

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

Socioeconomic status is basically measured as a combination of different aspect like education, income and opportunity. It is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's social and economic relation to others. It can be said that examination of socioeconomic status shows that inequality in obtain to resources, power, control and issues related to privilege.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 2006) defines socioeconomic status in terms of people's access to material and social resources as well as their ability to participate in society. Santrock (2004) defines it as "the grouping of people with similar occupational, educational, and economic characteristics". Wool Folk(2007)calls SES" the relative standing in society based on income, power, background and prestige".(A descriptive term for the position of persons in society, based on a combination of occupational, economic, and educational criteria, usually expressed in ordered categories, that is, on an ordinal scale(oxford Dictionary).

These all definition emphasize that SES (1) is used for comparisons, (2) is imposed on people, (3) is conditional, (4)based on opportunity, economics and means of influence.SES basically divided into three categories.

- High SES
- Middle SES
- Low SES

These categories are made on the bases of three variables(occupation, income and education).These three are main factor to influence SES ,but some other factors also effect one person's SES. Those are neighborhood, political power, wealth, health, home environment and parent's interaction etc.

### **1.1.1. Socio economic status and women**

For the development of any nation it is very necessary that women must involve in all economic, political and social activities. Without this participation a nation cannot move smoothly. Women are important in our society. The role of women in society has been greatly overseen in the last few decades but now is coming to a more perspective to people. In the early days women were seen as wives who were intended to cook, clean, and take care of the kids. They were not allowed to vote while men took care of having jobs and paying any bills that had to be paid .Soon enough it caught on that women should have a bigger role than what other people thought women should have. Women would have strikes and go on marches to prove that they should have rights just like everyone else. Women would voice their opinion in any possible way so that they could reach their goal and they did. Women have made vast improvements in their lifestyles in the past few decades from holding positions in governments to simple things like getting a job and supporting themselves. Men have a tendency to leave their wives due to the fact that they had their child and the father was not committed enough or not ready to be a “father.”This is the reason why the condition of women declining day by day.

Women status or empowerment is one of the most important issues on the present day of world. Infact women have a impressive contribution in the process of development ,but after that they get low status or attention as compared to men, especially in developing nations. Women share half of the world’s human capital, but she is one of the most underutilized resources. Female participation rate in all countries in labour force is lesser than man. Women always suffer with limited mobility and flexibility, in some cultures they are not allowed to go outside the home without accompanied by a man. Even when women are permitted to go alone, they may face sexual, physical, and verbal abuse from unknown males, also face dishonor and rumour within their own society. Out of the three, one women across the globe face inhumanity at some point in her lifetime. Violence against women and girls ,or the threat of harassment ,it may be physical or emotional, both in public or private area, from the hands of unknown and known persons, remainder a key limiting reason to women empowerment and their engagement in process of development.

Investment in the human capital, education and health of women and girls presented a key way to forward. The logic behind it is that educated, intelligent and healthy women are more able to be creative in productive activities, to search formal sectors jobs, earn higher salaries and enjoy their life better than uneducated females. An uneducated woman is more able to take better decisions of their own children regarding education or more future plans. So this investment will not be risky. Women are the backbone of agriculture workforce but this hard work is mostly been unpaid at worldwide. Women are entitled to live their life with freedom and dignity. Gender equality is a prestige for decline poverty and advance development. Empowered women can help to the health and productivity of their whole family and society, they can also make better prospects for upcoming generations.

### **1.1.2 Global Scenario of Women**

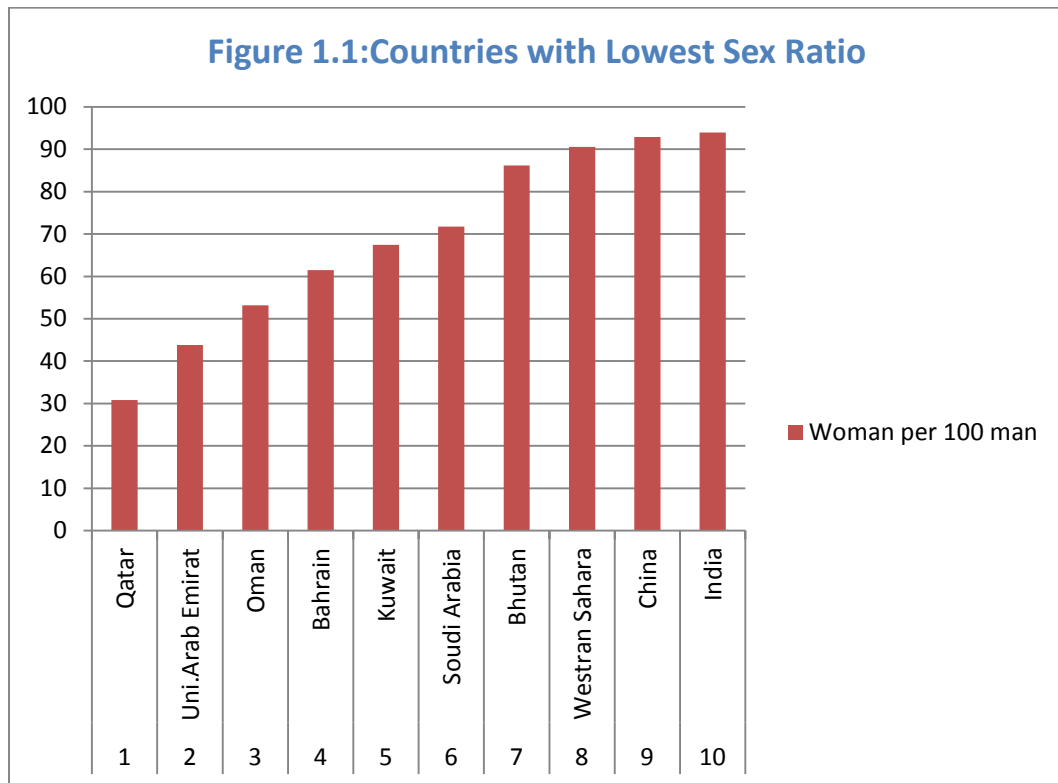
As it is proved that without women, there will be an incomplete image of earth. It is like a car without wheel, if there is no role of women. Not only in India but in whole world women play a significant role in path of development, but from the ancient time neither it measured nor it counted. The total world population is nearby 7.397,222,464(dated on 13-04-2016) by the United nations Department of Economics and social affairs, population division. In this total population the part of women is around 49.6% and the male population is 50.4%.In all over the world the situation of women vary from place to place. There is a lot of difference in the status of women in developed or developing nations. In industrialized countries more and more female do jobs and go on work. They do not want to stay at home and get more attention. On the other hand in developing nations most of women do the household chores and take care of their babies, but this work is ignored by everyone. So they do not get as much as respect and value as compared to working women. According to the survey Australia's women are the most empowered in world. It topped a list of 128 countries for women's access to education, equal pay and anti-discrimination policies. According to the Global Gender Report 2015 published by world economic forum in which Iceland ranked first, it is a country in which women got voting right in 1915 and it currently has 43% female parliament member. The country Yemen ranked last with access of four sub index (economic participation

and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, political empowerment). There are 145 countries included in this report and India is on the 108 rank. Other highest ranked countries are Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Ireland etc.

If we see at global scenario, the countries which have equal sex ratio, they are more powerful. There is a different type index to measure the sex ratio named human sex ratio. In human sex ratio base population has been taken of 100 females not male. Generally in India to measure sex ratio base population is of 1000 males. But human sex ratio measure the male population in all countries. This ratio shows the number of males for each 100 females in population. If this ratio is above 100, it shows more males than females, same side if this ratio is below 100, it means more female than males, if sex ratio is 100 it shows the equality in the numbers of males and females. According to United Nations, Sex ratio of world in 2015 is 101.70. It means that World has 101.70 males for each 100 females or 98.33 females for each 100 males.

<b>Table 1.1 : Top ten countries having Lowest Sex ratio</b>				
Rank	Country	Human Sex Ratio	Woman per 100 man	Continent
1	Qatar	324.35	30.83	Asia
2	Uni.Arab Emirat	228.2	43.82	Asia
3	Oman	188.14	53.15	Asia
4	Bahrain	162.66	61.48	Asia
5	Kuwait	148.2	67.48	Asia
6	Soudi Arabia	139.36	71.75	Asia
7	Bhutan	116.02	86.2	Asia
8	Westran Sahara	110.46	90.53	Africa
9	China	107.69	92.86	Asia
10	India	106.98	93.92	Asia
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank				

Table 1 shows that in Qatar, there are 324 males over 100 females. So this country has highest human sex ratio. But the present study measure the population of female over males. It will be exactly opposite condition in all countries. It means that in Qatar Population of female is lowest. there are 30 female on 100 males. It is the worst female sex ratio all over the world.



According to figure 1, Top ten countries having more males population than females population are Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bhutan, Western Sahara, China and India. Qatar and United Arab Emirates has sex ratio 324.35 and 228.2 respectively. Except Western Sahara, which belongs to Africa continent, other nine from Asia continents. India is one the lowest female sex ratio country at global level.

Table 1.2 :Top ten countries having Highest Sex Ratio				
Rank	Country	Human Sex Ratio	Women per 100 man	Continent
1	curacao	82.11	121.8	N. America
2	Latvia	84.37	118.52	Europe
3	martinique	85.08	117.53	N. America
4	Lithunia	85.24	117.32	Europe
5	Ukraine	85.35	117.17	Europe
6	Russian Federation	85.49	116.98	Europe
7	Belaras	86.44	115.69	Europe
8	Estonia	86.57	115.52	Europe
9	Hongkong	88.03	113.59	Asia
10	Guadelope	88.89	112.5	N. America

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank

Table 2 shows that the human sex ratio Curacao is a country which has lowest sex ratio. The number of males over 100 female is 82.11 and after that all ten counteris come under lowest human sex ratio. But Curacao is having highest female sex ratio that is 121.8 female over 100 males.

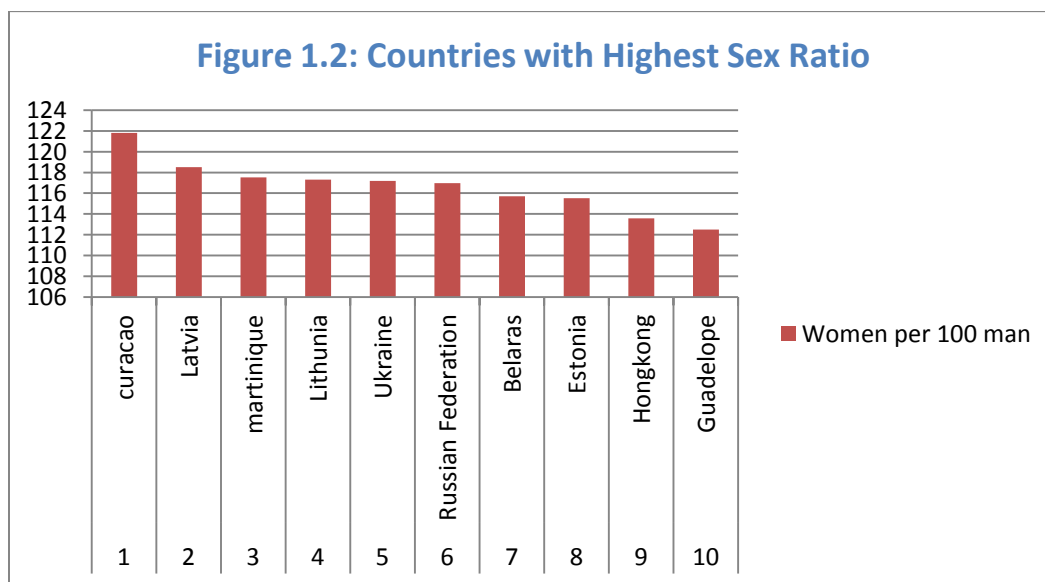


Figure 2 shows that Curaçao has lowest sex ratio of 82.10 followed by Latvia (84.37). Curaçao has 121.8 females per 100 males while Latvia has 118.5 females per 100 males. Martinique (85.08), Lithuania (85.24) and Ukraine (85.35) is at 3rd, 4th and 5th position, respectively. In the list of top 10 countries having lowest sex ratio, six countries is located in Europe continent, three in North America and one in Asia.

Only highest sex ratio does not show the status of women at top level. It also include some institutional changes like better education level ,better opportunity for females to get jobs, safe, respectful and secure social life, women involvement in economic, political and social activities, women decision making power, their valuable place in their own family and other components. Some nations in which women has given the best place and they enjoy their life in precious way, these are Newzeland, Norway, France, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Australia, Spain and Finland etc(source:-UNDP gender related development index).On the other hand there are some countries in which the condition of women is full of Violence, repression, ignorance, discrimination and isolation. These are Iraq, Pakistan, India, Somalia, Mali, Guatemala, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Chad. Beside these countries there are more countries also where woman is considered like a **thing**.

### **1.1.3 Women in India**

At global scenario India status is not good regarding condition of women. Any assessment of women status has to start from the social framework, cultural norms and value system that influence social expectation regarding the behavior of both men and women, decline role of women and their value and position in society. A society is a combination of different type of institutions and most important of them are the kinship and family, marriage religious tradition and system of decent.

**According to Dr. Amratya Sen, Noble Laureate in Economics, "Women are lee likely to secure favorable outcomes for them in household decision making process. Socio-economic status is not possible without participation and empowerment of rural downtrodden women,"**

## **Historical perspective**

One of the major problems of India society is the inferior position accorded to women. They do not enjoy equal status and their condition is far from satisfactory. There is a lot of fluctuation in condition, status and position of women in different period, viz. Ancient, Medieval, British and Independent period.

**Ancient Period:** The Ancient Indian women enjoyed a comparatively high status during the early Vedic period (2000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.), surpassing contemporary civilizations in ancient Greece and Rome. The Aryans were mostly busy fighting wars. However, they regarded women as useful and productive members of society. The condition of Vedic Women was good. Women also enjoyed religious status like that of men, especially in Vedic initiation and studies. The Rig Veda provides ample evidence to prove the concept of equality of women with men as regards access and capacity to acquire the highest knowledge, even the knowledge of the Absolute. The Rig Veda accorded the highest social status to qualified women of those days. Women were appointed at important positions. In that period, marriage was not compulsory. It was considered a social and religious duty, and was generally undertaken at an advanced age. On the whole, during this period the position of women was high.

**Medieval Period:** The condition and status of women in India declined with the passage of time. During the medieval period, woman was given a position subordinate to man. Law and religion did not recognize the equality and equal rights of man and woman. The women's place was largely regarded as being in the home. In short, the role of women was conceived to be one of subservience to her husband, the master and ruler of the family. However, by the 15th century, the situation underwent a change. There was a general revival of Indian society which led to considerable improvement in the status of women. The bhakti movement played a helpful role. The saints preached equality of the sexes and pleaded for equal opportunities for women.

**British Period:** When the British came in to contact with the Indian people in the latter half of the 18th century, the position of Indian woman had deteriorated to the lowest level. Ideologically, women were considered a completely inferior species, having no



significance, no personality. Socially they were kept in complete subjection, denied all rights and were covered up and oppressed, on having been branded as “basically lacking an ethical fiber”.

**After Independence:** The improvement in women’s position and status became further evident when immediately after the independence, Indian women made their mark by becoming Governors, Cabinet ministers, and ambassadors. Several measures were taken by the Government of India to assign equal status to women in the economic, political and social fields. More avenues were opened to them to show their talents and have a sense of participation in national activities.

The Constitution of India pledges equality of status and opportunity to men and women. The passage of several Acts by the Parliament and the process of social change brought about by industrialization and urbanization during the last few decades have done much for women’s emancipation both legally, politically and socially. Now the members of the family are individuals before the law, and the Constitution has guaranteed equal rights to women.

#### **1.1.4 Present Scenario**

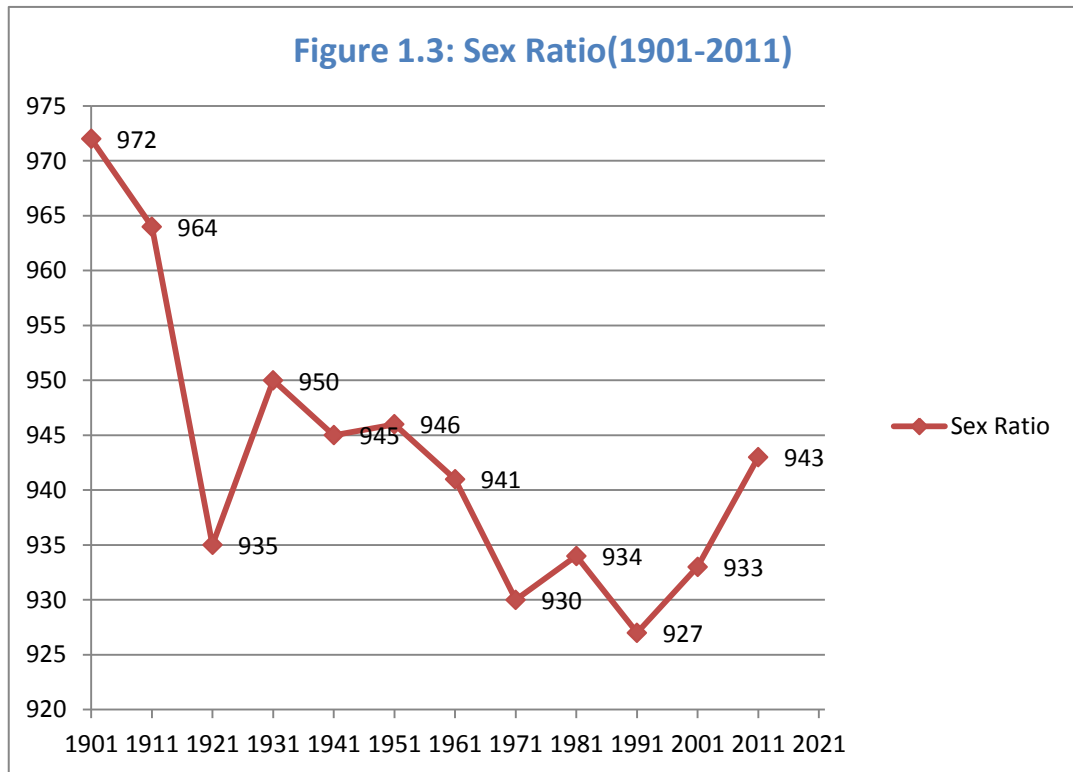
India is a wide country .There is many states in India. It has been seen that there is a large variation in the status of women among different states of India. In some states women have equal rights as men have; they are the head of family. They are able to take any decision of their family either it is related to financial or social issues. On the other hand, there are some states in which they are facing so much exploitation in the form of child marriage, lack of rights, sexual harassment, rape, honor killing, female feticide, dowry system etc. These all problems are the outcome of lack of awareness, poverty and unemployment, lack of education and specially the dominating nature of man and our backward society.

##### **1.4.1 Socio demographic status of women**

The ratio of female to male population has been low in India. As per census data, sex ratio of women per thousand men is given below:

Table 3 showing the trend of sex ratio of India from census 1901 to 2011. It seems so much fluctuation in this ratio. The decline sex ratio shows the misuse of the prenatal diagnostic technique to do away with female foetus. The declining sex ratio in India could be a reflection of the son preference in the country. According to the Census 2001, the sex ratio stands at 933 for the country as a whole. This is a welcome improvement from the 1991 Census, which had recorded 927 females for every 1000 males. The sex ratio in the country had always remained unfavorable to females. Moreover, barring some hiccups, it has shown a long term declining trend. The sex ratio at the beginning of the twentieth century was 972 and thereafter showed continuous decline until 1941. In 1951 there was a marginal increase of one point, but thereafter it again dropped for two consecutive decades to reach 930 in 1971. In fact, between 1961-71, the country saw the sharpest decline of 11 points in the sex ratio. There after, it has fluctuate marginally around 930 in successive censuses. But it seems an increment in sex ratio is increasing from last census. The main reason behind it that Govt. has taken some serious step to remove or control the education system and also introduce many schemes especially for girls.

Year	Sex Ratio(Female per thousand male)	Population in Millions
1901	972	238.3
1911	964	252.1
1921	935	251.3
1931	950	279.0
1941	945	318.7
1951	946	361.1
1961	941	439.2
1971	930	548.2
1981	934	683.3
1991	927	846.4
2001	933	1028.7
2011	943	1210.8
Source: census of India(1901 to 2011)		



The sex ratio 2011 shows that there is an upward trend from census 2001 data. Since decades in India has seen a decrease in sex ratio, but the last few decades there has been a slightly increase in it. The major reason of the decrease in female birth ratio in India is considered to be the violent treatment meted out of the girl child at the birth time. Though the sex ratio is moving up from last 20 years, but there are still some states where the sex ratio is miserable. Below table presents the state wise sex ratio according to latest census.

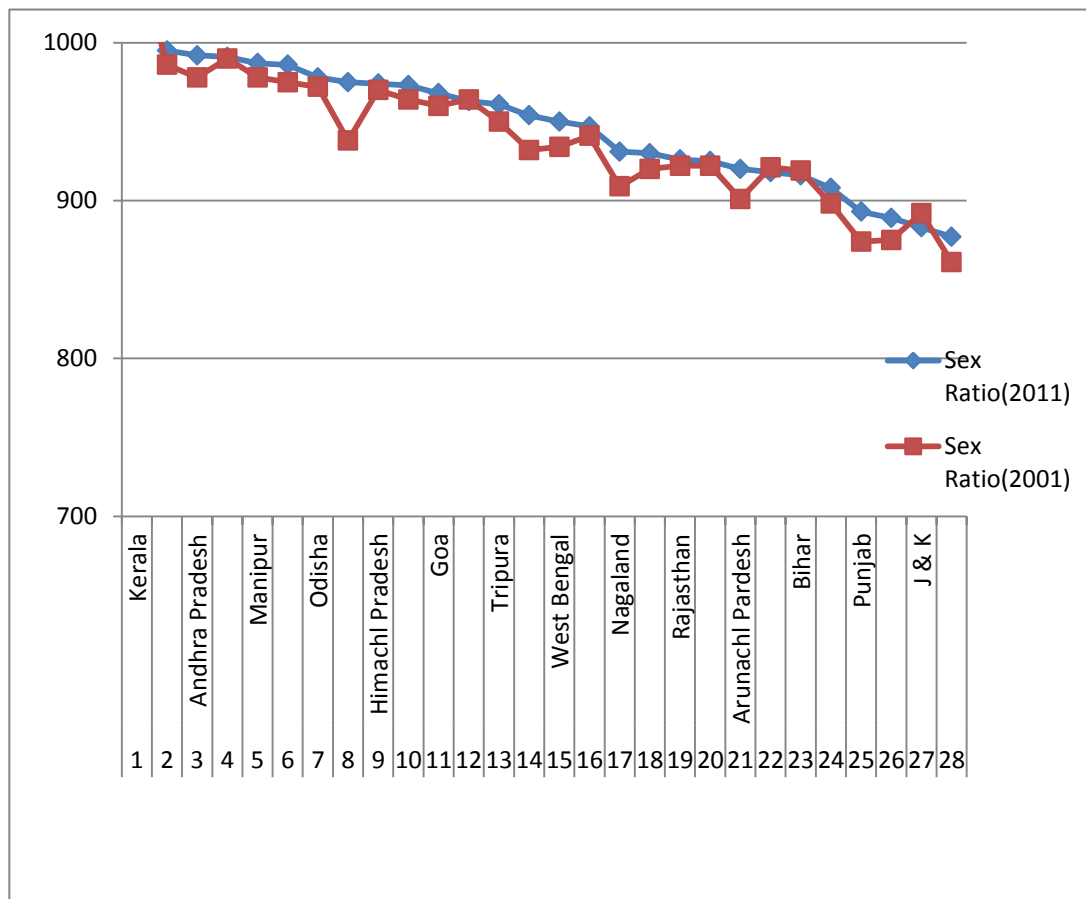
### 1.1.5 State-wise Sex Ratio of India

In India there are 29 states exist at present. But data of district Telangana is not available so the below table consist sex ratio of 28 states.

<b>Table 1.4: State wise Sex Ratio(2001 and 2011)</b>			
Rank	State	Sex Ratio(2011)	Sex Ratio(2001)
1	Kerala	1084	1058
2	Tamilnadu	995	986
3	Andhra Pradesh	992	978
4	Chatisgarh	991	990
5	Manipur	987	978
6	Meghalaya	986	975
7	Odisha	978	972
8	Mizoram	975	938
9	Himachl Pradesh	974	970
10	Karnataka	973	964
11	Goa	968	960
12	Uttarakhand	963	964
13	Tripura	961	950
14	Assam	954	932
15	West Bengal	950	934
16	Jharkhand	947	941
17	Nagaland	931	909
18	Madhya Pradesh	930	920
19	Rajasthan	926	922
20	Maharastra	925	922
21	Arunachl Pardesh	920	901
22	Gujrat	918	921
23	Bihar	916	919
24	Uttar Pradesh	908	898
25	Punjab	893	874
26	Sikkim	889	875
27	J & K	883	892
28	Haryana	877	861

Table 1.4 is showing that Kerala is the only state in which sex ratio remain highest from last decades. In most of the state there is a positive growth rate in sex ratio from last states such as Mizoram, West Bengal, Taminladu, Andhra prades and Punjab etc. But some selected state also have negative growth rate like uttarakhand, Bihar Jammu and Kashmir. Between all the states Haryana is having lowest sex ratio from last census. This rank shows that status of female is not good at all in this state.

**Figure 1.4: State wise Sex Ratio (2001 and 2011)**



### **1.1.6 Women in Haryana**

Haryana is one of the developed, prosperous and wealthy states of our economy which located in north India. It was formed on 1 november,1966. It has basically agrarian economy and about 60% population is dependent upon agriculture. The state is the witness of green revolution and a major contributor of food grains along Punjab. In per capita production and availability of cereals and milk, Haryana ranks second only to Punjab amongst the Indian states. It also has a sound industrial base manufactures the largest number of tractors amongst the states in India. With all these positive aspects Haryana gets lowest rank in sex ration from last decades. As per the 2011 Census, Haryana has a total population of 25,353,081 , previously it was 21,144,564 in the 2001 Census. Out of the total population of Haryana, the population of male are 13,505,130 and female are 11,847,951. The Sex Ratio in Haryana is 877 for each 1000 male. In the last census of 2001, the sex ratio was 861 per 1000 males in Haryana. The child sex ratio is 830 per 1000 males and has decreased as compared to 964 in the 2001 census. The female literacy in Haryana is 65.94% according to census 2011 which has been increased to 55.73%. The condition of women is not good in Haryana, there are many problems which are faced by women at present, like female feticide, issues related with inter-caste marriage, Khaph panchayat, financial dependency on men, dowry system etc.

There are 21 districts in Haryana. The socioeconomic status of women is almost low in all very state. In some part of Haryana women is empowered like Faridabad, Ambala, Yamunanagar but it is worse in southern part of Haryana. Mahendergarh district is one of them where women are not enjoying their all rights. Sex ratio in Mahendergarh is 894 and the literacy rate is 65%.In this area women is more productive and working than man. She works whole day in fields and takes care of their family in responsible manner, but this work is not included in GDP so they not get respect and attention from their family as well as society. The present study focuses on the socio economic status of women in Mahendergarh.

## **1.2 Rational of the Study**

The position that the women hold in a society gives an indication of the level of the social justice in that particular society. The socioeconomic status of women is the position which they attain as a result of the various norms, beneficial and obligations in the society. It is often found that the women are more vulnerable section of the society relative to the male counterpart and they often happen to be last receiver of the opportunities delivered along with the development of the nation. The women in Mahendergarh district are mostly engage in agriculture, household chores and maintaining the household. So, in this regard the study is an attempt to highlights the socio-economic status of women in a district Mahendergarh in which man are head of family and female are treated as a sub ordinate. So, in such a case, it is of utmost important to find out the socio and economical conditions in which they are living in order to bring them towards the stream of development.

## **1.3 Scope of the Study**

This study has been very useful for those individuals and institutions that have interest to know about the status of Mahendergarh District women. This can be also useful for policy maker and planners to national level because they need to know the condition of the problem while devising appropriate policy and program to address the problem. This study may also be helpful for all the researchers, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies, focusing the issue of women's socioeconomic status. The condition of female in all over India is not as much as good; the present study tries to find out the reason behind their low status. So it is easy to upgrade female status by work on those reasons.

## **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

This study aims at following objectives-

1. To analyze the socio economic status of women in Mahendergarh.
2. To construct Women Development Index of Haryana.

## **1.5 Organization of Study**

- Chapter 1-Introduction
- Chapter 2-Review of Literature
- Chapter 3-Research Methodology
- Chapter 4-Socio-economic status of Women in Mahendergarh.
- Chapter 5-Construction of Women Development Index.
- Chapter 6-Findings, Conclusions, Policy Implications and Limitations
- Bibliography
- Appendices