Women in Punjab record mixed progress. On the bright side, maternal mortality — already lower than the national average — is improving. And, although fewer adult women have secondary education compared to adult men, the gap in schooling between boys and girls is narrowing. On a less positive note, however, the state has one of the lowest child sex ratios in the country. In addition, fewer women work in Punjab than in many other states. What’s more, women’s participation in the state’s labor force has declined dramatically after 2005, especially in rural areas. While rural women work mostly on the farm, when urban women work, they tend to have similar jobs as urban men.

Punjab has one of the lowest child sex ratios in the country

Punjab's child sex ratio, which worsened during the 1990s, increased after 2001
Since 2009, maternal mortality has been declining at a faster pace in Punjab.

Punjab's maternal mortality rate is below the national average.

Data for 19 large states and All India. Low income states are highlighted in orange and AI is All India.
There are more women in Punjab with secondary schooling than in many other states

Secondary education attainment among women, 2012 (% adults)

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

There are gender disparities in education in Punjab, rural women lag behind urban

Education attainment, 2012 (% adults)
Gender gaps in secondary schooling and above are narrowing for the young in Punjab

*Enrolled in education institutes, (%)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Female: 88</td>
<td>Male: 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Female: 93</td>
<td>Male: 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Female: 84</td>
<td>Male: 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Female: 57</td>
<td>Male: 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>Female: 30</td>
<td>Male: 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-23</td>
<td>Female: 10</td>
<td>Male: 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2005, the gender gap was 0% for 21-23 year-olds, -5% for 18-20 year-olds, 5% for 15-17 year-olds, 2% for 12-14 year-olds, and 1% for 9-11 year-olds. In 2012, the gender gap was -2% for 21-23 year-olds, 3% for 18-20 year-olds, 1% for 15-17 year-olds, 3% for 12-14 year-olds, and 3% for 9-11 year-olds.
Fewer women participate in the labor force in Punjab than in many other states

*Female labor force participation rate, 2012 (%)*

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

Low urban and declining rural female labor force participation in Punjab

*Labor force participation rate, (%)*
A large majority of rural women work in farming in Punjab, more non-farm jobs for rural men

When urban women work in Punjab, they have similar types of jobs as urban men