

Highlights

Population and related statistics

1. As per Census 2011, the population of India is more than 121 Crore with 48.5% females, 949 female to 1000 males in rural India against 929 in urban India.
2. The gap in sex ratio in rural and urban India is converging in recent decades.
3. The State of Kerala, Puducherry, Manipur, Goa and Chhattisgarh have more females than males whereas in Daman & Diu there are only 618 females to 1000 males.
4. In the last 60 years, states of Assam, Delhi and West Bengal have improved the sex ratio substantially, but sex ratio has worsened in major states like Bihar and Odisha.
5. There are 918 females to 1000 males in the age-group 0-6 years, with maximum disparity in sex ratio of rural & urban area existing in Daman & Diu and Gujarat having lesser females in urban Area. The Sex Ratio is least for the Girl Child(0-19 Years) but 1033 females over 1000 males in the age group of 60+ indicating a threat of less economic activity by a sizable population. The economically active age group (15-59) has 944 females to 1000 males. Sex ratio at birth has been reported as 908 which has marginally decreased as compared to last year
6. As per the Sample Registration System, of the total females in 2013, 42.7% were never married, 49% were married and rest were widowed, divorced or separated, whereas 52.5% of total males are unmarried and 45.2% are married.
7. The mean age at effective marriage for females stood at 21.3 years in 2013 with urban age at 22.5 and rural mean age at 21.0. Among the major States, the highest mean age at marriage was 24.4 years for Jammu & Kashmir and the lowest was 20.3 years for Chhattisgarh
8. As per National Sample Survey (68th Round), 11.5% of total households in rural and 12.4 % in urban were Female Headed Households as compared to 9.7% and 10.6% during 1993-94.

Health

9. Crude Birth Rate and General Fertility Rate (GFR) have reduced from 21.6 in 2012 to 21.4 in 2013 and 80.3 to 78.5 respectively. Total fertility Rate (TFR) has been gradually declining and has reached 2.3 in 2013. TFR is more for illiterate women both in rural and urban area but more of rural illiterate women and statistics reveal that increase in educational level lowers the TFR.
10. The age-specific fertility rate was the highest (194.3) for women in the age-group 20-24 years followed by age-group 25-29 years (149.7) and 30-34 years (63.9). The fertility rates for the rural India are still higher as compared to urban India.
11. The mortality rate is the lowest in the age-group 10-14 years which is equal for males as well as for females at 0.6. The mortality rate among females across all ages was 6.4 and that among males was 7.5 in the year 2013.
12. The female Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 42 compared with the male IMR of 39 and the overall IMR of 40 in 2013. IMR has reduced substantially from 60 in 2003 to 40 in 2013, indicating improvement in health mechanism for infants. Among the major States, the highest overall IMR of 54 was observed in Assam and Madhya Pradesh and the lowest of 9 in Goa in 2013.
13. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has gone down to 167 in 2011-13 from 301 in 2001-03, about 45 % decline. Among the States, decline is more than 50% in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh whereas least in Punjab & Haryana (around 21-22%).
14. Although percentage of live births with medical attention have increased both in rural and urban area but rural part is still lagging behind at 69.7% against 92.1% in urban India. Jharkhand records only 45.3% medically attended deliveries in rural area and Uttar Pradesh 76% in urban area.

Literacy and Education

15. As per 2011 census, literacy rate in India has been reported as 74.04% with a 14% increase to that in 2001, whereas the hike is maximum for rural women at 26% in the last decade, which may be attributed to literacy mission of Government of India. The female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% whereas the male literacy rate is over 80%.
16. The difference in literacy among males and females is as low as less than 5% in state of Meghalaya, Kerala and Mizoram whereas states like Rajasthan, Jharkhand, D & N Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh have the difference to be the magnitude of 20% and above.
17. As per NSS 71st round report, overall 75.7% male and 62% female are literate, in rural India 72.3% Male and 56.8% Females and in Urban India 83.7% male and 74.8% females are literate in the year 2014.
18. Further, 34.9% of males and 31.9% of females have completed primary level education while 12.8% of males and 9.6% of females have completed secondary level education as per the NSS Report.
19. The adult literacy rate (15+) for male is 78.8 against 59.3 of females in 2011. In 2011, just half of the rural adult females are literate against 76.9% urban females. 88.3% urban adult males are literate against 74.1 rural adult males.
20. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females at the primary level stood at 100.6 compared with 98.1 for males in 2013-14. At the middle class level, the GER for females has been reported as 90.3 against 84.9 for males and at the higher secondary level, 96.9 and 93.3 is the Gross enrolment ratio for females and males during 2013-14.
21. As per NSS 71st Round (2014), 40% of Males & 44% of Females are not enrolled and very marginal (1.4% & 1.2% respectively) of all surveyed persons are enrolled but not attending.
22. Major reasons for non-enrolment have been reported as "Not interested in education" for rural males & females, whereas for urban India, "financial constraints" is the major reasons for non-enrolment.
23. There were 93 girls per 100 boys in primary classes, 95 in middle classes and 90 in secondary classes during 2014-15.
24. As per Ministry of Human Resource Development Publication, drop-out rates in the year 2013-14 were observed to be 18.30 and 21.20 in the classes I-V, 32.90 and 39.20 in classes I-VIII for females and males respectively indicating that the drop out at primary level is more or less equal for both the genders but the gap increases in higher classes (table 3.13). As per NSS 71st round report, more persons (around 60%) drop out in 5-15 age in rural whereas more persons (around 55%) drop out in age 16-24 in urban area irrespective of gender in the year 2014.
25. Major reason for drop out for males is "engaged in economic activities"; for females the reason is "engaged in domestic activities" for rural as well as urban.
26. In general trend it is prevalent that expenditure on education for males is more than females. Average expenditure on education per student is by and large less in Rural India as compared to urban India. Amazingly as per NSS 71st Round (2014), expenditure on female student for Graduation & Post Graduation and above course is higher than the male counterparts in rural India.

Participation in Economy

27. As per Census 2011, the workforce participation rate for females is 25.51% against 53.26% for males. Rural sector has a better female workforce participation rate of 30.02% compared with 53.03% for males. In Rural, Himachal Pradesh has max female workforce participation rate (47.4) whereas Tamil Nadu has max (21.8) among major states. Workforce participation is more or less equal for rural and urban males, but there is a huge gap in rural and urban females workforce participation.
28. Rural India has more than 50% workers in self-employed category, whereas Urban India has more than 40% workers in self-employed and regular wage categories as per NSS 68th Round(2011-12).

29. National Sample Survey (68th Round) results indicate that the worker population ratio for females in rural sector was 24.8 in 2011-12 and 54.3 for males. In Urban sector, the ratio is 14.7 for females and 54.6 for males.
30. Among the major States, the disparity in worker population ratio between male and female is highest in Bihar so far as rural area is concerned whereas Assam and Gujarat have high disparity in the urban sector.
31. As per 4th Employment Unemployment Survey, worker population ratio for persons aged 15 years and above is 29.6 and 73.5 for females and males. Himachal Pradesh has maximum WPR for females in rural and Assam for males.
32. Female participation in labour force has remained lower than male participation as women account for most of the unpaid work, and when women are employed in paid work, they are overrepresented in the informal sector and among the poor. They also face significant wage differentials vis-à-vis their male counterparts. It has been observed that LFPR is the lowest for urban females.
33. The unemployment rate for women in rural area was 2.9 against 2.1 for men whereas it was 6.6 & 3.2 for women & men in urban areas during 2011-12. The unemployment rate is 4.9 for females as compared to 2.9 for males aged 15 years and above as per the 4th Employment -Unemployment Survey.
34. In the same period, the average wage/salary received by regular wage/salaried employees of economically active age group was Rs. 428.66 per day for females compared with Rs. 550.23 per day for males in rural areas. For urban areas, it was Rs. 609.7 and Rs. 805.52 per day for females and males respectively. Most of the Union Territories hail to give the maximum wages in each of the categories.

Participation in Decision Making

35. In 2015, 8 out of 45 women occupied Ministerial positions in the Central Council of Ministers, more than 17% against around 10% women participation in 2004. 62 females have been elected in 2014 Elections constituting more than 11% share in the Lower House.
36. Female participation in elections has been 66% in the sixteenth General elections in 2014 which is more or less equal to male participation of 67%.
37. Out of 62 women MPs, 20 are in the age group 41-50 and 34% of the women MPs are social & political workers and 44% are Post Graduate. Among male members, maximum (31%) are from agriculture background and maximum (42%) are graduates & only 29% are postgraduates.
38. In the states, women share is only 9% in assemblies and only 6% in State Councils. Bihar, Haryana & Rajasthan have 14% women in their respective Assemblies, whereas, there is no women representation in Mizoram, Nagaland and Puducherry.
39. In the Panchayat setup, States Governments have ensured at least 30% seats for women. Accordingly, overall 46.7% women are present; with maximum 58.6% in Jharkhand and minimum 32.3% in Goa.
40. There were 1 women judge out of 28 judges in the Supreme Court and there were only 65 women judges out of 546 judges in different High Courts with maximum 33% in Sikkim High Court and no women judge in 8 High Courts.
41. Among the All-India and Central Group A Services, 30% females are in Indian Economic Service and only 12% in Indian Trade Service.

Social Obstacles in Women's Empowerment

42. It has been observed that 'Cruelty by husband and relatives' continues to be the highest recorded crime against women (36%) followed by 'assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty' (24%). Constantly, five percent of the total cognizable crime falls under the category of crime against

women in 2014. There has been gradual increase in overall crime figures with major increases in Rape, Kidnapping & Abduction and assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty.

43. As reported by NCRB, 69% of the total crime cases against women have been disposed-off by police during 2014. Maximum disposal to the extent of 76% of total cases for investigation is in respect of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty and protection of women from domestic violence and least (58%) in reported cases of Kidnapping & abduction of women. Maximum 18% of total cases for trial have been convicted for attempt to commit rape followed by dowry prohibition act (13%) overall conviction is 9% of total cases for trial by court in 2014.
44. The rate of incidence of crime against women per lakh women is reported maximum (11%) in the states of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Among major states, in West Bengal and Assam, approximately every fifth reported crime is against women.
45. The maximum number of rape case victims, (44%) is in the age group of 18-30 years whereas 1% of all rape victims are under 6 years of age. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have more than that of 10% each of the all India rape victims during 2014.
46. The suicide rate among females is approximately half that of males and there has not been much variation in the suicide rates over the last 10 years. The prevalence of suicides is approximately 75% for person having below secondary level of education. Family problem is the major cause of suicides among the genders, 23% for females & 21% for males followed by illness, 18% for both the genders.
47. Study of reported suicides reveal that among women suicides, approximately 47% are housewives, 64% are married and 76% are matriculate or below. Among male suicides 67% are married and 73% are matriculate or below.

International Gender Perspective of Development Indicators

48. The study of Gender perspective in India needs to be compared with other Nations of interest. India is a developing country and gender equality determines the level of development of the nation in terms of various statistical indicators.
49. The Indicators on population, sex ratio, life expectancy, marriage indicators, women related vital indicators, Education, etc. have been studied for a selected countries comprising SAARC Nations, BRICS nations and other developed nations across the globe.
50. Among the countries under study, Argentina and Japan have more than 90% urban Population, while Sri Lanka has only 15% urban population.
51. In all developed nations under study, sex ratio is fairer for the females, whereas, it is other-way round in all SAARC countries, except Nepal and Sri Lanka.
52. For the population aged 60+, the sex ratio is in favour of females in the SAARC countries, which is not a good indicator for development.
53. Annual population growth rate (2010-2015) is maximum for Argentina while lowest (15) for Sri Lanka.
54. Life Expectancy at birth is best in Japan for men as well as women and worst in Afghanistan. Both the countries continue similar trends in life expectancy at 60 years of age.
55. Mean age of marriage of females is as high as 32 in France, Germany and United Kingdom and low at 19 in Bangladesh. For men, mean age of marriage is maximum at 34 for Germany and low at 24 in Nepal.
56. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is highest at 460 for Afghanistan, while lowest at 5 for Japan; and Infant Mortality rate is maximum at 71 for Afghanistan and minimum at 2.2 for Japan.
57. Youth Literacy rate is maximum nearing to 100 for all developed nations for both males and females. Only 46% female youth and 69% male youth in Afghanistan are literates.
58. Nepal has maximum Adult Economic Activity Rate for males and females (80 and 88) and best share of women (48%), while Afghanistan has lowest for females (16) with least share of women at 16%.
59. Adult unemployment rate is maximum for South Africa males and females both and it is minimum in Nepal for women and in Bhutan for men.