

# What happened to Women's work in India? An analysis of women's labor from 68<sup>th</sup> NSS round to PLFS 2017-2018.

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## *Abstract*

*India has been growing along a trajectory of high growth rate since liberalization era in the 90's. Service sector has grown, lower returns from agriculture has forced the country's labor into manufacturing and services. With increase in the population of the country, more people have entered the labor force. However, with increasing growth rate, it has been observed that women who initially joined labor force in large no's have been withdrawing from labor force gradually. This paper tries to look at the recent trends in the labor force participation rates of women across all sectors over these years.*

**Keywords:** Labor force participation rate, Employment, Feminization.

## 1. Introduction

Women comprise around 50 % of the population of India, as such the growth and development of this country crucially depends on the utilization of this vast amount of human resource. Women's work is not only believed to empower women but also increase the well-being of a family. In countries like India, women's workforce participation is low as compared to that of men and has been on decline for a decade or so. Most of women's work does not get accounted because women work predominantly in-home based enterprises and informal sector where women's work is seen as part of the household chores or is low quality work. (Sharma&Saha,2005) Higher work force participation of women does not necessarily imply a higher well-being of women (Srivastava & Srivastava,2009).

Participation rates of rural women are significantly higher than participation rates of urban women. Higher participation rate of rural women doesn't indicate better well-being per se. It is many a times distress driven and does not indicate better employment prospectus in rural areas. Urban females have witnessed an increase in regular employment over the years while the picture has been a little grim for rural females.

The share of urban women engaged in agriculture has been on a constant decline,

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