Karnataka’s progress on gender issues is mixed. On the bright side, the ratio of girls to boys is above the national average. And, today, the state records fewer maternal deaths than before. Moreover, more girls are in school than earlier, and one in three women has completed secondary school, which is higher than in the rest of the country. Nevertheless, gender disparities exist with regard to schooling, especially in rural areas. And rural women have fewer options to diversify into other kinds of jobs. In more recent years, a large number of rural women have withdrawn from the labor force. While fewer urban women work than urban men, nearly one in two among them have salaried jobs.

**Karnataka’s child sex ratio is higher than the national average**

![Graph showing child sex ratio for different states, with Karnataka highlighted.]

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

**After a decade of decline, child sex ratio increased a little in Karnataka after 2001**

![Graph showing child sex ratio for different years, with a peak in 1991 and a slight increase after 2001.]
Maternal mortality is improving in Karnataka

Karnataka has fewer maternal deaths than in many other Indian states

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

Secondary education attainment among women, 2012 (% adults)

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

There are gender disparities in schooling among adults in Karnataka, rural women lag behind urban.

Education attainment, 2012 (% adults)
Gender gaps in schooling are narrowing for the young in Karnataka

*Enrolled in education institutes, (%)*

**2005**

- **21-23**
  - Female: 6
  - Male: 14

- **18-20**
  - Female: 20
  - Male: 24

- **15-17**
  - Female: 50
  - Male: 55

- **12-14**
  - Female: 78
  - Male: 86

- **9-11**
  - Female: 93
  - Male: 96

- **6-8**
  - Female: 93
  - Male: 94

**2012**

- **21-23**
  - Female: 9
  - Male: 19

- **18-20**
  - Female: 39
  - Male: 49

- **15-17**
  - Female: 72
  - Male: 81

- **12-14**
  - Female: 93
  - Male: 95

- **9-11**
  - Female: 99
  - Male: 96

- **6-8**
  - Female: 92
  - Male: 92
Female labor force participation in Karnataka is similar to the national average

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

There was a massive decline in female labor force participation in Karnataka after 2005, specially in rural areas
Women in rural Karnataka work mainly on the farm, more non-farm jobs for men

Share of employed, 2012 (%)

- Rural Males:
  - 66% are employed
  - 9% are non-farm self-employed
  - 13% are non-farm salaried
  - 12% are non-farm casual wage
  - 13% are farm

- Rural Females:
  - 79% are employed
  - 7% are non-farm self-employed
  - 11% are non-farm salaried
  - 3% are non-farm casual wage
  - 12% are farm

One in two women workers have salaried jobs in urban Karnataka, greater self-employment among men

Share of employed, 2012 (%)

- Urban Males:
  - 43% are employed
  - 8% are non-farm self-employed
  - 36% are non-farm salaried
  - 14% are non-farm casual wage
  - 8% are farm

- Urban Females:
  - 53% are employed
  - 11% are non-farm self-employed
  - 28% are non-farm salaried
  - 8% are non-farm casual wage
  - 12% are farm