ASSAM FACTSHEET 2020



DEVELOPED BY:



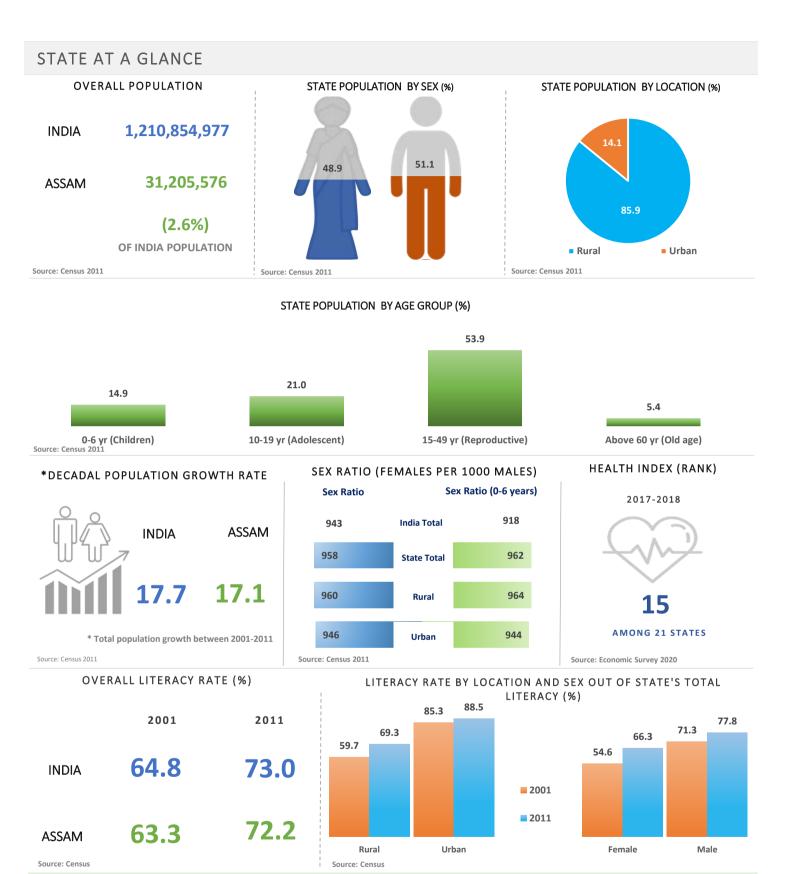
THE SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

BACKDROP

In India the civil society organizations have been experimenting and developing various community participation models but mostly its spread has been limited and operations remained in silos because of lack of platforms and alliances to highlight their works. Therefore, Oxfam India has set a national coalition for civil society organizations from 15 states in the country to bring certain macro-level changes that can help to achieve the envisaged health, nutrition and women's economic empowerment outcomes through a common platform. It is believed that this platform will give a collective voice to the people and has the capacity to negotiate and influence the state for the necessary integration of health, nutrition and gender under the government flagship programmes like NRLM, NHM, ICDS and others. Oxfam India acts as an interim Secretariat for this coalition at the national level to provide necessary support for its effective functioning. As the thematic areas of work of this coalition are being looked through the lens of gender discrimination and social inclusion, emphasis is being given on Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims communities.

As evidence generation is one of the key strategies for functioning of this coalition, Oxfam India intended to develop a state factsheet for each of the target states to highlight health, nutrition and women empowerment related issues of the state.

Only the important indicators related to health, nutrition and women empowerment have been included in this factsheet and presentation of segregated data is limited to only locations (rural & urban), caste categories (SC, ST, OBC & Others) and religious groups (Hindus & Muslims). As data for other religious categories are not available for all indicators for all sources, only two religious groups have been considered for the present analysis.

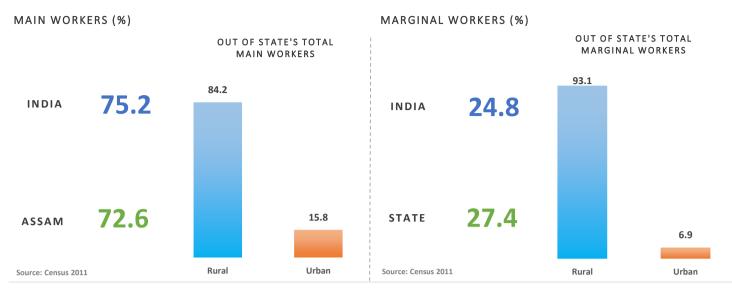


• Nearly 90% of Assam's population lives in rural areas.

• More than half of the state's population falls in the reproductive age-group.

• Assam fares better than national figures in terms of sex ratio, especially child sex ratio. However, urban areas continue to be a concern.

• The state's health rank is a little worrisome being on the lower end of the mid-range.



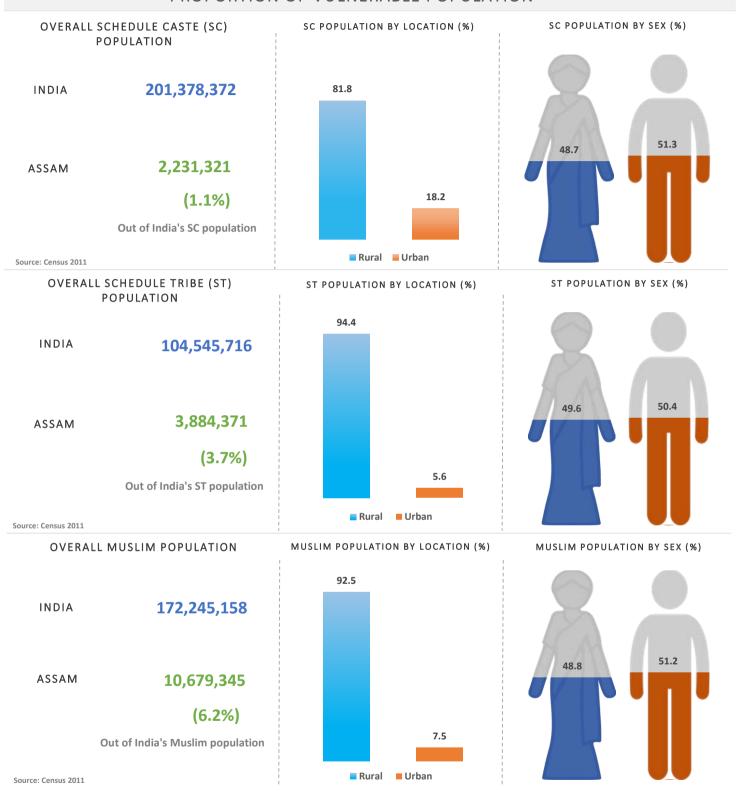
ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS OF STATE WITH THEIR RANKS AS PER BASELINE* CONDUCTED IN 2018

Name of the Districts	Composite Rank	Health Rank	Education Rank	Agriculture Rank	Financial Inclusion Rank	Skill Development Rank	Basic Infrastructure Rank
Baksa	66	45	21	89	101	101	94
Dhubri	68	56	35	86	98	70	79
Barpeta	73	92	17	87	84	40	89
Hailakandi	76	60	54	97	92	59	50
Udalguri	79	57	32	91	99	61	99
Goalpara	84	90	38	96	95	99	59
Darrang	87	97	49	93	52	24	80
Source: Niti Aayog					TOP 20 IN INDI	а вотт	OM 20 IN INDIA

*Total 115 districts have been identified as Aspirational Districts in India. But the ranks given in the table are based on the baseline conducted by NITI Aayog in 2018 for 101 Aspirational Districts only.

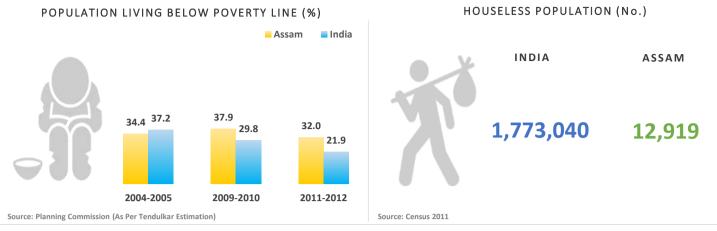
 The main work force in Assam has declined from 74.6 percent in 2001 to 72.6 percent in 2011, hinting to growing work force migrating from the state in search of better jobs elsewhere in the country.

All the seven districts of Assam fall in the bottom 20 aspirational districts of India when measured for any of the individual ranks. Agriculture and
financial inclusion needs special emphasis since all the districts fare poorly in these two indicators. On a whole, two districts of Assam rank among the
bottom 20 districts in terms of composite rank.



The entire Scheduled caste, Scheduled tribe and Muslim population of the state is primarily concentrated in the rural region with very little urban share.

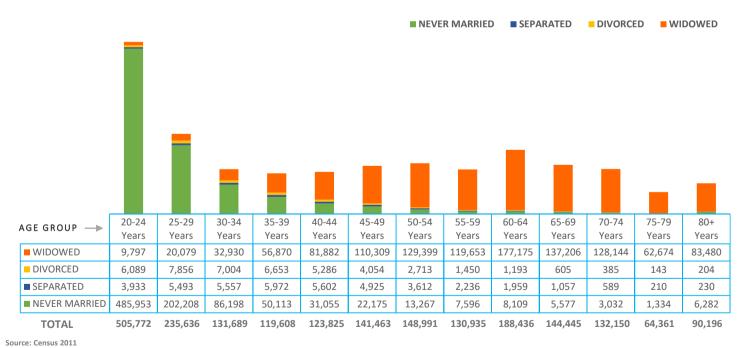
PROPORTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATION



NUMBER OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS (No.)

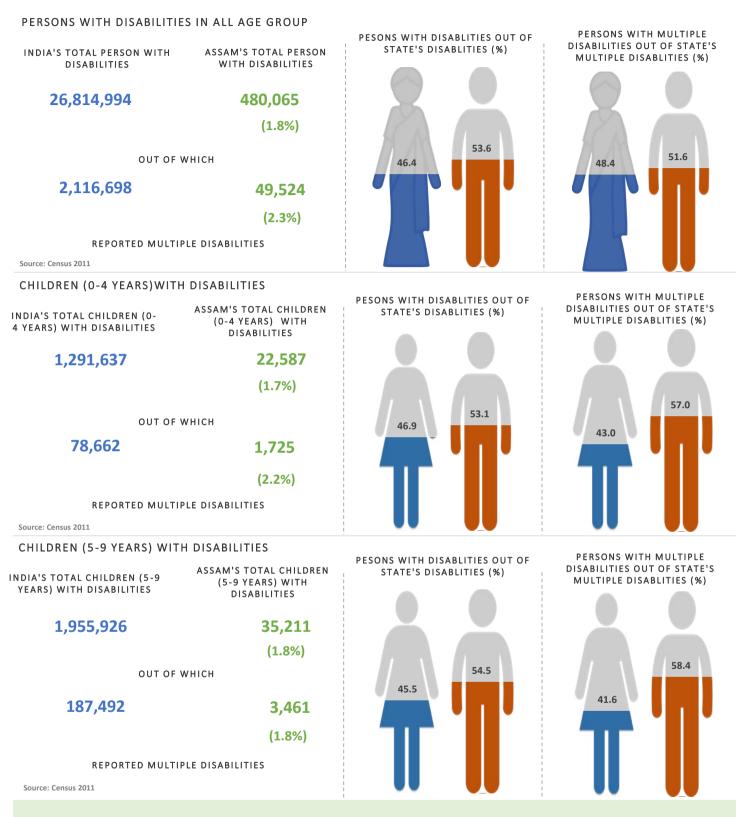
NO DATA

AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE WOMEN (No.)



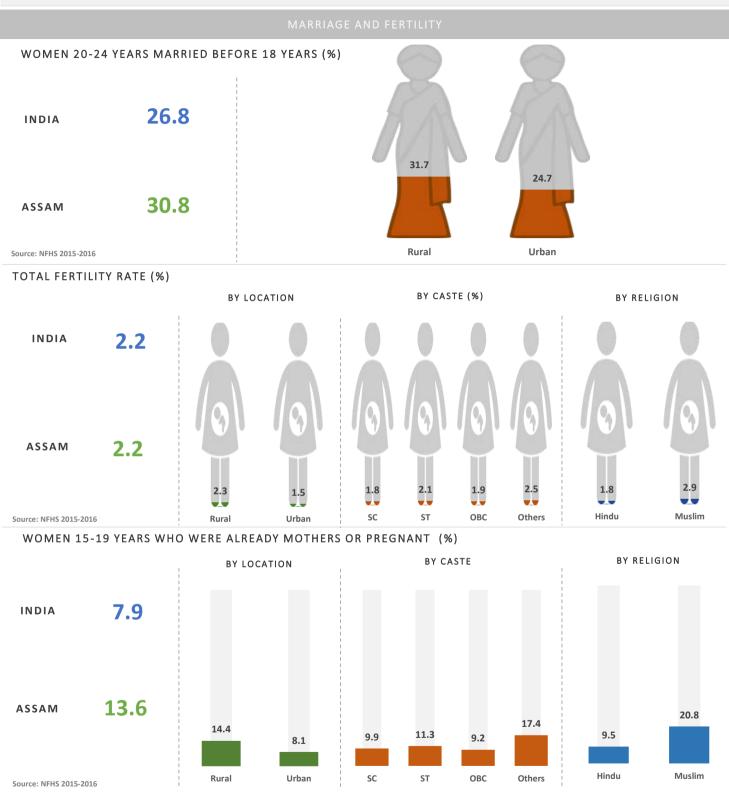
• The state has seen a reduction in BPL population however, it is still quite higher in comparison to national average (10.1 percentage points).

More than 4 lakh women aged 60 years and above are single in the state which depicts their vulnerability in terms of both age and social security.



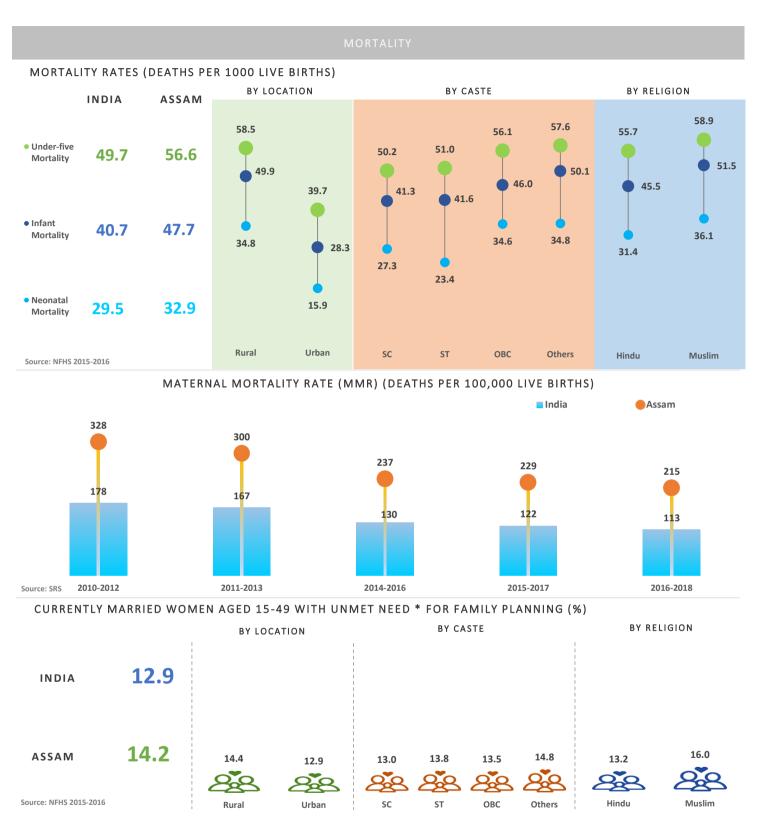
Assam has a higher prevalence of disabilities than the country as a whole, both among the general population and among children..

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



• Early marriage and teen age pregnancy are two major concern areas of Assam where it fares much lower than the national figure.

Teenage pregnancy among muslims is higher than even the state figure.

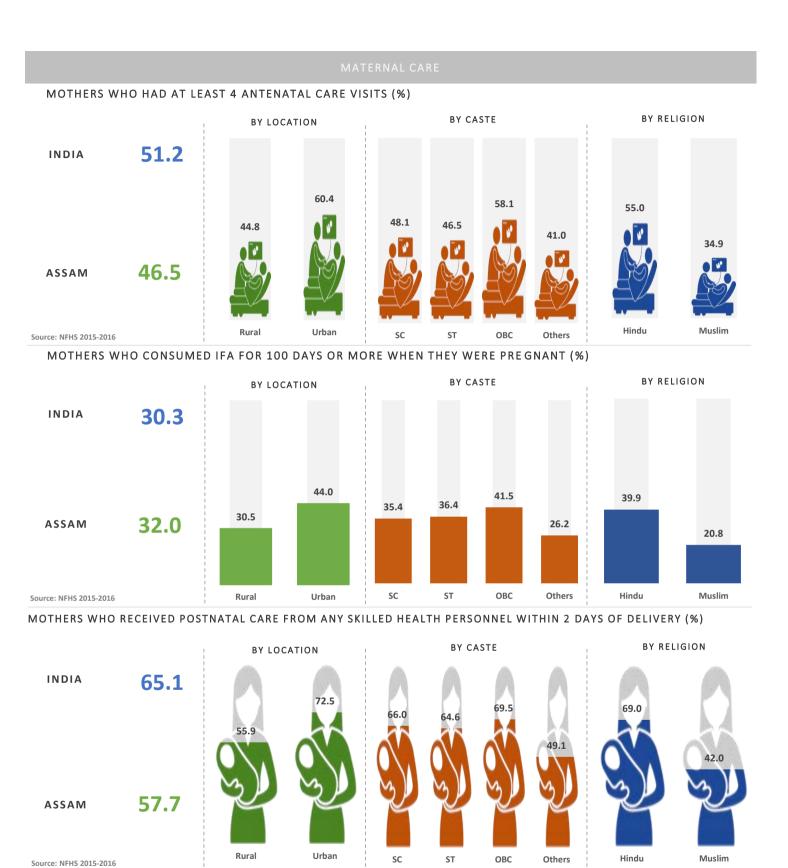


* Unmet need for family planning is defined as the percentage of currently married women who either want to space their next birth or stop childbearing entirely, but are not using contraception.

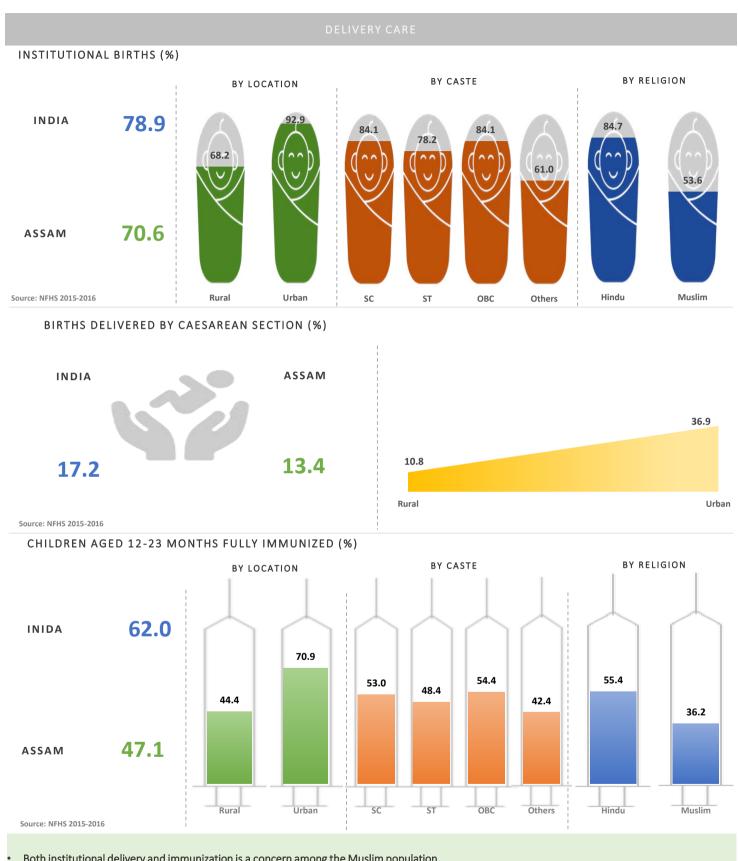
· High Child mortality rates (neonatal, infant and under-5) in rural areas, among others and Muslims in Assam

• Mortality rates (both maternal and child) in Assam are much higher in comparison to country figures.

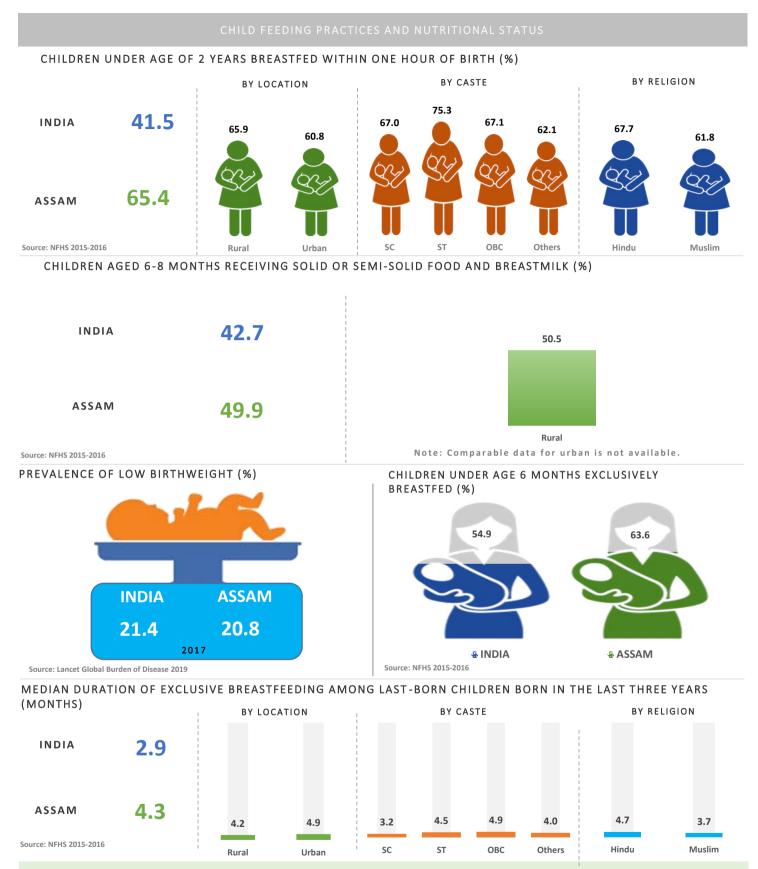
 Prevalence of high unmet need among Muslim women signifying poor access to contraceptive measures. Also need to remember that TFR is also high among Muslims in the state.



The state shows low utilization of antenatal care services among all women and postnatal care services especially among Muslims.



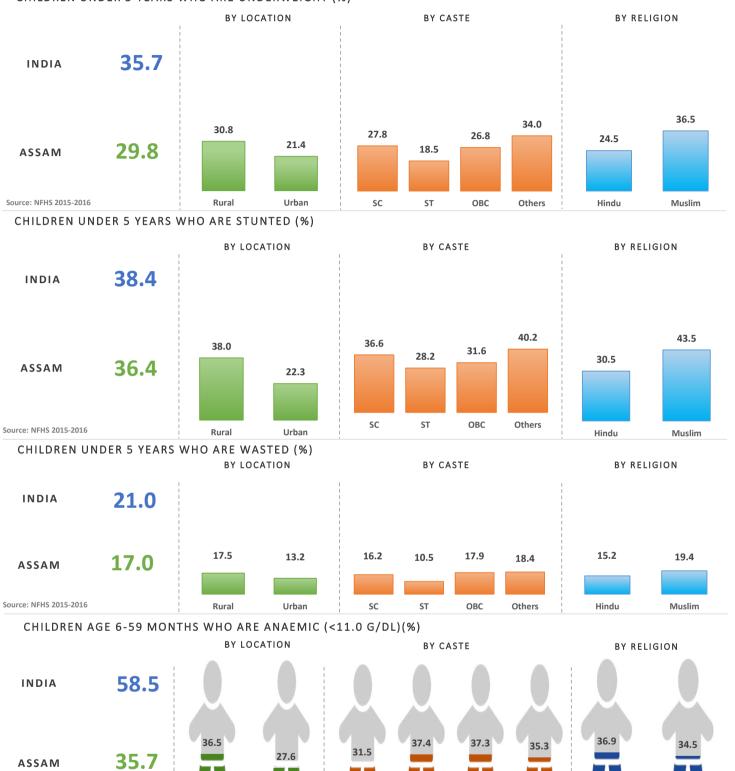
Both institutional delivery and immunization is a concern among the Muslim population.



• The state fares much better than the country in early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding, and complementary feeding.

• Though the median duration of breastfeeding of Assam is better than the country, however in comparison to the state, this duration is quite less for the scheduled caste population and the Muslims. Moreover, emphasis needs to be given to increase the state total to six months at least.





Source: NFHS 2015-2016

While the state fares quite well in the nutritional status of children as compared to the national figure, however, the condition of Muslim children remain a cause of concern with high rates for underweight, stunting and wasting categories.

SC

ST

OBC

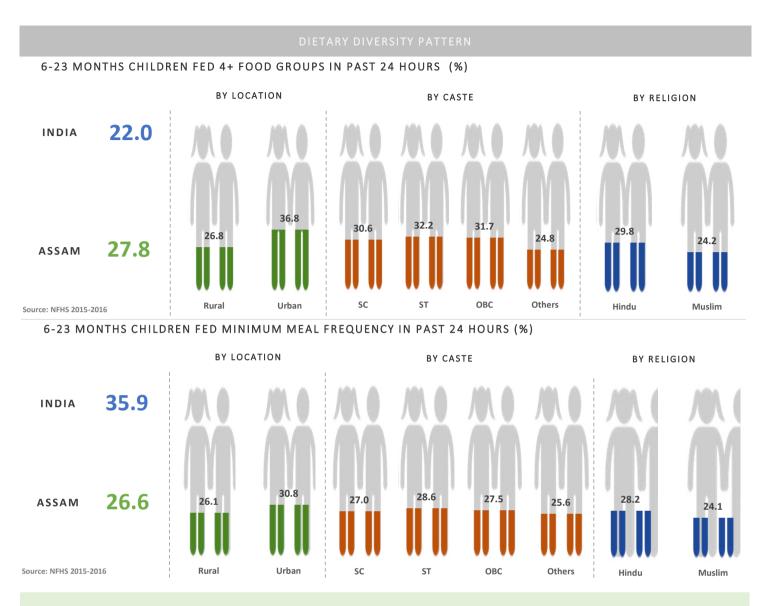
Others

Rural

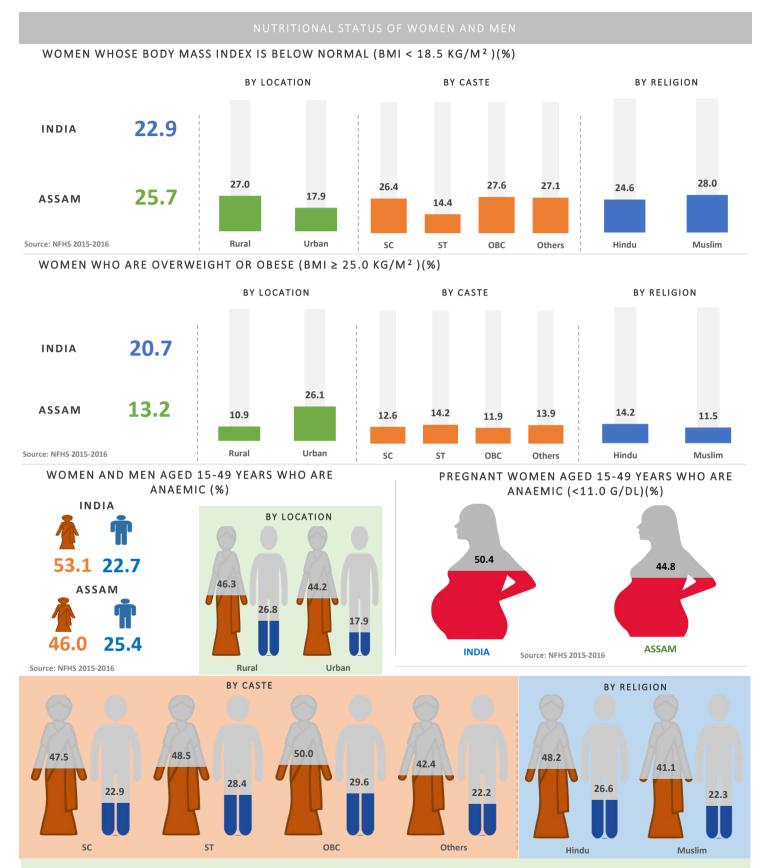
Urban

Hindu

Muslim

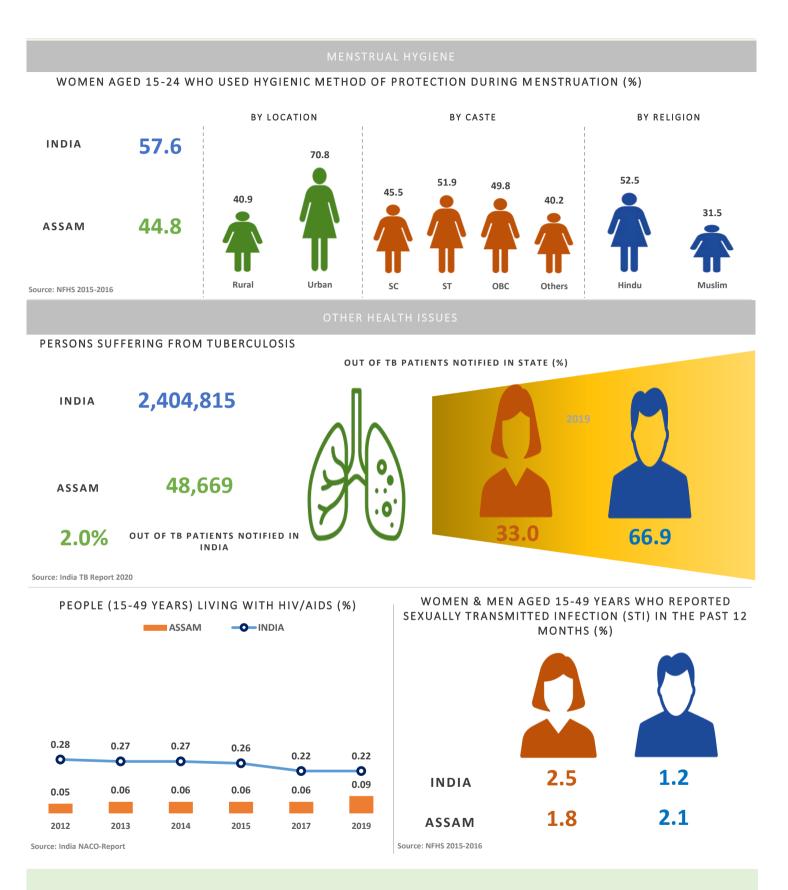


While a little more of Assam's children than the country's children are fed with 4+ food groups, however the minimum meal frequency remains appallingly low in the state. Also, the Muslim children of the state as evident from their poor nutritional status fare poorly both for meal intake with 4+ food groups and minimum meal frequency.



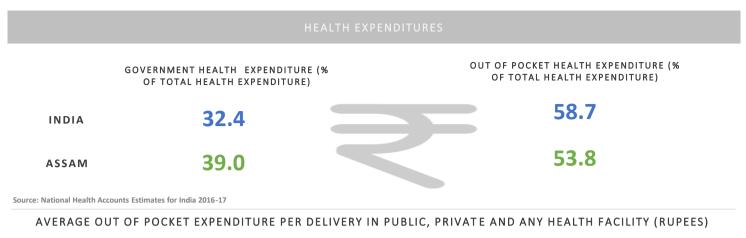
There is a higher proportion of women with below normal Body Mass Index (BMI) in rural areas and among the Muslim population. On the other hand, obesity is a rising threat in the urban areas, being higher than both the state and country figures.

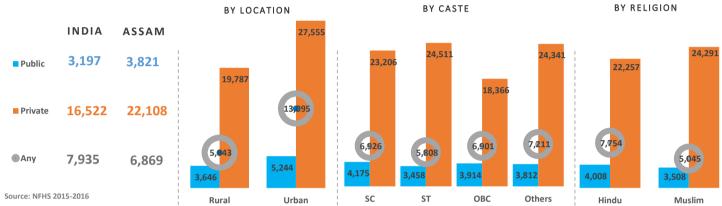
Anaemia is a major concern both across the nation and state with around 50% of the women (pregnant and non-pregnant) with low haemoglobin count.



Prevalence of unsafe menstrual practices is a major concern in the state with around 55% having poor menstrual hygiene. This difference is particularly high among the rural and urban agglomerations and also among the Muslim population.

High prevalence of Tuberculosis among men is another concern.





• Government share in health expenditure is abysmal in both India and Assam, although Assam fares a little better than the country.

• With low government share in health expenditure, Assam shows high out of pocket expense (55%). Moreover, while average expenditure for delivery in private facilities is much higher than the country figure.

GOVERNMENT FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES FOR HEALTH AND NUTRITION

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

The National Health Mission (NHM) encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening, Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases. The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

NHM has six financing components:

(i) NRHM-RCH Flexipool,

- (ii) NUHM Flexipool,
- (iii) Flexible pool for Communicable disease,
- (iv) Flexible pool for Non communicable
- disease including Injury and Trauma,
- (v) Infrastructure Maintenance and
- (vi) Family Welfare Central Sector component.

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India and represents one of the world's largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development.

The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Objectives of the Scheme are:

1. To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;

2. To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;

3. To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;

4. To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development;

5. To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

POSHAN ABHIYAAN

The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition (POSHAN) Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission is one of the India's flagship programmes to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating mothers by leveraging technology, a targeted approach and convergence. It aims to build a people's movement (Jan Andolan) around malnutrition.

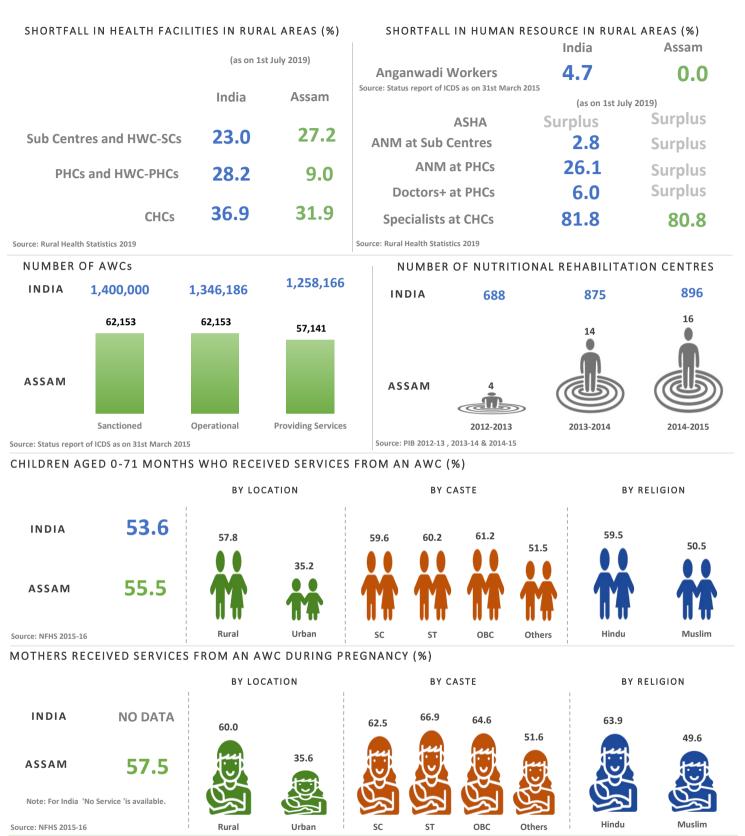
Key Strategies

For implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan the mission adopts a four point strategy:

1. Inter-sectoral convergence for better service delivery

 Use of technology (ICT) for real time growth monitoring and tracking of women and children
 Intensified health and nutrition services for the first 1000 days

Jan Andolan

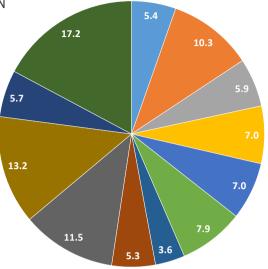


The state has comparatively a good health facility expanse with less shortfall recorded than the country. However, there the shortfall is relatively on the higher
end for the sub-centres which is usually the first point of contact for rural people.

• The shortfall of specialists at CHC is more than 80% for the state signifying that despite having health facilities, people might not be able to avail its benefit owing to lack of specialists.

 While more than 55% of children and pregnant women in Assam receive services from AWC, but this proportion is relatively lower for the Muslim children and women.

THEMES-WISE ACTIVITIES IN POSHAN MAAH (SEPTEMBER 2019)



Adolescent Ed, Diet, Age of Marriage

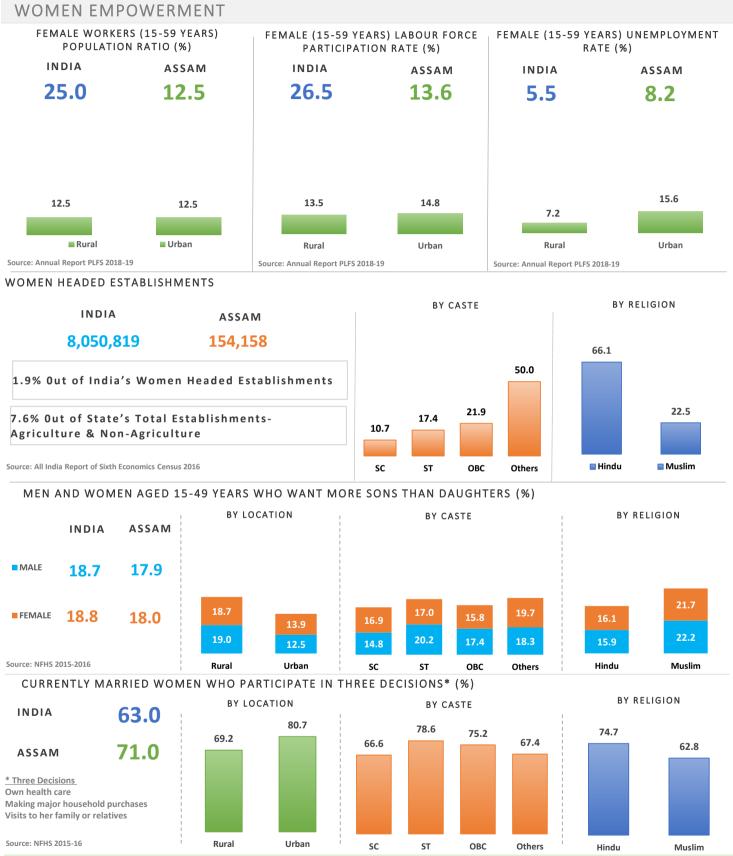
- Anemia
- Antenatal Checkup
- Breastfeeding
- Compl. Feeding
- Diarrhoea
- ECCE
- Food Fortification & Micronutrients
- Growth Monitoring
- Hygiene, Water, Sanitation
- Immunisation
- Poshan (Overall Nutrition)

Source: http://dashboard.poshanabhiyaan.gov.in/janandolan/#/

CONTRIBUTION OF ACTIVITIES IN POSHAN MAAH (SEPTEMBER 2019)

Activity type	State Value (%)	India Value (%)
Home Visits	47.4	14.4
Anemia Camp	3.9	1.5
CBE-Community Based Events (ICDS)	5.2	22.3
Community Radio Activities	0.4	0.3
Cooperative/Federation	0.2	0.2
Cycle Rally	0.3	0.3
DAY-NRLM SHG Meet	0.8	1.9
Defeat Diarrhoea Campaign (D2)	0.1	No Data
Farmer Club Meeting	0.1	0.2
Haat Bazaar Activities	0.4	0.4
Harvest Festival	0.2	0.2
Local Leader Meeting	0.5	0.5
Nukkad natak/Folk Shows	0.4	0.4
Other Activities	13.0	34.7
Panchayat Meeting	0.6	1.0
Poshan Mela	4.3	8.2
Poshan Rally	3.6	2.6
Poshan Walk	0.8	1.5
Poshan Workshop/Seminar	1.3	4.1
Prabhat Faree	1.9	1.1
Providing Water to the Toilets	0.1	0.3
Safe Drinking Water in Anganwadi Centres	0.6	0.7
Safe Drinking Water in Schools	0.3	0.2
School Based Activities	5.5	2.9
VHSND	7.5	No Data
Youth Group Meeting	0.5	No Data

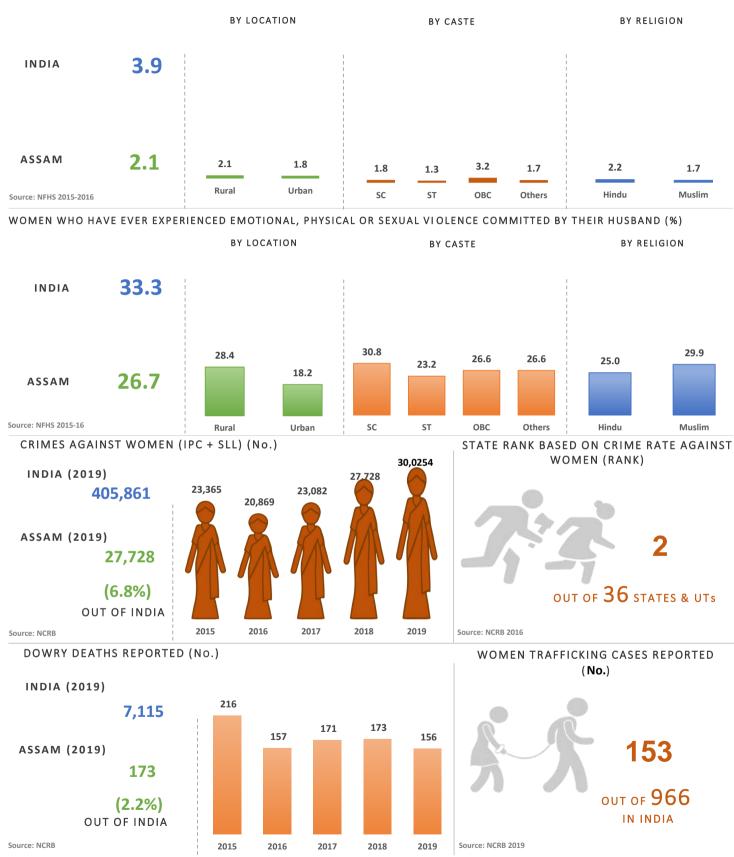
Source: http://dashboard.poshanabhiyaan.gov.in/janandolan/#/



• The state has around 12% of women in its labour force. And this consists of both currently employed and unemployed women signifying the proportion of active employed women to be further less.

Assam has only 1.9% of women headed establishments in the country, with SC, ST and Muslims contributing the least in this.

WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE DURING ANY PREGNANCY (%)



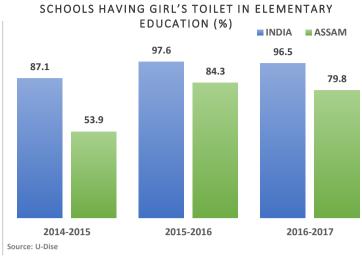


- The state has less incidence of violence against women than the country figure, however the rate is still in the rural areas and among the scheduled caste and Muslim population.
- Assam ranks 2nd in India regarding rate of crime against women which is definitely worrisome. There has also been an increasing trend in the crime rate since 2016. Similar trend regarding dowry deaths.

GOVERNMENT FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

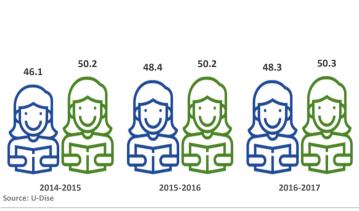
NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION	BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO			
 What is NRLM Govt. of India established National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in June 2010 to implement the new strategy of poverty alleviation woven around community based institutions. Mission's primary objective is to reduce poverty by promoting diversified and gainful self-employment and wage employment opportunities for sustainable increase in incomes. To achieve the desired goal of the mission, NRLM provides a combination of financial resource and technical assistance to states such that they could use the comprehensive livelihoods approach encompassing four inter-related tasks. These tasks are: Mobilizing all rural, poor households into effective self-help groups (SHGs) and their federations; Enhancing access of the rural poor to credit and other financial, technical and marketing services; Building capacities and skills of the poor for gainful and sustainable livelihoods; and Improving the delivery of social and economic support services to the poor. 	 Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is a campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in India. The Overall Goal of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme is to celebrate the girl child and enable her education. The objectives of the Scheme are as under: To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination To ensure survival and protection of the girl child To ensure education and participation of the girl child Strategies employed to successfully carry out the scheme are: Implement a sustained social mobilization and communication campaign to create equal value for the girl child and promote her education. Place the issue of decline in child sex ratio/sex ratio at birth in public discourse, improvement of which would be an indicator for good governance. Focus on gender critical districts and cities. 			
ACCOUNT* (%)	AVING CREDIT NKED (%) TOTAL VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS FORMED TOTAL CLUSTER LEVEL FEDERATIONS LEVEL FEDERATIONS 16,372 NO DATA			

Source:- Website Of Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM), Dept. of Panchayat & Rural Development, Govt. of Assam as on 20th April 2020

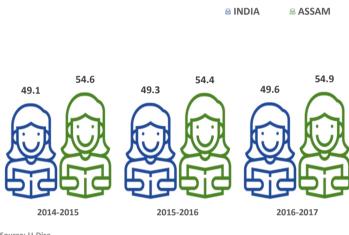


GIRLS ENROLMENT IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (%)

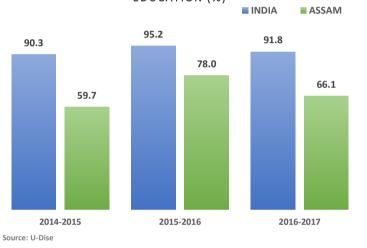
ASSAM



GIRLS ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION (%)







Source: U-Dise

Only 38% of the SHGs in Assam has been able to establish some kind of bank linkage. •

There has been almost no improvement in girls' enrolment in both elementary and secondary level for Assam as well as for the entire country since 2014 to 2017. However, toilets being one of the major contributors for improving girl's enrolment has also shown a decline for the state since 2016.