

**GENDER DISPARITY IN LAND OWNERSHIP: ASSESSING THE INDIAN FEMALE-
HEADED HOUSEHOLD SCENARIO**

VATSALA SINGH

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MADRAS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Chennai - 600025

ABSTRACT

India is primarily an agrarian economy. The majority of her population resides in rural areas, a large part of which relies on agriculture for survival. Despite this heavy reliance of the population on the agriculture sector, the sector is struggling. One of the significant reasons identified is gender disparity. The aim of this thesis is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the difference between livelihoods of land owning and landless female headed households in the rural sector nationally and regionally. It further investigates the factors that influence land ownership in female headed households in rural areas. It is established that there is a consistent difference between the two comparison groups in regards to political participation, poverty and income with some regional variation. Land ownership in female-headed households is significantly influenced by caste, bank savings, household agricultural income, and involvement in self-help groups. Consequently, the findings suggest the policies should target the aforementioned factors.

Keywords: Female Headed Households, Land Ownership, Agriculture Sector, Intra-Gender Disparity

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