

# Dynamics of Gender Equality Targeting attainment of SDG-5

Riya Agarwal<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Roli Pradhan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Associate, NITTTR, Bhopal

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, NITTTR, Bhopal

**Citation:** Riya Agarwal, Dr. Roli Pradhan, (2024), Dynamics of Gender Equality Targeting attainment of SDG-5, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(1), 529-533

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i1.4694

## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

This research investigates the complexities of gender inequality in India and explores potential pathways towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 - Gender Equality. The analysis leverages quantitative data on factors impacting gender equality, such as maternal mortality rate, adolescent fertility rate, female literacy rate, women's participation in parliament, and female labour force participation rate. This data is gathered from government reports, including Census reports and the "Women and Men in India" series. Time series forecasting techniques are then employed to project trends in these metrics for the years 2025, 2030, and 2035. Finally, regression analysis is used to assess the relationships between these factors and understand how they influence gender equality in India, which, indicates achieving SDG 5 in India is possible, but significant challenges need to be addressed. There are positive trends, but progress is uneven across different states and factors. A multi-pronged approach that prioritizes education, economic empowerment, and social change is necessary to achieve gender equality in India. The answer remains uncertain, and the research suggests continued effort is required.

**Key words:** Sustainable development goals, Labour Force Participation Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate.

## Introduction

When women and girls are empowered, it contributes to broader societal development across various aspects like health, education, and social stability. It ensures equal opportunity for all, foster economic growth, and strengthens social development. However, India continues to grapple with significant gender disparities. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls Sustainable Development Goal 5 is a cornerstone of India's sustainable development agenda. This review explores key themes from relevant research to understand the complexities of gender inequality in India and identify potential pathways towards achieving SDG 5. Here, we examine several key indicators that highlight the existing gender gap:

**Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR):** India's MMR, at approximately 100 deaths per 100,000 live births, signifies a high risk of pregnancy-related complications for women. This underscores the need for improved access to quality healthcare services for mothers.

**Fertility Rate among Adolescents (15-19 years):** Despite some decline, India's adolescent fertility rate remains a concern. Early childbearing can have detrimental effects on both the mother's health and the child's well-being. Addressing this issue requires promoting education on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**Literacy Rate:** The literacy gap between genders persists in India, with female literacy lagging behind males. Education is a key driver of empowerment, and improving female literacy rates is crucial for progress on SDG 5.

**Women's Participation in Parliament:** While India has seen some increase in female representation in parliament, the numbers remain low compared to global averages. This lack of political participation limits women's voices in shaping policies that affect their lives.

**Labour Force Participation Rate:** Female labour force participation in India is significantly lower than male participation. Expanding economic opportunities for women is essential for achieving gender equality and fostering inclusive economic growth.

Achieving gender equality is not just a moral imperative but a cornerstone of a thriving society. This review explores key themes from relevant research to understand the complexities of gender inequality in India and

identify potential pathways towards achieving SDG Dreze & Sen, 2002, highlights the transformative power of education for women. Increased access to education acts as a catalyst for economic and social mobility, leading to greater agency and empowerment, another study emphasise the importance of mainstreaming gender equality across all SDGs considering education health, it identifies slow progress in achieving gender equality despite positive case studies.

Leal Filho, et al., 2022 emphasis the role of adolescents to wipe out gender inequality specially to focus on early adolescence and with that focus on climate too.

prioritizing education, employment, and complete empowerment of women and girls must become a cornerstone of the SDGs strategy. By investing in these areas and developing culturally appropriate solutions, we can move towards a more just and equitable world where all individuals, regardless of gender, have the chance to thrive.

Carlsen, 2019 reveals a critical insight: education emerges as the most significant indicator for both reducing gender inequality and fostering gender development. This suggests that prioritizing educational opportunities for women and girls holds immense potential for progress. Interestingly, financial indicators played a less significant role in this analysis.

Matthyse, 2020 highlights the ongoing disparity between the increased visibility of transgender and gender-diverse individuals in Western media and the persistence of negative narratives about them globally. While Western media may portray TGD individuals more frequently, these portrayals often focus on discrimination, marginalization, violence, and erasure. This briefing argues that these dominant narratives are not accidental, but rather a product of patriarchy's efforts to maintain a system of gendered oppression and inequality

Agarwal, 2018 reviews explores the role of Sustainable Development Goal 5 - Gender Equality - in achieving household food security. While SDG 5 holds promise, the analysis highlights both its potential and limitations. In conclusion, achieving SDG 5 in India necessitates a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes girls' education, women's economic empowerment, and dismantles social norms that perpetuate gender inequality. Mainstreaming gender equality across all SDGs and ensuring the inclusion of marginalized groups within the gender spectrum are equally important. By investing in these areas and developing culturally appropriate solutions, India can pave the way for a more equitable future where all individuals, regardless of gender identity, have the opportunity to thrive.

#### **Data sources**

This research gather quantitative data from government reports to analyze trends and assess the impact of existing policies on gender equality in India.

□ Census reports: Data from the Census of India 2001 and 2011 will provide a national snapshot of gender disparities in areas like literacy, education levels, and workforce participation. of India, Census India 2001 of India, census 2011

□ Women and Men in India reports: Published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of Statistics & Implementation, WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA, 2016, of Statistics & Implementation, WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA, 2017 these reports covering the years 2015-2020 offer a comprehensive analysis of Female Reproductive Health across various social, economic, and demographic indicators. This data will be particularly valuable for examining trends over time and evaluating the effectiveness of policy interventions implemented during this period. of Statistics & Implementation, Women and men in India, 2019, MOSPI, 2020.

By analysing data from these sources, the research has established a baseline understanding of the current state of gender equality in India. This data will then be used for further analysis through forecasting techniques and regression analysis, as outlined in the methodology section.

#### **Methodology**

The research paper employ a quantitative data analysis, to explore policy imperatives for achieving gender equality in India. By taking Maternal mortality rate and Adolescent fertility rate 19-24 we calculate the Reproductive health, for Literacy rate of female per thousand male and participation of female in parliament in percentage has been added, lastly Labour force participation rate has been take.

The paper utilises a two-step quantitative analysis approach to assess the dependencies of factors in gender inequality and explores potential future trends.

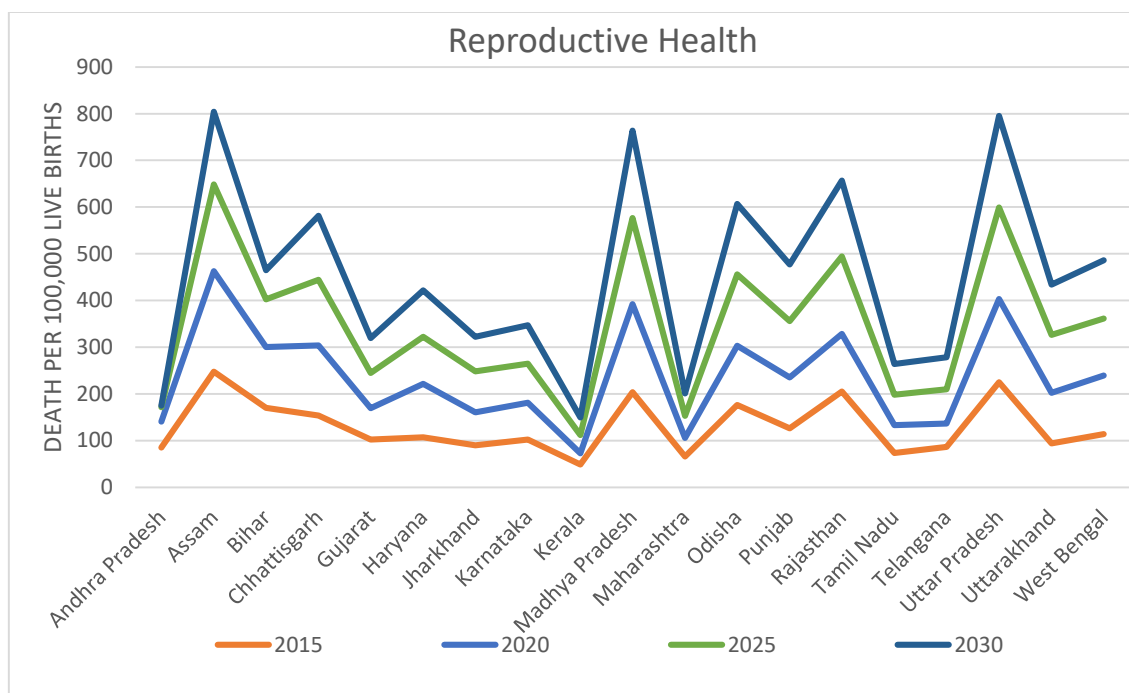
We have employed time series forecasting techniques to project trends of 2025,2030 and 2035in key gender equality metrics. This will help us understand the potential impact of policy interventions and identify areas where significant progress is needed.

Following the forecasting analysis, we have utilise regression analysis to quantify the relationship between various factors impacting gender inequality, this allow us to assess the relative influence of specific factors on key outcomes.

By analysing the regression coefficient, we determine the direction and strength of the relationship between factors. This provides valuable insights into which policies have the most significant impact on promoting gender equality and where targeted intervention is needed.

### Data Analysis and Results

The analysis yielded a strong positive correlation between improvements in female literacy and positive changes in reproductive health outcomes. This suggests that education empowers women to make informed choices regarding their health and well-being. A potential positive relationship was identified between female literacy rate and LFPR. However, the statistical significance of this association across all years requires further investigation. This suggests that literacy might be a necessary but not sufficient factor for high female workforce participation. Investing in girls' education, promoting women's economic empowerment, and addressing social norms that perpetuate gender inequality are crucial for achieving gender equality in India.



**Figure.1. Trends of Reproductive health in India**

#### Trends of Reproductive health

This analysis examines trends in reproductive health across Indian states from 2015 to 2035. While the data suggests a general decline in death rates per 100,000 live births over this period, indicating potential improvements in overall female health, significant disparities persist between states. The national average for death per 100,000 live births is expected to decrease significantly compared to 2015. This signifies improved access to quality prenatal care, skilled birth attendants, and emergency obstetric care across the country. States like Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh are likely to witness substantial improvements in their reproductive health indicators, narrowing the gap with the leading states. This might be achieved through targeted government initiatives, improved infrastructure, and increased community engagement. Kerala, Maharashtra, and Telangana are expected to maintain their leadership in reproductive health with reproductive health per 100,000 live birth less than 30 deaths. These states might further reduce MMR and adolescent fertility rates, potentially reaching levels comparable to developed nations. Their continued success could serve as a model for other states. Increased awareness and access to comprehensive ASRH services will lead to a decline in unintended pregnancies and improve overall reproductive health outcomes. Overall, India's future in reproductive health looks promising. However, addressing the remaining disparities and ensuring continuous improvement across all states will be crucial for achieving optimal reproductive health outcomes for all women in India.

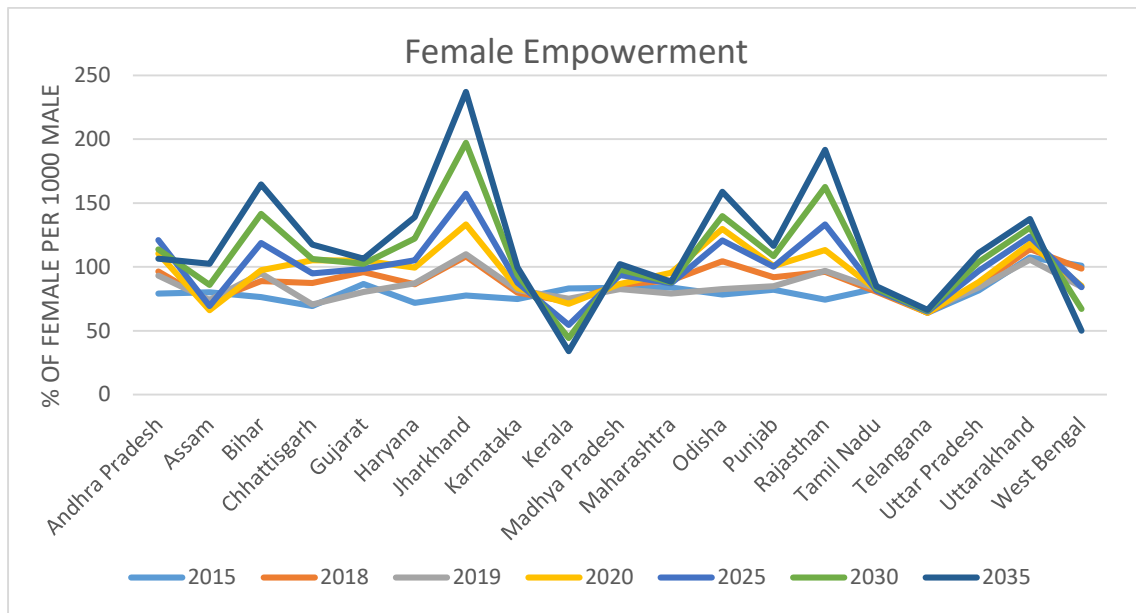


Figure.2. Women Empowerment in India

**Women Empowerment in India:**

Understanding the link between female literacy and gender inequality is crucial in India's journey towards a more equitable society. This analysis suggests a promising trend. Several states, including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand, have witnessed a significant rise in female literacy rates alongside an increase in women's participation in parliament with more than 89% in literacy and 15% in parliament participation. This positive correlation indicates that education empowers women and paves the way for greater gender equality, particularly in political representation.

However, the picture is not entirely rosy. The data also reveals a cause for concern. States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Telangana appear to show a decline in female literacy rates by 2035. This highlights the importance of addressing these disparities. Targeted interventions and initiatives specifically designed to promote female education in these states are essential to ensure all regions prioritize girls' access to schooling. By prioritizing female literacy through these comprehensive strategies, India can create a more level playing field and empower women to become active participants in shaping the nation's future.

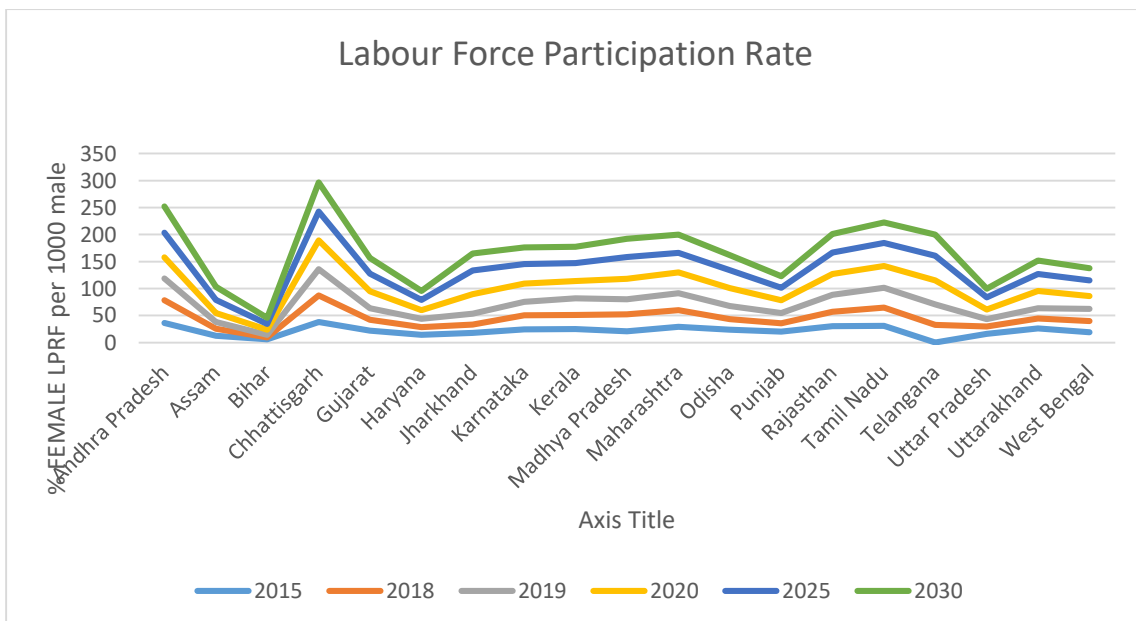


Figure.3. Labour Participation Rate per 1000 males.

**Trends of LFPR in major states:**

This analysis investigates the connection between female labor force participation rate (LFPR) and gender equality in India. The data suggests a positive correlation. States with high female literacy rates, such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand, exhibit high female LFPR, exceeding 50%. This indicates that **literate women tend to have more opportunities to participate in the workforce.**

This participation can be seen as a form of **economic empowerment** and potentially lead to greater **participation in decision-making** across various sectors. However, the data also reveals interesting disparities. Chhattisgarh, despite having a moderate literacy rate, shows a remarkably high female LFPR. Conversely, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, with high literacy rates, have relatively low female LFPRs. This highlights the need to consider **factors beyond literacy** that influence women's participation in the workforce. These might include cultural norms, access to childcare, and availability of suitable job opportunities. It suggests that literacy is a necessary but not sufficient condition for high female LFPR. Policies that encourage **women-friendly workplaces**, address **social barriers** to female employment, and invest in **skills development** are essential for closing this gap.

### Results of Regression Analysis

"This study employed two separate regression analyses to explore the relationship between literacy rate and two key factors: reproductive health and Labour Force Participation Rate LFPR. The first analysis, examining literacy rate and reproductive health, yielded a well-fitting model with a strong R-squared value of 0.84. This indicates a substantial association between improvements in literacy and positive changes in reproductive health outcomes. The adjusted R-squared of 0.63 further strengthens this conclusion, suggesting the model effectively captures this relationship beyond just the number of variables included. Additionally, the highly significant F-statistic 6.71 confirms the model's overall statistical significance. The second analysis investigated the relationship between literacy rate and LFPR across different years. While a positive relationship was identified with an R-squared value of 0.94 indicating 94% variance explained, it's important to note that p-values for most years were greater than 0.05. This suggests the positive association may not be statistically significant for all years investigated.

In conclusion, the findings from the first analysis provide strong evidence for a significant association between literacy rate and reproductive health. The second analysis suggests a potential positive relationship between literacy rate and LFPR, but further investigation is needed to confirm the statistical significance across all years."

### Conclusion

The research suggests that India is making progress towards achieving SDG 5. There are positive trends in reproductive health outcomes, with a decline in maternal mortality rates and adolescent fertility rates anticipated. Additionally, a correlation between female literacy rate and women's empowerment is observed, with states exhibiting higher female literacy rates showing increased female participation in parliament and the workforce.

However, significant challenges remain. Disparities persist between states, and factors beyond literacy, like cultural norms and access to childcare, continue to limit female labour force participation. The regression analysis confirms a strong association between literacy and improvements in reproductive health but suggests a more complex relationship between literacy and female labour force participation.

Overall, achieving SDG 5 in India requires a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes girls' education, women's economic empowerment, and dismantling social norms that perpetuate gender inequality. Mainstreaming gender equality across all SDGs and ensuring the inclusion of marginalized groups are crucial. By investing in these areas and developing culturally appropriate solutions, India can pave the way for a more equitable future.

### References

1. Agarwal, B. (2018, October). Gender equality, food security and the sustainable development goals. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 34, 26–32. doi:10.1016/j.cosust.2018.07.002
2. Carlsen, L. (2019, December). Gender inequality and development. *Sustainability Science*, 15, 759–780. doi:10.1007/s11625-019-00767-9
3. Dreze, J., & Sen, A. (2002). *India: Development and participation*. OUP Oxford.
4. Kim, E. M. (2017, April). Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals. *Global Social Policy*, 17, 239–244. doi:10.1177/1468018117703444
5. Leal Filho, W., Kovaleva, M., Tsani, S., Țîrcă, D.-M., Shiel, C., Dinis, M. A., . . . Tripathi, S. (2022, September). Promoting gender equality across the sustainable development goals. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 25, 14177–14198. doi:10.1007/s10668-022-02656-1
6. Matthyse, L. (2020, January). Achieving gender equality by 2030: Transgender equality in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 5. *Agenda*, 34, 124–132. doi:10.1080/10130950.2020.1744336
7. MOSPI. (2020). WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA. <https://www.mospi.gov.in/publication/women-and-men-india-2020>.
8. of India, G. (2001). Census India 2001. <https://censusindia.gov.in/nada/index.php/catalog/20028>.
9. of India, G. (2011). census 2011. <https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/population-finder>.
10. of Statistics, M., & Implementation, P. (2016). WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA. <https://www.mospi.gov.in/publication/women-and-men-india-2016>.
11. of Statistics, M., & Implementation, P. (2017). WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA. [https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_reports/Women%20and%20men%20in%20india-2017%20Mail.pdf](https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Women%20and%20men%20in%20india-2017%20Mail.pdf).