

## **Women's Status within Household and Economic Well-Being of the Household: an Inter-State Comparison**

### *Abstract*

One aspect of measuring development in a society is to see the degree of gender equality in terms of empowerment, entitlement, freedom, intra household bargaining power etc. The intra-household status affects economic well-being of the household and hence of the country as a whole. As the intra household bargaining power of women increases the level of within household gender inequality tend to decrease resulting in better health and education outcomes particularly of children and hence an increase in family well-being.

In this paper the woman's status within the household is captured by various indices dealing with aspects like decision making, freedom to perform daily chores and mobility outside the home using the method of Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA). This empirical assessment is based on the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), 2005. Here we rank states based on mean values of several indicators to compare the economically poor states with these indicators. The results show that in the case of state wise performance some states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar show lower levels of women's status and strongly linked to the lower economic performance of these states. However, in many other states the results are mixed indicating that women's lower status is widespread. Further, the poorest households across the lowest segment across of several aspects of woman's status are also compared with the economically poorest sections to understand the correspondence in a bit more detail.

**Keywords:** Intra household bargaining, family wellbeing, India.