

# Gender Profile: India

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## General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 187,016,401

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 165,048,695

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 454,657,918

Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 429,621,617

## Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 200

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 43.19

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 54.1

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 58.7

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2011) (WHO, 2014b): 66.6%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49: NA

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49: NA

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 64

Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2012a): 68

## Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 88.41%

Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 74.36%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 75.19%

Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 50.82%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2003) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 92.23%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2003) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 89.22%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 70.52%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 66.29%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 25.99%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 20.31%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female : NA

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2003) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 44%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 41.1%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2004) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 40%

## Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 34%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 44%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 26%

## Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 11%

## Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2013) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 18%

Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 28%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 27.2%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 35.4 %

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## Gender Gaps

### Health

- According to UN Women (2014), gender-based violence experienced by women during pregnancy is a major contributor to child mortality.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted in 2014 that India was expected to fall 26 points short of its 2015 goal for reduction in the maternal mortality rate (it aims to reach 109 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births). For comparison, Canada's maternal mortality rate is 12 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- The UNDP (2014) also reported that “[b]y 2015, it is expected that India will be able to ensure only 62 percent of births in institutional facilities with trained personnel.”

### Education

- Seven million girls in schools still lack access to toilets (UN in India, 2014).
- The UN in India also notes that “[d]espite gender parity in primary education in India, 41 per cent of girls drop out of school before Class VIII” (UN in India, 2014).
- Cultural norms in some areas dictate that girls' education is not as important as boys', and many parents oppose the idea of educating their daughters, especially past the primary levels. For example, in the state of Rajasthan, the enrolment ratio of girls to boys is 3:7, 40% of girls leave school before Class V, and only 1% of girls reach Class XII (Educate Girls, 2014).
- In lower castes and in rural or economically marginalised areas, girls have the lowest levels of education.

### Economic

- In assessing India's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the UNDP noted that “the labour market openness to women in industry and services has only marginally increased from 13–18 percent between 1990–91 and 2004–05” (UNDP, 2014).
- A 2011 report by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of the Government of India projected that “the share of women in wage employment can at best reach a level of about 23.1% by 2015. Labour markets in industry and services sectors in India are heavily male dominated and a 50:50 situation for men and women is too ideal to be true given the market dynamics and existing socio-cultural framework” (CSO, 2014, p. 55).
- Studies by the Government of India in 2002 and 2005/2006 found that although 74.8% of rural women in India were agricultural workers, only 9.3% owned the land (UN Women, 2015).
- Since women are often not primary earners, they can become vulnerable to poverty in the event of widowhood or divorce. Women's lower rates of literacy and education limit their employment prospects, making them more likely to experience poverty.

## Decision-Making

- In its Millennium Development Goals report of 2009, the Government of India acknowledged that “participation of women in employment and decision-making remains far less than that of men, and the disparity is not likely to be eliminated by 2015” (UNDP, 2011).
- Traditional views about women’s domestic roles, as well as women’s lack of education, hinder their participation in politics.
- A 2014 article in The Guardian newspaper noted that 10% of women who stand for election in India win their seats, compared with 6% of men. However, political parties remain “reluctant to field women in the elections. India’s chiefly male political parties have also consistently opposed and blocked the passage of the women’s reservation bill, which would have ensured that all parties had to keep 33% of seats for women” (Roy, 2014, para. 6).

## Human Rights

- According to the National Crime Records Bureau, violence against women is increasing. A rape is reported every 30 minutes, yet conviction rates remain low. Efforts are being made by the Indian government to improve services for survivors of rape and to encourage them to report the crime (Times of India, 2014).
- Patriarchal norms strongly propagate son preference. Sex-selective abortion as well as female infanticide occur. The number of girls being born in India is declining rapidly. In the 2011 census (the most recent available data), the government recorded the worst decadal child sex ratio since the country gained independence: 914 girls for every 1,000 boys—a decline from 945 in 1991 and 927 in 2001 (Plan India, 2013).
- Slavery and human trafficking are not uncommon in India, with an estimated 1.14% of the total population enslaved (Global Slavery Index, 2014). A 2004 study of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), commissioned by the Indian Government’s Department of Women and Child Development, estimated that about 2.8 million persons were trafficked for CSE in India annually, an increase of 22% from an earlier estimate. “The majority of trafficked persons are young women or children who have been forced into sex work as a result of poverty, often before they were 18 years old” (Joffres et al., 2008).

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