



## Time to Care: Wealth Inequality and Unpaid Care Work for Women in India

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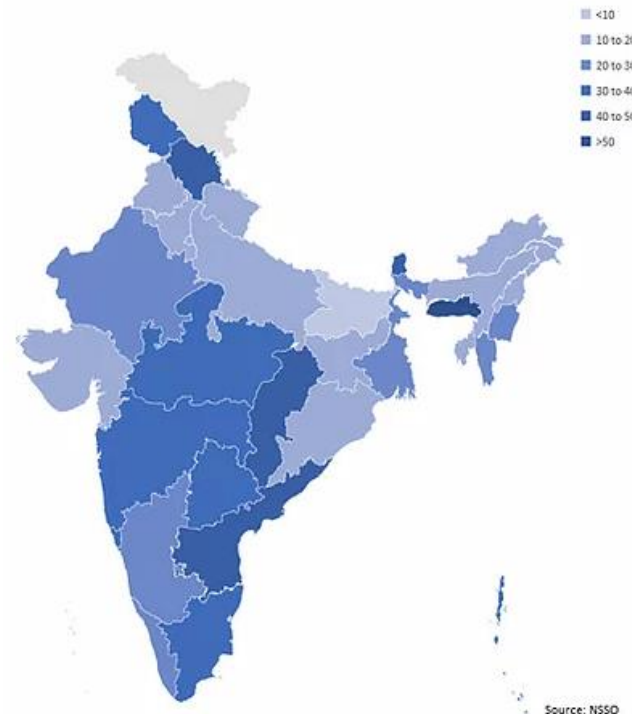
### Introduction

Globally, the unequal distribution of work between men and women in households has led to the perpetuation of gender inequality. The unpaid care work is always perceived as an act of love and its burden lies on women's shoulders, causing debilitating impact on the female workforce participation rate and their mental and emotional well-being. This report aims to highlight the correlation between unpaid care work, declining female workforce participation, poverty and violence against women in India.

### Key Highlights

1. India ranked 62 out of 74 emerging economies in the World Economic Forum's Inclusive Development Index (2018)
2. Top 10% of India's population holds 74.3% of the total national wealth
3. **India ranks 112 out of 153 countries** in the World Economic Forum's annual Global Gender Gap Report (2020)
4. 73.2% of rural women were engaged in agriculture implying that non-farm jobs for women in rural settings are rare or difficult to access.
5. According to World Bank data on labor force and education, **only 31% of women with a bachelor's degree or higher** were in the labor force, while those who were unemployed and seeking employment was at a staggering 25%
6. In India, **Bihar ranks the lowest in Female Labor Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)** of 4.1% while Meghalaya (51.2%), Himachal Pradesh (49.6%), Chhattisgarh (49.3%), Sikkim (43.9%), and Andhra Pradesh (42.5%) record the highest rates of women's workforce participation.
7. The ILO estimates that globally women and girls perform more than 3/4ths of the total quantity of unpaid work and that 2/3rds of care workers are women
8. Men in the Asia and Pacific region spend the least time engaging in unpaid care work. In India, women on average spend 297 minutes per day on unpaid work as compared to 31 minutes spent by men
9. Women in urban areas spend on average of 312 minutes per day as against those in rural areas (291 minutes) on unpaid care work
10. The total value of **unpaid care work as a percentage of GDP was estimated at 3.5%** (3.1% for women and 0.4% for men)
11. Single women are estimated, on average, to spend 89 minutes daily on unpaid care work. It rises to 107 minutes for married women and 122 minutes for widowed women
12. 42.2% of women who failed to fetch water or fire wood for the household and 41.2% of women who failed to prepare meals for males in the family were physically beaten

Female Laborforce Participation Rate in India



**Read more:** <https://www.oxfamindia.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/India%20supplement.pdf>

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