



RACE IAS

## GENDER PARITY INDEX

### INTRODUCTION:

- **Aim:** The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is a socioeconomic index usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females.
- **Released by:** This index is released by UNESCO.
- **Calculation:** In its simplest form, it is calculated as the quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education (primary, secondary, etc.).
- **Definition:** Ratio of girls to boys (gender parity index) in primary, secondary and tertiary education is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the number of male students in each level.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** To standardize the effects of the population structure of the appropriate age groups, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) of the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for each level of education is used. The GER is the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education.
- **Indicator:** A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes; a GPI that varies between 0 and 1 typically means a disparity in favour of males; whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of females.
- **SDG 4:** This indicator of Gender inequality is related to SDG 4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

### IMPLICATIONS:

- Low status restricts women's opportunities and freedom, giving them less interaction with others and fewer opportunities for independent behaviour, restricting the transmission of new knowledge, and damaging their self-esteem and self-expression.

- It is a particularly important determinant of two resources for care: mothers' physical and mental health, and their autonomy and control over household resources.
- Low status restricts women's capacity to act in their own and their children's best interests.
- There is a demonstrated association between women's status and malnutrition in children.

### Gender Parity Index (GPI):

Reflects two things:

1. **The percentage of women who enjoy gender parity.** A woman enjoys gender parity if:

- she is empowered or
- if her empowerment score is equal to or greater than the empowerment score of the primary male in her household.

2. The **empowerment gap** - the average percentage shortfall that a woman without parity experiences relative to the male in her household.

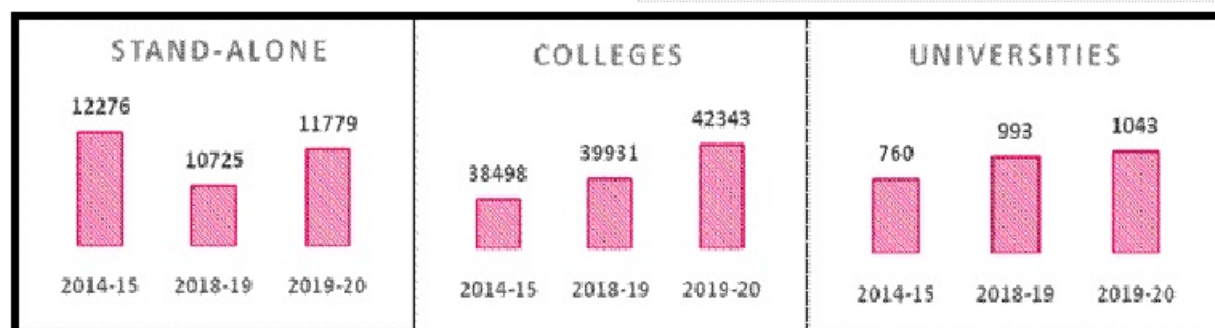
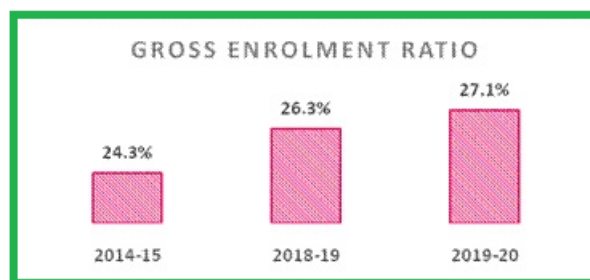
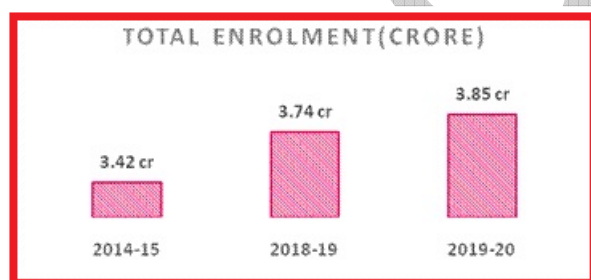
### METHOD OF COMPUTATION:

- To calculate the **Gross Enrolment Ratio** one must first determine the population of official school age for each level of education by reference to the theoretical starting ages and durations of the International Standard Classification of Education.
  - Level 1 (primary education) and Levels 2 and 3 (secondary education) as reported by the country.
  - The population of the official age for tertiary education is the 5-year age group immediately following the end of secondary education.
- Then, the number of pupils or students enrolled in each level of education is divided by the population of official school age for that level of education, and the result is multiplied by 100. The Gross Enrolment Ratios for males and females are calculated separately.
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is then calculated by dividing the female Gross Enrolment Ratio by the male Gross Enrolment Ratio for the given level of education.
- This method requires information on the structure of education (i.e. theoretical entrance age and duration of Level 1 and Levels 2 and 3), enrolments in each level of education and the populations of the age-groups corresponding

to the given levels of education. Separate figures for males and females are required.

### GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)- INDIA'S PERFORMANCE:

- Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 1.01 against 1.00 in 2018-19 indicating an improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.
- Pupil Teacher Ratio in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 26.
- In 2019-20: Universities: 1,043(2%); Colleges: 42,343(77%) and stand-alone institutions: 11,779(21%).
- 3.38 crore Students enrolled in programmes at under-graduate and post-graduate level. Out of these, nearly 85% of the students (2.85 crore) were enrolled in the six major disciplines such as Humanities, Science, Commerce, Engineering & Technology, Medical Science and IT & Computer.
- The number of students pursuing PhD in 2019-20 is 2.03 lakh against 1.17 lakh in 2014-15.
- The Total Number of Teachers stands at 15,03,156 comprising of 57.5% male and 42.5% female.
- Total Enrolment in Higher Education stands at 3.85 crore in 2019-20 as compared to 3.74 crore in 2018- 19, registering a growth of 11.36 lakh (3.04 %). Total enrolment was 3.42 crore in 2014-15.



### DATA AVAILABILITY:

- The GPI of the Gross Enrolment Ratio is available for around 180 countries for primary education, 160 for secondary education and 135 for tertiary education. It should be noted that there is no tertiary education provision in about twenty countries worldwide and hence, no tertiary GER.
- Data are published 15 months after the end of the school reference year for countries with calendar school year, and 21 months for countries with split school year. A few countries, mainly from the second group, report more up-to-date data to the Institute and these are published more quickly (9 months after the end of the school year).
- Gender parity indices of the Gross enrolment ratios produced by UNESCO Institute for Statistics are available on an annual basis. The United Nations Population Division estimates population by individual years of age biennially, although estimates may be based on population censuses conducted every 10 years in most countries.

#### **SDG 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”:**

- SDG 4 or Global Goal 4) is about quality education and is among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in September 2015.
- SDG 4 has ten targets which are measured by 11 indicators. The seven “outcome-oriented targets” are: free primary and secondary education; equal access to quality pre-primary education; affordable technical, vocational and higher education; increased number of people with relevant skills for financial success; elimination of all discrimination in education; universal literacy and numeracy; and education for sustainable development and global citizenship. The three “means of achieving targets” are: build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools; expand higher education scholarships for developing countries; and increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries.
- SDG 4 aims to provide children and young people with quality and easily accessible education plus other learning opportunities. One of its targets is to achieve universal literacy and numeracy.

#### **Gender parity index at tertiary school level India FY 2016-2019:**

- In financial year 2019, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) at the tertiary school level in India was one. In the last four fiscal years, a continuous increase in the index was seen. A GPI equal to one signifies same access to education

for male and female students.

### **Gender parity index at primary school level India FY 2016-2019:**

- In financial year 2019, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) at the primary school level in India was 0.95. It was less than the value obtained in the last financial year. The Gender Parity Index is the ratio of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education. A GPI of greater than one signifies education access in favor of female students.

### **About Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan:**

- The Union Budget, 2018-19, has proposed to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12. Samagra Shiksha - an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12 has been, therefore, prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It subsumes the three schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- The scheme covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from pre-primary to senior secondary level).

### **Major Features:**

- Holistic approach to education
- Enhanced Funding for Education
- Focus on Digital Education
- Focus on Girl Education
- Focus on Skill Development
- Focus on Sports and Physical Education
- Focus on Regional Balance

### **Way Ahead:**

- There has been progress globally towards gender parity in education, but still only two in three countries have achieved gender parity at the primary level, one in two at the lower secondary level and one in four at the upper secondary level. The desire is to leave no one behind cuts across the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is explicit in the fifth target in the education goal, SDG 4.

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