

# Statistics on Women in India 2007



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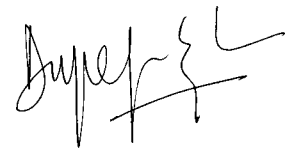


# Foreword

The progress of a country is best adjudged by the positive changes that are reflected in its human development indices. This is particularly true when the growth indices represent changes brought about among the vulnerable sections of its society, particularly women. Successive Governments have addressed women's issues through legislative and administrative interventions and by strengthening various institutions delivering health care, education and justice. India has in fact been in the forefront of various initiatives for betterment of the status of women and is a signatory to many international conventions on this subject. On the domestic front, the Five-Year Plans so far have paid special attention to the vulnerable groups for their economic development. With these interventions it was hoped that the social discrimination faced by women and gender-related oppression would subside.

How far have these efforts fructified? Are we heading in the right direction to achieve various goals that we have set for ourselves? To get answers to these questions we need to look at available statistics. These are not mere numbers but indicators of the achievements of five decades and highlight gaps where further efforts are required. Thus statistical information is an important tool to assess the present status and chalk out the future growth path. All statistical information that is gathered by various Governmental and autonomous institutions at periodic intervals such as the General Census, demography, employment status in rural and urban areas, literacy, education, poverty level, and gender related data have an important place in planning. To get all the data in one single document would be of immense use to those working in the area of women's development and gender planning.

Viewed in this context, the present compilation by NIPCCD, which encompasses different aspects of the status of women and girls in India, is indeed an important and welcome effort. I understand that in these commendable efforts, the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) had the support and cooperation of officials of various ministries and departments, international organisations and autonomous institutions. I am confident that planners, administrators, research scholars and other stakeholders working in the area of women's empowerment would find this document a useful tool for improving the status of women in the country.



(Deepa Jain Singh)  
Secretary  
Ministry of Women and Child Development  
New Delhi



# Preface

Women constitute half the human resources and thus the economic wealth of the country and if about half the nation's human resource is neglected, the overall progress of the country would obviously be hampered. Recognizing the need for involving women in various development activities, the Government of India has initiated several affirmative measures by way of programmes and schemes to bring them into the mainstream of development. These affirmative actions have brought about perceptible changes in the socio-economic conditions of women. The literacy rate of females, which was 8.86% in 1951 rose to 54.16% in 2001. Women's work participation rate, which was 19.7% in 1981, rose to 25.7% in 2001. The data base also brings out the areas where the progress has been slow if not retrograde. The sex ratio in the 0-6 years age group dropped from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001, which indicates that society still does not welcome a girl child and the preference rests with sons. Nearly 50% women get married before they attain 18 years of age, and 57.9% pregnant women and 56.2% married women suffer from anaemia. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is quite high, at 301 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2006. Thus, there is room for much more to be done to ameliorate the plight of women at the grass root level.

Since the Eleventh Five-Year Plan has just taken off, a comprehensive picture of the 'Situation of Women and Girls in India' would be a useful reference base. This document is an effort to capture statistically the situation of women and girls in India, as revealed on many social indicators which are available in widely scattered sources. Various indicators covered in this document are: demography and vital statistics; health and nutritional status; education; girl child; work participation of women and children; support measures for women, including women in distress; political participation of women and women in decision making; prevalence of disability; crime against women and children; food security; household expenditure; budget outlays for women in the Union Budget and Budget of the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and voluntary organisations involved in the social development activities.

The document has taken shape and come out due to the efforts of a team of officers and staff of the Institute. Dr. Dinesh Paul, Additional Director and Dr. Sulochana Vasudevan, Joint Director, Women's Development Division, provided support and guidance to a team headed by Ms. Meenakshi Sood, and comprising Ms. S.K. Sobti, Ms. Meenu Kapur, Ms. Punita Mathur, and Dr. Anindita Shukla, who all have painstakingly compiled and updated the information and statistics several times over. While Ms. Sandeepa Jain, Shri Pawan Kumar, Ms. Subha Laxmi Behera and Shri Ashok Mahato provided computer

assistance, Shri A.J. Kaul, Publications Officer and other officials of the Common Services Division were instrumental in ensuring the timely publication of the document. It would be remiss on my part if I do not acknowledge the contribution of various Government Departments, autonomous organisations, UN agencies, international organisations, research institutes and voluntary organisations, who extended full cooperation and shared their documents with us.

The document shows at a glance statistics on indicators which are available in various published sources. We have put in the effort with the hope that this document would be a useful asset to researchers, planners, academicians, media persons, and others concerned with issues related to women's empowerment.



(A. K. Gopal)  
Director



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