



Women Related Data: NFHS 5

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.

EXCERPTS FROM NFHS SURVEY



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (WOMEN AGE 15-49 YEARS)

	2020-21	2015-16
Participation of married women in household decisions	92%	73.8%
Women who worked in last 12 months and paid in cash	24.9%	21.1%
Women owning a house and/or land (alone or jointly)	22.7%	34.9%
Women having a bank or savings account that they use	72.5%	64.5%
Women having a mobile phone that they themselves use	73.8%	66.6%

NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF ADULTS (AGE 15-49 YEARS)

	2020-21	2015-16
Women whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal	10%	14.9%
Men whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal	9.1%	17.7%
Women who are overweight or obese	41.3%	33.5%
Men who are overweight or obese	38%	24.6%
Average out-of-pocket expenditure per delivery in a public health facility (in Rs)	2,548	8,518
Women who have ever used the internet	63.8%	NA
Men who have ever used the internet	85.2%	NA
Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance/financing scheme	25%	15.7%

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](#)