

Government of India Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Sardar Patel Bhavan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001

Tel.: 23742150 Fax. : 23742067

Email: tca.anant@nic.in



## **Foreword**

It is a well regarded fact that societies with discriminations on the basis of gender are lagging behind not only in social aspects but also in economic growth and they fail to reduce poverty compared to those societies where discrimination is either less or does not exist at all. Gender discrimination and violence against women can only be judged on the basis of gender disaggregated data and its proper analysis. Government has been taking a number of initiatives to reduce gender discrimination and achieve gender parity on social, economic and political arena. Gender mainstreaming is also a part of the policy of the Government of India since its independence, but it is a gradual process as society has an important role to play. Discrimination against persons on the basis of gender is also not uniform throughout the country and even within a state amongst different societies.

I hope this publication which is the sixteenth in the series, would be useful for the planners, policy makers, research workers, academicians and general public to have an idea about the present status of women in India and steps to be taken for improvement of the prevailing situations.

(T. C. A. Anant)

L. O. Anont

Chief Statistician and Secretary
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation

New Delhi October 2014



Government of India Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Sardar Patel Bhavan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001

Tel.: 23742026 Email : kmashish@nic.in

## **Preface**



The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has been bringing out the publication "Women and Men in India" on a regular basis since 1995. The endeavour in this publication is to focus on such crucial statistical indicators of socio-economic relevance which best portray gender inequality, gender bias and gender discrimination in the Indian society.

The Sixteenth Edition of the publication Women and Men in India gives Sex disaggregated data at State and Central level. The publication has also given a few analysis of the published data by different Ministries to understand the intricacy of the published data. The present edition of the publication brings gender statistics at one place on a wide range of issues - violence against women, economic empowerment, leadership & participation, health, education and human rights. However, to avoid repetitions, some of the tables already published in earlier editions have been deleted and more analysis on the published data are given. The links of all the deleted tables are given in the publication so that if any one likes to see those tables can be extracted without any hindrance.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation for the team of officers - Shri Hiranya Borah, Deputy Director General, Smt. Richa Shanker, Director and Shri Mool Chand Bhaskar, Deputy Director - led by Shri S.N. Singh, Additional Director General, Social Statistics Division for their valuable contribution in bringing out this publication.

(Ashish Kumar)
DG, CSO
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation

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