

A STUDY ON THE OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF WOMEN IN KHERI DISTRICT

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Abstract

Using information from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses of India, this study examines the occupational structure of women in Kheri District, Uttar Pradesh. The study reveals the low economic engagement of women, the prevalence of marginal labor, and the socioeconomic and infrastructure barriers that prevent them from obtaining sustainable livelihood possibilities by examining employment trends in rural and urban locations. The study emphasizes block-by-block inequalities throughout the area, changes in occupational patterns, and the growth in tertiary employment. According to the findings, increasing women's economic engagement in the area requires development policies that are both gender-sensitive and multidimensional.

Keywords

Occupational structure, female workforce, marginal workers, rural employment, urban employment, Kheri District, socio-economic development

Reference to this paper should
be made as follows:

Received: 18/09/25
Approved: 25/09/25

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DISTRICT*

Article No.54
RJPSS Apr.25-Sept.25, 2025
Vol. L No. 2, Pg. 453-456

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[https://doi.org/10.31995/
rjpss.2025.v50i02.054](https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2025.v50i02.054)

Introduction

A region's occupational structure offers insight into its demographic dynamics and socioeconomic development. Using information from the 2001 and 2011 Indian Censuses, this study intends to investigate the occupational structure of women in the Kheri District of Uttar Pradesh, India. The study is situated in relation to more general societal determinants like gender norms, urbanization, education, and infrastructure accessibility. Women's involvement in a range of professions, including domestic work, tertiary services, and agriculture, not only shows their socioeconomic empowerment but also the rate of regional development. Although agriculture dominates the Kheri district, changes in occupational roles and the increase in women's marginal employment underscore the necessity for a thorough analysis.

Hypotheses:

H₁ : Women in rural regions primarily work in agriculture and in part-time vocational roles.

H₂ : Compared to rural women, urban women in Kheri District work in more tertiary and service-oriented occupations.

Research Methodology:

The descriptive and comparative technique used in this study is based on secondary data analysis. The 2001 and 2011 Census of India reports, district statistical abstracts, and government-issued Sensex CDs acquired from the Lucknow Census Office are examples of primary data sources. Percentage share computations and temporal comparisons have been used to assess the data, particularly in rural versus urban parts and across several blocks and towns within Kheri. Cultivators, agricultural laborers, domestic industry workers, and other service workers were the four main categories into which occupational duties were divided. To comprehend spatial patterns and socioeconomic disparities, block-wise data has been visualized and analyzed.

Research Procedure:

Comprehensive census data for Kheri District, broken down by gender, occupation, and geography (rural vs. urban), was gathered at the start of the study. Tables were created using the data points to make comparisons clear and simple. Female involvement rates in elementary, secondary, and tertiary employment sectors were evaluated for each block and urban town. We thoroughly examined statistical patterns between 2001 and 2011 to see whether women's workforce participation had increased or decreased. Then, factors that might have an impact were examined,

including urbanization, transportation, education, and sociocultural norms. To draw attention to inequalities and developmental delays, comparisons were done at the district and sub-district levels.

Findings:

1. While still low, female economic participation increased marginally from 4.4% to 8.9% in urban areas and from 9.4% in rural areas to 11.12% in 2011.
2. The majority of women worked in agriculture in rural Kheri. The percentages of cultivators and agricultural laborers changed from 40.7% and 35.8%, respectively, in 2001 to 26.4% and 37.3%, respectively, in 2011, suggesting a shift from ownership to labor.
3. The rate of women's marginal employment was startlingly high. 5.7% of women were marginal workers in rural areas in 2011, which may indicate seasonal labor patterns and underemployment.
4. The tertiary sectors were comparatively more involved in urban regions. In 2011, for example, 74.34% of urban working women worked in "other services."
5. There were glaring regional differences. While Nakaha, Bijua, and Bankeyganj exhibited decline, blocks like Mitauli, Palia, and Mohammadi showed optimistic growth.
6. Higher female employment was hampered by elements like caste norms, male-dominated social structures, lack of education, and inadequate infrastructure.
7. In rural areas, household industry involvement increased somewhat (from 8.2% to 9.93%), indicating the possibility of women making economic contributions from home.
8. Reduced land ownership or operational control by women is indicated by the fall in women's responsibilities as cultivators.
9. Urban regions such as Barwar and Mailani had contradictory patterns, with notable increases in overall female participation accompanied by extremely precarious occupational diversification.
10. While the increase in postsecondary employment is a sign of success, it also highlights the lack of training and education necessary to support long-term work.

Conclusion:

The Kheri District's women's employment situation from 2001 to 2011 illustrates the intricate relationship between advancements and enduring socioeconomic difficulties. Although there has been a slight improvement in quantitative involvement, qualitative transformation—in terms of steady, skilled,

and varied employment—remains insufficient. Rural women continue to be restricted to seasonal, low-paying agricultural jobs with little opportunity for social mobility or education. Although they continue to be underrepresented in formal work, urban women are increasingly entering the service industry. Enhancing educational infrastructure, promoting domestic businesses, investing in transportation and communication, and questioning patriarchal norms through awareness and policy are all important components of improving women's occupational structure in Kheri. Results could be greatly enhanced by government initiatives centered on female literacy, employment reservations, and entrepreneurship training. The only way Kheri District can fully realize the economic potential of its female population is through gender-sensitive, integrated development.

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