

GENDER DISPARITY IN FINANCIAL INCLUSION: AN INTER-STATE ANALYSIS

Dr. Meenu Kumari*

*Formerly ICSSR Research Fellow,
Department of Economics,
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA
meenu.vishwakarma89@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Financial inclusion has become an important policy issue because of its relevance in determining economic growth and development. Financial inclusion has been recognized as a fundamental driver that could aid in achieving seven out of the seventeen outlined sustainable development goals. The present paper focuses onto understanding status of gender disparity in financial inclusion with reference to its extent in Indian States. The research has been done using secondary data source from Reserve Bank of India, built index of 27 states for the period 2014 and 2018 i.e. before and after launching PMJDY scheme. The study's finding shows southern and western states are performing better in financial inclusion than other states.

KEYWORDS: *Financial Services, Index Of Financial Inclusion, Bank Branch, Gender Disparity, Interstate.*

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