

DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

India Human Development Survey Forum | March 2025

A monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the IHDS research community.

Happy International Women's Day and Month

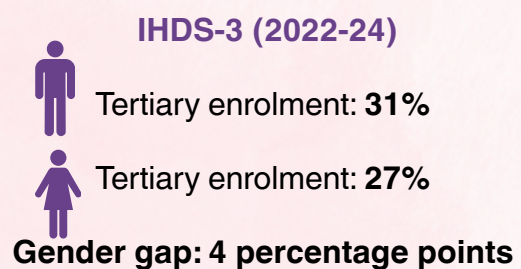
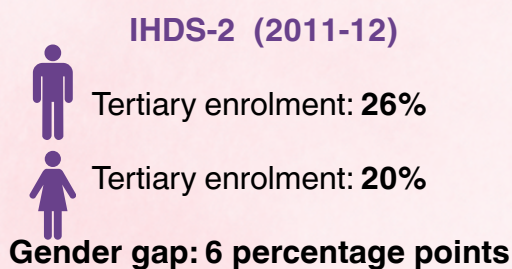
March 8th is more than just a date. It's a global call to celebrate, reflect, and challenge the status quo for women's rights and equality. As the world comes together for International Women's month, we spotlight some of the trends in gender statistics.

In this special edition of the IHDS Newsletter, we highlight statistics from the latest IHDS-3 survey, reflecting some dimensions of women's everyday life.

1 Gender gap in tertiary education has declined. In 2011-12, 26% of men aged 20-24 were enrolled compared to 20% of women. By 2022-24, women have almost caught up with men, with 31% men and 27% women being enrolled.



Gender gap in tertiary education for men and women age 20-24 years

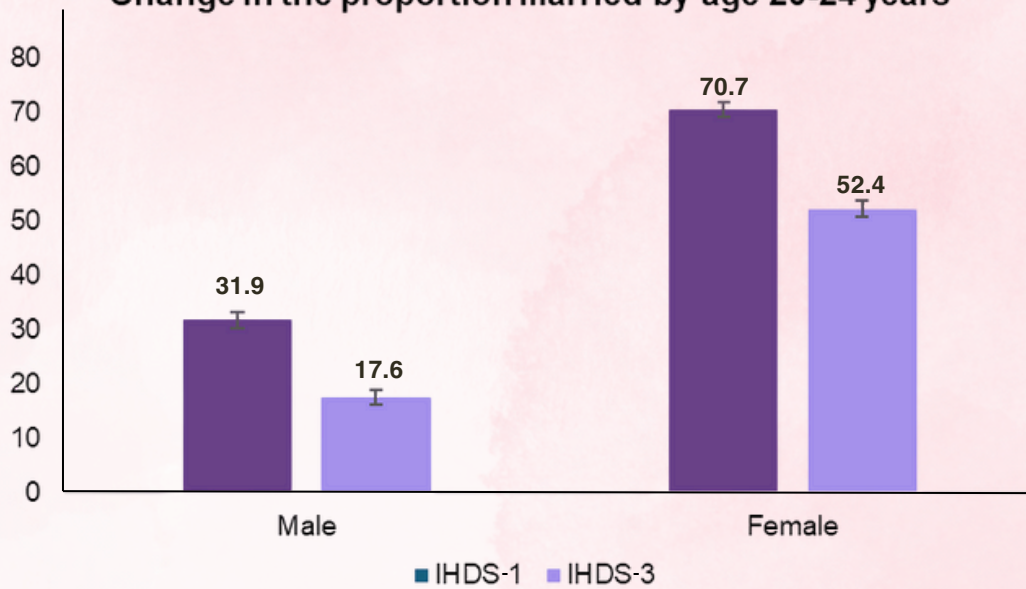


Note: Enrolment rate is the percentage of individuals within the relevant age group currently enrolled in a specific education level. Primary refers to Class 1-5, Secondary covers Class 6-10, and Tertiary includes Class 11 and above.



2 There has been a significant decline in early marriages for males and females over the last two decades. While the share of females marrying by age 20-24 years still remains higher than males, it has declined significantly between IHDS-1 and IHDS-3.

Change in the proportion married by age 20-24 years

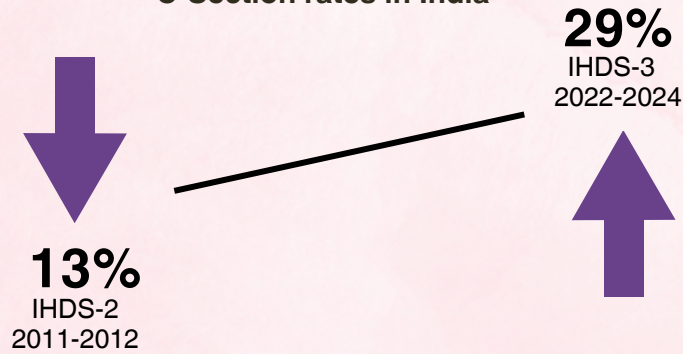


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India's caesarean deliveries (C-section) have nearly doubled from 12.64% (2011-12) to 28.96% (2022-24), exceeding WHO's recommended 10-15% threshold.



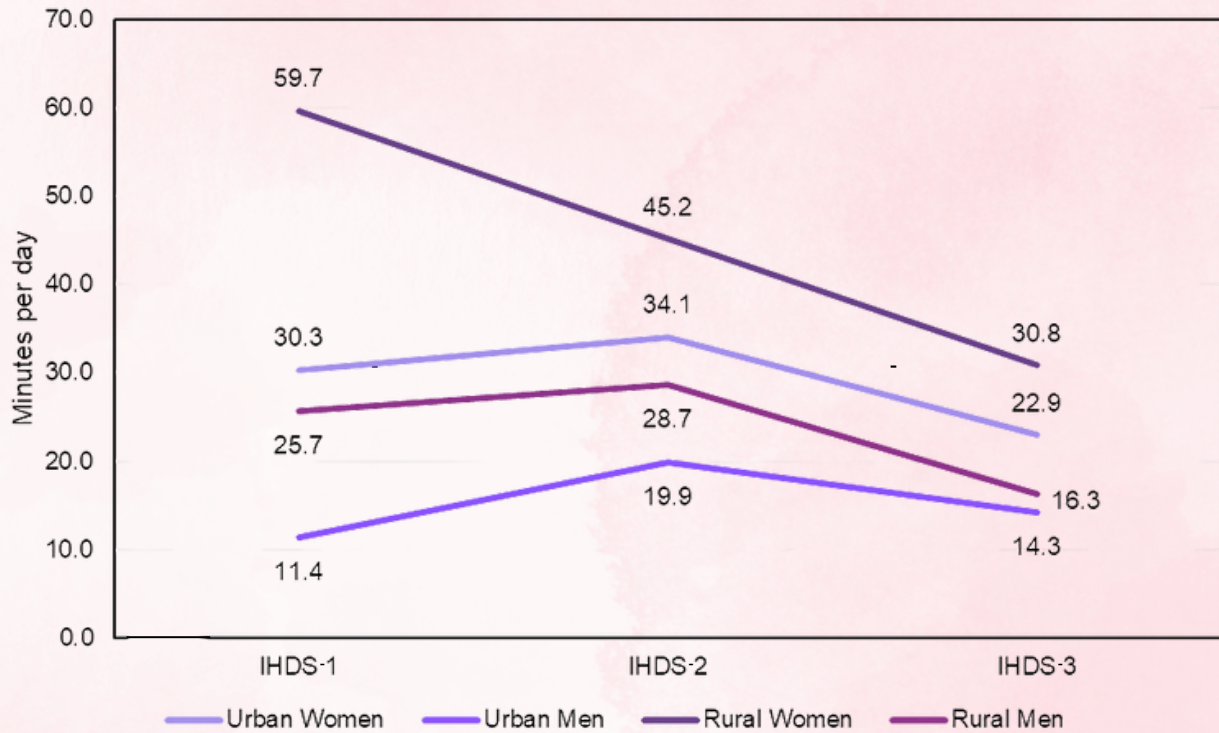
C-Section rates in India



4

Water fetching remains a woman's burden in India. However, from IHDS-1 to IHDS-3, time spent on this task declined for all women, dropping more sharply for rural women. Yet, they still bore the heaviest burden, spending 31 minutes, followed by urban women at 23 minutes. The gender gap is narrowing, but persists.

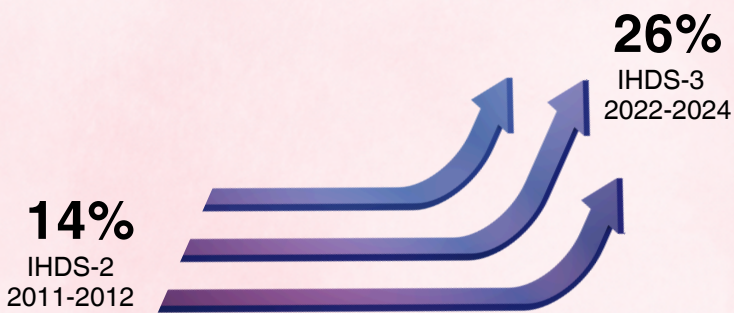
Time spent fetching water in a day by gender in rural and urban areas across IHDS - 1, 2 and 3



5

A sharp increase in women’s self-help group membership for ever-married women ages 15-49 from 14% in IHDS-2 (2011-12) to 26% in IHDS-3 (2022-24).

Women’s participation in self help groups



Beneath the surface of India’s development story lies a complex web of gendered experiences. The latest IHDS-3 data reveals both quiet progress and persistent disparities shaping the lives of women and girls. As these patterns unfold, they urge to rethink strategies and craft policies that drive meaningful change and equitable outcomes across the country.

About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) began as a nationally representative, multi topic survey of 41,554 households in 1,503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews was completed in 2004-05; Data is publicly available via ICPSR. The second round re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same is available via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS-3 was undertaken in 2022-24 and data is currently being cleaned and processed.

IHDS-3 has been jointly conducted by researchers from the University of Maryland, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Indiana University and University of Michigan.

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Thank you for your support.