

Highlights

Population and related statistics

1. As per Census 2011, the population of India is more than 121 Crore with 48.5% females, which is a corollary of the fact, that there are 949 female to 1000 males in rural India against 929 in urban India.
2. The sex ratio has improved in urban & rural India over last decades and the gap in sex ratio in rural and urban India is converging in recent decades, which may be due to more migration of families to the urban setup.
3. The State of Kerala, Puducherry, Manipur, Goa and Chhattisgarh have more females than males whereas Daman & Diu and Chandigarh are home to less than 800 females to 1000 males.
4. In the last 60 years, states of Assam, Delhi and West Bengal have improved the sex ratio substantially, but on the contrary, 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.
6. The Sex Ratio is least for the Girl Child (0-19 Years) but 1033 females per 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 is 908 in 2012, which has marginally decreased as compared to the last year.
7. As per the Sample Registration System, of the total females in 2012, 42.8% were never married, 48.9% were married and rest were widowed, divorced or separated, whereas 52.5% of total males are unmarried and 45.2% are married.
8. The mean age at marriage for females stood at 21.2 years in 2012 with urban age at 22.4 and rural mean age at 20.8.
9. Among the major States, the highest mean age at marriage was 24.6 years for Jammu & Kashmir and the lowest was 20.2 years for Jharkhand.
10. As per National Sample Survey 68th Round (2011-12), 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

11. Crude Birth Rate and General Fertility Rate (GFR) have reduced from 21.8 in 2011 to 21.6 in 2012 and 81.2 to 80.3 respectively.
12. Total fertility Rate (TFR) has also gone down from 2.8 in 2011 to 2.2 in 2012. TFR is more for illiterate women both in rural and urban area and decreases with increase in educational level.
13. The age-specific fertility rate was the highest (191.9) for women in the age-group 20-24 years followed by age-group 25-29 years (154.6) and 30-34 years (64.5). The fertility rates for the rural India are still higher as compared to urban India.
14. The female Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 42 compared with the male IMR of 39 and the overall IMR of 40 in 2013.
15. IMR has reduced substantially from 60 in 2003 to 40 in 2013, indicating improvement in health facilities for infants. Among the major States, the highest overall IMR of 54 was observed in Madhya Pradesh and the lowest at 9 in Goa in 2013.
16. The mortality rate is the lowest in the age group 10-14 years for males as well as for females but female mortality rate is still lower 0.6 against 0.8 for males. The mortality rate among females across all ages was 6.4 and that among males was 7.7 in the year 2012.
17. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has gone down to 178 in 2010-12 from 327 in 1999-2001, which may be attributed due to wide range of Government's Mother & Child schemes and increase in

institutionalised births . Among the States, highest MMR is of Assam at 328 and minimum in Tamil Nadu (90).

18. Although percentage of live births with medical attention has increased in both rural and urban area but urban India has an edge over rural counterpart. Uttar Pradesh records only 73.4% medically attended deliveries in urban area against 50.2% in rural area.

Literacy and Education

19. As per 2011 census, literacy rate in India stands at 74.04% with a 14% increase to that of 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. Overall female literacy rate in India is much lower than that of male literacy rate. The female literacy levels according to the 2011 census are 65.46% whereas the male literacy rate is over 80%.
20. Kerala is the state with highest literacy rate (94) and Bihar with the lowest literacy rate at just 63.82. Being a very vast country with second largest population, India has limited resources to make fully aware its below-poverty-line-population about the Government interventions and the law providing them the Right to Education.
21. As per Census 2011, the highest male literacy rate is in the state of Kerala at 96.1% followed by Lakshadweep at 95.6% and minimum for Bihar (71.2%) & Arunachal Pradesh(72.6%). Female literacy is the maximum for Kerala (92.1%), followed by Lakshadweep (87.9%) and lowest for Bihar (51.5%) & followed by Rajasthan(52.1%). A little more than half of the females are literate in these States.
22. The adult literacy rate (15+) for male has increased from 73.4 to 78.8 whereas increase in adult literacy is more in case of females from 47.8 to 59.3 from 2001 to 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. Overall adult literacy is increasing over decades.
23. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females at the primary level stood at 102.65 compared with 100.20 for males in 2013-14. At the middle class level, the GER for females is 92.75 against 86.31 for males and at the higher secondary level, 51.58 and 52.77 is the gross enrolment ratio for females and males during 2013-14.
24. There were 93 girls per 100 boys in primary classes, 95 in middle classes and 90 in secondary classes during 2013-14.
25. The drop-out rates were observed to be 4.66 and 4.68 in the classes I-V, 4.01 and 2.3 in classes I-VIII for females and males respectively indicating that the drop out at primary level is at par for both the genders but the gap increases in higher classes.

Participation in Economy

26. Women constitute a little less than the half of the economically active population, but their contribution to economic activity is far low.
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 urban sector. The participation rate of females trails at 15.44% against 53.76% for males. 41.1% of female main and marginal workers are agricultural labourers, 24.0% are cultivators, 5.7% are household industry workers and 29.2% are engaged in other works.
28. 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. Among the States/UTs, highest worker population ratio for females in the rural sector was in Himachal Pradesh at 52.4% and in the urban sector in Sikkim at 27.3%.

29. 59.3% females of the rural workforce were self-employed, 5.6% had regular wage/salaried employment and 35.1% females were casual labours as compared with 54.5%, 10.0% and 35.5% males in the same categories respectively. Urban India had equal proportion (42.8%) of women participation in self-employed and regular salaried employments and the rest as casual labourers against 41.7% and 43.4% males in respective employments.
30. Only 20.5% women were employed in the organized sector in 2011 with 18.1% working in the public sector and 24.3% in the private. The labour force participation rate for women across all age groups was 25.3 in rural sector and 15.5 in urban sector compared with 55.3 and 56.3 for men in the rural and urban sectors respectively in 2011-12 (NSS 68th Round).
31. As per NSS 68th round, 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.
32. During 2011-12, the average wage/salary received by regular wage/salaried employees of economically active age group was ₹ 428.66 per day for females compared with ₹ 550.23 per day for males in rural areas. For urban areas, it was ₹ 609.7 and ₹ 805.52 per day for females and males respectively. Most of the Union Territories give the maximum wages in each of the categories.
33. Female participation in labour force has remained lower than male participation as most of the women remain engaged in unpaid work, and in case of women employment in paid work, it is mostly in the informal sector. They also face significant wage differentials vis-à-vis their male counterparts.

Participation in Decision Making

34. In 2014, women occupied only 7 out of 45 Ministerial positions in the Central Council of Ministers, which is a little more than 15%, against around 10% women participation in 2004. 62 females have been elected in 2014 Elections constituting more than 11% share in the Lower House.
35. Female participation in elections has gone up from 56% in fifteenth General Elections to 66% in the latest one (sixteenth) in 2014. The male participation has also improved from 60% to 67% during the same period.
36. In the Sixteenth General Elections, women turn out is maximum in Lakshadweep (88%) and Nagaland (87%); whereas lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (48%) against total turn-out of 50%.
37. 40 of the 62 Women MPs have been elected for the first time whereas total 315 members have been elected for the first time in the sixteenth Lok Sabha.
38. 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.
39. In the states, women share is only 8% in assemblies and only 4% in State Councils.
40. In the Panchayat setup, overall 46.7% women are present; with maximum 58.6% in Jharkhand and minimum 32.3% in Goa as on 1st March, 2013.
41. There were 2 women judges out of 30 judges in the Supreme Court and there were only 58 women judges out of 609 judges in different High Courts with maximum 25% in Delhi High Court and no women judge in 6 High Courts.
42. 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

43. 'Cruelty by husband and relatives' continues to have the highest share (38%) followed by 'assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty' (23%). There has been a phenomenal increase (157%) in reporting of 'Indecent Representation of Women' Cases in 2013 over 2012.

Five percent of the total cognizable crime falls under the category of crime against women in 2013 against 4% in 2012.

44. In the year 2013, 86% of the complaints lodged in respect of 'Indecent representation of women' got investigated by the police, of which 85% were charge sheeted. 25% of cases under this crime were tried under count of law, out of which 21% cases got convicted.
45. The rate of incidence of crime against women per lakh women is reported maximum (11%) in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the year 2013. 11% of the total crime is towards women in Assam, which is the maximum among all States/UTs.
46. The number of rape case victims had increased 90% in the age group of 50+ whereas 5% of all rape victims were under 10 years of age. 13% of the rape victims were in the state of Madhya Pradesh in 2013 and 46% of the total rape victims in India were in the age-group 18-30 years in 2013.
47. 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 the maximum in males having middle level of education whereas for females it is the primary level of education. Family problem is the major cause of suicides among both the sex.

International Gender Perspective of Development Indicators(on the basis of the latest available Information)

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. Bangladesh has the maximum number of 15-19 aged women married while Japan has 7% men in the same age group married.
56. 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.
57. Among the selected countries, Afghanistan performs worst in fertility and related mortality indicators.
58. The annual number of live births born to women aged 15 to 19 years per 1,000 women is highest in Afghanistan (100) and least in France (6).
59. The total fertility rate i.e., the number of children a woman would bear if her child-bearing follows the current fertility patterns and she lives through her entire child-bearing years, is as high as 6 in Afghanistan and as low as 1 in Germany and Japan.
60. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is highest at 460 for Afghanistan, while lowest at 5 for Japan; and Infant Mortality rate is maximum at 125 for Afghanistan and minimum at 3 for France, Germany and Japan.

61. As per the UNSD data, United Kingdom provides maximum maternity leave @ 52 weeks.
62. Youth Literacy rate is maximum nearing to 100 for all developed nations for both males and females. Only 32% female youth and 62% male youth in Afghanistan are literates.
63. 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% .
64. 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.
65. South Africa and Canada have maximum representation of women in the lower and upper houses at 41% and 40% respectively. Maldives and Russian Federation have the lowest shares at 6% and 8% in respective houses.
66. United States has largest (43%) women's share of legislators, senior officials and manager, while Pakistan has only 3% women as legislators, senior officials and manager.