ABSTRACT

Financial systems that work well serve an important service by providing people with a variety of savings, payment, credit, and risk management options. Poor individuals and other disadvantaged groups are likely to gain from more inclusive financial systems, which provide broad access to adequate financial services. The easy accessibility of such services is extremely beneficial for a lot of activities such as education and investment and would ultimately better the economy of a country. On the other hand, the paucity of such services for disadvantaged groups might be a deterrent to the growth of the economy. This disadvantaged group includes women at large. Through various studies, it has been observed that how there is a difference in the way men and women access financial services around the world.

In this study, the South Asian countries have been taken into consideration to study the pattern of access to financial services amongst men and women. These south Asian countries are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal. For it, both country-level and individual-level data have been considered. The data has been collected from Findex data from the world bank database. The data reveals that there are considerable gender differences in account ownership and savings and credit product utilization. The methodology that has been used to analyze this is logistic regression analysis and for some parts of the study multinomial logitistic model has also been used. After the study, it was found women are indeed financial less inclusive than men. The data show that it is less likely for a women to own bank account. Even in terms of borrowing and saving formally women are deprived.