

Odisha, one of the fastest growing states in India was the first to adopt the practice of gender budgeting. Despite some progressive gender centric socio-economic policy measures taken by the Government of Odisha, the state needs to create an appropriate socio-economic environment for women by making different interventions in livelihood generation, addressing domestic violence and increasing access to education. The state government should ensure strict implementation of laws namely, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT).

Odisha, home to 42 million people, is the 11th most populous state in India. According to Census of India 2011, a substantial proportion of the population (40 percent) belong to the disadvantaged communities (22.8 percent Scheduled Tribes and 17.1 percent Scheduled Castes). Odisha has made impressive progress on economic and human development indicators in the recent years. The state remains a better performer among all the major states in the current decade. Its real growth rate¹ averaged an impressive 7 percent as against 6.8 percent at the national level in last six years. In the financial year 2016-17, Odisha witnessed a double-digit real growth rate of 10.4%. During 2017-18 the state has registered a growth rate of 7.14% at 2011-12 prices, which surpassed the all India growth rate of 6.5%.²

Despite high revenue and fiscal deficits, Government of Odisha has put adequate attention to the development sector which is also reflected in Odisha's much higher development expenditure (18.4 percent of GSDP) compared to the national average of development expenditure (12.5 percent). Higher priority to the development sector, in turn, reflected in excellent progress in most of the development indicators, related to health, education, gender, etc. As a result, the gap between Odisha and all India, regarding most of the development indicators, have narrowed down.

Despite being a resource-rich state and witnessing higher growth rate in the recent years, around 35.7 percent of the total population (SC-41.4% & ST-63.5%) in Odisha still lives below the poverty line. Approximately 80 percent of the population is subject to some form of deprivation.³ The state still lags behind the national average on many significant development indicators, especially on women's empowerment. This policy brief highlights some of the achievements of Odisha towards gender-inclusive

TABLE 1: FISCAL SITUATION OF ODISHA

INDICATORS	ODISHA	ALL STATES' AVERAGE
REVENUE DEFICIT AS % OF GSDP/GDP IN 2016-17	-1.0	-0.1
GROSS FISCAL DEFICIT AS % OF GSDP/GDP IN 2016-17	3.8	3.0
PER CAPITA STATE & NATIONAL INCOME (INR) IN 2016-17, AT CONSTANT PRICES	61678	82269
DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE AS % OF GSDP/GDP IN 2016-17	18.4	12.5
EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS RATIO TO AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE (%), 2016-17	14.7	15.6
EXPENDITURE ON MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH AS RATIO TO AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE (%), 2016-17	5.0	4.9

Source: State Finances- A study of Budgets of 2016-17, RBI & Odisha Economic Survey 2017-18

development. It also discusses some of the key areas of gender development, where the state is not performing well and proposes a set of policy recommendations to help the women in the state to reap the benefit of economic growth.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The state has witnessed an overwhelming increase of 49.8 percentage points in total institutional births compared to 40.6 percentage points at all-India level in the period 2005-06 to 2015-16. The most commendable achievement has been for the Scheduled Tribes with their institutional births increasing from 11.7 percent in

RECOMMENDATIONS



IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS THE PC & PNDT CELL SHOULD BE INCREASED JUDICIOUSLY AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY FOLLOWED TO PREVENT UNDERUTILIZATION OF FUND SANCTIONED FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER PC & PNDT ACT. NECESSARY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE CONVICTION UNDER THE CASES WHICH ARE REGISTERED UNDER PC & PNDT ACT.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA SHOULD ACCORD HIGH PRIORITY TO THE SITUATION OF WORSENING CHILD SEX RATIO IN THE DISTRICTS OF KHURDA AND CUTTACK AND BRING THEM UNDER EITHER BIJU KANYA RATNA YOJNA OR BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO SCHEME (BBBPS). THE DECLINING TREND OF BUDGETARY SUPPORT TOWARDS BBBPS SHOULD BE REVERSED AND INCREASED TO ENSURE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE SCHEME.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA SHOULD ENSURE THAT WOMEN WHO ARE CONNECTED THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS (SHG) ARE TRAINED IN DIFFERENT ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES, AND ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED TO THEM THROUGH THE SHG STRUCTURE OF ODISHA LIVELIHOOD MISSION, MISSION SHAKTI, ETC. SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL AID SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THESE INSTITUTIONS FOR DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS TO THE SHGS.



APPROPRIATE POLICY MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN WORKERS IN MGNREGA TO AN EQUAL LEVEL AS MALE WORKERS.



TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF GROSS UNDER-REPORTING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES, A MONITORING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMED AT VILLAGE/HABITAT LEVEL CONSISTING OF ANGANWADI WORKERS, TEACHERS, LOCAL BODIES, ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS AND WOMEN FROM THE COMMUNITY WHO COULD PROVIDE NECESSARY HELP TO THE VICTIMS IN REPORTING THE CASE TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.



THE CAPACITIES OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (KGBV) SHOULD BE INCREASED AND ADDITIONAL KGBV SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN REST OF THE DISTRICTS TO ACCOMMODATE THE OUT OF SCHOOL GIRLS IN THE STATE. ALL THE KGBVS SHOULD STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN TO PREVENT UNDERUTILIZATION OF SANCTIONED FUND.



THE GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA SHOULD EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF THE SCHEME OF "STRENGTHENING OF EDUCATION AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBE GIRLS IN LOW LITERACY DISTRICTS" ACROSS THE STATE AND SHOULD INCLUDE NABRANGPUR AND KORAPUT DISTRICT IN THE SCHEME ON A PRIORITY BASIS. THE BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE COMPLEXES SHOULD BE INCREASED JUDICIOUSLY.

2005-06 to 70.7 percent in 2015-16. Also, the percentage of mothers who received financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) for births delivered in a health facility was 72.6 percent in the state as compared to 36.4 percent at all-India level in the year 2015-16.⁴

- The government of Odisha has started a scheme, namely Biju Kanya Ratna, which is being implemented in the state specifically in the districts having the lowest child sex ratio (Angul, Dhenkanal, and Ganjam), from the year 2016-17, to tackle the declining child sex ratio. The scheme aims to prohibit gender-biased sex selection, ensure education and retention of the girl child in school as well as to sensitize the community and all stakeholders towards the value of girl child.⁵
- The Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) functioning under the aegis of Department of Panchayati Raj of the state has produced remarkable results by enhancing the socio-economic condition of the rural poor through the

promotion of sustainable community-based institutions entirely constituted and led by women. Around 1.8 million women are connected with OLM through 0.16 million Self Help Groups spread across 24 districts, 88 blocks and 1498 gram panchayats in the state. Some of the major components of OLM through which the women benefit are Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna, Roshni Program, etc.⁶

LOWLIGHTS:

A. DECLINING SEX RATIO

The Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Years) at 941 in Odisha is higher than the national level average of 919. However, Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years) in the state has steadily declined in the last three decades (See Figure 1). Child sex ratio has dropped in 21 out of 30 districts of the State by 1 to 49 points with highest decline in Nayagarh followed by Dhenkanal and Angul during 2001-11 (See Table 3).

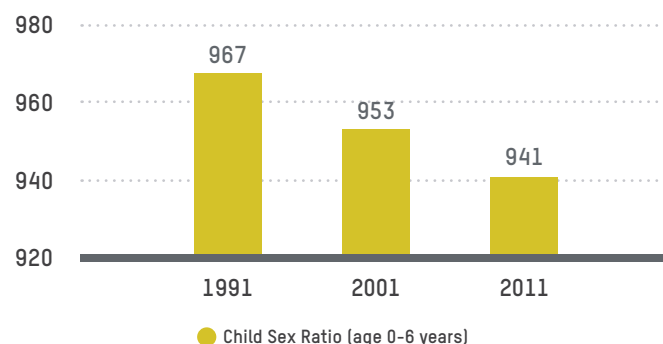
TABLE 2: SOME GENDER EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS IN ODISHA

INDICATOR	ODISHA	INDIA
SEX RATIO (FEMALES PER 1000 MALES), 2011	978	943
CHILD SEX RATIO (FEMALES PER 1000 MALES), 2011	941	919
WOMEN AGE 20-24 YEARS MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18 YEARS (%), 2015-16	21.3	26.8
MEDIAN AGE AT TIME OF FIRST MARRIAGE OF WOMEN AGED 20-49 YEARS (IN YEARS), 2015-16	19.9	19.0
PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (IN PERCENTAGE), 2015-16	34.8	28.8
THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (IN PERCENTAGE POINTS) BETWEEN 2005-06 AND 2015-16	1.4	7.6
WOMEN OWNING A HOUSE AND/OR LAND (ALONE OR JOINTLY WITH OTHERS) (%), 2015-16	46.5	38.4
WOMEN HAVING A BANK OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT THAT THEY THEMSELVES USE (%), 2015-16	56.0	53.0
FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, RURAL, 2011-12	35.0	25.3
GENDER GAP IN LITERACY RATE (IN PERCENTAGE POINTS), 2011	17.6	16.25

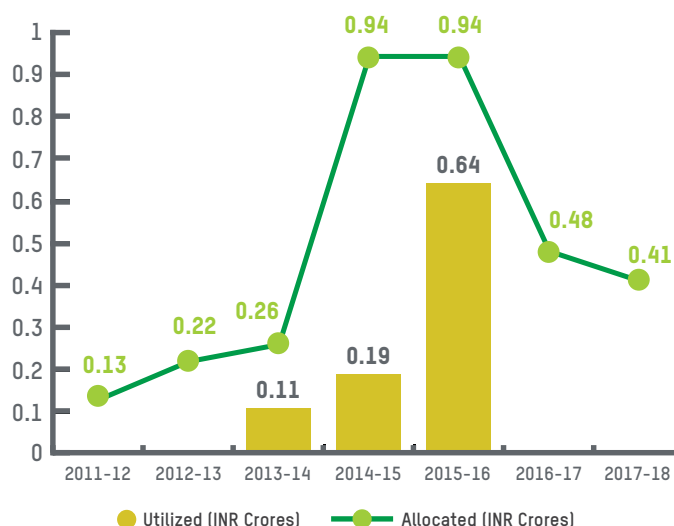
Source: Census 2011, NFHS 4, Economic Survey of India & Odisha, World Bank

Female foeticide is one of the major reasons behind the lesser number of girls in the age group of 0-6 years in the state.⁷ The predominant patriarchal, social, cultural and religious set up based on the foundation that the family line runs through the male line of descent has contributed extensively to the secondary status of women in Odisha as well as in India. This has led to strong desire to avoid the birth of a girl child in the family resulting in a decline in the child sex ratio at an alarming rate mostly in developed regions e.g. coastal districts. The social dimensions joined with the modern technology for pre-natal sex determination has prompted for selective abortion of female fetuses. Also, data from National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4, has established the fact that if a pregnant woman with no sons goes through an ultrasound test during her pregnancy, the outcome of the pregnancy is most likely to be a male child.⁸ This indicates the practice of sex-selective abortion.

To check this heinous practice, the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 was enacted and amended in 2003 as the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act. The act prohibits sex selection before or after conception and regulates the use of preconception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques so that these are not misused for sex selection. To oversee monitoring of PC & PNDT act implementation in the state a dedicated Institutional Mechanism in the form of PC & PNDT cell was established in 2009. The PC & PNDT cell in the state is supported through National Health Mission. The data on financial allocations and its utilization for implementation of the act in the state shows that the financial allocation has declined considerably in the last few years and also a significant amount of the sanctioned fund remains unutilized (See Figure 2).

FIGURE 1: TRENDS IN CHILD SEX RATIO


Source: Census of India 2001 & 2011

FIGURE 2: ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FOR PC & PNDT ACTIVITIES IN ODISHA


Source: Lok Sabha, Parliament of India⁹ & Odisha NHM PIP¹⁰

During the period 2011-16, there were 63 court cases registered under the PC & PNDT Act 1994.¹¹ However, not a single conviction was made under the act in the same period.¹²

It is recommended that financial support towards the PC & PNDT cell should be increased judiciously and annual work plan should be thoroughly followed to prevent underutilization of fund sanctioned for activities under PC & PNDT Act. Necessary action should be taken to ensure conviction under the cases which are registered under PC & PNDT Act.

The Odisha government is implementing Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme (BBBPS) in Nayagarh district to address the worsening situation of child sex ratio in the district. The districts under BBBPS are selected on the parameter of low Child Sex Ratio (CSR) as per Census 2011 covering all States/UTs with at least one district in each state. The criteria/norms of selection for the districts is the fact that the districts should have a CSR below the National Average of 918 or if above 918 then must show a declining trend.¹³ According to this parameter, there are six districts in Odisha where the CSR is below the national average of 918 and is also showing declining trend since Census 2001 (See table 3). Ganjam (908), Angul (889) and Dhenkanal (877) are already covered under Biju Kanya Ratna Yojna. However, remaining two districts, i.e., Khurda (916) and Cuttack (914) which have shown a decline of 25 points and 10 points respectively in CSR over 2001-11 and have CSR below national average remains uncovered under any specific scheme other than the general PC & PNDT Act. The revised budgetary estimates for BBBPS in Odisha was INR 50 lakhs in 2016-17 which was reduced to just INR 15 lakhs in the budgetary estimates (BE) of 2017-18 and INR 15 lakh in BE of 2018-19.

It is recommended that the Government of Odisha should accord high priority to the situation of worsening Child Sex Ratio in the districts of Khurda and Cuttack and bring them under either Biju Kanya Ratna Yojna or Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme. The declining trend of budgetary support towards BBPS should be reversed and increased to ensure proper functioning of the scheme.

B. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets. Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth.

i. ACCESS TO MONEY AND CREDIT: According to NFHS 4, in Odisha, a mere 31.1 percent of women in the age 15-49 years have some money that they can decide how to use as compared to 41.1 percent at all India level. **Also, the percentage of women having access to money has declined from 36.2 percent in 2005-06 to 31.1 percent in 2015-16.**

Just 66.6 percent of women in the age 15-49 years in the state have heard about any microcredit program (e.g., Rashtriya Mahila Kosh) and merely 14.2 percent have taken any loan from a micro-credit scheme. However, given the poverty status of the state, where 63.5 percent of the tribal population and 41.4 percent of the scheduled caste population is placed below the poverty line in rural areas, the coverage of micro-credit facilities is significantly low.

'Mission Shakti' a Self-Help Mission by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Odisha for empowering women through the promotion of Women's Self Help Groups (WSHGs) was launched in the State on 8th March 2001. The Mission aimed at empowering women through formation and promotion of one lakh Women's Self Help Groups over a period of four years, 2001 to 2005, and strengthening the already existing ones by providing them financial and technical support for capacity building. In 2016-17, Mission Shakti was revived for which an amount of INR 95.2 crores was allocated out of which 92.8 crores was spent by March 2017. However, in the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19, no financial allocations have been made for Mission Shakti.

GENDER BUDGETING IN ODISHA:

The Government of Odisha has initiated the process of gender budgeting in 2004-05 and is the first state in India to practice gender budgeting. During the initial years, the State Government has been preparing the Gender Budget Statement only for 100 percent women-centric schemes. However, the Gender Budget Statement was brought out both in Part-A (schemes in which 100% provision is for women) and Part-B (where the allocations for women constitute at least 30% of the provision) during the year 2016-17.

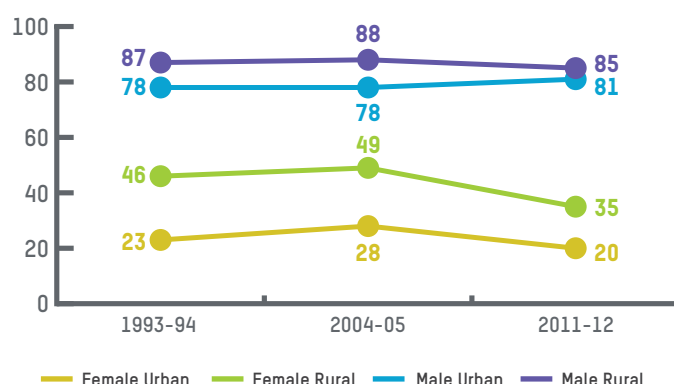
The gross budgetary allocation to schemes in which 100 percent provision is for women has increased from INR 1703.8 crores in 2017-18 to INR 3248.5 crores in 2018-19. However, the gross budgetary support to schemes where women constitute at-least 30 percent of provision has reduced by INR 594.6 crores from INR 30907.32 crores in 2017-18 to INR 30312.7 crores in 2018-19.

The Government of Odisha should ensure that women who are connected through SHGs are trained in different entrepreneurial activities, and adequate financial support is provided to them through the SHG structure of Odisha Livelihood Mission, Mission Shakti, etc. Sufficient financial aid should be submitted to these institutions for disbursement of loans to the SHGs.

ii. PARTICIPATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES: The Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in Odisha at 33 percent is slightly better than 31 percent at all India level. However, the FLFPR in Odisha decreased by 14 percentage points in rural areas and 8 percentage points in urban areas respectively over the period 2004-05 to 2011-12. But, there was no major change in the Male LFPR over the same period [See Figure 3].

The decline in FLFPR is also reflected in the data from NFHS (3 & 4) which shows that the percentage of employed women aged 15-49 years fell from 36.1 percent in 2004-05 to 27.5 percent in 2015-16. Another very interesting transition which has happened over 2004-05 to 2015-16 is that while the percentage of women aged 15-49 years employed in agriculture fell from 66.8 percent to 34.2 percent, the percentage of women employed in non-agriculture occupation increased from 33.2 percent to 65.8 percent. Also, the percentage of employed women earning in cash has risen from 50 percent in 2005-06 to 74.8 percent in 2015-16 [See Figure 4]. This shows that the transition of women from agriculture to non-agriculture activities has benefitted them as a significantly higher proportion of women are being paid in cash for their work.

FIGURE 3: DECLINE IN FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE IN ODISHA

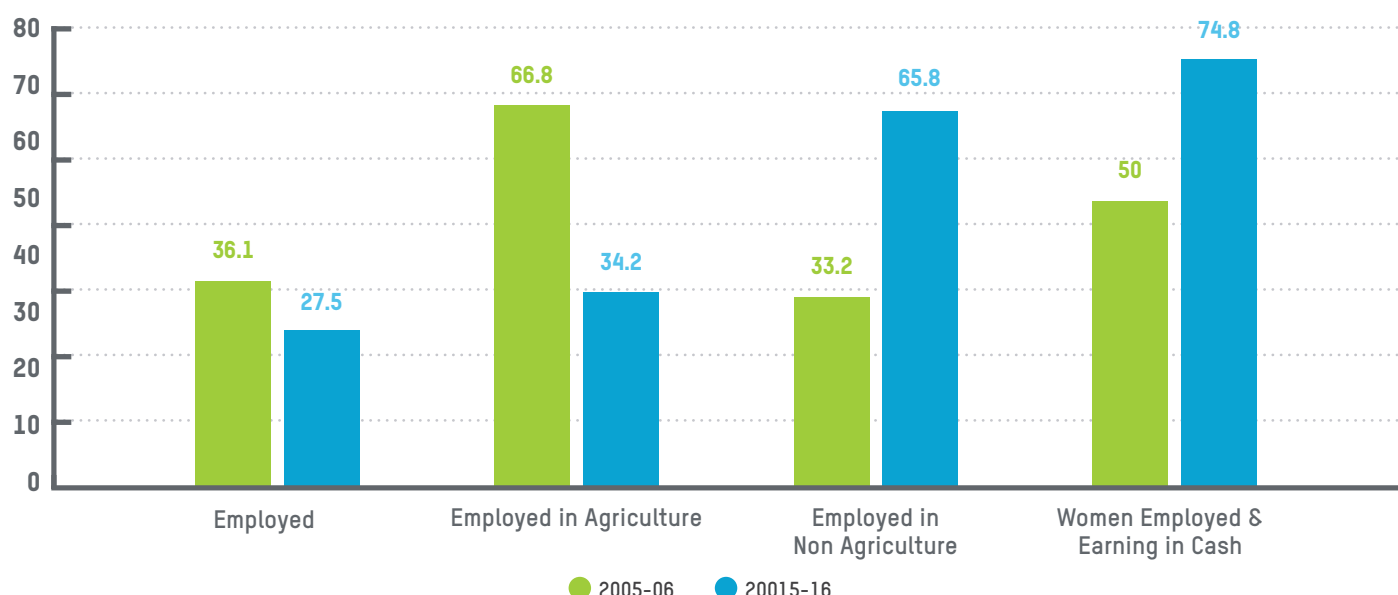


Source: State Brief on Odisha, World Bank ¹⁴

The transition of women workers from farm to non-farm employment has also happened due to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which guarantees demand based 100 days of employment in rural areas. However, even in the state-led MGNREGA, the participation of women workers is abysmally low. The person-days generated by women workers under MGNREGA in Odisha was just 39.8 percent in 2016-17.

The women who are employed for cash are more likely to be independent and can participate in the decision-making process regarding their health care, major household purchases or visits to her family or relatives. Around 65.4 percent of the women who were employed

FIGURE 4: PERCENTAGE OF CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN AGED 15-49 YEARS IN EMPLOYMENT



Source: Odisha State Report, NFHS 3 & 4

for cash in Odisha participated in all the three major household decisions mentioned above as compared to just 59.4 percent of unemployed women, as noted the NFHS 4 Odisha report.

Appropriate policy measures should be taken to increase the participation of women workers in MGNREGA to an equal level as male workers.

iii. OWNERSHIP OF ASSET: Ownership, access, and control over assets by women are vital to their empowerment. The land is considered to be one of the most important assets because of its higher economic value and its bearing on social security, especially for women. According to NFHS 4, just 46.5 percent of women aged 15-49 years in Odisha own land alone or jointly with someone. The ownership of individual land holdings by women is even more meagre in Odisha. Mere 3.3 percent of women in Odisha own individual land holdings and out of the total individual land holdings owned by women 74.8 percent was marginal land holdings.

The government of Odisha is implementing a scheme named Vasundhara which aims to provide homestead plots to homeless families. However, the scheme doesn't mention specifically who will own the title of the land, i.e., husband or wife.

C. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

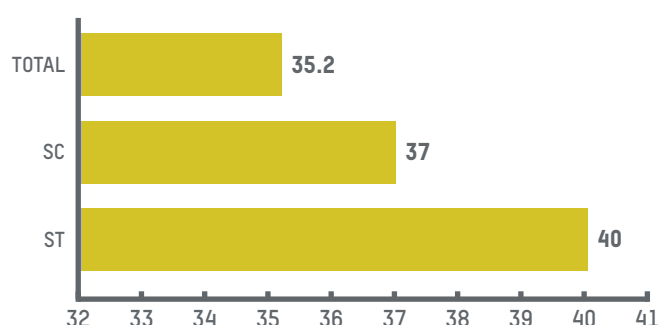
Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a violation of fundamental human rights and one of the most persistent forms of gender inequality and discrimination. The cases of VAWG (physical/sexual) among women aged 15-49 years (Married/Un-Married) at 34.8 percent is on a higher side in Odisha as compared to 27.8 percent at all India level. Even the decline in cases of VAWG has been at just 1.4 percentage points in the state as compared to 7.6 percentage points at all India level in the period 2005-

06 to 2015-16. A stark difference in the incidence of domestic violence committed by a husband is observed between rural (39.4 percent) and urban (25.7 percent) areas in Odisha.

The NFHS 4 (2015-16) also collected data on ever-married women aged 15-49 years who have been subjected to domestic violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. Around 26 percent of women reported that they had been often/sometimes subjected to domestic violence in the past 12 months. As per Census 2011, there were a total of 11.3 million women in the age group of 15-49 years in Odisha.¹⁵ That means in the year 2014-15 alone there were at least 2.9 million (26% of 11.3 million) who faced domestic violence by their husbands. However, as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) records, the number of registered cases against domestic violence in the year 2014-15 was just 3114 (Cruelty by Husband and Relatives-Sec. 498-A IPC). Surprisingly, there was not a single case registered under "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005" in the state in the year 2014-15.¹⁶ However, the Odisha State Resource Centre for Women functioning under the Department of Women and Child Development in the state reported 1087 incidence of domestic violence in its annual report of the year 2015-16.¹⁷ It is evident thus that there is gross underreporting of cases of domestic violence. The underreporting of domestic violence cases is also reflected in the data collected by NFHS on the proportion of women who have suffered from domestic violence and seeking help. Among all the women in age 15-49 years who have ever faced domestic violence in their life, 76.3 percent never sought help and never told anyone about it, and mere 12.5 percent of the victims sought help. Among the women who sought help, 67.3 percent sought help from their own family, 20.9 percent from their husband's family, just 2.5 percent sought help from Police, and a mere 0.7 percent sought any help from a lawyer.

The government of Odisha is implementing a wide range of programmes/schemes/initiatives to address domestic violence including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA). Along with PWDVA, a 24-hour Women's Helpline number (181) is now available in Odisha that provides rescue information, first point contact counselling, and referral services to any woman in distress across the state. One Stop Centre to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence is also operational in the state.¹⁸ However, until March 2017, just one, one-stop center was functional in Odisha in Bhubaneswar which is not adequate given the remoteness of terrains in the state. Further, if we look at the budgetary support to these schemes, there has been very little allocation as compared to the incidences of domestic violence in the state. In the year 2015-16, INR 2.15 crores were allocated

FIGURE 5: PERCENTAGE OF EVER MARRIED WOMEN IN THE AGE 15-49 YEARS WHO HAVE EVER SUFFERED FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Source: NFHS 4

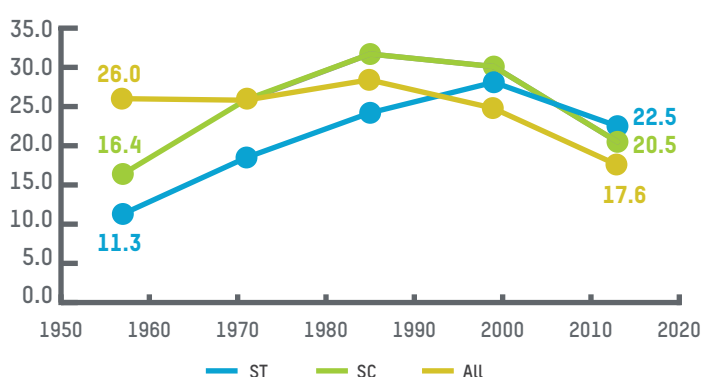
for Odisha State Women Commission which further increased to INR 2.6 crores in 2016-17. **However, in the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, no budgetary allocation has been made to the State Commission for Women which will adversely affect the overall functioning of the commission.** There has been no budgetary allocations in the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 either towards the already existing One Stop Centre or for the establishment of new One Stop Centres.¹⁹

The state also has formulated and adopted the state Policy for Women in 2014.²⁰ The policy has focused on providing safety, security and protection to women through strategies like sensitizing functionaries like the police and judiciary, set up one-stop crisis centre, providing free legal aid, counselling services, etc. However, the policy has not translated into practice since its adoption four years ago.²¹

Given the overall scenario, it is recommended that:

- **A unified database on domestic violence cases should be maintained in the state as it will help in the proper assessment of the problem and taking adequate policy measures.**
- **To tackle the problem of gross under-reporting of domestic violence cases, a monitoring committee should be formed at village/habitat level consisting of Anganwadi workers, teachers, local bodies, organizations, NGOs and women from the community who could provide necessary help to the victims in reporting the case to appropriate authorities.**
- **The coverage of One Stop Centre should be increased in the state by opening new centres across the state, and the budgetary support to the One-Stop Centre and State Women's Commission, which are in place to check and curb domestic violence in the state should be increased on a priority basis.**

FIGURE 6: GENDER GAP IN LITERACY RATE IN ODISHA



Source: Census of India ²²

D. ACCESS TO EDUCATION:

The female literacy rate has improved significantly in Odisha from 50.5 percent to 64 percent (up to 13.5 percentage points) in the period 2001-2011. Although the state outstripped the increase seen in the Indian average which went from 53.7 percent to 65.5 percent (up to 11.8 percentage points), the absolute female literacy rate in the state remains one of the lowest in the country. **The female literacy rate for tribals in Odisha at 41.2 percent as compared to 64 percent for the total women in the state is the lowest female tribal literacy rate in India after Jammu & Kashmir.**

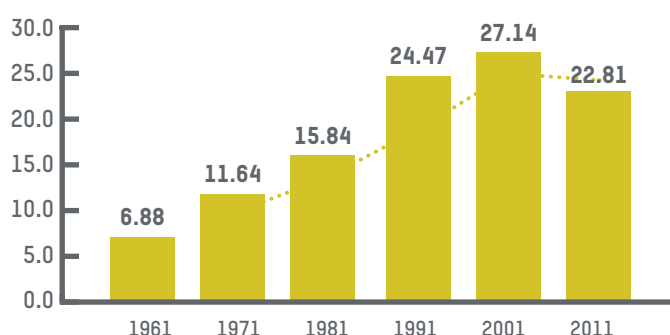
More importantly, the gender gap (Male-Female) in literacy rate has widened in Odisha since the 1960s for SC and ST categories. However, for total female population, a declining trend in the gender gap in literacy rate can be observed (See Figure 6).

The difference between literacy rate for total female population and the tribal female population has significantly widened since 1961 in the state (See Figure 7).

In Odisha, the tribal female literacy rate is worst in the districts with a high tribal population. Also, the districts with high tribal population and low ST female literacy rates have a significantly larger proportion of females in the age 5-29 years who had not stepped into the education system at all (See Figure 8).

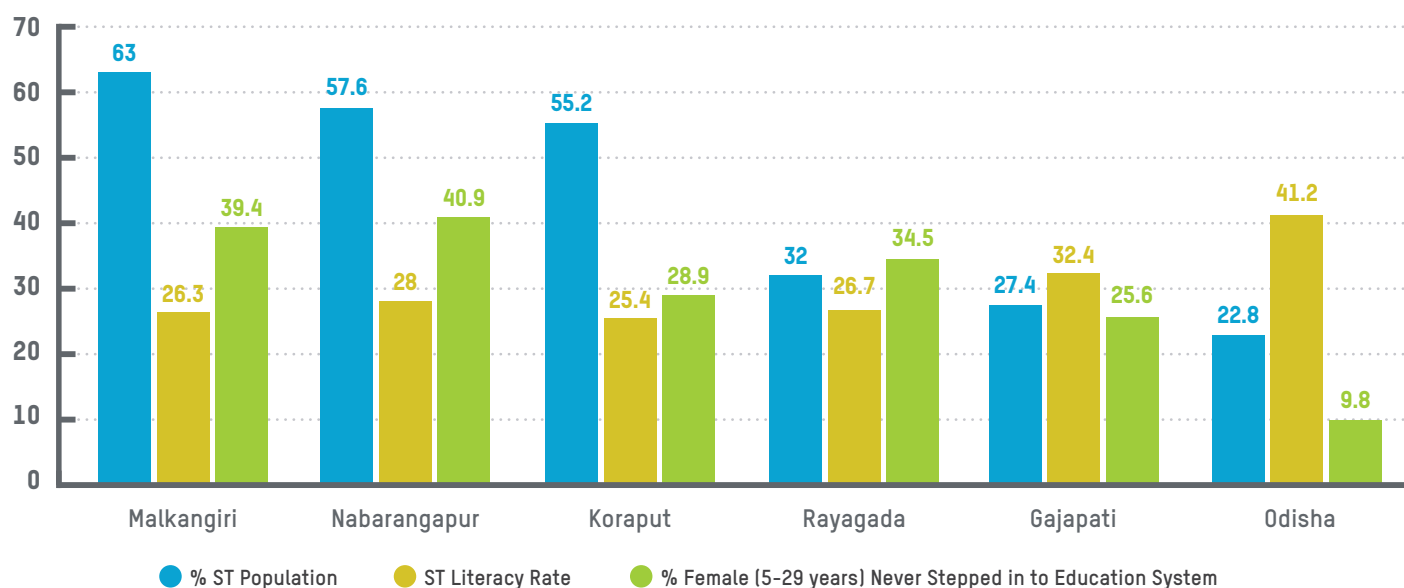
The dropout rate of female students from school education in Odisha increases with the level of education. **The female students from tribal category have considerably higher dropout rates for primary and upper primary education.** However, the dropout rate in secondary education is significantly high for all the social groups in the state (See Figure 9).

FIGURE 7: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ST FEMALE AND TOTAL FEMALE LITERACY RATE IN ODISHA



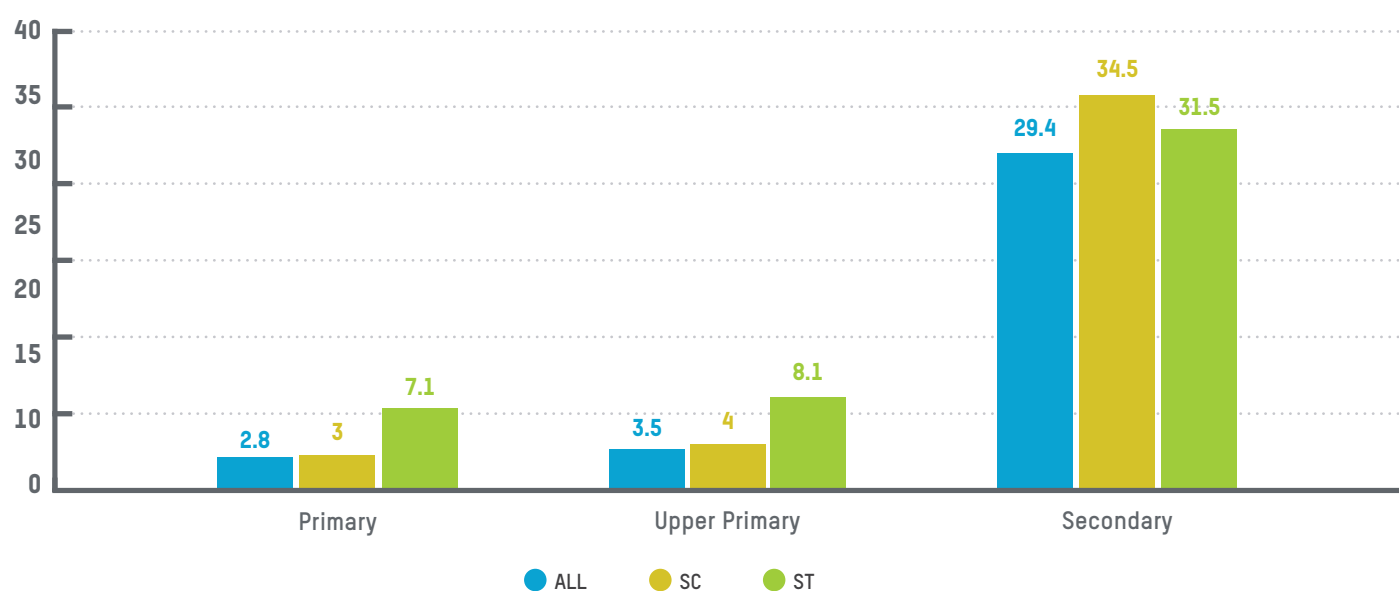
Source: Census of India ²³

FIGURE 8: DISTRICT WITH VERY LOW ST FEMALE LITERACY RATE IN ODISHA



Source: Census of India 2011²⁴ & NSS 71st Round²⁵

FIGURE 9: AVERAGE ANNUAL DROP OUT RATE OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN ODISHA



Source: U-DISE 2015-16²⁶

The Government of Odisha is implementing a wide range of schemes/policies to improve the female education indicators in the state with particular emphasis on the socially marginalized groups. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), a residential school programme is being implemented in the educationally backward blocks²⁷ of the state to provide a dynamic framework to accelerate girl's education programme. The target beneficiaries under KGBV are the girls belonging to

SC/ST/OBC/Minority groups who are dropouts of upper primary school.²⁸ During 2016-17, a total of 182 KGBVs in 23 districts of the state were operational, benefiting 18,245 girls.²⁹ However, the 182 KGBVs are not adequate to accommodate 25090 out of school girls³⁰ from SC/ST/OBC/Minority groups in the age group 11-14 years (eligibility for KGBV).

Also, a significant amount of fund sanctioned to KGBV remains unutilized every year. The Project Approval

Board of KGBV approved an amount of INR 83.5 crores and INR 76.7 crores for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively out of which just INR 51.47 crores and INR 52.7 crores was spent in the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.³¹

It is recommended that the capacities of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) should be increased and additional KGBV should be established in rest of the districts to accommodate the out of school girls in the state. All the KGBVs should strictly adhere to the Annual Work Plan to prevent underutilization of sanctioned fund.

The Government of Odisha is also implementing a scheme specifically for “Strengthening of Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in low Literacy Districts.” The program aims at the establishment of educational complexes in villages inhabited by primitive tribal groups. The scheme aims to bridge the gap in literacy level between the general female population and tribal women and to reduce drop-outs at the elementary level. There are a total of 19 educational complexes spread across 12 districts in the state which are currently catering to 5561 tribal girls by providing them elementary education with hostel facilities. However, the number and capacity of these educational complexes are insufficient given the situation of education among tribal girls in the state. More importantly, in the district of Nabrangpur and Koraput which have some of the lowest literacy rates in the state (see Figure 8), there is no such educational complex. Also, the funds allocated towards the functioning of these educational complexes has reduced from INR 9.8 crores in 2016-17 to INR 5.6 crores in 2017-18.³²

The Government of Odisha should expand the coverage of the scheme of “Strengthening of Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts” across the state and should include Nabrangpur and Koraput districts in the scheme on a priority basis. The budgetary support for proper functioning of the complexes should be increased judiciously.

The analysis presented in this policy brief indicates that Government of Odisha has taken several women-centric policy initiatives. However, the implementation, as well as targeting of these policies to the right constituencies, remains a challenge. Even the recently drafted State Policy for Women 2014 faces implementation issues. Thus, if the state is to pass on the benefit of economic development to women for making their life better, there is an urgent need to take relevant policy measures as suggested in this brief in the area of education, livelihood generation, legislation for protection of women’s like PWDVA, PC&PNDT act, BBBPS, etc.

TABLE 3: DISTRICT WISE CHANGE IN CHILD SEX RATIO DURING 2001-11

NAME OF THE DISTRICT	CHILD SEX RATIO		
	2001	2011	(INCREASE+/ DECREASE -)
NAYAGARH	904	855	-49
DHENKANAL	925	877	-48
ANGUL	937	889	-48
GANJAM	939	908	-31
DEOGARH	956	927	-29
KALAHANDI	984	957	-27
CUTTACK	939	914	-25
SUNDERGARH	970	946	-24
SAMBALPUR	959	940	-19
RAYAGADA	981	965	-16
SUBARNAPUR	967	952	-15
KENDRAPARA	940	926	-14
BOLANGIR	967	955	-12
JAJPUR	937	926	-11
KHURDA	926	916	-10
KANDHAMAL	970	962	-08
JHARSUGUDA	949	943	-06
KORAPUT	983	979	-04
BHADRAK	943	942	-01
BALASORE	944	943	-01
NABARANGAPUR	999	998	-01
BARAGARH	957	957	00
PURI	931	932	1
GAJAPATI	964	967	3
JAGATSINGHPUR	926	929	3
MAYURBHANJA	956	960	4
KEONJHAR	962	967	5
MALKANAGIRI	982	992	10
NUAPADA	969	981	12
BOUDH	966	978	12

Source: CAG of India ³³

NOTES

- ¹ This Real Economic Growth Rate is the rate at which a nation's Gross Domestic product (GDP) changes/grows from one year to another. It takes into account the effects of inflation.
- ² Odisha Economic Survey 2017-18, Government of Odisha, Retrieved from http://pc.odisha.gov.in/Download/Economic_Survey_2017-18.pdf
- ³ Poverty Figures are based on Tendulkar Methodology, 2011 and Deprivation figures are from SECC 2011 which includes deprivation indicators like, landless households deriving their livelihood from manual casual labor, household living in kuccha house, SC/ST household etc.
- ⁴ All India and Odisha State Report, National Family Health Survey 3 & 4
- ⁵ Policy Guidelines, Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana, accessed on 26th May 2018 from http://wcdodisha.gov.in/Application/uploadDocuments/plugin/doc20170530_154045.pdf
- ⁶ NRLM-Odisha MIS accessed on 26th May 2018 from <https://nrlm.gov.in/shgReport.do?methodName=showShgReportForState&reqtrack=mjgZ4IWQd0sUUIcgrHim6G5ph>
- ⁷ Annual Report, Odisha State PC & PNDD Cell, Accessed from http://www.pndtorissa.gov.in/Annual_Report_2012-13.pdf
- ⁸ All India Report (Pg. 203), NFHS 4, MOHSFW
- ⁹ Un-starred question no 2200, Dated 29th July 2016, Answered by Minister of Health and Family Welfare, <http://164.100.47.190/loksabhaquestions/annex/9/AU2200.pdf>
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- ¹¹ Lok Sabha, Parliament of India, Unstarred Question No. 3882 answered on 24th March 2017 by Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Accessed on 29th March 2018 from <http://164.100.47.190/loksabhaquestions/annex/11/AU3882.pdf>
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- ¹⁶ Crime in India 2014, NCRB, Accessed on 4th June 2018 from ncrb.gov.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2014/Table%205.2.pdf
- ¹⁷ Activity Report 2015-16, State Resource Centre for Women, Odisha, accessed on 4th June 2018 from wcdodisha.gov.in/Application/uploadDocuments/plugin/doc20170729_125402.pdf
- ¹⁸ Ibid
- ¹⁹ Finance Department, Government of Odisha, <http://finance.odisha.gov.in/Budget.asp?GL=Budget&PL=1&TL=1&FL=1>
- ²⁰ Odisha State Policy For Women and Girl 2014, MWCD Odisha, accessed on 4th June 2018 from wcdodisha.gov.in/Application/uploadDocuments/plugin/doc20170729_123119.pdf
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- ²² Odisha Economic Survey (2018), Government of Odisha, Accessed on 5th June 2018 from http://pc.odisha.gov.in/Download/Economic_Survey_2017-18.pdf
- ²³ Ibid
- ²⁴ <https://tribal.nic.in/ST/Statement-State-DistrictwiseSTLiteracyRate-edited.pdf>
- ²⁵ Participation and Expenditure on Education in Odisha, NSS 71st Round, Accessed on 5th June 2018 from [www.desorissa.nic.in/pdf/pooling%20report%2071st%20round%20%20\(education\)-website.pdf](http://www.desorissa.nic.in/pdf/pooling%20report%2071st%20round%20%20(education)-website.pdf)
- ²⁶ Accessed on 5th June 2018 from <http://udise.in/Downloads/Publications/Documents/U-DISE-SchoolEducationInIndia-2015-16.pdf>
- ²⁷ List of Educationally Backward Blocks as per Census 2001 where Rural Female Literacy is below 46.13% the Gender Gap is above 21.59% <http://www.dheodisha.gov.in/DHE/PDF/EEBs.pdf>
- ²⁸ Odisha Economic Survey 2017-18
- ²⁹ Ibid
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- ³¹ Annual Activity Report 2017-18, Accessed on 4th June 2018 from www.stscodisha.gov.in/pdf/SSD_Annual_Activity_Report_2017-18.pdf
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