Bihar’s performance in closing gender gaps is mixed. Adult women are twice as likely to be illiterate than adult men. The state has the lowest rate of female labor force participation in the country. Though Bihar’s child sex ratio is more favorable than the national average, it is declining. On a positive note, gender gaps in elementary schooling have narrowed, and maternal mortality is declining. And although few women work, women workers have the same types of jobs as their male counterparts.

Child sex ratio in Bihar is above the national average

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

Bihar’s child sex ratio is declining
Maternal mortality ratio in Bihar is improving

Bihar's maternal mortality ratio is above the national average

Data for 19 large states and All India.
Low income states are highlighted in orange and AI is All India.
Secondary education attainment among adult females in Bihar is among the lowest in the country

Significant gender disparity in education attainment among adults in Bihar, urban women fare better than rural

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

Illiterate  Literate or primary school completed  Middle school completed  Secondary school or higher completed
Gender gaps in schooling are narrowing for younger groups in Bihar

**Enrolled in education institutes, (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2005 Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>2012 Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>81</td>
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*Figures represent percentages of the population enrolled in education institutes.*
Bihar has the lowest female labor force participation in the country

Female labor force participation rate, 2012 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>1993-94</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Sharp decline in female labor force participation in Bihar after 2005, mainly in rural areas

Labor force participation rate, (%)
Farming is the main activity for males and females in rural Bihar

*Share of employed, 2012 (%)*

- **Rural Males**
  - Farm - All: 67%
  - Non-farm Self Employed: 12%
  - Non-farm Salaried: 4%
  - Non-farm Casual Wage: 7%

- **Rural Females**
  - Farm - All: 77%
  - Non-farm Self Employed: 3%
  - Non-farm Salaried: 12%
  - Non-farm Casual Wage: 7%

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

*Share of employed, 2012 (%)*

- **Urban Males**
  - Farm - All: 54%
  - Non-farm Self Employed: 22%
  - Non-farm Salaried: 8%
  - Non-farm Casual Wage: 15%

- **Urban Females**
  - Farm - All: 41%
  - Non-farm Self Employed: 28%
  - Non-farm Salaried: 9%
  - Non-farm Casual Wage: 22%