

Session 3: Potential for Economic Geography-based Approaches towards Inclusive Growth in India

**Women's Enrolment in Education:
A Study of Inclusive Growth in India**

Virendra NAGARALE*

*S.N.D.T. Women's University

Education is one of the most important indicator for the development of any nation or region. Inclusive growth and inclusive development are concepts which emphasizes on inclusion of everything, which is lagging or away from the mainstream of society. Planning commission of India had made inclusive growth is very clear (explicit) goal in Eleventh Five Year Plan (2002-2007) and has been extended in the Twelve Five Year Plan (2012-2017). Gender bias in education has a significant negative impact on social and economic growth.

Gender inequality in higher education prevents progress in overall development of any nation. A country like India which compromises fifty percent of female population faces this challenge to bridge the gap. According to the census reports of Indian Census 2011, the population of India is 121 Crore with 62.3 Crore males and 58.6 Crore females. Adult Literacy (15 + Age Group) rate of India in 2011 is 69.3%. The Male literacy rate is 78.8 % and Female literacy rate is 59.3% according to Census 2011. In the present paper an attempt has been made to find a considerable impact of gender inequality on enrollment in higher education. The study consist of Global Enrollment Rate which has been compared with Indian female enrollment rate. Female GER trend for primary education to Higher education declines from 97.6 to 19.4. Gross

Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India is 23.6%, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. GER for male population at all India level is 24.5% whereas female population at all India level is 22.7%. Overall expenditure on education in India is only 4% of GDP, which makes negative impact on GER. S.N.D.T. Women's University Mumbai is first Women's University in South East Asia, recently completed 100 years. The women's enrollment in higher education with different educational faculties has been selected for the study.