

## EDITORIAL

### Gender Differences

It will be fitness of this theme to first examine some demographic features regarding the prevailing "Gender Differences" as regards to health and socio-economic status in our country.

#### 1. Census :

Census figure 1991 gives population of India as 846.3 million. Male (439.2), Female (407.0), ratio being 1:0.92.

#### 2. Life expectancy :

Life expectancy at birth (for 1991-96) in Males is 60.6 years, in Females is 61.7 years.

Maternal mortality accounts for the largest number of deaths amongst women of reproductive age.

#### 3. Literacy rate :

Literacy rate amongst males is 63.86 percent, amongst female it is 39.42 percent.

#### 4. Employment :

While only 16.43 females in the country have independent source of income, remaining great majority are entirely dependent on the earnings of the male members of the family.

National income earned by women accounts for merely 19 percent.

#### 5. Culture :

Within the existing social structure, women have unequal position, be it concerning family welfare or participation in social activities.

#### 6. Health Status :

Women have on the whole lower body weight and less height than men in this country. Women have a negative energy balance, low output.

About half the non-pregnant and two thirds of the pregnant women are anemic.

Whether in health, education, economic or political participation, women in India lag far behind men.

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