

# Are Boys the Favoured Sex? Visiting Household's Expenditure on Education in District Anantnag

**Mirza Nazrana Beg**

*Research Scholar at Department of Economics Central University of Kashmir*

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**Abstract**—Education is a vital investment for human development which in turn enlarges people's choices and freedoms. It has been linked with providing a better quality of life for human beings and has been regarded as the development imperative. Human capital theory suggests that individuals acquire skills and knowledge to increase their worth in the labour market with "quality" education being the most vital mechanism of acquiring human capital. The human capital theory provides a fairly satisfactory explanation for the gender gap in educational investments. The literature suggests that in many developing countries resources are not allocated randomly within households. Households may prioritise sons' education over that of daughters' and the research shows that households have fewer incentives to invest in their daughters' education. Differential treatment of sons and daughters by parents is a potential explanation of the gender gap in education in developing countries. There is an extensive evidence in the literature that within the households, girls may lose out in the allocation of education because of a possibly strong disproportionateness in parental incentives to educate sons and daughters. The point of interest is whether the unwillingness to divide the resources evenly across male and female children is considerably large so as to result in a significant gap in the distribution of resources available for the education of the male and female children thereby giving rise to inequality in expansion of capabilities and employment opportunities. Women's educational backwardness is alarming not only because it is discriminatory but also because it is socially and economically inefficient. This study examines whether there are significant gender differentials in household educational expenditures in District Anantnag. The study finds that girls receive lower educational expenditure allocations than boys within households in rural areas while as the study doesn't find any significant bias in the educational expenditure in urban areas of District Anantnag.

**Keywords:** *Investment, human capital, gender differential.*