



Economic Survey 2019-20: Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

▪ Employment and Income

- Largest proportion of Indian population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture for employment opportunities as compared to any other sector.
- The share of regular wage/salaried employees has increased by 5 percentage points from 18% in 2011-12 to 23% in 2017-18.
- Gender disparity in India's labour market widened due to decline in female labour force participation, especially in rural areas.

▪ Government Expenditure on Social Services

- The expenditure on social services (health, education and others) by the Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2% in 2014-15 to 7.7% in 2019-20.
- Access to health services inter-alia through Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush across the country has improved and a 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029) launched to focus on sustaining the sanitation behavior change and increasing access to solid and liquid waste management.

▪ **Burning of agricultural residues**, leading to rise in pollutant levels and deterioration of air quality, is **still a major concern**, though the total number of burning events recorded reduced due to various efforts taken.

▪ All urban areas of 35 States/UTs have become **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** and percentage of waste processing rose from around 18% to 60%.

▪ The Survey emphasizes on sustainability of food security operations by:

- Addressing the burgeoning food subsidy bill.
- Revisiting the rates and coverage under National Food Security Act (NFSA).

▪ Privatization of Education

- The Survey proposes privatization of education at all levels as a policy initiative to fast-track entrepreneurship and consequently wealth creation.
- It links literacy levels to start-up activity and cites the example of the eastern parts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rate of about 59.6% and also the lowest rate of new firms being set up.