



Women Related Data: NFHS 5

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Why in News

Recently, the latest data from the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2019-21)** has been released.

Earlier in 2020, the **first-phase data of the NFHS-5 2019-20** was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which provided data on various issues related to women in india.



Key Points

- **Prevalence of Child Marriage:**

- The share of **women aged 20-24** who married before turning 18 has **declined from 27% to 23% in the last five years.**

Child marriage is a key determinant of high fertility, poor maternal and child health, and lower social status of women.

- **West Bengal and Bihar**, with around 41% such women each, had the highest prevalence of girl child marriage.
- The maximum reduction in the proportion of underage marriages was observed in **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana.**

- **Rampant Anaemia:**
 - As many as **57% women aged 15-49 were anaemic in 2019-21**, compared to 53% in 2015-16, while the same for men rose from 22.7% to 25%.
 - The most formidable increase—**8.5% was observed for children** aged 6-59 months (67.1%).
 - **Among larger states**, West Bengal and Kerala reported the **highest and lowest prevalence**, respectively, of anaemic women.
 - **Child anaemia rates worsened** the most in Assam, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.
- **Improving Amenities:**
 - All states, except Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam and Jharkhand, had **over 90% population** with access to improved drinking water sources.
 - Bihar, Jharkhand etc states had almost doubled the access since 2015-16, but most **fell below the 75% mark**.
- **Women who own House:**
 - The **number of women who own a house or land in Delhi**, either alone or jointly, has **significantly dipped** over the past five years.
 - While the percentage of women who had a house or land registered in their name in 2015-16 was around 35%, it dipped to 22.7% in 2020-21.
- **Women who have a Bank Account:**

It has **gone up 8%** and women who have a mobile phone that they use is **up by 7%**.
- **Access to Internet:**

The percentage of women who have **ever used the internet was around 64%** as compared to 85% men. This data was **not available in the previous survey**.
- **Participation in the Household Participation:**

It has gone up from around 74% in 2015-16 to 92% now. The **participation of married women in household decisions** includes health care for self, making major household purchases, and visits to her family or relatives, etc.
- **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure:**

It went from Rs 8,518 to Rs 2,548 in five years. Average out-of-pocket expenditure has **seen a significant improvement** in the per delivery in a public health facility.
- **Rise in Obesity:**
 - Obesity among both men and women has risen. While **41.3% of women are now overweight or obese, this figure is 38% for men**.
 - The rise in the percentage of men who are overweight or obese, however, has been faster in men than in women.

- **High Malnutrition:**

- The share of under-five children who were stunted (too short for age), wasted (low weight for height), or underweight has declined.
- However, **every third child still suffers** from chronic undernourishment, and every fifth child is acutely malnourished.
 - **Stunting:** Meghalaya had the prevalence, followed by Bihar while Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand recorded declines of 5-7% since 2015-16.
 - **Wasting:** Bihar had the highest prevalence of underweight children, followed closely by Gujarat.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

- The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, Government of India has designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, as the nodal agency for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey. IIPS collaborates with a number of Field Organizations (FO) for survey implementation.
- The survey **provides state and national information** for India on:
Fertility, Infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, Maternal and child health, Reproductive health, Nutrition, Anaemia, Utilization and quality of health and family planning services
- Each successive round of the NFHS has had two specific goals:
 - To **provide essential data on health and family welfare** needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes.
 - To **provide information on important emerging health** and family welfare issues.
- The funding for different rounds of NFHS has been provided by USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, **UNICEF**, **UNFPA**, and **MoHFW** (Government of India).

Way Forward

- The NFHS findings are a **reminder of the urgent need to close gaps** in girls' education and **address the pathetic nutritional status of women and children**.
- Current times **require integrated and coordinated efforts** from all health institutions, academia and other partners directly or indirectly associated with the health care services to make these services accessible, affordable and acceptable to all.

Source: IE