



Data Related to Women: NFHS-5

Why in News

Recently, the first-phase data of the [National Family Health Survey-5 \(NFHS-5\) 2019-20](#) has been released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, which provided data on various issues related to women in India.

- **NFHS** is a **large-scale, multi-round survey** conducted in a representative sample of households **throughout India**. The **Phase-I** provides data for 22 states/UTs and the fieldwork in the remaining 14 (**Phase-II**) States/UTs is under progress.
- All **NFHSs** have been conducted under the stewardship of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**, with the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai**, serving as the nodal agency.

Key Points

▪ Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

- The TFR across **most Indian states declined in the past half-a-decade**, more so among urban women. This implies that **India's population is stabilizing**.
- **Sikkim recorded the lowest TFR**, with one woman bearing 1.1 children on average; **Bihar recorded the highest TFR** of three children per woman.
- In 19 of the 22 surveyed states, TFRs were found to be **'below-replacement level (2.1)'**.
 - **TFR** indicates the **average number of children expected to be born** to a woman during her reproductive span of **15-49 years**.
 - The **replacement level** is the number of children needed to replace the parents, after accounting for fatalities, skewed sex ratio, infant mortality, etc. Population starts falling below this level.

▪ Anaemia among Women:

- More than half of the children and women are anaemic in **13 of the 22 States/UTs**.
- It has also been observed that **anaemia among pregnant women has increased** in half of the States/UTs compared to NFHS-4.
- In all the states, anaemia is much **higher** among women compared to men.

▪ Contraception:

- **Female sterilization** continues to dominate as the **modern method of contraception** in states like Andhra Pradesh (98%), Telangana (93%), Kerala (88%), Karnataka (84%), Bihar (78%) and Maharashtra (77%).
- Overall **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)** has **increased substantially** in most States/UTs and it is the **highest in HP and WB (74%)**.

▪ Child Marriages:

- There has been an **increase** in **child marriages** in Tripura (40.1% from 33.1% in 2015-16), Manipur (16.3% from 13.7% in 2015-16) and Assam (31.8% from 30.8% in 2015-16),

- States like **West Bengal (41.6%)** and **Bihar (40.8%)** still have high prevalence of child marriages.
- States such as **Tripura, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland** have also shown an **increase in teenage pregnancies**.
- **Domestic/Spousal Violence:**
 - It has **generally declined** in most of the states and UTs.
 - However, it has witnessed an **increase** in five states, namely **Sikkim, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka**.
 - Karnataka witnessed the largest increase in spousal violence, **from 20.6% in NFHS 4 to 44.4% in NFHS-5**.
 - **Sexual violence** has increased in five states (Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and West Bengal).
- **Institutional Births:**
 - Have increased substantially with over **four-fifth of the women** delivering in institutions in 19 States and UTs.
 - Institutional delivery is **over 90% in 14** out of the total 22 States and UTs.
- **Caesarean (C-section) Deliveries:**
 - There has been an **increase** in the number of Caesarean section (C-section) deliveries in a majority of states.
 - The international healthcare community has considered the **ideal rate** for caesarean sections to be **between 10% and 15%**.
 - States such as **Telangana, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh**, and some in the northeast, have shown a jump in C-section deliveries, especially at private healthcare facilities, in the last five years.
 - In some states like **Telangana and West Bengal**, the C-section deliveries, at private healthcare facilities rose up to 81% and 82%.
- **Sex Ratio at Birth:**
 - **SRB** has remained **unchanged or increased** in most States/UTs.
 - Majority of the states are in **normal sex ratio of 952 or above**.
 - SRB is **below 900** in **Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, DNH & DD**.
- **Child Nutrition:**
 - **Child nutrition** indicators show a **mixed pattern across states**. While the situation improved in many States/UTs, there has been minor deterioration in others.
 - Drastic changes in respect of stunting and wasting are unlikely in a short period.
- **Financial Inclusion:**
 - Considerable progress has been recorded between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 in regard to **women operating bank accounts**.
- **Sanitation and Clean Air:**
 - The percentage of households with improved sanitation facilities and clean fuel for cooking has **increased** in almost all the 22 States/UTs over the last four years (from 2015-16 to 2019-20).
 - The Government of India has made concerted efforts to provide toilet facilities to maximum households through **Swachh Bharat Mission**, and improved household environment through **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** in the country.

Way Forward

- 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.

- The data in NFHS-5 **gives requisite input for strengthening existing programmes and evolving new strategies for policy intervention**, therefore government and authorities should take steps to further improve the condition of women in India.

Source: IE

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