

Women in the work force

10.24 A majority of women workers in the country are employed in the rural areas, primarily as labourers and cultivators. In the urban areas, a majority of the women workers are employed in the unorganized sector, in household industries, petty trades and services, buildings and construction, etc. The employment of women in the organized sector (both public and private) as on March 31, 2001 was 4.9 million, constituting about 17.8 percent of the total organized sector employment in the country and registering an increase of 0.5 percent over the previous year.

10.25 The distribution of women employees across industries reveals that community, social and personnel services sectors employed 55.6 percent of women workers followed by manufacturing (20.7) percent) agriculture and allied occupations (10.9 percent) and finance, insurance, real estate and business (4.7 percent).

10.26 There are about 775 Institutes (224 Women Industrial Training Institutes and 551 Women Wings in General Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) /Private ITI with about 47,500 training seats for providing vocational training facilities for women at craftsman level. Statutory provisions have also been made in existing labour laws for organizing Child Care Centres for the benefit of women workers.

10.27 The Female Work Participation Rate (FWPR) was very low at 22.3 in 1991 against 51.6 for males. The provisional results of the Census 2001 has shown a moderate rise of FWPR to 25.6 percent. In 2001, the gender gap in work participation ranged between 41-43 for A&N Islands, Chandigarh and Delhi and was maximum at 48 for Daman & Diu. The gender gap was the minimum for Manipur (Table 10.11).

Table 10.11 : Gender differences in work participation – 2001

Rank	States	Gender gap
1	Daman & Diu	48
2	Delhi	43
3	Chandigarh	42
4	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	41
5	Lakshadweep	36
6	West Bengal	36
7	Pondicherry	36
8	Kerala	35
9	Punjab	35
10	Goa	33
11	Uttar Pradesh	31
12	Tripura	30
13	Bihar	29
14	Assam	29
15	Jammu & Kashmir	28
16	Orissa	28
17	Gujarat	27
18	Tamil Nadu	27
19	Karnataka	25
20	Haryana	23
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	23
22	Jharkhand	22
23	Andhra Pradesh	21
24	Maharashtra	20
25	Uttaranchal	19
26	Sikkim	19
27	Madhya Pradesh	19
28	Rajasthan	17
29	Arunachal Pradesh	15
30	Meghalaya	13
31	Chhatisgarh	13
32	Himachal Pradesh	11
33	Nagaland	9
34	Mizoram	9
35	Manipur	8
India		26

Source : Census 2001 & Annual Report of D/O Women and Child Development, 2001-02.