



## Women and Men in India

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### Introduction

Gender inequality has long been an impediment to the advancement of the Indian social environment. In recent times, there has been increased discourse about lending policy a gendered lens, in order to better account for the institutional challenges that people of different identities face. With this in mind, the Government of India has published the 'Women and Men in India' Report which seeks to point out certain socio-economic indicators disaggregated by gender to steer policymaking in a suitable direction.



### Key Highlights

- The projected sex ratio is slated to register an increase from 943 in 2011 to 948 in 2021, with most notable increases observed in Delhi, Chandigarh and Arunachal. Similarly, women's mean age at marriage, at the urban and rural level has risen to 23.4 years and 21.8 years, respectively, with the average lying at the 22.3 mark.
- Both infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio have shown a decline up until 2018, standing at 32 and 113 respectively. The percentage of women who had at least four ANC visits during pregnancy is lowest in Nagaland and highest in Goa, with Kerala demonstrating a 100% institutional birth ratio. Additionally, more than a quarter of women in Mizoram reported unmet family planning needs.
- Although both the gender gap in literacy and Gender Parity Index have shown substantial improvements, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar continue to show alarming levels of gender inequality in education outcomes.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) declined for men and women to 75.5% and 24.5% respectively in 2018-19. Average wage earned per hour was highest in Andaman and Nicobar Island (121 rupees/hour) and lowest in Daman and Diu (27 rupees/hour) for women. Women are also progressively participating in financial autonomy, with an increased number of bank accounts being opened in their name.
- While there is an upward trend in the number of female candidates contesting and winning Lok Sabha elections, the representation of women in the Central Council of Ministers has steadily declined, reaching a low 9.26% in 2020. There have been no female judges in the High Courts of Patna, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and Uttarakhand. Women have been actively participating in the general elections, with female voter turnout above the 60% mark except in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir.
- Three major crimes, i.e., cruelty by husband/relatives, sexual assault and abduction constituted 71% of all crimes against women in 2019, of which 66% were disposed. The highest share of crime against women was in Uttar Pradesh (14.75%), while 44% of married women aged 15-44 experienced physical and sexual violence at the hands of their husbands in Karnataka.

### Read more:

[http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/reports\\_and\\_publication/statistical\\_publication/Women\\_Men/mw20/latestmen.pdf](http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/reports_and_publication/statistical_publication/Women_Men/mw20/latestmen.pdf)

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