

Women in India: A reality check

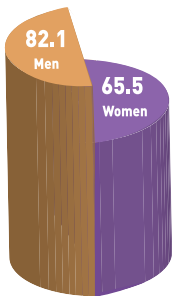
Tracing the rise of patriarchy to class-based “civilisations” and the diminishing role of women in such societies, Chris Harman, in his book ‘A People’s History of the World’, says in hunter-gatherer societies, there was no male supremacy over women as there was almost always a division of labour between the sexes, with the men doing most of the

hunting and the women most of the gathering.

The human story has been one of interaction between the development of “relations of production” and “forces of production”. New intensive production techniques tended to prioritise men’s labour over women’s. The use of the plough, for instance, encouraged an increased division of labour

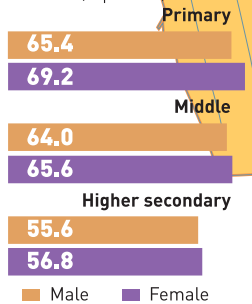
Literacy and education

Percentage of literacy



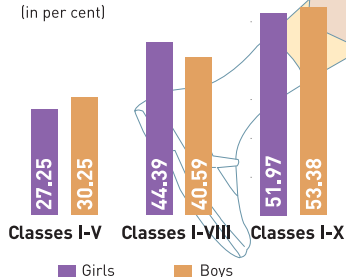
Total literate population
74.0% (Census 2011)

Enrolment in government schools (in per cent)



Students aged 5-29 years
(NSS 64th round 2007-08)

Dropout rates (2009-10) (in per cent)



Main reasons for girls never attending school:

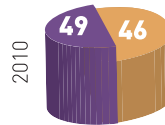
- High cost of education
- Lack of interest in studies
- Education not considered necessary
- They are needed for household work.

Health and well-being

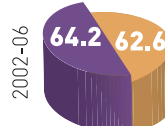
The maternal mortality rate has come down from **254** during 2004-06 to **212** during 2007-09.

Infant mortality rate

(No. of deaths/1,000 live births)



Life expectancy at birth



Female Male

2.2% women in India drink alcohol

10.8% chew paan masala

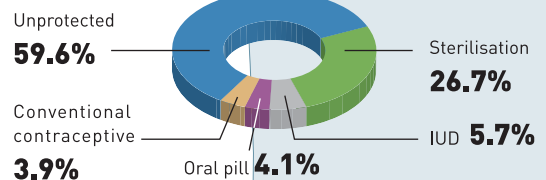
1.4% women smoke

40.8% of deliveries were in hospitals, maternity/nursing homes, health centres, etc.

48.8% deliveries were assisted by doctors, trained ‘dais’, midwives, nurses.

99% of married women know about any one of the methods of contraception. Awareness about female sterilisation is very high in both urban and rural areas. Rural women are found to be less aware about the traditional methods of contraception (**55.5%**) compared with urban women (**62.4%**).

Use of contraception



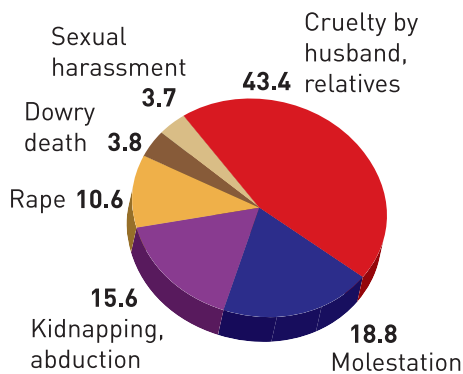
Compiled by R. Suresh; Infographics by V. Srinivasan, L. Balamurugan

between the sexes, since it was a form of heavy labour not easily done by women bearing or nursing children. These new ways of production created new relations between members of the group.

Women everywhere lost out with the polarisation of society into classes and the rise of the state. From being co-decision-makers with men, they were thrust into a position of dependence and subordination. Over several civilisations, the change was rooted in the new relations that grew between people with the production of a surplus.

Crimes against women in 2011

Categories of crime (in per cent)



Status of cases

10.4% cases of cruelty by husband and relatives came for trial and the conviction rate was in **8.3%**. The highest conviction rate of **16.5%** was for the crime "importation of girls" and the lowest, **4.0%**, was for "indecent representation of women".

Victims by age groups

below 10 years	875
10-14 years	1,707
14-18 years	4,646
18-30 years	13,264
30-50 years	3,637
above 50 years	141
Total number of cases	24,270

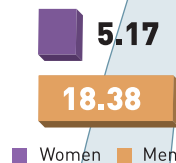


Participation in economy

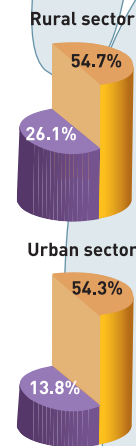
Accounts in commercial banks in 2010 (in million)



Amount deposited (in Rs. lakh crore)



Participation in workforce (2009-10)



Daily average wage/salary of regular employees (in Rs.; 15-59 years; 2009-10)

	Rural	Urban
Women	155.87	308.79
Men	249.15	377.16

Women in government, judiciary

8 in 74-member Union Council of Ministers.
2 among 26 judges in the Supreme Court.
54 among 634 judges in High Courts.

Working women

I. Rural sector

55% self-employed
4.4% regular wage/salaried
39.9% casual labourers

II. Organised sector (2010)

20.4% of total workforce
17.9% in public sector
24.5% in private sector
16.6% in scheduled-commercial banks

10% in Central government jobs in 2009

32.5% their registrations in employment exchanges in 2009