

SDGs and Human Resource Development in India

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Abstract

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been drafted by the UN sustainable development summit to make our world a better place to live. The goals have many hidden objectives, of which pivotal is to prosper human life better. The present study is about evaluating three SDG goals viz Goal 1- No poverty, Goal 3- Good health and wellbeing and Goal-4- Quality education and to analyze how these goals would ultimately result in enhancing human resources. The paper also covers a few threats that country is facing that hampers its growth and human resource development.

Key words : Human resources, Development, SDGs

Prologue

On September 2015, more than 178 countries met at UN Sustainable Development summit in New York and adopted 17 sustainable development goals with 169 targets that aimed at Transforming our world and are to be accomplished by 2030. At its heart these goals focused on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. By people SDG agenda implies removal of all forms of poverty, planet implies safeguarding and conserving nature, prosperity ensures that all human beings can enjoy fulfilling lives through economic, social, and technological progress whilst peace implies that society should be free from all forms of fear and violence. In sync to its objective of prosperity of people or to say it differently development of human resources, countries across world targeted their development discourses. The present study is an attempt to understand what efforts India has made to develop its human resource to achieve SDGs goals. By development of human resources in the present study is meant to be reduction of poverty, improvement of literacy and better health of populace. Moreover, the prerequisite of human resource development is better living standard, higher literacy rates for both

male and female and better health for both adult and children. In the present study better living standards are mapped through population living below poverty line, literacy through literacy rates of male and female and improvements therein and health through life expectancy, Infant and child mortality and improvements in them. Data sources used in the study is purely from Government of India or Government agencies published data.

Objectives of study

- 1 To map decadal change in population living below poverty line in India
- 2 To examine decadal change in literacy rates in India
- 3 To evaluate changes in health through life expectancy rates and mortality rates in India
- 4 To compare SDGs and human resources development in India

Goal:1 No Poverty

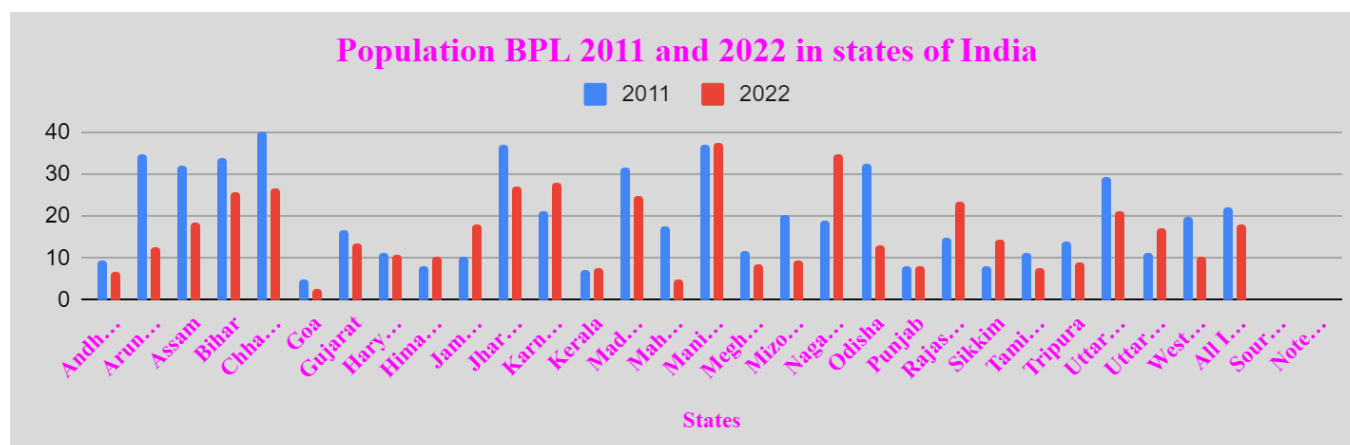
Eradication of extreme poverty by 2030 with efforts that are already taken and few more that needs to be implemented. The developing country like India needs to work phenomenally on this front with collaborative efforts if income inequalities – societies devastated with class war of haves and have not's.is to be eradicated. Nonetheless, India worked well on this front with below poverty line (BPL) population reduced to 17.9% in 2022 from 21.92 % in 2011. Across states of India BPL population reduced whilst highest reduction is reported at Arunachal Pradesh of 22% . Few states viz. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, Karnatak, Kerela, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Skkim and Uttrakhand have reported rise in poverty levels with highest rise of 15.6% at Nagaland¹ . (Refer Table 1 in Annexures). This could be owing to people migrating to other more developed states for occupation or education etc. In case of Kerala high migration of people is reported for occupation.

Threat

Eradication of poverty by 2030 will be a great achievement for India only if the country is capable of conserving climate change. It is expected that beyond 2030, the global mean temperature would rise by 2°C impacting 720 million people. Rise in temperature would impact agricultural sector productivity, rise in food prices, malnutrition, stunting and droughts. In such a situation eradication of poverty would be over ambitious targets and achieving no poverty goal becomes increasingly implausible.

Chart :1 BPL population in the states of India 2011 and 2022

¹Nagaland is the state with 86.48% Schedule tribe (ST) population.



Goal :3 Good Health and well being

The healthy society percolates growth. The goal emphasizes on control of mortality², morbidity, long and healthy life. The life expectancy in India has reported to be improving over years and Infant mortality rate (IMR) and Child mortality rate (CMR) have declined over years. Nonetheless in developing country like India educating people about health and hygiene calls for great challenge. The outburst of pandemic in India and devastating death toll³ due to resistance for getting vaccinated proves ignorance among people. However, India health scenario has undergone paradigm change with IMR and CMR has improving (falling) phenomenally across states of India. Among states of India Kerala has lowest IMR and CMR with the fall of 22% in IMR and 26% in CMR between 2015-2016 to 2019-2021. The highest IMR and CMR is reported at Uttar Pradesh in 2015-2016 which reduced by 18% in subsequent year i.e 2019-2021. Gujarat records 34.4 deaths of infants before 1 year over 1000 infants that reduced to 31.2 in 2019-2021. All India average reported to 35.2 infant deaths over 1000 infants in 2019-2021 against 40.7 deaths in 2015-2016 whilst for CMR reduced to 41.9 over 1000 children in 2019-2021 over 49.7 in 2015-2016. (Refer table 3,4 and 5 in Annexures)

Chart: 3 Infant mortality rate in states of India

²Child death before 1 year is infant mortality while child death before 5 years is child mortality.

³On June 10, 2021, with 6,148 deaths, India reported the highest single-day toll from Covid-19 in the world.

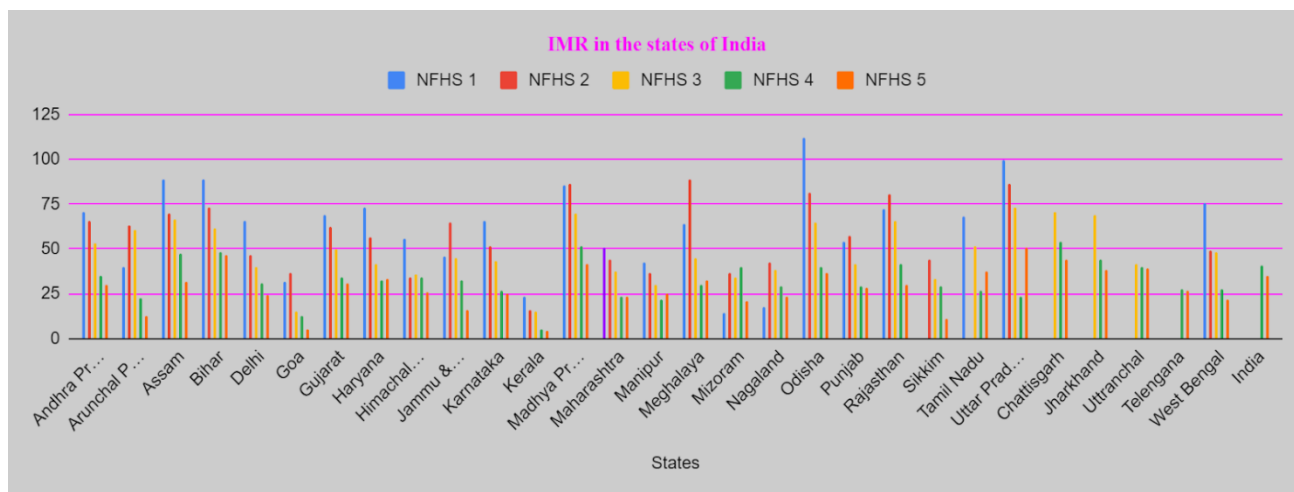
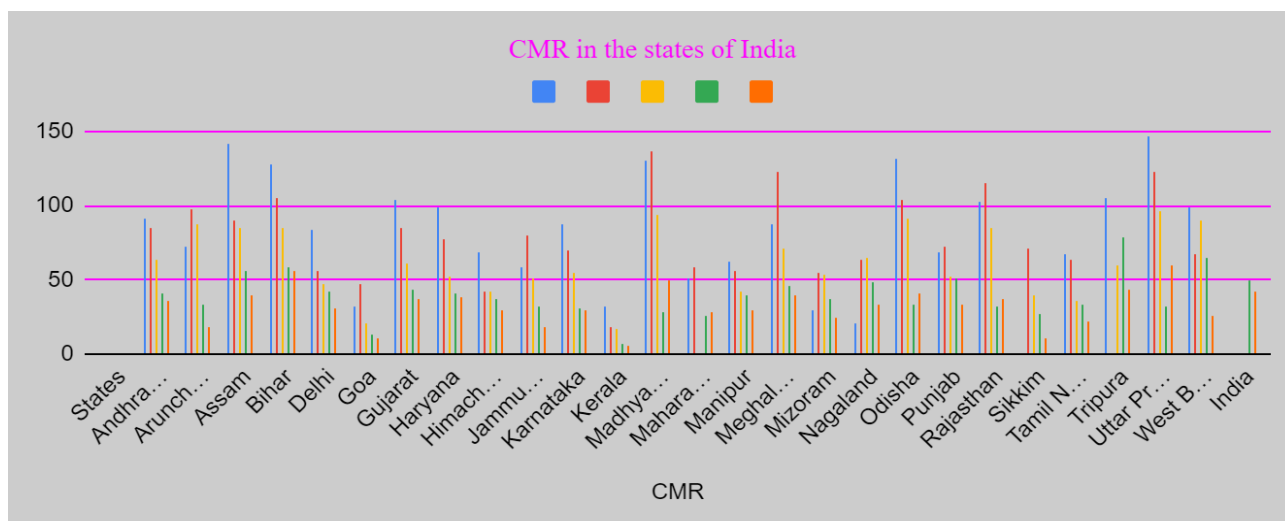
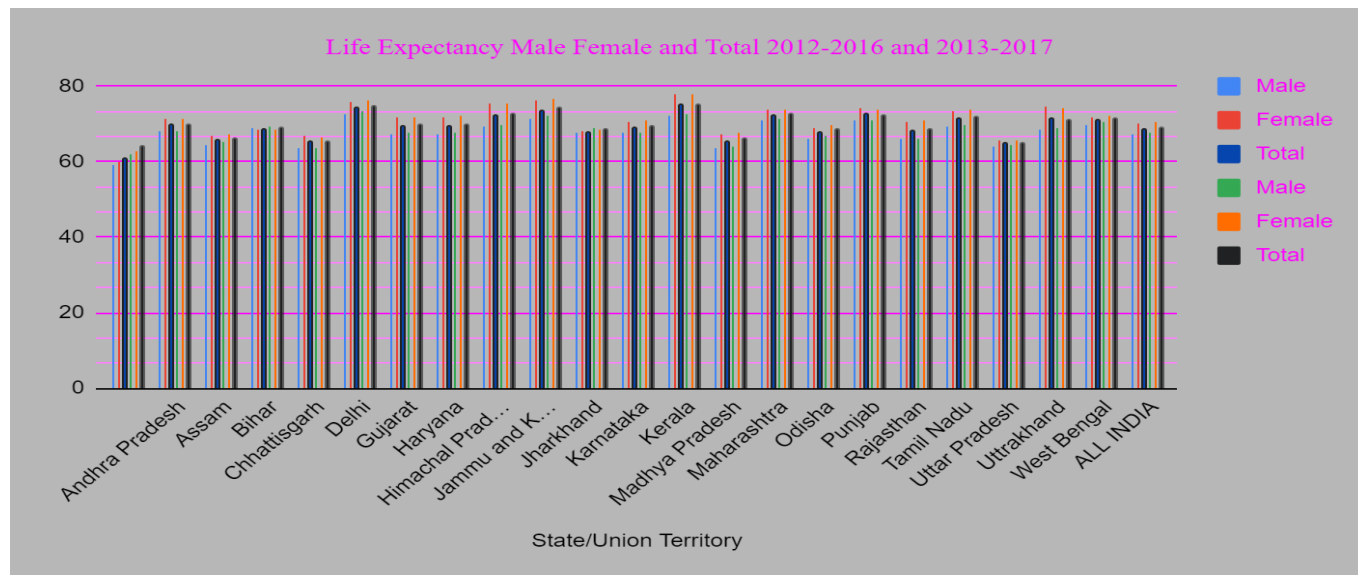


Chart: 4 CMR in states of India



Life expectancy in India has reported a rise of 68.7 to 69 years between 2012-2016 and 2013-2017 although it is marginal rise it is due to better health facility and health awareness. Among states of India Uttar Pradesh reports lowest Life expectancy of 65 years as on 2013-2017 and Kerala reports highest life expectancy of 75.2 years which clearly is the outcome of high literacy.

Chart :5 Life expectancy in states of India 2012-2016 and 2013-2017



Threat

It is difficult to educate people in developing countries about health and hygiene. To cull them out of conservative beliefs is furthermore a challenge. Indians living in rural surroundings have blind beliefs in many diseases and they sort to non-medical solutions. To spell a recent example in this regards – while covid 19 vaccine many did not take the vaccine thinking it is an injection of death that Government is giving for free of cost to address overpopulation problem in the country. Moreover, commercialization of health services has escalated the cost and so its affordability is difficult

Goal: 4 Quality Education

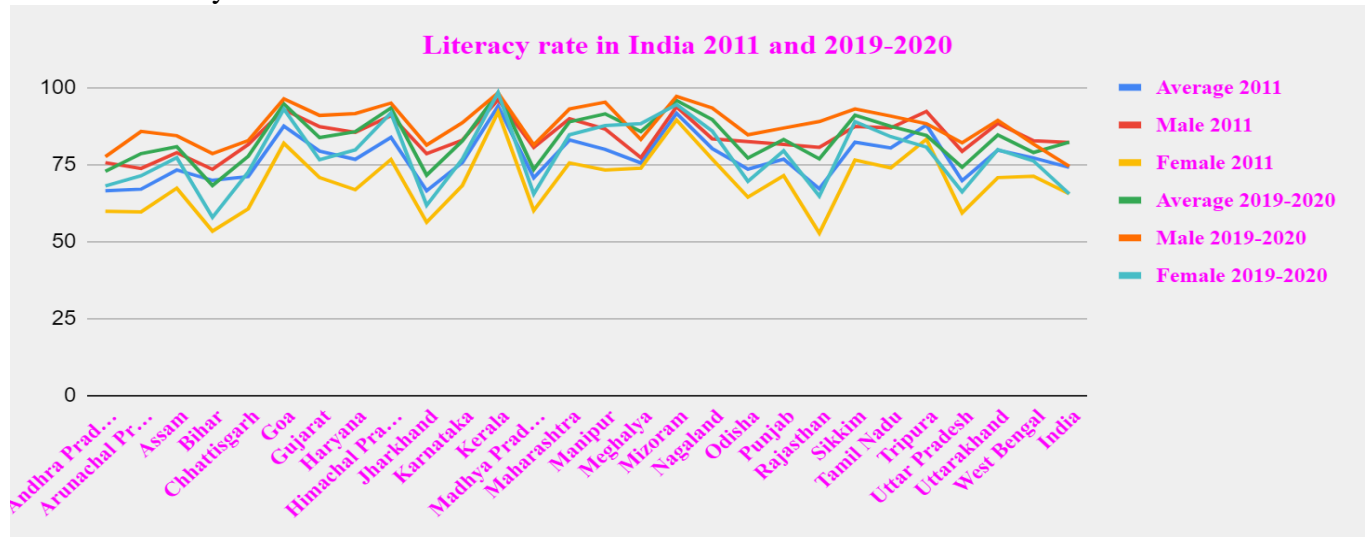
Education addresses many vices in developing countries and education to all has remained pivotal objective of India. However, inequalities in education prevails across states and more so gender inequalities in education is stark in India. Here, it is imperative to note that education alone will not solve the problem of India but quality education – where we move from symbolism (degree certificates) to substance (application based) education. The hinterland of India is even today grappling with profound literacy. We in India are surrounded with some rituals that we should cherish but not practice if outcome is deadly like no need to give formal education to girls as they have to bear and rear children.

India has worked eloquently on imparting education and girls education has been made free till upper primary. Overwhelming, response to this effort is reported with improvement in literacy rate and reduction in inequalities across gender. The gender parity that was 79.69 in 2011 has improved to 87.90 in 2019-2020, which means in 2011 79.69% of girls were educated against 100% boys while after almost a decade that has improved to 87.90% of girls education against 100% boys. Across states as well improvement in literacy is reported baring Bihar and Tripura where literacy rate has deteriorated by 1.65 and 3.35 respectively, this could be owing to some out migration. In case of Bihar many educated families migrated to Delhi and other northern states. (Refer Table 2 in Annexures)

Threat

The symbolism versus substance is the big threat to Indian education. Owing to the free education campaign and mid-day meal scheme by Government of India in government primary schools gross enrollments in (Std I to V) has jumped to more than 100% as many children who are above the age of primary school are now in school to take benefit of Government schemes⁴. Here, I would suggest that knowledge, enlightenment, awareness over literacy is crucial. Furthermore, commercialization of education in India has as well posed serious problems of high fees and affordability to few income groups.

Chart :2 Literacy rates in states of India 2011 and 2020



Epilogue

Better health and quality education are prerequisite for human resource development of the country. India has worked abundantly for improvement of both these indicators although lot more needs to be done ahead and all the efforts from the related agencies needs to be put in. Moreover, a country that is working to uplift people from poverty and misery would surely bring positive results. The vital resource if nurtured well would lead to limitless growth of the country. India is diligently proceeding towards fulfillment of SDGs, few threats aforementioned in this paper needs to be addressed. Many statistics reported that few goals like eradication of poverty, hunger, disease and climate change are impossibly ambitious for a country with huge population . Nonetheless remarkable efforts are put in and will certainly bring constructive results.

References

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⁴A class V student of many Government school in Gujarat would hardly be able to read time in wall clock or solve a simple division problem

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- 10 <https://www.thebetterindia.com/sustainable-development-goals/>

Annexures

Table :1 Below poverty line population in states of India

States	2011	2022	Change
Andhra Pradesh	9.2	6.8	2.4
Arunachal Pradesh	34.67	12.67	22
Assam	31.98	18.48	13.5
Bihar	33.74	25.44	8.3
Chhattisgarh	39.93	26.73	13.2
Goa	5.09	2.79	2.3
Gujarat	16.63	13.53	3.1
Haryana	11.16	10.66	0.5
Himachal Pradesh	8.06	10.16	-2.1
Jammu & Kashmir	10.35	18.15	-7.8
Jharkhand	36.96	26.86	10.1
Karnataka	20.91	28.08	-7.17
Kerala	7.05	7.65	-0.6
Madhya Pradesh	31.65	24.65	7
Maharashtra	17.35	4.85	12.5
Manipur	36.89	37.59	-0.7
Meghalaya	11.87	8.47	3.4
Mizoram	20.4	9.6	10.8
Nagaland	18.88	34.48	-15.6
Odisha	32.59	12.79	19.8
Punjab	8.26	7.86	0.4
Rajasthan	14.71	23.21	-8.5
Sikkim	8.19	14.19	-6
Tamil Nadu	11.28	7.78	3.5
Tripura	14.05	9.15	4.9
Uttar Pradesh	29.43	21.33	8.1
Uttarakhand	11.26	16.96	-5.7
West Bengal	19.98	10.08	9.9
All India	21.92	17.9	4.02

Source : Reserve Bank of India

Note : Computed as per Tendulkar method on Mixed Reference Period (MRP)

Table : 2 Male Female and Average literacy rates in States of India 2011 and 2019-2020

States	Average 2011	Male 2011	Female 2011	Average 2019-2020	Male 2019-2020	Female 2019-2020	Change in Average	Gender Parity 2011	Gender Parity 2019-2020
Andhra Pradesh	66.4	75.56	59.74	72.75	77.5	68	6.35	79.06	87.74
Arunachal Pradesh	66.95	73.69	59.57	78.5	85.7	71.3	11.55	80.84	83.20
Assam	73.18	78.81	67.27	80.75	84.3	77.2	7.57	85.36	91.58
Bihar	69.82	73.39	53.33	68.15	78.5	57.8	-1.67	72.67	73.63
Chhattisgarh	71.04	81.45	60.59	77.6	82.7	72.5	6.56	74.39	87.67
Goa	87.4	92.81	81.84	94.65	96.3	93	7.25	88.18	96.57
Gujarat	79.31	87.23	70.73	83.7	90.9	76.5	4.39	81.08	84.16
Haryana	76.64	85.38	66.77	85.6	91.5	79.7	8.96	78.20	87.10
Himachal Pradesh	83.78	90.83	76.6	93.3	94.9	91.7	9.52	84.33	96.63
Jharkhand	66.41	78.45	56.21	71.5	81.3	61.7	5.09	71.65	75.89
Karnataka	75.6	82.85	68.13	82.6	88.5	76.7	7	82.23	86.67
Kerala	93.91	96.02	91.98	98.25	98.2	98.3	4.34	95.79	100.10
Madhya Pradesh	70.63	80.53	60.02	73.35	81.3	65.4	2.72	74.53	80.44
Maharashtra	82.91	89.82	75.48	88.8	93	84.6	5.89	84.03	90.97
Manipur	79.85	86.49	73.17	91.4	95.2	87.6	11.55	84.60	92.02
Meghalaya	75.48	77.17	73.78	85.65	83.1	88.2	10.17	95.61	106.14
Mizoram	91.58	93.72	89.4	95.75	97.1	94.4	4.17	95.39	97.22
Nagaland	80.11	83.29	76.69	89.55	93.3	85.8	9.44	92.08	91.96
Odisha	73.45	82.4	64.36	77.05	84.6	69.5	3.6	78.11	82.15
Punjab	76.68	81.48	71.34	83.1	86.8	79.4	6.42	87.56	91.47
Rajasthan	67.06	80.51	52.66	76.8	88.9	64.7	9.74	65.41	72.78
Sikkim	82.2	87.29	76.43	90.95	93	88.9	8.75	87.56	95.59
Tamil Nadu	80.33	86.81	73.86	87.35	90.7	84	7.02	85.08	92.61
Tripura	87.75	92.18	83.15	84.4	88.2	80.6	-3.35	90.20	91.38
Uttar Pradesh	69.72	79.24	59.26	74.05	82	66.1	4.33	74.79	80.61
Uttarakhand	79.63	88.33	70.7	84.55	89.3	79.8	4.92	80.04	89.36
West Bengal	77.08	82.67	71.16	78.85	81.6	76.1	1.77	86.08	93.26
India	74.04	82.14	65.46	82.2	74.4	65.4	8.16	79.69	87.90

Source:NFHS rounds 1,2,3,4,5

Table : 3 Infant mortality rate in sates of India

States	NFHS 1	NFHS 2	NFHS 3	NFHS 4	NFHS 5
Andhra Pradesh	70.4	65.8	53.5	34.9	30.3
Arunchal Pradesh	40	63.1	60.7	22.9	12.9
Assam	88.7	69.5	66.1	47.6	31.9
Bihar	89.2	72.9	61.7	48.1	46.8
Delhi	65.4	46.8	39.8	31.2	24.5
Goa	31.9	36.7	15.3	12.9	5.6
Gujarat	68.7	62.6	49.7	34.2	31.2
Haryana	73.3	56.8	41.7	32.8	33.3
Himachal Pradesh	55.8	34.4	36.1	34.3	25.6
Jammu & Kashmir	45.4	65	44.7	32.4	16.3
Karnataka	65.4	51.5	43.2	26.9	25.4
Kerala	23.8	16.3	15.3	5.6	4.4
Madhya Pradesh	85.2	86.1	69.5	51.2	41.3
Maharashtra	50.5	43.7	37.5	23.7	23.2
Manipur	42.4	37	29.7	21.7	25
Meghalaya	64.2	89	44.6	29.9	32.3
Mizoram	14.6	37	34.1	40.1	21.3
Nagaland	17.2	42.1	38.3	29.5	23.4
Odisha	112.1	81	64.7	39.6	36.3
Punjab	53.7	57.1	41.7	29.2	28.6
Rajasthan	72.6	80.4	65.3	41.3	30.3
Sikkim		43.9	33.7	29.5	11.2
Tamil Nadu	67.7		51.5	26.7	37.6
Uttar Pradesh	99.9	86.7	72.7	23.5	50.4
Chattisgarh			70.8	54	44.3
Jharkhand			68.7	43.8	37.9
Uttranchal			41.9	39.7	39.1
Telengana				27.7	26.4
West Bengal	75.3	48.7	48	27.5	22
India				40.7	35.2

Source NFHS rounds 1,2,3,4,5

Table:5 Child mortality rate in states of India

States	NFHS 1	NFHS 2	NFHS 3	NFHS 4	NFHS 5
Andhra Pradesh	91.2	85.5	63.2	40.8	35.2
Arunchal Pradesh	72	98.1	87.7	32.9	18.8
Assam	142.2	89.5	85	56.5	39.1
Bihar	127.5	105.1	84.8	58.1	56.4
Delhi	83.1	55.4	46.7	42.2	30.6
Goa	31.6	46.8	20.3	12.9	10.6
Gujarat	104	85.1	60.9	43.5	37.6
Haryana	98.7	76.8	52.3	41.1	38.7

Himachal Pradesh	69.1	42.4	41.5	37.6	28.9
Jammu & Kashmir	59.1	80.1	51.2	31.5	18.5
Karnataka	87.3	69.8	54.7	31	29.5
Kerala	32	18.8	16.3	7	5.2
Madhya Pradesh	130.3	137.1	94.2	28.7	49.2
Maharashtra	50.5	58.1		25.9	28
Manipur	61.7	56.1	41.9	39.6	30
Meghalaya	86.9	122.6	70.5	46	40
Mizoram	29.3	54.7	52.9	37.5	24
Nagaland	20.7	63.8	64.7	48.1	33
Odisha	131	104.4	90.6	33.2	41.1
Punjab	68	72.1	52	50.7	32.7
Rajasthan	102.6	114.9	85.4	32.2	37.6
Sikkim		71	40.1	26.8	11.2
Tamil Nadu	67.7	63.3	35.5	32.7	22.3
Tripura	104.6		59.2	78.1	43.3
Uttar Pradesh	147.2	122.5	96.4	31.8	59.8
West Bengal	99.3	67.6	89.9	64.3	25.4
India				49.7	41.9

Source NFHS rounds 1,2,3,4,5

Table : 6 Life expectancy in states of India

TABLE 11: STATE-WISE LIFE EXPECTANCY* (Concl'd.)						
(Years)						
State/Union Territory	2012-16			2013-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	59	60	61	62	63	64
Andhra Pradesh	68	71.4	69.6	68.3	71.2	69.7
Assam	64.4	66.8	65.5	65.4	67.3	66.2
Bihar	68.9	68.5	68.7	69.2	68.6	68.9
Chhattisgarh	63.6	66.8	65.2	63.8	66.6	65.2
Delhi	72.7	75.9	74.2	73.3	76.3	74.7
Gujarat	67.4	71.8	69.5	67.6	72	69.7
Haryana	67.2	72	69.4	67.6	72.3	69.7
Himachal Pradesh	69.4	75.5	72.3	69.8	75.6	72.6
Jammu and Kashmir	71.6	76.2	73.5	72.1	76.7	74.1
Jharkhand	67.8	68	67.9	68.8	68.4	68.6
Karnataka	67.6	70.7	69.1	67.7	70.8	69.2
Kerala	72.2	77.9	75.1	72.5	77.8	75.2
Madhya Pradesh	63.7	67.2	65.4	64.2	67.9	66
Maharashtra	70.8	73.7	72.2	71.2	73.9	72.5
Odisha	66.2	69.1	67.6	67.1	69.9	68.4
Punjab	71	74.2	72.5	71	74	72.4

Rajasthan	66.1	70.7	68.3	66.3	70.9	68.5
Tamil Nadu	69.5	73.4	71.4	69.9	73.7	71.7
Uttar Pradesh	63.9	65.6	64.8	64.3	65.6	65
Uttrakhand	68.5	74.8	71.5	68.8	74.2	71
West Bengal	69.8	71.9	70.8	70.4	72.2	71.2
ALL INDIA	67.4	70.2	68.7	67.8	70.4	69

Source : Sample Registration System, Bulletin, various issues, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India; Economic Survey, various issues for data prior to 1995-99.