



## AISHE-2019

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According to the **All-India Survey on Higher Education** (AISHE) report **2018-19**, the **gender gap in the country narrowed** as compared to the previous year, i.e. 2017-18.

- The female students constituted almost half (approx. 48.6%) of the total enrolment in higher education.
- In **U.P and Karnataka**, more girls were enrolled than their male counterparts in the higher education of the state.
- The number of female students per 100 male students has gone up from 90 (2017-18) to 95 in 2018-19.

## Key Findings

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- For the survey, 944 out of 993 universities listed on the AISHE portal, uploaded the information during the 2018-19 survey.
- According to the findings, the **total enrolment** in higher education has been estimated at around 37.4 million, with a marginal **increase** in the **gross enrolment ratio**.
- The highest number of students are **enrolled at the undergraduate level** (at around 79.8 %), followed by post-graduation (10.8 %). But a surge was observed in **integrated degree programmes**.
  - Integrated programmes are becoming more popular as they provide a better foundation for the subject knowledge and practice.
  - At the undergraduate level, the highest number of students were enrolled in **Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences** courses (approx. 35.9%), followed by **Science** (16.5%), **Commerce** (14.1%) and **Engineering and Technology** (13.5 %).
- Only **2.5%** of the total number of colleges were running **Doctorate** programmes and 35% had **Post-graduate** level courses.
- Out of the total number of colleges in India, only 11.04% are **exclusively there for female students**.
  - According to the report, the percentage of women saw a **steady rise in**

**language courses**, while on the other hand, men are opting for courses which can fetch them immediate employment, like that of courses in the field of Science and Technology.

- The share of female students was the **lowest** in the **Institutions of National Importance**.

## Higher Education Initiatives in India

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- The **Department of Higher Education, under the Ministry of Human Resource Development**, has taken several measures to improve the overall development of the Higher Education sector, both in terms of **policy and planning**. Some of the taken initiatives are as follows:
- **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)**, to leverage the potential of ICT to make the best quality content accessible to all learners in the country free of cost.
- **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** aims at providing strategic funding to higher educational institutions throughout the country.
- Project **Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)** to put together an action plan to give a multi-pronged boost to the higher education system in India.
- **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF)** to attract the talent pool of the country to doctoral (Ph.D) programmes for carrying out research in cutting edge science and technology domains, with focus on national priorities.
- **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- **Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)** launched by MHRD, seeks to tap the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs from abroad, including those of Indian origin to augment the country's existing academic resources.
- Formation of **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** to finance the **creation of capital assets** in **premier educational institutions in India**.

**Source: BL**