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Google Scholar

Educational Qualifications

Education	College/School/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained
PhD Economics	JNU, New Delhi (CESP)	2017- June'22	Submitted (Viva Awaited)
M.Phil. Economics	JNU, New Delhi (CESP)	2015-2017	7/9 1 st Division
M.Sc. Economics	TERI University, New Delhi	2012- 2014	7.45/10 1 st Division
B.A. (Hons.)Economics	Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi	2009- 2012	70.8 % 1 st Division

Work Experience (Teaching and Research)

Organization	Position/Work Description	Duration
Young Scholars Initiative, An Initiative of INET	Organizer in the South Asia Working Group. Initiated the Webinar Series “ <i>Women’s Work in South Asia</i> ” with 6 eminent speakers in the field. (part time voluntary work)	April 2021- till date
Economic Research Foundation, New Delhi	Research Associate on “ <i>Generating Women’s Employment through Public Employment Opportunities</i> ” with Prof. Jayati Ghosh & Dr. Dipa Sinha (IWWAGE sponsored project)	01 Aug 2019-31 Jan 2020
Sri Aurobindo College (M), University of Delhi	Guest Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics	21 Aug 2018- 6 Nov 2018
Shyam Lal College(Evening), University of Delhi	Resource person for teaching STATA to faculty of University of Delhi colleges in “ <i>One Week FDP on STATA and Data Analysis</i> ”.	04 Sep 2018- 10 Sep 2018
Shaheed Bhagat Singh College(M), University of Delhi	Ad-hoc Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics.	04 Jan 2016- 23 July 2018
Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi	As Economist worked on “ <i>Bihar Urbanization</i> ” & “ <i>Study of Economic Vibrancy of 3 states</i> ” Bihar State Finance Commission & DFID sponsored Projects respectively.	06 June 2014- 03 Aug 2015
Planning Commission (NITI AAYOG), New Delhi	Intern, Rural Development Division (Data Analysis and Policy Research).	May-July 2013

Academic Achievements/Awards/Professional Affiliations

- Referee for World Development
- Awarded ICSSR doctoral fellowship, to pursue doctoral research. (1 among 41 for Economics) Jan 2020-Dec 2021
- Received three months visiting fellowship at IGIDR, Mumbai to work on PhD. Nov 2018
- Cleared UGC-NET Exam for Assistant Professor conducted in December 2014. June 2015
- A grade in Econometrics and Time series in the Master’s in Economics Degree. 2012-2014
- First position in economics department (bsc) for two consecutive years. Awarded Gold Medal and scholarship. 2011-2012

Projects/ Thesis/Publications

- **Paper** titled “Female employment in India: Tracking trends during 2005-2019” published in The Indian Journal of Labour Economics (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-021-00330-0>) 2021
- **ERF-IWWAGE Co-authored Report** titled “Generating Female Employment through Public Employment: A Scoping Paper”(https://iwwage.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Generating-Female-Employment-A-Scoping-Paper.pdf) 2020
- **Book Review** titled “Labour Market Participation in India: A Region- and Gender-Specific Study by Arup Mitra and Aya Okada” published in The Indian Journal of Labour Economics (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-020-00229-2>) 2020

- **Book Review** titled “Employment in India by Ajit Kumar Ghose” published in Indian Journal of Human Development (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0973703020967896>) 2020
- **Health Insurance and Health Care Demand in India: An analysis using NSS Data** (M.Phil. Thesis) 2017
 - Awarded 8/9 for thesis. Published in *Sarvekshana*, 110th & 111th Issues, ISSN: 2249-197X
- **Asymmetric Information in Health Insurance** (Master’s Thesis, June 2014) 2014
 - Published in *Journal of Business Studies*, Volume-X (2018), ISSN: 0975-0150

Workshops/Conference/Seminar Attended/Papers Presented

- Presented a paper titled "*Determinants of Female Labour Force Participation in India: Evidence from PLFS Data*" at 62nd Annual Conference of the (ISLE) at IIT-Roorkee, CESP Young Research Scholar Webinar 2022. April-June 2022
- Presented a paper titled “*Female employment in India: Tracking trends during 2005-2019*” at Young Scholars’ Webinar by CESP-JNU; YSI Virtual Plenary 2020; IAFPE 2021 Conference. 2020 -21
- Presented a paper titled “*Women’s participation in the Indian labor market: Evidence from EUS & PLFS data*” at 15th International Conference on Public Policy and Management at IIM-Bangalore. August 2020
- Presented a paper titled “*Women’s work and opportunities in public sector in India*” at 16th National Conference on Women’s Studies organised by Indian Association for Women’s Studies (IAWS). January 2020
- Presented a poster titled “*Female Labour force participation in India since the Early 1980s: An analysis using NSS Data*” at CoRe- IGIDR PhD Colloquium, 2019. November 2019
- Presented the paper titled “*Health Care in India- Asymmetric Information in Insurance*” at Graduate Research Meet at IIT-Guwahati. November 2017
- Presented the paper titled “*Health Insurance & Health Care Demand in India: an analysis using NSS Data*” at National conference on UHC at TISS, Mumbai. October 2017
- Attended online training on “*Capacity Building Programme on Emerging Labour Issues and Strategic Responses*” organised by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida. June 2020 (2 days)
- Attended web lecture on “*Impact of Covid-19 lockdown on the Informal Economy*” organised by IHD-ISLE. May 2020
- Attended EPoD-ISI Summer School on “*India’s Women, Work and Development*”(Research Workshop in Gender and Labour Economics) at Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi July 2019
- Attended 5th IGC-ISI Summer School on *Development Economics* at Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi. July 2019
- National Faculty Development Programme–“*Skilling Program for Teachers, Developing Transformational Skills*” at TLC, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi. December 2017 (7 days)
- Attended “*2nd International Workshop on BIG DATA Analytics (WBDA)*” organized by School of Computer & System Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. March 2017 (2 days)
- Attended research methodology course on “*Quantitative Methods in Labour Research*” at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida (an autonomous body of Ministry of Labour & Employment, GoI). Feb 2017(2 weeks)

Computer and Software Skills

- Operating System : Windows, Ubuntu
- Software packages : Microsoft office and related tools
- Statistical packages: STATA 14 (proficient), Eviews (basic)

References

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2. Prof. Jayati Ghosh, Professor, PERI- University of Massachusetts, jayati@jnu@gmail.com, +919810371353
3. Prof. Praveen Jha, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, praveenjha2005@gmail.com, +919810466880



Female Employment in India: Tracking Trends During 2005–2019

Varsha Gupta¹

Accepted: 30 June 2021

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Abstract

This paper studies the trends and employment patterns from a gender perspective in India. With the use of latest PLFS data and two rounds of EUS, it draws out the changes in female employment during the period 2005–2019 using exploratory research methods. The employment elasticity of output has turned negative at -0.039 between 2012 and 2018. This has affected female employment more than that of males. Education levels have gone up among females, but corresponding rise in employment is not reflected. On the contrary, female WPR has gone down in 2019 since 2005. The paper traces the temporal patterns during 2005–2019, between rural and urban areas, and provides an overview of current state of female employment in India. Results show that the decline is present across the country in all states and union territories. There has been a slight rise in urban areas in certain states. Another positive development is rise in regular salaried employment and reduction in self-employment. The fall in self-employment is owing to falling share of unpaid family workers. There is industrial segregation among female workers with higher concentration in agriculture and services. Share of female workers in non-manufacturing sector increased during 2005–2012 but went down thereafter. Education has been the major employer for women, and their share in this industry has increased by 4.45 percentage points since 2005.

Keywords Female labour force participation · India · NSS data · Industrial segregation

1 Introduction

To achieve the sustainable development goals (SDG), the achievement of SDG 5 (gender equality) is pertinent and SDG 8 (Decent employment and Economic Growth) is closely related. SDG 5 and 8 together posit gender equality in the labor

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Labour Market Participation in India: A Region- and Gender-Specific Study by Arup Mitra and Aya Okada

Varsha Gupta¹

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Abstract

This article is a review of the book by Mitra and Okada on labor market participation in India. The study is analytical in nature and presents inter-country gender-specific indicators of labor force and workforce participation, while also delineating indicators for India. Lower participation among women vis-à-vis men is reported and is attributed to the variations in skill set by gender, lack of adequate demand and more jobs being located in the cities.

1 Introduction

The book titled “Labour Market Participation in India: A Region- and Gender-Specific Study” is a part of the Springer Brief in Economics, which consists of short studies of 50 to 125 pages. The focus of this study is on gender-specific labor force and workforce participation, first within the context of Asia Pacific and then for India. The authors identify the determinants of labor force participation rates (LFPRs) and workforce participation rates (WPRs), disaggregated by gender and region at the state, city and district levels using data from Population Census and Labor Bureau (2009–2010 to 2014–2015). Three sets of factors emerge as explanations, namely creating cluster of employment opportunities (demand for labor), adding to the skill set and education levels of individuals and creating accessibility to locations where the jobs are located.

The introductory section of the book draws from the previous work (2015) of the author on female labor supply in India using primary data. The authors highlight that India is experiencing a demographic dividend, but its effective utilization requires skilled workforce and adequate demand for their labor. Besides, participation is also aided by improvement in physical, social and financial infrastructure in an economy. Urbanization (physical infrastructure) envisages upward mobility by creating nonfarm opportunities for people in the cities. Cities do not follow the traditional

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Ajit Kumar Ghose, *Employment in India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, £11.99, 192 pp., ISBN: 9780190120979 (Paperback).

DOI: 10.1177/0973703020967896

Employment in India by Ajit Kumar Ghose is a primer to understand the Indian employment scenario since Independence. Part of the Oxford India “Short Introductions” series, it is a concise guide to different aspects of employment in India, written using accessible language for a general audience. The insights and facts presented are up to date, using the 2016 employment data, while the epilogue provides statistics using the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017–2018 data.

The book is divided into five chapters, with the first two chapters introducing the various definitions and concepts used in the book to underline the nature and characteristics of employment. The third chapter is empirical and charts the trends for six decades using four sources of data: the Employment–Unemployment survey by the National Sample Survey Organisation, annual data on employment by the Labour Bureau, organised sector data by the Directorate General of Employment and Training and the Census. In the fourth chapter, the reasons behind the trends are explained, while the concluding chapter outlines an optimal strategy to meet the employment challenges of India and discusses the future.

The author begins by outlining the growth strategy since Independence, which has been more inclined towards the service sector and is driven more by domestic demand than exports. The Indian economy skipped the growth in manufacturing where returns to scale are higher and positive spillovers can be attained. Economic growth has been more tilted towards capital use which has had a negative effect, since India is a labour abundant nation. Before delineating the employment patterns using data, the second chapter discusses the various concepts and terms often used in labour studies, including in this book, such as the modern sector, the traditional sector, wage and self-employment as types of employment, the formal and informal sector, structural change, etc. It provides the reader with clarity on these concepts before they are used in further analysis. Details on the Lewis model (which shows that as a country develops, there is movement of labour from agriculture to the modern sector), the interlinkages between the modern (formal) and traditional (informal) sector and the role of employment in connecting economic growth and development constitute the rest of the chapter.

In the third chapter, trends of employment indicators are brought out for the period 1950–2016, alongside a list of all the various data sources used. It is an exhaustive list for early career researchers in labour economics. It is highlighted that the low unemployment figures, which are often taken to be a positive reflection of the labour market, do not present a bright scenario in a developing country like India as it does not indicate full employment. Being unemployed is a luxury here, and only a few can afford it; the rest take up whatever employment is available to them. Three pieces of information emerge from the analysis—the unemployed in India are less poor and more educated, the rate of unemployment increases with education level and it decreases with age as some individuals get employed while others leave the workforce altogether.

In addition, on pages 53–54, the author talks about low female employment and the reasons behind it. Reduction in distress participation (work undertaken in times of economic hardship) along with poor demand for female labour are major factors. The author mentions that “withdrawal from poor jobs did not have to mean withdrawal from the labour force”, pointing towards the unavailability of better jobs for women. Furthermore, trend analysis on pages 57–80 draws out the structure of employment. Self-employment has gone down, while the share of wage employment has increased in total employment. This is in line with the iron law—importance of agriculture in employment declines and wage employment’s share rises as a country experiences economic growth. The share of formal employment in India went up

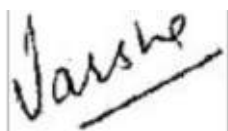
until 1973 and declined thereafter. It went up again between 2005 and 2012. The Employment Quality Index, developed in the author's previous work to statistically measure employment conditions, is calculated for the period 1955–2016 and on average presents a slight decline. At the end, the author summarises the third chapter by putting the employment trends of 1955–2016 in four phases: 1955–1978, 1978–2000, 2000–2012 and 2012–2016.

In the fourth chapter, the author explores the relationship between economic growth and employment. While growth has not been poor in India, employment indicators reflect a poor scenario. Decent growth was experienced by the Indian economy, especially after liberalisation reforms in 1991 were introduced, due to overseas finance and remittances. The service sector took the lead: an enigma which is peculiar to India. The process of structural transformation, brought about by growth in the modern or non-agricultural sector, did not occur in India. This is reflected in the statistical indicator “employment elasticity” (percentage change in employment associated with a 1 percentage point change in economic growth) of non-agricultural growth. It declined during the period 1978–2000 and 2000–2012, implying that labour was not pulled out of agriculture at a fast rate. The failure of the manufacturing sector and the low employment intensity of the service sector are two factors behind this. Within the service sector, the skills-intensive areas of “communication, finance and business services” led the growth. This eventually led to slow absorption of the abundant low-skilled labour available in the country.

After drawing out the employment situation in India and the explanations for it, the author provides a roadmap to achieve development via employment generation in the last chapter. India needs to create 12.5 million jobs per annum with a focus on low-skilled workers in order to enable the economy to reach the point where there are no surplus workers (the Lewis turning point). While research often highlights the significance of employment creation for the educated and the skilled, the author places emphasis on low-skilled employment. The issue of job creation can be resolved by improving the productivity of existing jobs (mainly in agriculture) and creating new jobs in the non-agricultural modern sector. A structural transformation process where growth is concentrated on manufacturing rather than service-led can bring the desired changes in the Indian job market (138–140). The concern regarding automation replacing low-skilled labour in manufacturing is also discussed. Up until now, this has occurred primarily in capital and skill-intensive sectors of manufacturing. So, the strength of manufacturing in employment remains, even in the twenty-first century.

This book offers a comprehensive analysis of employment in the Indian economy. The nature of the employment challenges faced by India and the growth pathway required to meet them are summarised. However, it is a long read for a non-specialist reader. Since it touches upon the various aspects of employment using data, this can detract from the larger narrative for the reader. That being said, the information provided in various boxes is useful for researchers in labour economics, with definitions given for various concepts and indexes used in the analysis. Throughout the book, the analysis is supported by rigorous empirical work and the epilogue updates it with the latest available data. *Employment in India* is recommended for students in labour economics.

This review was originally published on LSE Review of Books. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2020/09/29/book-review-employment-in-india-by-ajit-kumar-ghose/>



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Health Care in India: Evaluation of Health Insurance in India using NSS Data

Varsha Gupta¹

Abstract

Aiming towards Universal health coverage has been one of the agendas envisaged in the 12th five year plan. In this backdrop, the Central Government has commenced various health insurance programmes to improve the coverage across the country and take on the astounding state of healthcare. The Union Cabinet announced Ayushman Bharat recently. With the exception of 3 states, all other states and union territories have entered into the MoU with the Government to implement the scheme.

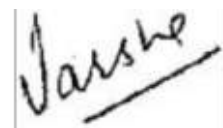
In this context, this paper intends to study the previous insurance coverage schemes launched by the Government of India using the NSS Data. Using nationally representative NSSO data at the individual level, for the period 2004 to 2014, it provides a linkage of the existing insurance schemes on the twin aspects of access to health care services i.e. affect on health care demand and financial protection. The 71st round of NSSO (2014) is the first comprehensive survey conducted post the launch of various health schemes initiated by the Government. The health seeking behaviour shows a positive trend in reporting ailments with a rise in hospitalization among rural females. The effect of insurance schemes is visible through higher probability of being hospitalized in the presence of insurance. Utilization of private care is higher among those covered by insurance programmes. However, expenditures do not reflect a drop, which presents the restricted impact.

Keywords: Health Care, Ayushman Bharat, OOP, NSS Data 60th and 71st Round.

JEL: H51, I13, I15, I18

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Generating Female Employment through Public Employment: **A Scoping Paper**

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