

# GENDERED HETEROGENEITIES IN WELL-BEING A STATE LEVEL ANALYSIS OF INDIA

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## Background

**Household Inequalities:** Feminist theory exposes economic disparities within households, revealing hidden wealth inequalities.  
**Measurement Challenges:** Traditional income-based approaches struggle with nuanced well-being, prompting a shift to comprehensive frameworks.  
**Sen's Approach:** Amartya Sen's functional approach is crucial for constructing a well-being index beyond income, especially in India.  
**Gendered Exploration:** Our study addresses the empirical gap in gender dimensions within Sen's capability framework.  
**Research Gap:** Despite well-being's growing importance, our study aims to fill the gap in empirical evidence within Sen's framework, particularly regarding gender dimensions in the Indian context.  
**Regional Context:** We aim to fill a research gap by exploring the regional nuances of well-being, recognizing the diverse socio-cultural and economic contexts within India.

## Objectives:

- To attempt an empirical investigation of the claim that functioning is a better proxy of well-being than income in the Indian context.
- To explore if the subjective Well-being is affected by the heterogenous socio-economic characteristics of Men and women

## Data Source and Methodology:

**Data Sources:** Utilized data from National Family Health Survey and National Statistical Office, ensuring a robust foundation for analysis.  
**Theoretical Framework:** Applied Amartya Sen's functioning-based approach as the conceptual framework for assessing well-being.  
**Indicators of Well-being:** Employed seven key indicators—Health, Education, Occupation, Social Awareness, Autonomy, Liberal, and Asset Possession—to comprehensively capture male and female well-being.  
**Index Calculation:** Utilized factor analysis to compute an overarching well-being index, providing a holistic perspective on individual and societal well-being.  
**Comparative Analysis:** Examined the relationship between our well-being indices and state-level per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) to gauge the correlation between income and well-being.  
**Statistical Tool:** Employed Spearman's Rank Coefficient to establish a robust correlation measure, offering insights into the connection between economic indicators and overall well-being.  
**Determinants Exploration:** Conducted Ordinary Least Squares analysis to unravel the key determinants influencing overall well-being, shedding light on the intricate interplay between factors.

## Major Findings:

- Gender Disparities in Well-being: Overall well-being has improved for women, but significant disparities persist, with women still lagging behind their male counterparts.
- Exceptional States: Kerala, Meghalaya, and Himachal stand out as states where women's well-being scores surpass those of men, highlighting regional variations.
- NSDP vs. Well-being: Despite high per capita NSDP in states like Gujarat, the well-being scores for both genders are not satisfactory when compared to other states, indicating a nuanced relationship between economic indicators and well-being.
- Limited Role of Income for Women: While income plays a positive role in overall well-being, its significance is less pronounced for women, emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive assessment beyond economic measures.
- Determinants of Well-being: Regression results highlight the significant influence of factors such as gender, age, residence, caste, religion, household size, and the sex of the household on overall well-being.

## Results:

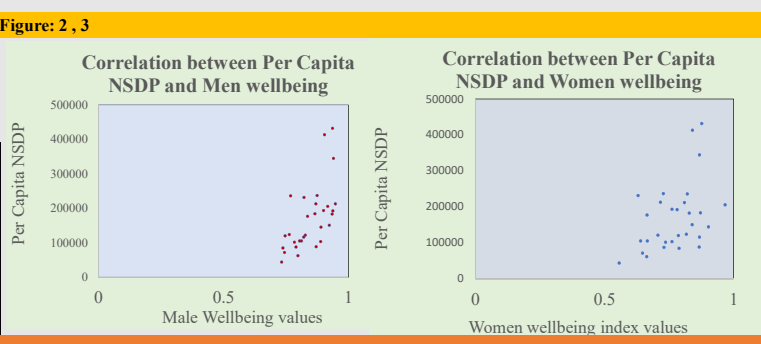


**Table:1 OLS Regression Result:**

Demographic and Household Characteristics			
wellbeing	Coefficient	[95% conf.	interval]
<b>gender</b>			
female	-0.1128***	-0.1237	-0.1019
<b>age</b>			
25-34	-0.0343***	-0.0434	-0.0252
35-44	-0.07706***	-0.0861	-0.068
45-54	-0.1328***	-0.142	-0.1236
<b>gender#age</b>			
female#25-34	-0.000162	-0.0104	0.01073
female#35-44	-0.03371***	-0.0443	-0.0231
female#45-54	-0.05724***	-0.0685	-0.046
<b>residence</b>			
rural	-0.004816***	2.01E-05	0.00961
<b>gender#residence</b>			
female#rural	-0.02949***	-0.0357	-0.0233
<b>Household_size</b>			
03-4 member	0.003139	-0.0032	0.00943
05-7 member	-0.01993***	-0.0262	-0.0137
8 and above	-0.0359***	-0.0428	-0.029
<b>household_head</b>			
Female	0.006138**	0.00177	0.0105

**Table:2 OLS Regression Result**

Socio-Economic Characteristics			
wellbeing	Coefficient	[95% conf.	interval]
<b>wealth_q</b>			
Poorer	0.158539***	0.15445	0.16263
Middle	0.241473***	0.23726	0.24569
Richer	0.29505***	0.29055	0.29955
Richest	0.330253***	0.32518	0.33532
<b>caste</b>			
Scheduled tribe	0.008523***	0.00395	0.0131
OBC	0.013269***	0.00962	0.01692
None of them	0.043009***	0.03864	0.04737
<b>religion</b>			
Muslim	-0.06785***	-0.07248	-0.06321
Christian	0.087305***	0.08121	0.0934
Others	0.02887***	0.02259	0.03515



## Conclusion:

- Income and consumption are only rough measures of the quality of life.
- Health, longevity, knowledge and education, social relations, autonomy, subjective feelings are constitutive elements of human life that should not be ignored if we are interested in assessing of the people's standard of living.

## Limitation of the Study:

- There can be no single measure of well-being that satisfies all parties interested in assisting people to improve their lives.
- We also in our analysis considered a limited number of indicators or functions to measure well-being.
- In terms of functioning we could not incorporate information related to mental well-being and Environmental aspects due to data constraints.

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