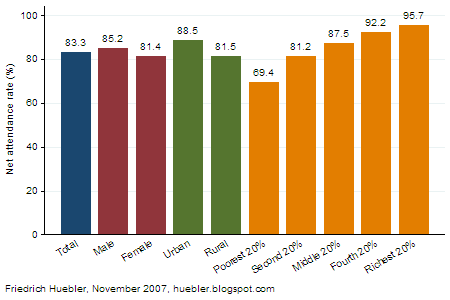
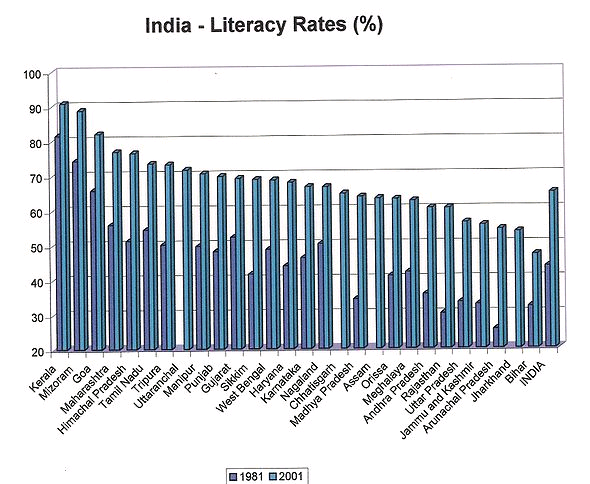
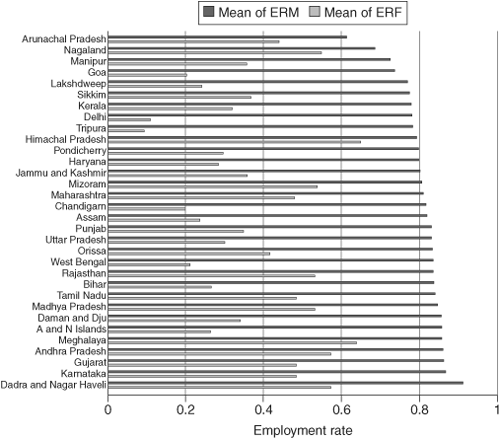
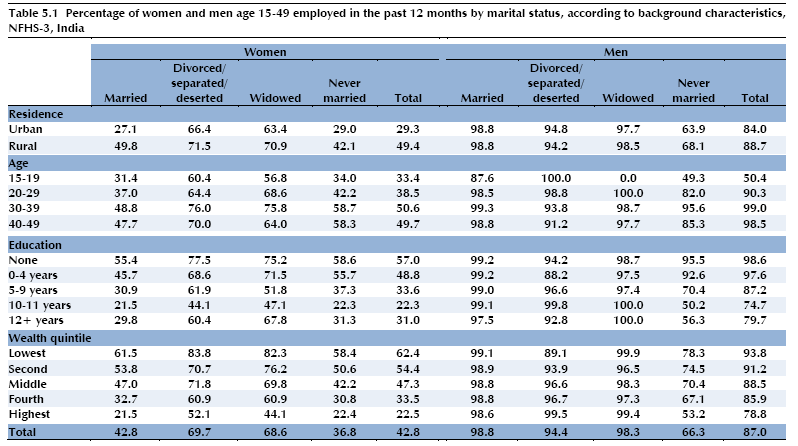
**Gender and change Project – India – Santiago Izeta Kelly**

In India there’s an overall gender inequality because of several factors. These factors are ethnicity, religion, unequal distribution of resources, child labor, poverty and even tradition because women have been treated as inferiors by male Indians for a long time and so people get used to it since they’re kids. Female seclusion in most of India prohibits them to have contact with men through territorial gendering of public and private space.

**Gender Inequality in Education**

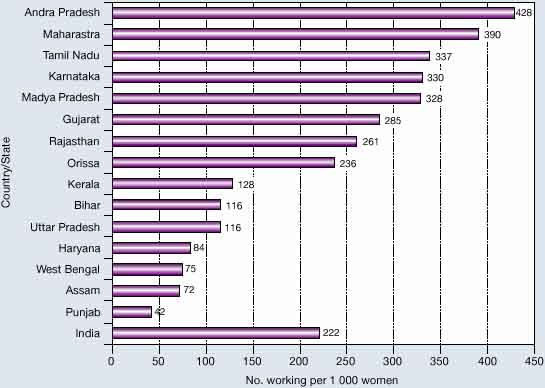
Nowadays, India is seeing a huge education improvement in the elementary education. There is now a 87% of enrolment in primary schools of children in the 6-11 age group. Also we can see a major increase in literacy along the Indian population. In 1947 the literacy rate was of approximately 2-6% of women. It kept on growing and reached the rates of 28.5% in 1981 and in 2001 it exceeded 50% (though India’s literacy rates for women had increased by 44%, the overall literacy rate for women was below world standards). Even so, there are states within India where literacy rates are well above world level standards, e.g. Mizoram and Kerala. Also the major part of the education is public (provided by the government), therefore India has no specific control over women’s education which is a major problem for India because if you don’t know specifically what the problem is, it’s almost impossible to fix it. Another factor which makes India’s education biased, is the fact that some religions practiced by Indian population don’t allow women to attend schools, they require women to stay home and take care of their babies. US Department of Commerce says that sanitary facilities are not provided for girls in some schools and that the lack of female qualified teachers causes male teachers to call their female students unfit to learn and also weak and helpless. Another factor that makes education for women in India unequal is marriage. According to UNICEF 47% of women in urban areas marry before the legal age of 18 and in rural areas 56%. So basically all of these factors contribute to the fact that there is a 46% of female enrolment in the primary level and a 39.6% in the secondary level. Finally, the fact that uneducated women in rural areas are more likely to be employed than educated women in urban areas so why go to school and waste your time when nobody’s going to hire you if you go work in the city, better stay, ditch school and go to work. Men’s job opportunities are quite different, completely opposite I would say. Men have more chances of being employed in urban areas if they have a good education than men with no education in rural areas. This means that women will not study because even if they did they wouldn’t get a job, and men want to study because they know that with good education it won’t be hard to get a job in the city.

**Employment**

The Census of India (1991) records that only 27% women in rural areas and 9% women in urban areas are formally in the workforce! There’s a gap between labour participation of women and age group and the gap increases with age. However it is now acknowledged that women’s work, especially in the home, farm and in a range of informal sector home based work, is invisible. Women shoulder primary responsibility for care of cattle, a range of agricultural operations, in sericulture, processing agricultural produce etc (only 7% of employed women on the agricultural sector have managing or technical positions). The range of jobs which women do in urban areas is quite varied, from domestic work, vending to home-based work, in addition to casual wage labour. One of the significant gaps in information throughout all India, is mapping the work done by women in the informal sector. This would be an essential precursor to planning vocational / continuing education programs. Social activists working with women point out that a number of adult and continuing education programs are designed without doing an assessment of the situation on the ground. As a result many of them have not been sustainable and there is no impact assessment available.

Nowadays, about 47% of Indian women (between the ages of 15-49) are employed, while 87% of men in the same age group are employed. This shows how unequal are job opportunities in India and how, even as job opportunities have increased enormously with globalization, inequality in India won’t allow women to have the same amount of jobs as men. Another factor that causes the unequal distribution of jobs throughout India is marriage. Men who are married are more likely to be employed than single men, but married women are less likely to be employed than single/divorced/widowed women. Also, monetary compensations to women are very unjust compared to monetary compensations to men. About 33% of employed women actually get a monetary compensation while the other 77% don’t.

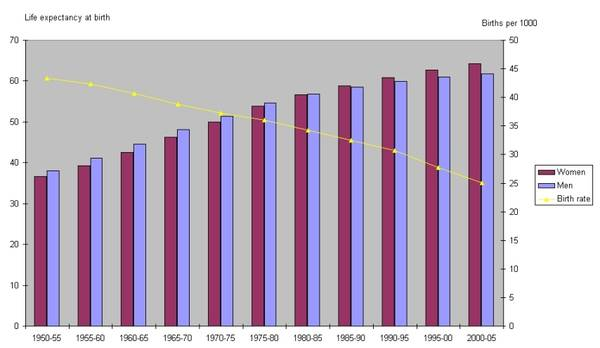
Basically women are highly disadvantaged in the employment sector because of the fact that they are getting married before their 18th birthday, childbearing, they have limited access to education. These factors limit women’s abilities to get jobs, particularly in the formal sector.

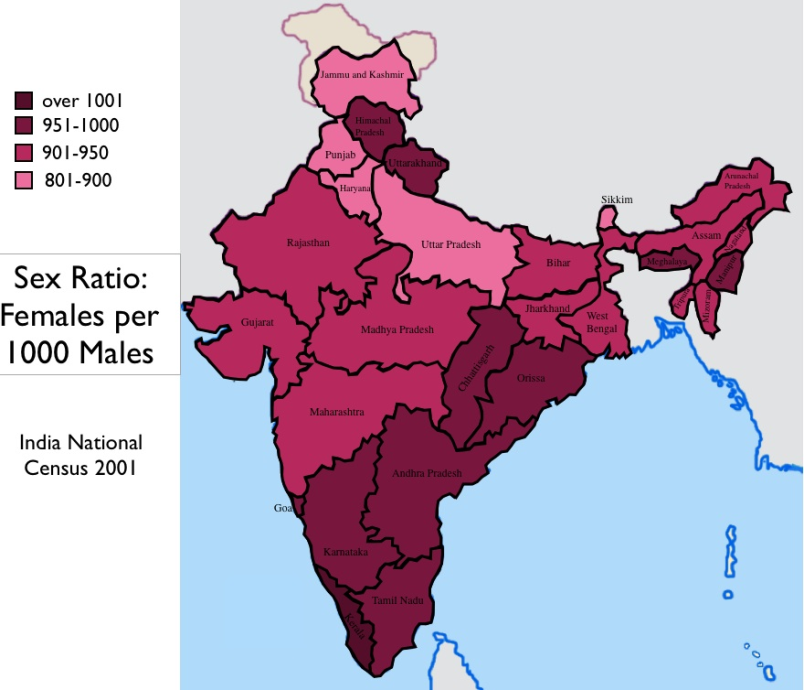
****

**Birth Ratios**

India is currently the 2nd most populated country in the world, with over 1.18 billion people. In the graph at your right you can clearly distinguish that male population is way higher than female population:

* Total male population in 2009: 608,633,795
* Total female population in 2009: 564,474,223

This specific type of inequality could be natural although there are lots of people in India that abort only to have a baby boy instead of a girl. Why? Well because in the poor areas of India having a girl means no $$, but having a boy means that he will be able to go to work since he’s a child, bringing home money to help the family. Also the fact that girls are married before reaching their 18th birthday means that their parents won’t get any benefit from their child. In 1972 there were around 24300 abortions because of the reasons stated above and in the 1990’s abortion levels reached up to 581215 per year. Therefore the government created a law which penalized seriously people who gave or took pre natal tests like ultrasounds just to see if they were having a boy or girl because they were aware of the serious unequal gender distribution throughout the country. Even with those measures taken, abortions in 2000 reached to 723142 per year. The country is also divided into north and south in terms of sex ratio. In the northern part of India the sex ratio between women and men is of approximately 900 per 1000 men, but in the southern part of India the ratio is of 980 women per 1000 men. Also, the southern part of India is the one that’s more economically developed, so this tells us that there is a strict correlation between wealth and sex ratio.

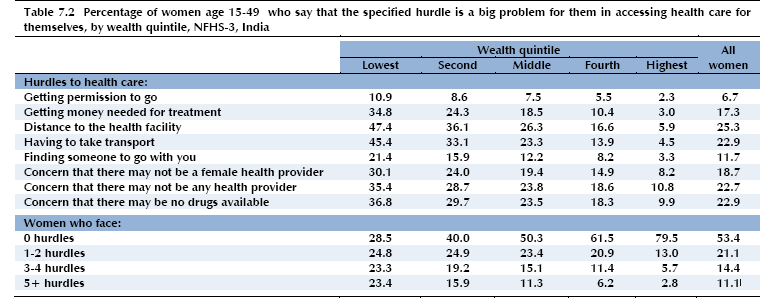
****

**Health**

15% of Indians don’t have access to health care because of economic reasons or unavailability of health care facilities.

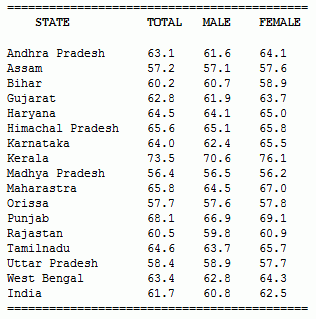
Interesting info:

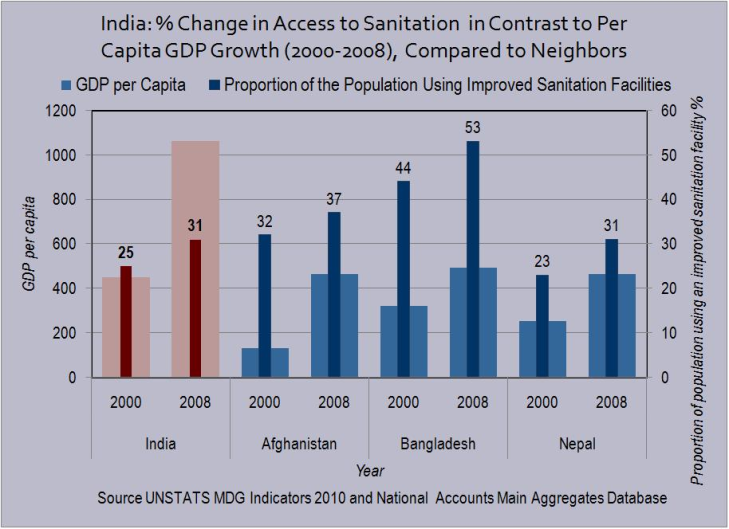
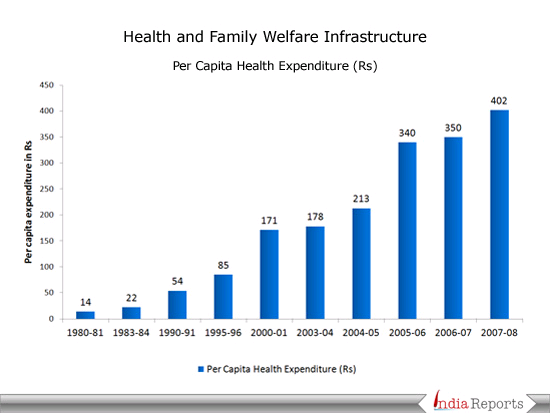
* Women in poor health are more likely to give birth to low weight infants which then leads to increase of child mortality (58 deaths per 1000).
* Women are less likely to be able to provide food and adequate care for their children because of their almost null participation on bringing home the money.
* Woman’s health affects the household economic well-being, as a woman in poor health will be less productive in the labor force, or won’t take care of their child’s, etc.
* Reproductive health, violence against women, nutritional status, unequal treatment of girls and boys, and HIV/AIDS.
* In India, women and men have nearly the same life expectancy at birth.
* Indian women have high mortality rates, particularly during childhood and in their reproductive years.



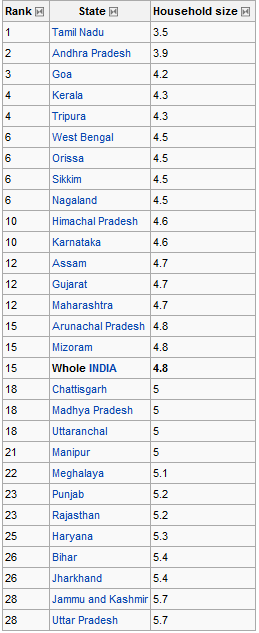
Also the need for permission and concern that there may not be a female provider of health care are hurdles to seeking health care that woman face just for being women. Other things, such as getting money needed for treatment, having to take transport, or distance to the health facility, can be obstacles for both genders ‘cause they are likely to be related to the household’s economic condition and to the supply of health care. However, these obstacles are also likely to affect way more woman than men because women have limited freedom of movement and access to income. Finally, other things like unavailability of health-care providers or drugs are supply driven, but likely to be more of a problem for women than for men since it may be more difficult for women to revisit the health facility if services are not received the first time. Even so, health care system, facilities and personnel have seen a major progress/development. India’s private health care facilities count with some of the most high-tech equipment in the world, the bad thing is that 75% of India’s population don’t have enough resources to pay for health care in the private sector. I believe that this could be fixed by improving infrastructure in rural areas, also increasing the security and job opportunities in those areas so people can afford to pay for health services as well as stop getting loads of diseases because of poor sanitation or water services. Also by creating awareness among Indians so they don’t discriminate between man and woman when talking about health care.

**Life Expectancy**

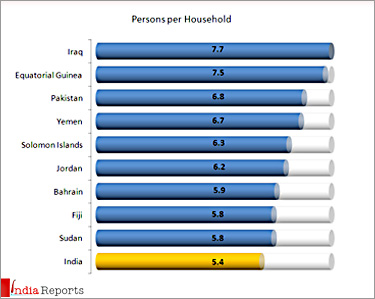
Life expectancy at birth in India is of 71.9 years, and has improved a lot throughout the years (1950 it was about 43.7 years). The average life expectancy at birth of males is of 63.2 years and the female life expectancy at birth is of 66.4. As the graph below shows us, females do have more life expectancy at birth in most states, there are some where even female life expectancy is almost 6 years higher than males. Even so, there are states where female life expectancy is lower than male l e (Bihar 1.8 years, Madhya Pradesh .3).

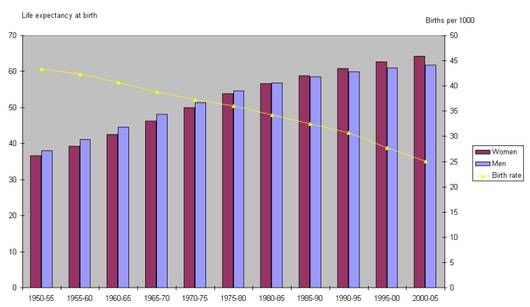
This doesn’t sound logic at all, since women started to have public health care services up until the 70’s, so why do women tend to live a longer life than men. Most of them don’t. Both genders have a similar BIRTH life expectancy, but as time passes women’s life expectancy decreases up to 10 years (Assam, Bihar, Orissa, etc.) It decreases because of certain factors, for example, health care. Lots of women face loads of obstacle to getting appropriate health care (as seen on the Health section). Also women have lower access to media than men so some sanitation campaigns or medical awareness never reaches women who need it. Also women have less access to sanitation than men. Also maternal mortality is huge in India, although it has decreased (2002 - 540 per 100,000). Even so, lots of women still tend to live longer since they aren’t working all the time as men do, it’s not that they don’t work (most of the agricultural sector is sustained by female labour), it’s that men work a lot more. Also women get to stay almost all day at home, cleaning at taking care after their children. But the main thing that has increased both female and male’s life expectancy is the improvement of health infrastructure throughout the whole India. The graph at the bottom right corner shows how infrastructure has developed over the years in India.

**Family Size**

India’s average household size, according to the National Family Health Survey is of 4.8 people within a family. Also according to the NFHS-3, over 80% of women who already have 2 sons/daughters do not want to have any more (except women who don’t have education – 30% of them still want to have children). I believe that women who aren’t educated still want to have children because women who aren’t educated are the ones who work on the fields and such, so more kids = more worforce = more money. Another interesting point to make is that women have way more boys than girls. We’ve already talked about abortions above so I won’t go very deep on that subject. Women tend to have way more boys than girls because boys are stronger and can work on the agricultural business since little, also they will take care of their parents when they grow up, and girls won’t, they’ll get married and leave.

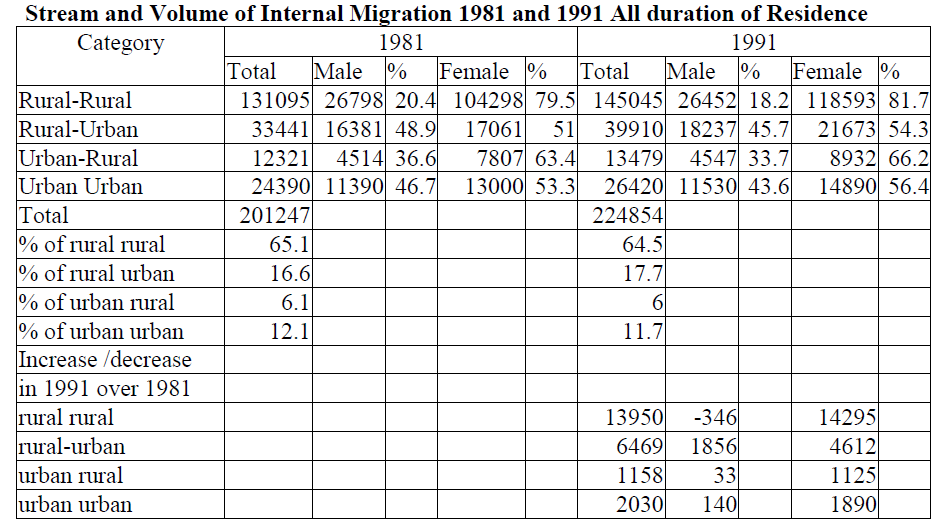
Also about 56.7% of the Indian population hasn’t used or received any family planning method, logically, even less population (48.6%) has received or utilized any modern family planning method.

Also in India women tend to have lots of babies, but most won’t have more than 4 or 5 because of the implication’s they bring with them. About half of Indian women have their babies without the assistance of health personnel, which endangers the mother, causing more than 500 deaths per 100,000 per year. Also, many women have more than 4 or 5 children but the fact that they can’t provide the adequate health services and the fact that there is not enough awareness of certain diseases like AIDS, to them explains why there’s a child mortality of 65.6 per 1000 annually (Vitamin deficiencies causing several deadly illnesses, AIDS – 30.7% of women and 50.7% of men who are uneducated have heard of this disease, while only 80% of the rest of the population has heard of AIDS, etc). Finally, living conditions in India are inadequate to have more children. The fact that less than 30% of houses in states like Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have toilet facilities brings us to conclude that sanitation simply doesn’t allow more people to live in a house. Also the fact that mover 60% of Indian population live in terrible conditions means that they need to have lots of children so that the income brought home after a hard day’s work can be sufficient to sustain a family.



**Migration**

* India is characterized by the restrain of women’s freedom. Many Indian women aren’t allowed to go to health centres, outside the community, they’re not even allowed to go alone to the market.

Poverty is the main factor that causes migration in India with both men and women (50% of world’s migration is female, 50% male). Many women migrate within India (rural to urban) seeking a better education, better quality of life and more choices of life that don’t involve working the fields and taking care of their babies. Migration can also be empowering for women because they can have much greater control – autonomy over their own lives and not live in situations where they’re under traditional patriarchal authorities. Family survival also depends very much on the migration households since they end up living in areas with better infrastructure, sanitation, health care (better quality of life). Migration could also be seen as the search for a better social status because the only way a women can attain certain social status is getting married. Therefore hundreds of women move to the cities so they can obtain a job which will eventually increase her chances for getting married. Also another increasing trend is the one that involves a man either from a city or a different country that travels to India, gets married and returns to his homeland. This type of marriage migration is increasing at high rates in India because getting married will not only increase their social status, but in most cases, they will end up with a better life quality than the one they had on their home land.  The number of job seekers among all migrants has increased by 45% over the previous decade. Nearly 14 million people migrated from their place of birth in search of jobs. The overwhelming majority of these-12 million was men.

Also, as well as Mexico to USA migration remittances, women who migrate to a city or even another country sent remittances to their homeland, this remittances help people come out of poverty.

Still, women face big problems when they migrate in search of fitter job opportunities:

* Non – payment on agreed wages in domestic duties, in factories, private companies, etc.
* Job contracts signed by women who have migrated to that place imply getting 20% lower salary than the usual contract wage.
* In 2002, 17% of women suffered different kinds of abuse in domestic works, and 20% on factories.

**Legal Rights**

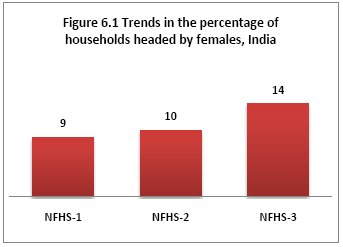
At the beginning of the 20th century, women were owned by their husband’s family, polygamy was allowed and marriages between different castes were banned, but now women live in different conditions, laws have changed but people’s minds haven’t so basically everything is almost the same because people don’t respect women’s rights or laws that talk about women.

Nowadays, India’s constitution treats men and women both the same, it even has 4 articles which only talk about gender equality and special protection which women require and the constitution itself imposes duty on respecting women’s rights, but most women are unaware of this, therefore it is as if the constitution was unequal.

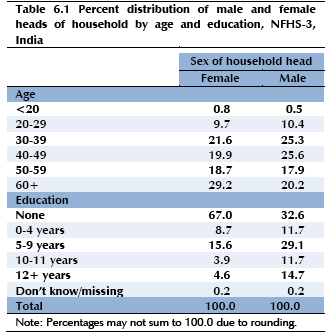
* Article 14: government should not deny to any person equality before law or equal protection of laws.
* Article 15: declares the government should not discriminate against any citizen due to gender. Also, makes a special provision enabling the state to make affirmative discriminations in favor of women and the government can pass special laws in favor of women.
* Article 16: guarantees no citizen shall be discriminated in matters of employment because of their sex.
* Article 42: directs the state to make provision for ensuring fair working conditions and maternity relief.

The factors that cause this unawareness of women’s rights are oppression and illiteracy. Women could go to court if someone violated their rights and the court is supposed to help them, but because of traditional patriarchy and lack of women initiative and submission of women, the laws stated above are almost inexistent.

**Land Tenure**

In India, women aren’t allowed to own the holding title to their land, and this lack of control affect’s negatively women’s economic status in a colossal way. Many cultural traditions in India prohibit women to inherit land or to manage it, even though it’s legally allowed. In order to get equal rights for women it’s required a cultural, institutional, and legal transformation. Land tenure reform without explicit concern for women can disadvantage them a lot more. Men are generally more informed on land tenure matters, therefore they’re more involved in negotiations related to the land, e.g. in slums, men negotiate informal tenure security. Also, speculations regarding the economic security of female headed households cause some landlords to openly declare reservations which involve renting land to women. They do this to prevent them from losing money or getting late rents since female headed households are way more economically unstable than male ones.

Also, in slums people tend to build religious buildings that can be used as shelter or community halls, also these buildings are used to enhance security of tenure and also they are places of worship where lots of really poor people can find peace and tranquility. Even so, women can’t take advantage of these buildings because of social restrictions on public interaction.

Land ownership by women is quite rare in India, regardless of economic and social status. In a slum with full legal tenure called Keshav Nagar, male and female residents had contributed money and labour towards the acquisition of their plots, but the land revenue officials gave preference to male head households in issuing property titles. There were no joint titles for married couples, and the only two women in the community who received independent titles did so because there was no male head household in their families.

Basically even though women participate equally in creating a nice community, at the end officials who don’t respect their rights will end up oppressing them, causing discrimination against them.

My conclusion is that everything is linked together. I think that because of women’s lack of education, they can’t take advantage of their rights and impose men to respect them. Also the fact that educated women have less job opportunities than women who aren’t educated isn’t helping at all because logically you would choose the option which comes with the job, in this case, being not educated. Another important issue which I found most relevant throughout all parts of this project is that women prefer having sons than daughters. The outcome of this will only be more men than women in India, and this will keep on oppressing women in society and will keep violating their rights, their essence as a woman. And this is a vicious cycle because men are the ones who impose tradition in India, women just allow men to overpower them, therefore in the future women will still want to have baby boys than girls, and this only leads to the mistreatment of their daughters and in overall, women. I think that for women to be respected and to be treated as equals they need to ask for it, not just stand insults because traditions say so. Also I believe that the Indian government should start making policies so that family size can be reduced. This will allow more people to get better health care, better sanitation, better quality of life. Also there should be awareness campaigns in poor areas of the country so that people are aware of their rights as Indian citizens, also that they are aware of family planning services, of what good consequences being educated have. Also there should be a policy funded by the government which helps women who work the fields so they can obtain better health care, sell their products for a higher price so their kids won’t have to work and can go to school. I believe that it would also be important to do more campaigns to show people what happens when the sex ratio is unbalanced and the government should help the families that have daughters (with a monthly pension) so that they don’t abort because they know that having a daughter will only be raising a girl so that at the age of 17 will get married and won’t take care of them or maybe to help paying for the health care services. Indian government should create a plan that suits both the necessities of the northern states (which are very poor) and the southern states (not that poor), to create job opportunities which suit women that live in poor conditions. So in general terms, I think that every point I analyzed and investigated in this project is connected, the fact that women aren’t educated makes their legal rights almost null, this then makes land tenure impossible and migration difficult for woman. Also it makes job opportunities scarce which leads to the lack of health care services, the need to migrate to other places and also it leads to a big family size = high birth rates which outcome is more boys than girls which then makes sex ratios unequal.

Santiago Izeta Kelly

<http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/OD57/OD57.pdf>

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/prod/wid-9803.pdf>

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001469/146911e.pdf>

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/informationGateway.php>

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/x77516h461833761/>

<http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/india_statistics.html>

<http://www.nfhsindia.org/pdf/India.pdf>

<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/women%20and%20landed%20property.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/EGM_Ittmig_Asia/P06_Siddiqui.pdf>

<http://iussp2005.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=51757>

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTABOUTUS/Resources/Gender.pdf>

<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/women%20and%20landed%20property.pdf>