

9 March, 2023

GS-3 - Economy.

3. The gender parity has not got the required attention in the top echelons of the Indian financial sector. Substantiation:

'Gender parity has not yet take roots in Reserve bank of India & Securities → Exchange board of India' says renowned Newspaper. Similar is the case with Banking sector.

Issue of Gender parity -

Indian banks are still Male Bastion - despite Government Initiatives for gender parity.

Opportunities for women

post 1991 reforms - women - found increasing employment opportunities in banking sector.

15 year assessment → pattern of employment of women in Banking Sector

Findings 1. women's participation increased barely.

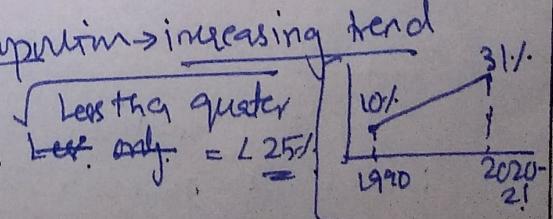
e.g.: Schedule commercial banks $\approx 10\%$

public sector bank $\approx 13\%$ and private $\approx 3\%$

2. Though women's participation → increasing trend

Still total participation less than quota $\approx 25\%$

Global comparison



Developed economies \rightarrow e.g. US, France = > 50%.

Underdeveloped economies \rightarrow e.g. Brazil close to 50%.

Importance of gender parity.

Studies show Gender parity is prerequisite for Inclusive, sustainable - banking sector.

Concerns.

Still no. women Chief Economic Officer in banks, only 13 women in board level positions that too due to compulsion of Section 49 of Companies Act, 2013.

Questions raised

Socio-cultural factors - affecting - Glass ceiling to women

Is government initiatives \rightarrow maternity leaves }
child care leaves }
affecting women's upward mobility

Way forward

Best practices \rightarrow Federal & HDFC bank - introduced Diversity & inclusive factors in their policy for women. Such policies must be followed by other banks to make it true mainstream movement.