likely to follow future developments in science and technology must be based on increased and genuine participation of all members of society, if they are not to result in still greater imbalance. Fathoming these facts, around development of women has become a focus on study in modern world, since
they not only constitute half of the human population of the globe but also influence the growth of the remaining half.

**Women Development – A Global Perspective**

The United Nation’s proclamation of the International women’s Year (1975) followed by the International Women’s Decade (1975-85), has been greatly responsible for raising questions regarding women’s invisibility at the international level.

The United National Conference held in Kenya in 1985, called for equal rights for women regardless for their marital status in all folds of life. Due to this realization, a marked increase in literacy and civil education among women could be achieved (Mexico Plan of Action 1975). The World Bank has joined with U.N.O for the over-all development of women. The Bank has made a commitment with the Governments of all the countries to act as an energetic partner in their efforts for the development of women.

Women account for roughly half the world’s population, perform two-thirds of the hours worked, receive one-tenth of the world’s income, and have less than one hundredth of the world’s property registered in their names. Female deprivation is particularly acute in the developing countries with high levels of poverty, though in affluent nations women also suffer low status due to conservative attitudes.²

The most dramatic and telling statics of women’s status is the sex-ratio in the population, that is, the number of females per 100 males. It is a well-known fact that life-expectancy at birth favours females. This appears to be a biological constant. Yet, the proportion of females to males varies greatly across different regions of the world. For example, the proportion of females is 52.5 percent in the industrialized world but in Sub-Saharan Africa women account for only 51% of the population. The figures are 48 percent of the population in East Asia and less than 47.5 percent in South Asia. From figures
such as these, economist Amartya Sen has estimated that there are 100 million women “missing” in the world. Sen describes the fate of these women as “one of the more momentous problems facing the contemporary world”. This is a moral as well as a development – related problem. The overwhelming reason why 100 million women are missing in the world is excess female mortality. In the developed world, women outlive men by an average of six years; by contrast, in large parts of South Asia, men can expect to live longer than women.\textsuperscript{3}

**Women Development – India’s Concern**

For the first time, under the Sixth Five Year Plan due recognition was given to the role of women in economic development. Under the Sixth Plan the problems of women’s integration in economic development were analyzed and the Sixth Plan document contained a separate chapter on “Women and Development”, The document stated that “The major thrust of the Sixth Plan in the field of welfare of women is their economic upliftment through greater opportunities for salaried, self and wage employment. For this purpose, it provided for appropriate technologies, services, legal and financial initiatives and policy measures.”\textsuperscript{4}

During the last two decades, various studies, working groups and task forces and national conferences have been organized to identify and articulate the real issues confronting women in their multiple roles. The second half of eighties witnessed an unprecedented spurt in policy perspective on women during which, the Governmental efforts were in the form of instituting several committees and women development corporations to promote economic activities among women. Because sharing of economic activity and engagement of women in gainful employment always help to promote rapid economic development and enhance the quality of family life.

The Indian Government has assumed the role of integrating women with economic development long back and simultaneous efforts have been made to
improve their conditions from both economic and social angles. Thus the Governmental approaches are directed towards women development and integration of women in economic development and this has provided increased opportunities to women. Entrepreneurship and self employment are a few among them. With this it has been noted that women are entering into traditional and non-traditional areas as well. Indeed women entrepreneurship in India has come a long way from papad and pickles to engineering and electronics. Nevertheless, despite the few notable exceptions, in India, the women entrepreneurial scene is still dominated by traditional small and medium scale industries.

The UNDP, Amartya Sen and Balakrishna argue for a nation’s development index to include not just economic growth but also to take into consideration the human development aspect, women’s status and in general social indicators of growth.

India is not only a country of diversities in the economic and social spheres, but also in gender inequality and inequity, leading to poor status and social injustice. Status can be ascertained from the extent of control that she has over her own life derived from access to knowledge, economic resources and the degree of autonomy enjoyed in the process of decision – making and choice at crucial points in her life cycle. Socio economic suppression of women affects not only the woman but also the country as a whole.

Women’s status and autonomy are important aspects of empowerment. Sustainable social development can improve the status of younger generation but empowerment needs more than that.

**Statement of the Problem**

Modern interest in women development essentially stems from underdeveloped countries due to their desire for economic development and growth and the less participation of women in social and economic activities. A
developing country like India accordingly needs improvement of the status of women, who are competent to perceive the new economic opportunities and are willing to incur the necessary risks in exploiting them. The increased supply of such men and women leads to increased number of economic activities. The improvement in the status of women always has a positive impact on economic development.

Unfortunately, empirical studies available only answer those questions relating to the economic development in general but not those specific to women development and its disparities in different dimensions. The present study attempts to provide an overview of women development and disparities in different dimensions of different taluks of Mysore district.

The present study aims to know more about women and their development and also about the disparities in different dimensions like health, education, sex ratio, income, employment and political participation among different states of India, between different districts of Karnataka and also in the taluks of Mysore district.

**Objectives**

The following are the objectives of our research investigation

1. To highlight the importance of socio economic development in women development in India.
2. To highlight the disparities in women development at national and state level.
3. To identify the disparities in women development, in the aspects of i) Literacy ii) Sex ratio, infant mortality iii) Maternal mortality iv) Income v) employment vi) Political participation in Mysore district.
4. To identify the causes and consequences for disparities in women development in all the taluks of Mysore district.
5. To suggest suitable measures to improve the socio-economic condition of women in general and in Mysore district in particular.
Hypothesis

1. Women Development at large cannot be accomplished without improvement in socio-economic development.
2. Higher the social development better will be the opportunities for women development.
3. Inadequate socio economic growth is one of the main cause for disparities in women development.
4. Initiative schemes and policy measures introduced by the Government have not substantially helped in bringing about development of women.

Scope of the Study

In a developing country like India, economic forces are operating actively and transforming the traditional economic activities into most modern capitalistic enterprises. Against this emerging situation, this study aims at understanding the women development and would highlight their existing status and prospective in social, economic and political field. Thus, this study has a close look at their personal history motivational factors, problems and constraints faced by them at various stages.

This study intend to cover a period from 2008-2010. It will be meaningful to cover this period because the 11th five year plan (2007-2011) has given importance for self help groups and for the upliftment of women and more and more number of them are coming out of their homes to work in order to contribute for the income of their families.

The study has also been done in a system perspective, it takes tasks of interactional investigations which would be helpful in designing strategies for developing further models. Thus, identification of different dimensions and disparities at each taluk level of Mysore district would help in finding remedial measures and assess the overall development of women in Mysore district.
Methodology

On the basis of the objectives and hypothesis, the following methodology will be adopted in the study.

Pearson Chi Square test is used to measure the association of socio-economic parameters in different taluks of Mysore district. The statistical technique like Chi square value is used to measure the level of significance in this research work.

Study Region

Mysore district of Karnataka is chosen for the study. Even though Mysore district has achieved economic progress, it has remained backward in the socio-economic development of women. During 2001, out of 27 districts of Karnataka, it was ranked at 19 in Human Development Index. It was ranked 21 in health, 18th in education and 20th in Income & 15th in Gender Empowerment (HDI Karnataka, 2005). Hence, this district is chosen to study the disparities in the socio-economic development of women.

Sample Size

In Mysore district, all the seven taluks viz., Mysore, Hunsur, Periyapatna, T. Narasipura, Nanjangud, H.D. Kote, K.R. Nagar, 350 Sample respondents belonging to different categories (women) are selected representing 50 from each taluk. Socio-economic parameters will be taken into consideration and based on purposive sampling technique, and SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) will be made use to analyze the primary data.

Variables Chosen for the Study

In the respondent survey schedule, it is proposed to include questions relating to social economic and political activities etc.

Relating to first objective, the variables such as Literacy rate, Income, Employment of 2011 census are taken into consideration.
Relating to second objective, the variables such as Literacy rate, Income, sex ratio, infant mortality, maternal mortality, employment, political participation, of 1991, 2001 and 2011 at national, state level are chosen.

Relating to third objective, datas are collected through questionnaires in the study area in 2010.

**Statistical Tools**

The statistical tools like ratio analysis, percentages, averages, multiple regression analysis and other suitable statistical tools are made use of. To analyze the primary data of the study region, the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) is adopted by consulting the experts in the related field.

**Data Source**

The study is based on both primary and secondary data, which will be collected from various sources to study the above stated objectives. The secondary data will be collected from the published documents, books, thesis, journals, periodicals, newspapers and other reports, centre for monitoring Indian economy, planning and development documents etc.

**Limitations of the Study**

The study, however, is not devoid of a few limitations because of the complexity of the system approach. The identification of respondents, extracting information from them and understanding the psychology of the female respondents is one of the difficult tasks.

Even though efforts have been made to collect accurate information as far as possible, data relating to tubectomy, their educational status, their earning capacity, sending their daughters for higher education and especially the spousal harassment could not be collected due to shyful nature and poor response of the women folk. Inability of Government departments and institutions to maintain the records is a phenomena by itself.
Further, this study has been done with some unavoidable assumptions with regard to time, study area, sample size, etc., for example, a survey could not be conducted for the whole population of Mysore district, though all taluks were considered, but was restricted to 50 samples in each taluk and totally 350 respondents of Mysore district, are considered comprising of agricultural labourers, agricultural cultivators, household industrial laboures, engineers, technicians, pickle papad makers, tailors, beauticians, small business class, sales girls. Though selection of 350 respondents was reason based, still we find intra and inter socio, economic, cultural, legal differentials.

By the time of completing this research work, Government of India has released the provisional census report of 2011 which made to incorporate the data of 2011 to the related chapters. But by then even the provisional census statistics have not been available for Mysore district. Thus the researcher have relied upon the 2001 data for Mysore district. Yet, the present study makes an attempt to explain the causes, consequences and Governmental measures in solving the existing socio-economic disparities in women development in all taluks of Mysore district.

Chapter Contents
Chapter One on “Introduction” includes various aspects namely introduction to the present study, importance of the factor considered for the study i.e., the women empowerment at global context, women empowerment - India’s concern, statement of the problem, Objectives and Hypothesis considered, Scope and Methodology and the Data Source for the present work. It also includes Chapter Contents of the research work in brief.

Chapter Two on “Theoretical Base and Empirical Research” deals with aspects, which provide theoretical base for the present study. The contributions of economists who have tried to establish the need for Socio Economic Development of women is discussed in the chapter. A brief Review of
Literature has been done, which helps to find the research gap in the area and the socio economic development of women for the present research work.

Chapter Three on “An Overview of Socio Economic Development of Women” contains detailed description of Socio Economic Development, need for women empowerment, the development of women is explained by the statistics of socio economic parameters of 2001 and 2011 in India.

Chapter Four on “Disparities in Socio Economic Development of Women in India” deals with the disparities in the Socio Economic parameters of 1991 with that of 2001 and 2011 in India, which also explains the causes responsible for disparities in women development. The Governmental measures to improve the Status of Women are the other topics covered in this chapter.

Chapter Five on “Disparities in Socio Economic Development of Women in Karnataka” deals with the Socio Economic Development of Women in Karnataka and the causes responsible for disparities is also explained. This chapter contains the Governmental measures to improve the condition of women in Karnataka. It also explains the comparative analysis of district wise Socio Economic Development of Women.

Chapter Six on the “Disparities in the Socio Economic Development of Women in Mysore District” forms the core chapter of the present research work. It includes an introduction to the Mysore district, analysis of the Socio Economic Development of Women.

A detailed study on all taluks of Mysore district is given. The comparative study of Socio Economic Development of all taluks of Mysore district is shown here. The role of Government in Mysore district and the overall development of women in Mysore district is assessed.
Chapter Seven on “Policy Implications” deals with the programmes and Policies towards Women Empowerment in Mysore districts and it explains the scope for further research and also highlights how this study is innovative in nature.

Chapter Eight on “Summary and Suggestions” sums up the research outcome of the present study. The suggestions there by given are based on the research findings.

The present study, which is an endeavor to analyze and assess the Socio Economic Development of Women in Mysore district, will be of immense help to Government of Karnataka, Government of India, the Department of Women and Child Development of Karnataka, Teaching Faculty and Researchers etc.
End Note


3. Ibid

