EMERGING FEATURES OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN KARNATAKA – A REGION-WISE COMPARISON

Swetha S
Research Scholar, Department Of Economics & Co-operation Manasagangothri University Of Mysore, Mysuru.

Dr. D S Leelavathi
Professor, Department Of Economics & Co-operation Manasagangothri University Of Mysore, Mysuru. *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT
Now a days, industrialization and urbanization are increasing rapidly and at the same time there is an increase in poverty and unemployment. Because of these reasons, women's life style in many developing countries is undergoing a significant change. Women from the female headship are now assuming the role of the main carers, educators, and even household income earners. There is a change in the structure, feature and trends in female headed households and they face gender discrimination with respect to education, earnings, rights, and economic opportunities. There are issues relating to identifying the actual head of the household and that female headship is not always correlated to poverty. Now a days, industrialization and urbanization are increasing rapidly and at the same time there is an increase in poverty and unemployment. Because of these reasons, women's life style in many developing countries is undergoing a significant change. All over the world, in terms of family life, women are slowly and steadily shifting away from joint families to a longer duration of singleness. As a part of change in life style different from the traditional role, women are now assuming the role of the main carers, educators, and even household income earners. One of the major changes today is the structure of the household. In many developing countries like India, households can be classified into two categories by gender of the household head. One is male headed households another one is female headed household.

According to the recent Census of India data, 2011, there are about 27 million female headed households in India which represent nearly 10.9% of all household. The percentage of FHH in NSSO 68th round Employment & unemployment Survey is almost 11% of all households. In Karnataka also, the structural changes have taken place in households due to various development processes in both rural as well as urban areas. The emergence of female headed households is a recent phenomenon and for the rst time in 2011 census they are considered as one of the main categories by gender of the household head. One is male headed households another one is female headed household.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
Objectives of the present study are;
• To examine the features of female headed households in Karnataka comparatively between rural and urban areas.
• To analyse the various problems of female headed households in Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY
The present paper has been prepared on the basis of secondary data collected from Census of India 2011. The study has used simple percentages and tables to present the work scientically and systematically. Here the paper has been made region-wise comparison of emerging features of the female headed households in Karnataka.

EMERGING FEATURES OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN KARNATAKA
A woman's choice of heading her own household is affected by her own characteristics and features (such as age, marital status, income, and occupation), the characteristics and socio-economic circumstances of her natal home and a variety of other factors affecting household formation and dissolution. The following analysis provides detailed information about various features of FHHs like, specified assets, availability of bathing & toilet facility, availing of banking service, ownership status of houses, type of fuel used for cooking of female-headed households, type of house structure and sources of drinking water facility in female-headed households in rural and urban Karnataka.

The table 1 represents the percentage share of region-wise number of female headed households according to 2011 Census in India. In Karnataka, the total percentage of FHHs is 7.3% whereas, in rural area, around 64% of the households are female headed households. The percentage share of FHHs in urban area is 36%. It is very clear in the above table that, majority of the female headed households has located in rural areas compared to urban areas.
The table clearly illustrates the percentage of FHHs having specified assets in both rural and urban areas of Karnataka in the year 2011. As per the given table, 54% of the FHHs are having radio facility, 48% of the FHHs are having television, 36% of the FHHs are having computer/laptop. Whereas, 55% of the FHHs are having mobile phone, 66% of the FHHs are having bicycle, 42% of the FHHs are having scooter/motor cycle and 31% of the FHHs are having car/jeep/van in rural areas of Karnataka. Similarly in urban areas, 46% of the FHHs are having radio facility, 64% of the FHHs are having computer/laptop. Whereas, 45% of the FHHs are having mobile phone, 34% of the FHHs are having bicycle, 58% of the FHHs are having scooter/motor cycle and 69% of the FHHs are having car/jeep/van in urban areas of Karnataka.

It can be observed that the percentage of FHHs having radio is high in rural area when compared to urban area because, in rural area radio has been playing a very important role in communicating the information needed for individual's everyday lives. Further, the percentage of FHHs having mobile phones is very high in rural area when compared to urban area. The mobile phone used by rural women has the benefit of addressing locally relevant information and issues. Due to the SHG bank linkage programme the mobile is directly linked with the beneficiary bank account. The accessibility of specified assets is very high in urban FHHs compared to rural FHHs.

The table 3 represents the region-wise number of FHHs by availability of bathing and toilet facilities. The table clearly exhibits the region-wise house ownership status of FHHs in Karnataka during the year 2011. As per the given table, out of the total FHHs 79.8% of the FHHs are having own houses in the State, whereas in rural area 72% of the households have own houses and in urban area this percentage was 25 and 75 respectively. Further, 2.9% of the FHHs have been living in other type of houses in the State, in rural and urban areas this percentage was 63 and 37 respectively.

The table 4 represents the region-wise number of FHHs having each of the specified Assets (%). The table 5 clearly exhibits the region-wise house ownership status of FHHs in Karnataka during the year 2011. As per the given table, out of the total FHHs 79.8% of the FHHs are having own houses in the State, whereas in rural area 72% of the households have own houses and in urban area this percentage was 25 and 75 respectively. Further, 2.9% of the FHHs have been living in other type of houses in the State, in rural and urban areas this percentage was 63 and 37 respectively.

The table 6 shows the region-wise types of fuel used for cooking in FHHs. As per the given table 65.8% of the FHHs have been using fire-wood in Karnataka, whereas in rural area 83% of the FHHs and in urban area 17% of the FHHs are using fire-wood as cooking fuel. Likewise 3.01% of the FHHs have been using crop residue as cooking fuel in the State, in rural and urban area this percentage was 86 and 14 respectively. Whereas, 5.63% of the FHHs have been using kerosene as cooking fuel in the State, in rural area 11% of the FHHs are kerosene users and in urban area this percentage was 89. Likewise, percentage of FHHs using biogas as cooking fuel is very high in rural area because most of the urban poor have been using kerosene as cooking fuel which is available in PDS (Public Distribution System) shop for fair price.

The table 7 clearly illustrates the percentage of FHHs having banking service and urban area this percentage was 38%. The percentage of availing banking service is very high in urban areas compared to rural areas because of SHG bank linkage programmes.

The table 8 represents the region-wise number of FHHs having each of the specified Asset (%). The table 9 clearly exhibits the region-wise house ownership status of FHHs in Karnataka during the year 2011. As per the given table, out of the total FHHs 79.8% of the FHHs are having own houses in the State, whereas in rural area 72% of the households have own houses and in urban area this percentage was 25 and 75 respectively. Further, 2.9% of the FHHs have been living in other type of houses in the State, in rural and urban areas this percentage was 63 and 37 respectively.

The table 10 shows the region-wise types of fuel used for cooking in FHHs. As per the given table 65.8% of the FHHs have been using fire-wood in Karnataka, whereas in rural area 83% of the FHHs and in urban area 17% of the FHHs are using fire-wood as cooking fuel. Likewise 3.01% of the FHHs have been using crop residue as cooking fuel in the State, in rural and urban area this percentage was 86 and 14 respectively. Whereas, 5.63% of the FHHs have been using kerosene as cooking fuel in the State, in rural area 11% of the FHHs are kerosene users and in urban area this percentage was 89. Likewise, percentage of FHHs using biogas as cooking fuel is very high in rural area because most of the urban poor have been using kerosene as cooking fuel which is available in PDS (Public Distribution System) shop for fair price.

The table 11 shows the region-wise types of fuel used for cooking in FHHs. As per the given table 65.8% of the FHHs have been using fire-wood in Karnataka, whereas in rural area 83% of the FHHs and in urban area 17% of the FHHs are using fire-wood as cooking fuel. Likewise 3.01% of the FHHs have been using crop residue as cooking fuel in the State, in rural and urban area this percentage was 86 and 14 respectively. Whereas, 5.63% of the FHHs have been using kerosene as cooking fuel in the State, in rural area 11% of the FHHs are kerosene users and in urban area this percentage was 89. Likewise, percentage of FHHs using biogas as cooking fuel is very high in rural area because most of the urban poor have been using kerosene as cooking fuel which is available in PDS (Public Distribution System) shop for fair price.

The table 12 shows the region-wise types of fuel used for cooking in FHHs. As per the given table 65.8% of the FHHs have been using fire-wood in Karnataka, whereas in rural area 83% of the FHHs and in urban area 17% of the FHHs are using fire-wood as cooking fuel. Likewise 3.01% of the FHHs have been using crop residue as cooking fuel in the State, in rural and urban area this percentage was 86 and 14 respectively. Whereas, 5.63% of the FHHs have been using kerosene as cooking fuel in the State, in rural area 11% of the FHHs are kerosene users and in urban area this percentage was 89. Likewise, percentage of FHHs using biogas as cooking fuel is very high in rural area because most of the urban poor have been using kerosene as cooking fuel which is available in PDS (Public Distribution System) shop for fair price.
The table 7 illustrates the region-wise female headed household by type of structure of houses in Karnataka during the year 2011. According to the table, 60.7% of the FHHs are permanent houses in the State and 60% of the FHHs are having permanent houses in urban areas, and 40% of the FHHs are having permanent houses in rural areas. Similarly, 31.7% of the FHHs are having semi-permanent houses in the State, 86% of the FHHs are having semi-permanent houses in rural area and in urban area this percentage was 14. As per the above analysis, the rural female headed households are having highest permanent and semi-permanent houses because the people from rural region have been living in their own houses since their birth but in urban areas, most of the people are migrants.

The table 8 represents the region-wise FHHs by drinking water facility in female –headed households (%).

Similarly only 1.1% of the FHHs have been using covered well for drinking water in Karnataka, in rural area 65% of the FHHs and in urban area 33.5% of the FHHs have been using covered well for drinking water. Whereas 10.2% of the FHHs have been using drinking water from un-covered well in the State and in rural and urban area this percentage was 83 and 17 respectively. Likewise 5.8% of the FHHs have been using hand pump for drinking water in Karnataka and in rural areas majority of 90% of the FHHs have been using hand pump and in urban area only 10% of the FHHs have been using hand pump for drinking water. Whereas 14.1% of the FHHs have been using tube well/ borehole for drinking water in Karnataka and in rural and urban areas this percentage was 79 and 21 respectively.

It can be identified that, majority of the FHHs have been using tap water from treated source in urban area because the ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) provide such facilities properly. Hence, the percentage of FHHs which has been using covered and uncovered well, Hand pump & borehole is very less in urban area. But in rural area, percentage of FHHs which has been using tap water from treated source is very less. Hence, they have depend upon other sources like well, Hand pump and borehole.

THE PROBLEMS OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN KARNATAKA

The emerging female headed households have been facing many problems and challenges. These female headed families have directly linked with the feminisation of the poverty and also deprived from incomelessness. The problems associated with the female headship families become the significant challenge for gender sensitization in many ways. Most of the female headed households have been struggling with the poverty and economic insecurity. Because they don't have proper source of income for their livelihood. Hence, poverty is one of the major problems of female headed families in the State.

REFERENCES
5. Min Zhan and Michael Sharraden “Effects of Mothers’ Assets on Expectations and Children’s educational Achievement in Female-Headed Households” Center for social development, Working paper 02-9, 20002.

Because of this poverty and incomelessness many of such families don’t have assets and there is a huge difference in asset holding compared to male headed households. Further, Individual women have no place in the political institutions of the village, and this is most clearly made women as politically powerless. A particularly pressing problem for female headed households is their vulnerability to poverty and this vulnerability was a major factor in causing the disintegration of the family. Many women either lost their children, or left them alone on their own accord or sent them to their fathers. Along with the above problems, lack of future plans, socio-economic and cultural constraints, lack of protection, advice and problems of next generation are other important problems associated with the emerging female headed households in Karnataka.

CONCLUSION
Female headed households are one of the unique structures of the households’ composition of the society. Women are usually the primary earners in female headed households and they face gender discrimination with respect to education, earnings, rights, and economic opportunities. There are issues relating to identifying the actual head of the household and that female headship is not always correlated to poverty. In recent years, there is a significant transition in female headed households with respect to the features. But there is also significant difference in the emerging features of female headed households in both rural and urban areas. Hence, the present paper makes an attempt to analyse the emerging features comparatively and also identified several problems of the women headship families. It is found from the analysis that, there is difference in accessibility of basic facilities and basic necessities among rural and urban female headed households and the urban families are in a better position compared to rural families in almost all the features. Further, poverty, unemployment, insecurity, political powerlessness and problems of the future generation are the important problems associated with female headed families. And these problems can be addressed with the government intervention in form of policy and programmes which should reflect the gender development and gender sensitization.