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## Women Beneficiaries in Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Trend and Gender Disparity Analysis

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Received-16.06.2023

Revised-22.06.2023,

Accepted-27.06.2023

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**Abstract-** This study is focused on gender disparity in Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana in past eight years. The analysis focusses on variables such as number of accounts and amount disbursed along with derived variables mainly average loan size and gender disparity ratio across Shishu, Kishor and Tarun categories simultaneously. This study highlights the variation in loans issued to male and female beneficiaries in all three categories. The findings show that higher share of women entrepreneurs in categories with lower loan size but this share goes on decreasing as loan size increases. The study concludes that though PMMY has improved access, better policy focus is required for equitable distribution.

**Keywords:** *urban green infrastructure, ecosystem services, environmental justice, climate adaptation.*

**Introduction-** A major breakthrough in the field of financial inclusion has been the launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) on 8th April, 2015. It was started with a view to mainstream the marginalized section and for the access of institutional credit to those standing at the “bottom of the pyramid”. This scheme mainly targets the non-corporate, non-corporate and non-farming section of nano and micro entrepreneurs. Loans in this scheme are provided mainly under three categories-

Shishu – Loans up to Rs. 50,000

Kishor – Loans from Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 5,00,000

Tarun – Loans from 5,00,001 to Rs. 10,00,000

Women constitute of nearly half (48.5%) of the human resources of India (Census 2011), and in order to make best use of these resources their proper representation in entrepreneurship too is needed. This leads to betterment of socioeconomic situation of female entrepreneurs. In order to have a better look at equitable opportunities provided through PMMY, the study looks into the gender disparity in access to collateral free loans and entrepreneurship opportunities.

**Literature Review-** Several studies highlight the contribution of PMMY towards financial inclusion and enterprise development.

Divya Mahadule and Shiny Chib (2020) sought to examine accounts opened and loans approved between 2016 and 2020 using descriptive approach. According to the study, women should receive special treatment in order to overcome their vulnerability in social, political, and economic spheres. In order to do this, the government must implement a number of programs for women and provide special counselling, training, and skill development in order to increase the number of women entrepreneurs in India.

Devi (2021) reported that a significant portion of PMMY loans have been given to women, indicating better credit availability. The survey also notes that women are disproportionately found in lower loan categories, which hinders their capacity to grow their businesses.

Rajagopal (2022) used secondary data to analyse the scheme's success and discovered that PMMY has greatly increased credit outreach, promoting economic growth and job creation. The analysis highlights how the program helps small and micro businesses all around the nation.

Garima Singh and Neelma Kunwar (2022) concentrated on examining the female beneficiaries based on the type of loans, the nature of their businesses, and the obstacles they encountered during the loan approval procedure. The number of female entrepreneurs is rising quickly in comparison to the previous year. According to the study's findings, the bank should raise women's literacy rates in order to support their future development and to provide them with more training, counselling, and awareness.

Pavithra and Sharma (2023) noted that the program enables access to formal financing through institutional channels and offers financial support to microenterprises run by women. According to the survey, PMMY has increased women's financial inclusion, especially in the lower credit segments.

**Research Gap-** Existing studies available on PMMY focusses on overall performance and women's participation with limited attention on gender disparity in category wise distribution. This study addresses this gap by analyzing gender disparity across different loan categories over past eight years.

**Objectives-** • To analyze the trend in the performance of PMMY in India from 2015-16 to 2022-23.



- To examine gender disparity in PMMY across different Shishu, Kishor and Tarun categories.

**Methodology-**

• **Research Design:** The study is descriptive as well as analytical in nature, with secondary data being used for the fulfillment of objectives.

• **Data Sources:** Data for the study has been taken for the last eight financial year i.e. (2015-16 to 2022-23). Data has been collected from multiple sources such as Mudra portal, Annual reports of Mudra, RBI, various journals, research papers and other official websites.

• **Variables Used:** Variables used in the study are number of accounts and disbursement amount for male and female beneficiaries are separately used. The analysis assumes male beneficiaries as the residual after subtracting female beneficiaries from total. Apart from this some derived variables such as Average Loan Size (ALS) and Gender Disparity Ratio (GDR) formula for which is given below-

ALS = (Amount Disbursed)/(Number of accounts)

GDR = (ALSFemale/ALSMale)

GDR >1 – Loans favoring female beneficiaries

GDR = 1 – No gender disparity

GDR < 1 – Loans favoring male beneficiaries

**Results-**

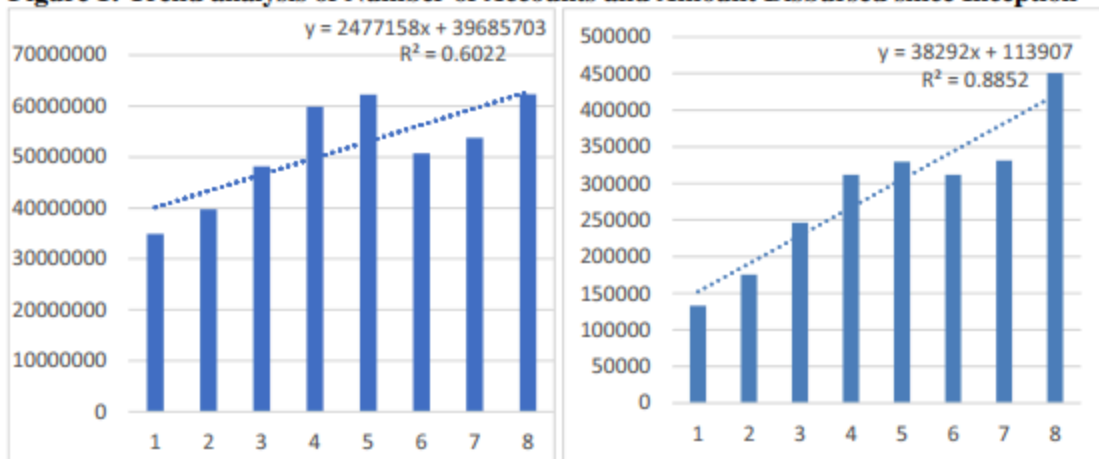
**Table 1: Trend and Performance of PMMY in India from 2015-16 to 2024-25**

Financial Year	Time Period	Number of Accounts	Disbursement amount (in crore Rs)
2015-16	1	34880924	132954.73
2016-17	2	39701047	175312.13
2017-18	3	48130593	246437.4
2018-19	4	59870318	311811.38
2019-20	5	62237981	329684.63
2020-21	6	50735046	311754.47
2021-22	7	53795526	331402.2
2022-23	8	62310598	450423.66

Source - <https://www.mudra.org.in/>

Above presented table 1 gives an insight into the pattern and trend on number of loans sanctioned and amount disbursed over the last decade in PMMY. Number of accounts and amount disbursed both rose rapidly from 2015-16 to 2019-20. Years 2020-21 and 2021-22 were the years affected by COVID-19, impact of which can be seen in the loan disbursement too. This led to the dropping down in performance of PMMY.

**Figure 1: Trend analysis of Number of Accounts and Amount Disbursed since Inception**



(a) Number of PMMY accounts

(b) Amount disbursed in PMMY

In figure 1 trend analysis of (a) number of PMMY accounts and (b) amount disbursed can be seen. It represents the increase of both but amount disbursed rose more rapidly than the number of accounts which can be by the slope of trend line shown in the above figure. Though this increase got reversed in COVID and post COVID years but loans sanctioned were back on track in 2022-23.



**Table 2: Gender-wise Accounts and Disbursement under Shishu Category**

Financial Year	Number of Accounts		Disbursement Amount (in crore rupees)		Average Loan Size (in Rs.)		Gender Disparity Ratio
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
2015-16	27103118 (83.65%)	5297928 (16.35%)	50640.02 (81.64%)	11387.67 (18.36%)	18684	21495	0.87
2016-17	28472344 (78.01%)	8025469 (21.99%)	66185.86 (78.89%)	17706.02 (21.11%)	23246	22062	1.05
2017-18	32144132 (75.33%)	10525663 (24.67%)	78921.72 (75.72%)	25306.33 (24.28%)	24552	24043	1.02
2018-19	33403579 (64.85%)	18103859 (35.15%)	93977 (67.29%)	45674.55 (32.71%)	28134	25229	1.12
2019-20	35717217 (65.56%)	18763775 (34.44%)	109222.18 (67.10%)	53560.63 (32.90%)	30580	28545	1.07
2020-21	27753288 (69.07%)	12426827 (30.93%)	73872.15 (68.00%)	34765.09 (32.00%)	26617	27976	0.95
2021-22	30441921 (72.97%)	11279233 (27.03%)	89233.92 (71.98%)	34735.13 (28.02%)	29313	30796	0.95
2022-23	32817496 (76.18%)	10260355 (23.82%)	112228.35 (79.25%)	29381.5 (20.75%)	34198	28636	1.19

Source - <https://www.mudra.org.in/>

Table 2 shows the access to the credit and quality of credit for male and female beneficiaries in Shishu category. With percentage of share of women in both number of loans sanctioned and amount sanctioned being much higher than males showing women centric outreach in this category. Same can be seen in GDR where ratio is close to 1 or higher than one indicating gender disparity minimal or favorable to women.

**Table 3: Gender-wise Accounts and Disbursement under Kishor Category**

Financial Year	Number of Accounts		Disbursement Amount (in crore rupees)		Average Loan Size (in Rs.)		Gender Disparity Ratio
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
2015-16	473536 (22.88%)	1595925 (77.12%)	8675.43 (21.12%)	32397.85 (78.88%)	183205	203004	0.90
2016-17	624925 (23.46%)	2038577 (76.54%)	8733.38 (17.10%)	42329.74 (82.90%)	139751	207644	0.67
2017-18	1335192 (28.69%)	3318682 (71.31%)	15749.53 (18.93%)	67447.56 (81.07%)	117957	203236	0.58
2018-19	2875392 (43.53%)	3730617 (56.47%)	25666.77 (25.70%)	74201.23 (74.30%)	89264	198898	0.45
2019-20	2988307 (46.17%)	3483566 (53.83%)	25160.37 (27.52%)	66266.7 (72.48%)	84196	190227	0.44
2020-21	5468211 (57.64%)	4017949 (42.36%)	48817.86 (38.37%)	78421.71 (61.63%)	89276	195179	0.46
2021-22	7892778 (71.18%)	3195428 (28.82%)	68661.23 (51.47%)	64728.01 (48.53%)	86992	202565	0.43
2022-23	11285672 (62.99%)	6630240 (37.01%)	91691.19 (45.63%)	109245.44 (54.37%)	81246	164769	0.50

Source - <https://www.mudra.org.in/>

In table 3 as shown initially male dominated loan structure can be seen as which later changed to female domination in number of loan accounts sanctioned but amount disbursed has been lower than the male dominated which led to lowering average loan size of women and hence lower GDR.

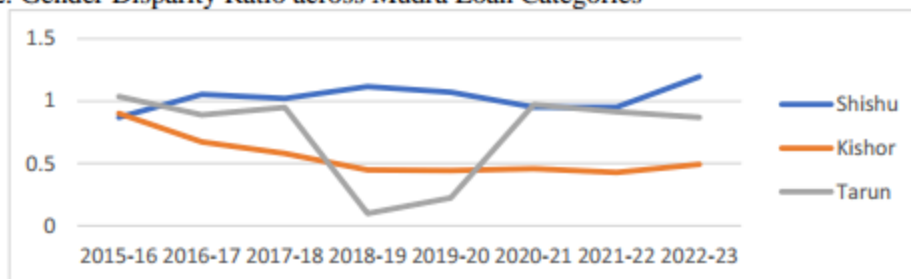
**Table 4: Gender-wise Accounts and Disbursement under Tarun Category**

Financial Year	Number of Accounts		Disbursement Amount (in crore rupees)		Average Loan Size (in Rs.)		Gender Disparity Ratio
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
2015-16	51611 (12.58%)	358806 (87.42%)	3874.98 (12.98%)	25978.78 (87.02%)	750805	724034	1.04
2016-17	49625 (9.19%)	490107 (90.81%)	3330.54 (8.25%)	37026.59 (91.75%)	671142	755480	0.89
2017-18	78914 (9.78%)	728010 (90.22%)	5499.3 (9.32%)	53512.95 (90.68%)	696873	735058	0.94
2018-19	783591 (44.60%)	518788 (29.53%)	9509.46 (13.15%)	62782.38 (86.85%)	121357	1210174	0.10
2019-20	397825 (30.96%)	709044 (55.17%)	8463.68 (11.21%)	67011.07 (88.79%)	212749	945090	0.23
2020-21	82105 (7.68%)	986666 (92.32%)	5680.12 (7.49%)	70197.54 (92.51%)	691812	711462	0.97
2021-22	94560 (9.59%)	891606 (90.41%)	6546.72 (8.84%)	67497.19 (91.16%)	692335	757703	0.91
2022-23	153645 (11.67%)	1163190 (88.33%)	11115.01 (10.30%)	96762.17 (89.70%)	723422	831869	0.88

Source - <https://www.mudra.org.in/>

In table 4 women's share in Tarun category can be seen quite low which indicates restricted access of female beneficiaries into the highest category of mudra loans and GDR too is quite unstable ranging from 1.04 to 0.10 which indicates severe gender gap in this category of loans.

Figure 2: Gender Disparity Ratio across Mudra Loan Categories



In above given figure 2 GDR across all three categories has been shown which clearly indicates low disparity in disbursement of Mudra loans to women in Shishu category while much lower in Kishor and very unstable in Tarun category. This indicates GDR is increasing with increase in loan size. It leads to restricted access of female beneficiaries in higher loan size leading to lower opportunities for scaling up the existing businesses.

**Conclusion-** The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has been successful in increasing financial inclusion, as evidenced by the substantial expansion in the number of accounts and loan disbursements during the past ten years. A significant portion of recipients are women, especially in the Shishu category, suggesting better access to finance. However, there is still a gender gap in all loan categories since, particularly in the Kishor and Tarun sectors, women are disproportionately concentrated in smaller loans and get smaller average loan quantities than male borrowers.

These results point to the necessity of focusing policy on enhancing women's fair access to higher-value loans. Disparities can be lessened by taking steps like capacity building initiatives, skill development, interest subvention for higher loan categories, encouraging banks to lend more money to women, bolstering credit



guarantee systems, and encouraging financial literacy and business growth. To guarantee that PMMY not only increases participation but also promotes the long-term development of female entrepreneurs, a focused and gender-sensitive approach is necessary.

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