

# *Gender-based Resource Allocation in Rural Household and Its Impact on Women Development*

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## **ABSTRACT**

Gender-based resource allocation is defined as the distribution of resources within the family among girls and boys according to their gender. The study examined gender-based resource allocation in rural families and its impact on female development. Aim of the study is to understanding gender-based resource allocation and its impact. The researcher chooses 120 respondents to discuss women's development. The study found gender-based resource allocation in the targeted area, with women receiving fewer resources than men. Girls'

growth is hindered by unequal access to resources such as food, clothing, land and property, automobiles, money, savings, and other necessities within their families. Promoting gender-neutral resource allocation in families can lead to a fairer society.

## INTRODUCTION

According to WHO (World Health Organization), “Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.”

“Gender refers to the social differences that are learned, changeable over time, and have wide variations within and between cultures.”

Gender is “Socially constructed roles, activities, behaviours and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men.” Gender-based resource allocation is defined as the distribution of resources within the family among girls and boys according to their gender. The term “gender” is often recognized as “an entry point for the analysis of social inequality between men and women and to identify potential points of intervention thereof”. Both the men and women characterize gender roles and gender directions through their diverse activities and mix them concurring to convention and choice. Gender disparity is seen in men’s and women’s access to resources, status and well-being which generally favour men and it frequently occurs in various social, economical, cultural, political and legal aspects. Gender inequalities between men and women based on gender functions, and treating them differently in terms of social function or the distribution of duties and rewards in society.

Family is the first line of defence or protection especially for children and elderly people. Family is a primary factor in the survival, health, education, development and protection and a link between continuity and change. Inside the family women are the basic unit of family who act as daughter, sister, wife, mother and homemaker. Because of religious

beliefs and sayings; there are strong social and cultural norms that continue power imbalances between men and women. Holding of property house, farms, industries, assets and goods everything is in the hands of men, while women have a very little or no access to it. Resource allocation and discrimination begins in the early stage of life only where a girl child has been provided toys like doll, vessels and kitchen equipments and whereas boy has been provided gun, car and cricket bat etc. (Jonathan, N. 2021) found that female is less educated than male and differences also exist between male and female in terms of material possessions. During the process of socialization various forms of gender discrimination is promoted in the family like girl child playing with dolls, helping mother - sister in the household work or kitchen work are projected as not a man’s arena. Therefore, boys are taught at a young age that being sad and crying is not a good sign of a real man and socialization goes on as a continuous process through various agencies – family, school, media, religion, etc. (Ilahi, N. 2000). Thus, gender-based resource allocation has been divided into eight dimensions – general/community facility, health & services, education, food & nutrition, career development, financial resources, decision-making and recreation. In terms of general facility, basic needs, community facility (park/school and libraries) and land/property it is seen that boys get more resources than women (Chingonikaya, E. E. and Maganga, J. S. 2007). In terms of allocation of health and services boys get proper and fast medical and health related services than girls (Khera, R., et al.2014). In dimension of educational facility boys get easy access to gadgets and pursue

higher studies and gender-based resource allocation in the basic education expenditure and differential enrolment rates for girls (Kingdon, G. G. 2005). In food & nutrition women and girls suffer bias in food expenditure and unequal distribution of nutritious and wholesome diet (Basu, B.2021). In terms of career development increase in economic does not improve in the well-being of all members girls were not getting freedom (O'Laughlin, B. 2007). In dimension of financial resources boys had more access to income, bank account and ATM/debit card than girls (Marinda, P. A. 2006). In terms of decision-making boys get more preference to choose their own decisions and access to resources (Alam, S. 2012).

#### Review –

Zheng, L. (2015) conducted a study and the result shows that sons were given more intra-household resources than daughters.

Basu, B. (2021) conducted a study and the result shows that presence of gender bias in Iran's household expenditure. Findings show that women and girls suffer bias in food expenditure, an important determinant of female health outcomes such as fertility, prenatal and neonatal conditions.

Calvi, R. & Keskar, A. (2021) conducted a study and shows that the share of household consumption expenditure allocated to a woman is strongly associated with the dowry she paid at the time of her marriage.

Jonathan, N. (2021) conducted a study and found that female is less educated than male and differences also exist between male and female in terms of material possessions.

#### Result –

The result shows that nearly 42.5per cent girls were allocated from basic needs, 55per cent girls were allocated from community facilities

(libraries/parks) and only 5per cent girls were having land or property in families which are smaller as compared to boy/male child in the family and 24.16per cent girls were allocated from health care and other related services and 33.3per cent were not getting medical. And 40.9per cent girls were allocated from higher studies, 26.7per cent were not getting access to education, 19.2per cent were not getting electronic gadgets (mobile/internet) as compared to boys.

#### CONCLUSION-

Gender is a crucial factor in all aspects of the economic, social, daily and private lives of individuals and societies and of the different roles assigned by society to men and women. Gender is “a culturally shaped group of attributes and behaviours’ given to the female or to the male”. Gender disparity means difference between men and women in various social, economical and cultural, political and legal dimensions. When we use the word gender-based resource allocation, it pertains to household resource allocation among the boy/boys or girl/girls of a household. Because of religious beliefs and sayings gendered allocation of resources, the growth and development of girls/women is restricted. Gender-based resource allocation occurs in various dimensions such as material resources – food, clothing, goods, credits, land & property. Resource allocation and discrimination starts in early stage of life only where a girl child has been provided toys like doll, vessels and kitchen materials and whereas boy has been provided car, gun and cricket bat etc.

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