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## **Foreword**

Societies with discriminations on basis of gender face hindrance not only in social progress but also in economic progress which in turn puts barrier for the country to achieve goals like poverty eradication, achieving equity in health and education, equal labour force participation, etc. Social evils like crimes against women, non-accessibility to the justice system on the basis of caste, creed and gender are the hurdles for a country to become self-reliant, vibrant and to become an economic super power in the world.

Government has been taking a number of initiatives to achieve gender equity in the social sectors like health, education, etc. and to achieve gender parity on social, economic and political arena. Providing equal space for everyone is the policy of the Government of India since its independence, and this is achievable only with change in mind-set of the common country men. To sensitize this aspect, reliable statistics have a major role to play. This publication is an attempt not only to analyse the existing data-sets but also to sensitize the policy makers and the general public at large.

I hope this publication, which is the seventeenth in the series, would be useful for the planners, policy makers, research workers, academicians and general public to peep into the existing women & men status in India and to take corrective steps to improve the prevailing situation.

(T. C. A. Anant)  
Chief Statistician and Secretary  
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New Delhi  
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## **Preface**

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has been bringing out the publication “Women and Men in India” on a regular basis since 1995. The endeavour in this publication is to focus on crucial statistical indicators of socio-economic relevance which may portray gender inequality, gender bias and gender discrimination plaguing the Indian society for centuries.

The Seventeenth Edition of the publication Women and Men in India provides Sex-disaggregated data at State and Central level for various social indicators. The publication has also given a few analysis of the published data of different Ministries. The present edition of the publication attempts to bring available gender statistics at one place on a wide range of issues - violence against women, economic empowerment, leadership & participation, health, education and human rights. This publication would serve as a single platform for accessing gender statistics by variety of users.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation for the team of officers - Shri Hiranya Borah, Deputy Director General, Smt. Richa Shanker, Director and Shri Mool Chand Bhaskar, Deputy Director - led by Smt. Sudha Midha, Additional Director General, Social Statistics Division for their valuable contribution in bringing out this publication.

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