Women in Tamil Nadu have experienced mixed progress. On the bright side, maternal mortality in the state is low and declining. Moreover, women in Tamil Nadu are better educated than in many other states, with more girls going to school today than before. However, Tamil Nadu’s child sex ratio is below many other states and has not shown much improvement since 2001. On the work front, women have been leaving the labor force in large numbers since 2005, especially in the rural areas. But, when women work, they by and large have similar types of jobs as men.

Child sex ratio in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average

Little improvement in child sex ratio in Tamil Nadu after 2001
Steady decline in maternal mortality in Tamil Nadu after 2003

Maternal mortality ratio
*maternal deaths per 100,000 live births*

Tamil Nadu has fewer maternal deaths than most other states in the country

*Data for 19 large states and All India. Low income states are highlighted in orange and AI is All India.*
A third of Tamil Nadu’s women have completed secondary school, which is higher than the national average.

Secondary education attainment among women, 2012 (% adults)

More men have secondary schooling than women in Tamil Nadu, rural women lag behind urban.

Education attainment, 2012 (% adults)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
No gender gaps in schooling among the really young in Tamil Nadu

*Enrolled in education institutes, (%)*

**2005**

- 21-23: Female 8, Male 11, Change 3
- 18-20: Female 23, Male 31, Change 8
- 15-17: Female 56, Male 65, Change 9
- 12-14: Female 89, Male 95, Change 6
- 9-11: Female 98, Male 99, Change 1
- 6-8: Female 98, Male 98, Change 0

**2012**

- 21-23: Female 14, Male 24, Change 10
- 18-20: Female 45, Male 51, Change 6
- 15-17: Female 80, Male 80, Change 0
- 12-14: Female 98, Male 97, Change -1
- 9-11: Female 100, Male 100, Change 0
- 6-8: Female 99, Male 99, Change 0
Female labor force participation in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average

Female labor force participation rate, 2012 (%)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

Sharp decline in female labor force participation in Tamil Nadu after 2005

Labor force participation rate, (%)

- Rural Male
- Urban Male
- Rural Female
- Urban Female
Women have slightly more casual wage jobs than men in rural Tamil Nadu

Share of employed, 2012 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rural Males</th>
<th>Rural Females</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm - All</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-farm Self Employed</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-farm Salaried</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm Casual Wage</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women do similar types of jobs as men in urban Tamil Nadu

Share of employed, 2012 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban Males</th>
<th>Urban Females</th>
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