

## UPSC SHOTS

### DATAS ABOUT WOMEN THAT CAN BE USED IN GS PAPERS

*A Thematic Compilation of the Most Relevant and Recent Facts & Statistics for UPSC CSE Mains 2025 – Curated from News, Reports & Government Sources*

*This document presents updated, mains-focused data on Women across all General Studies papers (GS-I to GS-III). Backed by credible sources from 2024–25, each fact is crafted to help you substantiate your answers with precision and relevance in UPSC CSE Mains 2025.*

#### GS-I: Society & Women

##### Demographics & Gender Ratios

- **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):**  
India's SRB stands at **929 females per 1000 males** (CRS 2021), indicating the persistence of gender-selective practices despite PCPNDT Act.
- **Overall Sex Ratio (OSR):**  
As per NFHS-5, India's overall sex ratio has improved to **1020 females per 1000 males**, showing demographic progress led by southern states.
- **Child Sex Ratio (CSR):**  
India's CSR remains **low at 919 girls per 1000 boys** (Census 2011), indicating deep-rooted son preference and patriarchal norms.

##### 2. Literacy & Educational Attainment

- **Female Literacy Rate:**  
According to Census 2011, female literacy stands at 65.46%, considerably lower than male literacy at 82.14%.
- **Gender Parity Index (GPI):**

At all school levels, GPI exceeds 1.0 — Primary (1.03), Upper Primary (1.02), Higher Secondary (1.01) — indicating parity or slight advantage for girls (UDISE 2023).

- **Higher Education Participation:**

49% of total enrolment in higher education are women (AISHE 2021–22), reflecting near-equal access to tertiary education.

- **STEM Enrolment:**

Women now form 42.6% of all STEM enrolments, showcasing narrowing gaps in technical education fields (AISHE 2021–22).

## Health, Fertility & Nutrition

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):**

India's TFR has declined to 2.0 (NFHS-5), reflecting improved family planning awareness.

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):**

As per SRS 2022, MMR in India is 97 per 1,00,000 live births, with southern states like Kerala achieving below 20.

- **Anaemia Prevalence:**

57% of Indian women aged 15–49 are anaemic (NFHS-5), indicating ongoing nutritional deficiencies.

- **Contraceptive Usage:**

Contraceptive prevalence is 67% among currently married women (NFHS-5), showing steady family planning adoption.

- **Life Expectancy:**

Indian women's life expectancy is 71.3 years (2023 estimate), slightly higher than men.

## 4. Marriage Patterns & Family Life

- **Early Marriage:**

23.3% of women aged 20–24 were married before the legal age of 18 (NFHS-5), despite awareness campaigns like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

- **Median Age at Marriage:**

Median age at first marriage for women increased to 19.2 years in NFHS-5 (2019–21).

- **Teenage Pregnancy Rate:**

6.8% of girls aged 15–19 were already pregnant or mothers (NFHS-5), raising concerns over child health outcomes.

## 5. Labour Force Participation & Unpaid Work

- **Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR):**

As per PLFS 2023–24, FLFPR rose to 41.7%, from 23.3% in 2017–18 – largely due to rural distress-driven informal work.

- **Self-Employment Share:**

67.4% of employed women are self-employed (PLFS 2023–24), often out of necessity rather than opportunity.

- **Unpaid Care Work:**

Women spend 7.2 hours/day on unpaid domestic and caregiving work, compared to men's 2.8 hours/day (NSS Time Use Survey).

- **Urban Female Unemployment Rate:**

As per PLFS 2023–24 (Annual Report, July 2023 – June 2024), the urban female unemployment rate stood at 7.1%, marking a decline from 10.8% in 2017–18

- **Gender Wage Gap:**

Women earn ₹74–76 per ₹100 earned by men in salaried jobs; in self-employment, this falls to ₹35–38 (PLFS 2024).

## 6. Social Norms & Mobility

- **Acceptance of Domestic Violence:**

31% of women justify wife-beating in some circumstances (NFHS-5) (NFHS-5),, reflecting social conditioning.

- **Restricted Mobility:**

Over 50% of women require permission to leave home for health or shopping (NFHS-5) (NFHS-5).

- **Digital Gender Divide:**

Only 33% of women use the internet vs. 57% of men (GSMA Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023) (GSMA).

## 7. Women in Vulnerable Groups

- **Muslim Women Literacy:**

With ~51% literacy (Census 2011), Muslim women fare lowest among major religious communities.

- **SC/ST Women Disadvantages:**

SC/ST women face higher dropout, lower job access, and poorer maternal outcomes, reflecting caste-gender intersectionality (MoSPI 2023).

- **Women in Agriculture Cooperatives:**

Despite forming 47% of agricultural labourers, women constitute only 7.5% of co-operative society members (Agri Ministry, 2024).

## 8. Gender-Based Violence

- **Crimes Against Women:**

Over 4.5 lakh cases of crimes against women were recorded in 2022 (NCRB), with high pendency rates in courts.

- **Spousal Violence:**

29.3% of ever-married women report experiencing physical or sexual violence from their partner (NFHS-5).

- **Conviction Rates (Case Study):**

In Bengaluru, only 1% of IPC 498A cases filed between 2017–22 led to conviction (TOI, 2025).

- **POCSO Pendency:**

As of 2024, 389 districts have over 100 pending POCSO cases each, delaying justice for child abuse victims (Financial Express).

## 9. Representation in Culture & Media

- **Film Industry Participation:**

Only 12% of directors in top-grossing Indian films are women (IFFI 2023), indicating gender bias in media leadership.

- **Decline in Folk Arts Participation:**

Traditional performing arts like Yakshagana and Nautanki report reduced female presence, especially in North India.

## 10. Urbanisation, Migration & Safety

- **Female-Headed Urban Households:**

In Delhi slums, ~18% households are female-headed, often due to male migration (Delhi Urban Shelter Board, 2021).

- **Internal Migration Share:**

Women constitute 29% of all internal migrants in India (Census 2011), often for marriage or domestic work.

- **Urban Safety Perception:**

78% of women in metro cities feel unsafe walking at night, highlighting gaps in urban design and policing (Safety Audit Reports, 2022).

## 11. Women in Movements & Collective Action

- **Shaheen Bagh Protest (2020):**

Led by Muslim women, the anti-CAA protest became a national symbol of peaceful resistance.

- **Farmers' Protest (2020–21):**

Haryana and Punjab women participated in large numbers, challenging gendered spaces in agriculture and politics.

- **#MeToo Movement (India):**

Empowered women across sectors to speak out against sexual harassment, triggering institutional reforms.

## 12. Transgender & Non-Binary Women

- **Population Size:**

India recorded ~4.9 lakh transgender persons in Census 2011, likely undercounted.

- **Legal Framework:**

The Transgender Persons Act, 2019 ensures rights but requires medical certification, limiting actual inclusion.

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