



Women's Participation in Social and Arts Sectors: A Comprehensive Study with Reference to Karauli District

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Abstract

Based in Karauli district of eastern Rajasthan, the study showcases the multi-faceted participation of women in the social and art spheres. Along with the study of socio-cultural stereotypes and equal access to various opportunities, this research emphasizes the importance of women's empowerment along with ending gender discrimination. A study of data collected from 200 rural and urban women through surveys and interviews reveals a high level of social and artistic participation among them without taking into account any regional differences. The study emphasizes the need for community educational programs to increase opportunities for economic and political self-reliance for women, as well as expressing a strong correlation between female participation and education in various fields. It is known from various research studies that women empowerment is meaningful only when women play an active role in different sectors of the society instead of being beneficiaries singly or as a group. The objective of this research analysis is to provide insights into effective action plans to enhance gender equality as well as promote women empowerment.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Education, Participation, Gender Equality.

Introduction:

Women's participation in various spheres of society (social, art, and cultural) continues to be a favourite area of research for scholars, researchers, and policy makers. Despite progress in gender equality, women still face many cultural and social restrictions. This limits their full participation in social life. The present research examines various dimensions related to the challenges and opportunities of women's participation in the social and artistic spheres. This research emphasizes the urgent need to address the challenge of gender discrimination. Empowerment of women, especially in rural areas, is absolutely necessary to increase their political participation and economic independence. It is necessary to change the social structure and eliminate all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against women in order to give women their due place and respect in different societies and communities. The study also analyses the real experiences of women entrepreneurs and their socio-cultural constraints. A comparative analysis of the restrictions imposed on women from non-tribal and tribal communities reveals different levels of social bonds and freedoms between the communities. The role of education has also been considered essential to increase women participation in the present research as it is essential for social independence and economic

self-reliance of women. Through the survey, the research comprehensively analyses the social and artistic participation of women in Karauli district and the factors influencing it. The findings of this research provide a clear view on enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment that can be useful for other researchers, policy makers, educators and community leaders.

Literature Review:

According to Saha (2023), there is an urgent need to eliminate gender-based discrimination to end gender inequality in society and to increase and maintain women's freedom. This study shows that there is a strong correlation between women's empowerment and political participation, which is important to increase women's literacy in rural areas and help them become economically independent. Sharma (2023) has pointed out in his research that it is very important to reimagine the social structure of urban areas and make constructive efforts to remove the evils like inequality and violence against women prevailing in the society. Transformative efforts are needed to ensure that artistes from the marginalised sections get their rightful place in society. Mamatha and Suresha (2020) in their study have tried to understand the social participation and financial achievements of women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs in India face socio-cultural barriers. According to research by De, Singh and Panda (2021), tribal women face fewer restrictions than women from different communities. It expresses the difference between social bonds and freedom in the tribal community and other communities. Women's participation in various fields is influenced by social norms and cultural values. Saigal (2009) pointed out that for the empowerment of poor women, it is essential that educational upgradation programmes should be based on community-based participation. This can be an important strategy in increasing political participation to enhance their economic self-reliance. A study by Waghmode and Kalyan (2014) suggests that gender equality is an important factor in women's social development and poverty alleviation as women's empowerment affects the family, community and future generations. True empowerment of women is possible only when they behave as an active member of the community rather than a beneficiary and for their empowerment, there is a positive change in social attitudes to promote gender equality and proper opportunities for education and employment. The research results of Sinha (2018) suggest that social changes are needed to connect women entrepreneurs in India to the mainstream. Changing traditional attitudes and mindsets of gender discrimination can enhance their development opportunities. If awareness programs are run from childhood, they can encourage entrepreneurship among women, thereby recognizing their significant contribution to economic development. According to Sapovadia, Patel, and Patel (2015), factors such as various cultural stereotypes, inferiority complex, childbirth problems, and lack of education influence the strong participation of women in social activities. Goal-based programmes and measures are needed to empower the disadvantaged women groups of the society. According to the research of Bhatia and Mehendiratta (2014), if the investment made in women's empowerment is important for social and economic development because the empowerment of women leads to positive outcomes in society and family such as social inclusion, better health, higher education and economic prosperity. The study highlighted the need for education and awareness to empower women against discriminatory social policies that affect their physical and psychological health.

Scope & Objectives of Study:

The scope of the research study includes investigating issues and solutions in the empowerment of women, identifying the various challenges they face in this process, analyzing existing solutions and strategies, and evaluating the effectiveness of these solutions in achieving women's empowerment. Additionally, the study will evaluate women's

participation in the social sphere in contemporary society, assessing the level and extent of their participation in different social activities and roles, examining the barriers that hinder their active participation, and investigating the impact of their participation on societal development and progress. The role of education in enhancing women's participation in various fields will also be explored, examining its influence on their involvement in professional and personal areas, analyzing how educational attainment correlates with their empowerment and participation, and identifying educational policies and practices that support women's engagement in diverse fields. Furthermore, the study will evaluate women's participation in the arts in contemporary society, examining the current state of their involvement in visual arts, performing arts, and literature, identifying the challenges they face in pursuing careers and recognition in the arts, and assessing the contributions and impact of women artists on the cultural and artistic landscape. The study has following objectives:

- To provide a comprehensive understanding of the barriers and facilitators to women's empowerment.
- To analyze the current state of women's participation across various sectors and fields.
- To evaluate the role of education in promoting women's active involvement in society.
- To highlight the contributions of women in the arts and identify ways to enhance their visibility and impact.

Study Area:

The study is conducted in the Karauli district of eastern Rajasthan. A total of 200 educated women have been included in the study, with 100 participants from rural areas and 100 participants from urban areas.

Data Source&Methodology:

- Conduct surveys and interviews with women from diverse backgrounds and professions.
- Review existing literature and case studies on women's empowerment and participation.
- Perform statistical analysis to assess the correlation between education and women's involvement in different sectors.
- Conduct focus group discussions with women in the arts to gather qualitative insights.

Analysis:

Hypothesis-1: There is no meaningful difference between the participation of women in the social sphere and education.

Table-1.1
Level of participation of rural and urban women in the social sector.

Level of Participation	Rural	Urban	Total
Very low participation	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Low participation	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Average participation	04 (4.00)	02 (2.00)	06 (3.00)
High participation	40 (40.00)	50 (50.00)	90 (45.00)
Very high participation	56	48	104

	(56.00)	(48.00)	(52.00)
Total	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	200 (100.00)

The analysis of the above table shows that the level of social participation of women in both rural and urban areas is high and very high. The data reveals that 56.00 percent of rural women and 48.00 percent of urban women have a very high level of participation. In terms of high level of participation, 40.00 percent of rural women and 50.00 percent of urban women are included. Overall, 45.00 percent of women's participation is at a high level, and 52.00 percent of women's participation is at a very high level. This leads to the conclusion that, based on the area, women's social participation is at high and very high levels.

Graph-1

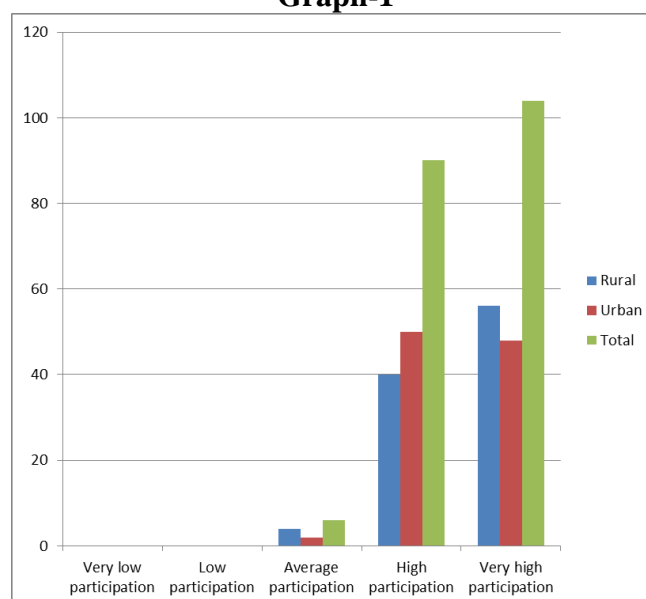
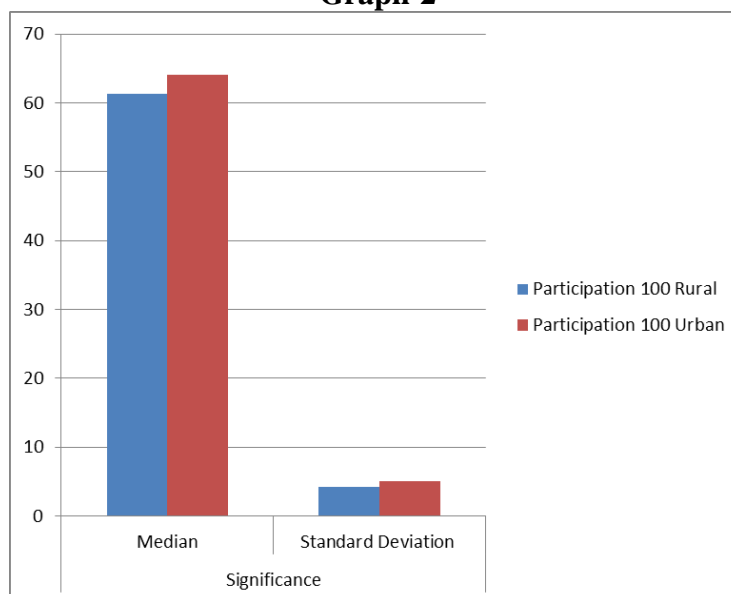


Table-1.2

Significance level difference between rural and urban women's participation in the social sector

SN	Fact	N	Group	Significance			Hypothesis
				Median	Standard Deviation	T-Value	
1	Participation	100	Rural	61.24	4.16	4.34	Accepted
		100	Urban	64.10	5.11		

An analysis of the above table shows that the average social sector participation of rural and urban women is 61.24 and 64.10 respectively. This makes it clear that there is no major difference in the participation of women on a regional basis. The participation of women in the social sector in both the regions is at a high level. The standard deviation is 4.16 and 5.11 respectively, which is close to zero. It shows that this difference in participation of women indicates the uniformity of their participation status across the population. The value of T obtained for both the groups is 4.34, which is higher than the significance level of 198 K. 01 and 05. This makes it clear that there is a significant difference in the social participation of women in the two regions. Thus, the hypothesis that "there is no meaningful difference between the participation of women in the social sphere and education" proves to be true.

Graph-2

Hypothesis-2: There is no meaningful difference between women's participation and education in the art field.

Table 1.3**Level of participation of rural and urban women in the field of arts**

Level of Participation	Rural	Urban	Total
Very low participation	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Low participation	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Average participation	02 (3.00)	03 (3.00)	05 (2.50)
High participation	42 (42.00)	56 (56.00)	98 (49.00)
Very high participation	56 (56.00)	41 (41.00)	97 (48.50)
Total	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	200 (100.00)

An analysis of the above table shows that the level of participation of women in art is high and very high in both rural and urban areas. The data shows that the participation of 56.00 per cent rural and 41.00 per cent urban women is very high. The high level of participation includes 42.00 per cent rural and 56.00 per cent urban women. Overall, the participation of 49.00 per cent women is of high level and 48.50 per cent of women is of very high level. This leads to the conclusion that the participation of women is of high and very high level depending on the region.

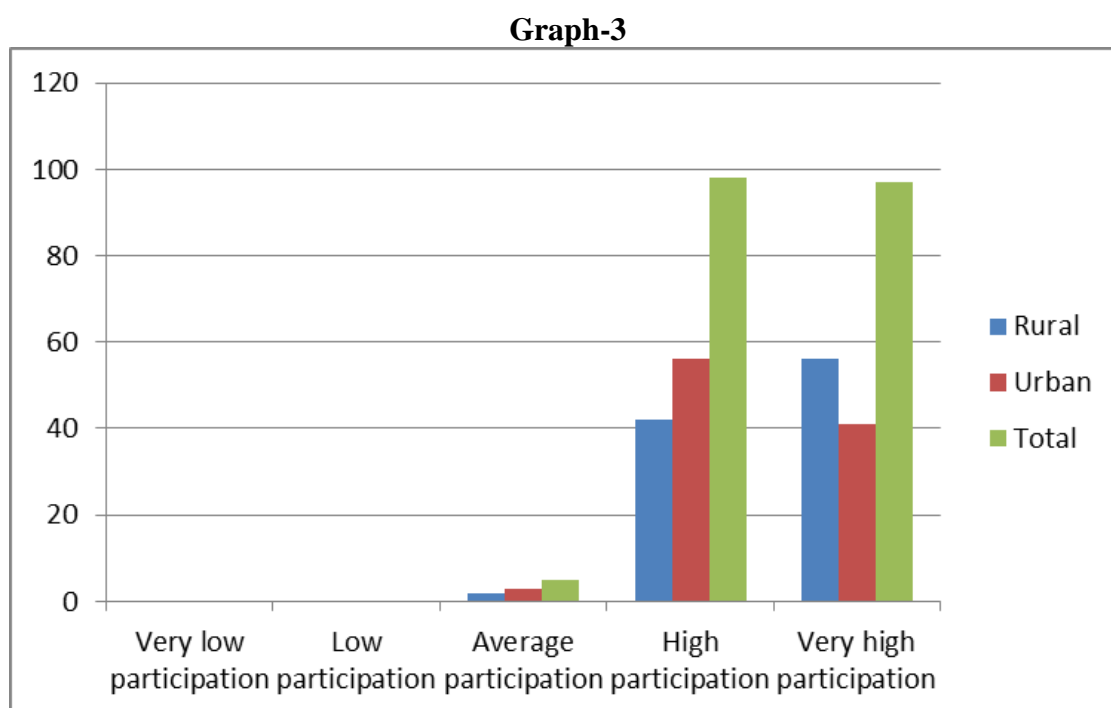
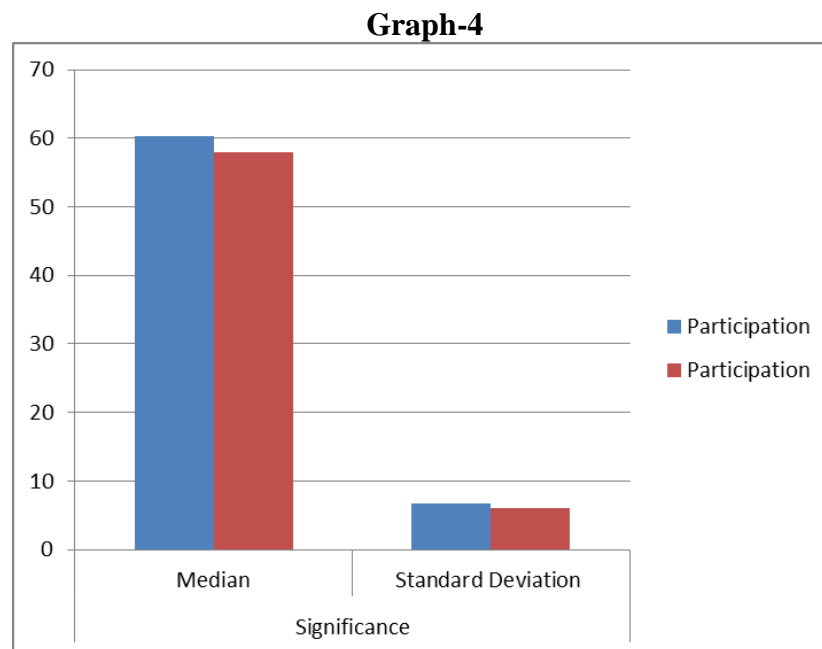


Table-1.4
Significance level difference between rural and urban women's participation in the art sector

SN	Fact	N	Group	Significance			Hypothesis
				Median	Standard Deviation	T-Value	
1	Participation	100	Rural	60.24	6.76	0.014	Accepted
		100	Urban	58.00	6.01		

From the above table it is known that the average participation rate of rural and urban women in the field of art is found to be 60.24 and 58.00. It is clear that there is not much difference in the participation of women on a regional basis. Women from both regions have a high level of participation in the art sector. Whereas the standard deviations of the two groups are 6.76 and 6.01, the standard deviations are close to zero, making it clear that this difference in women's participation explains the homogeneity of their participation status based on the entire population. The value of t obtained from both groups is 0.014 which is less than the significance level values of .01 and .05 of DF 198. This makes it clear that there is no meaningful difference in art participation between women of the two regions. Thus, the hypothesis that "there is no meaningful difference between women's participation in art and education" proves to be true.



Conclusion

The study was conducted in Karauli district of eastern Rajasthan to examine various dimensions of women's empowerment, including their social and artistic participation. In this study, the data of a total of 200 educated women (100 rural and 100 urban) was collected through survey. Through this study, the participation of women in various fields has been highlighted. The results of the study show that the social participation of women in both urban and rural areas appears to be high and extremely high levels, while there is a very low difference in participation in both areas. The average level of social participation of urban women is marginally higher than the average level of social participation of rural women, yet overall the participation of both is very high. Participation based on the entire population is represented by standard deviation. The level of participation of urban and rural women in the social sector as well as in the field of art is high and extremely high. The results of the research show that a significant number (percentage) of women are excelling in the field of arts and are engaged in furthering cultural heritage despite regional variations. The research results show that the participation and empowerment of women in both areas is strongly correlated with the level of education. The research analysis focuses on identifying educational policies and efforts that increase the participation of women and provide them with the necessary equal opportunities for their empowerment.

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