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## Rural women earn half of what men do: NCAER

Agencies

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**New Delhi** Indian women continue to have a raw deal compared to men when it comes to their earnings or having their names on family bank accounts or on property records, says a survey.

Women in rural areas earn nearly half of what men take home, while over 80 per cent of them do not have their names in family bank accounts, the Indian Human Development Survey jointly conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and US-based University of Maryland said.

"For every rupee earned by a man, a rural woman earns 54 paise and an urban woman earns 68 paise... only 18 per cent women have their names in family bank accounts," the survey said reflecting a stark gender gap that continues even after 60 years of the Indian Constitution guaranteeing equality as a fundamental right.

As per home ownership documents, it said, only 15 per cent women have their names on property records or rental deeds.

The survey, which saw participation of 41,000 households, however, does suggest that the public sector is fairer to women than the private sector with regard to salaries.

Noting that salaries at lower levels in the public sector are better than in the private sector, it said, the difference between the pay for men and women is much more in the latter.

"While women earn lower salary in both the public and private sectors, the ratio of female to male salary is considerably higher in the public sector than in the private sector," it added.

According to the survey, the average salary for casual workers is Rs 2,303 per month and Rs 4,640 for permanent workers in the private sector compared to Rs 6,974 for public sector employees.

The survey also reveals that persons belonging to higher castes earn more than those coming from the lower strata of the society.

"Forward caste and majority religion have the highest income, while dalits and adivasi, have the lowest, and Muslim and Other Backward Classes (OBC) fall in the middle," it added.