



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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World Inequality Report (WIR) 2026

Published On: 14-12-2025

Context

- **World Inequality Report 2026** released in **December 2025**.
- Published by **World Inequality Lab (WIL)**, housed at the **Paris School of Economics**.
- It is the **3rd edition** of the report (after **WIR 2018** and **WIR 2022**).
- Provides a comprehensive assessment of **income, wealth, gender, and climate inequality** at global and country levels.

Core Focus Areas

- Income inequality
- Wealth inequality
- Gender inequality
- Climate-related inequality
- Distributional impact of growth models

India-Specific Findings

Income Inequality

- **Top 10%** of earners capture **58%** of India's total income.
- **Bottom 50%** receive only **15%** of total income.
- Indicates a **shrinking middle-income group**, with gains concentrated at the top.

Wealth Inequality

- **Top 10%** own about **65%** of total wealth.
- **Top 1%** alone hold nearly **40%** of total wealth.
- Wealth concentration is **sharper than income concentration**, reflecting asset-based inequality.

Income & Wealth Levels (India)

- **Average per capita income:** €6,200 (PPP-adjusted).
- **Average wealth per adult:** €28,000.
- Highlights divergence between average growth figures and distributional outcomes.

Gender Inequality (India)

- Women earn only **18% of total labour income**.
- Female labour force participation is **below the global average**.
- Reflects structural barriers such as unpaid care work, informality, and limited access to formal employment.

Global Inequality Highlights

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Income & Wealth Concentration

- **Top 10% globally earn more than the bottom 90% combined.**
- **Top 10% own about 75% of global wealth.**
- **Bottom 50% own only 2% of global wealth**, showing extreme asset concentration.

Climate Inequality

Emission Responsibility

- **Poorest 50%:**

o3% of **private capital emissions**

o10% of **consumption-based emissions**

- **Richest 10%:**

o77% of **private capital emissions**

o47% of **consumption-based emissions**

- **Top 1% alone:**

oResponsible for **41% of private capital emissions**

oEmit **nearly twice** as much as the **bottom 90% combined**

- Establishes a strong link between **wealth concentration and climate crisis.**

Gender Inequality – Global Picture

Labour Income Share

- Women receive **just over 25%** of global labour income.

Regional Distribution of Women's Labour Income

- **Middle East & North Africa (MENA): 16%**
- **South & Southeast Asia: 20%**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa: 28%**
- **East Asia: 34%**
- **Europe, North America & Oceania: 40%**
- **Russia & Central Asia: 40%**

Earnings Gap

- Women earn:

o**32% of men's hourly earnings** (including unpaid work)

o**61% of men's earnings** when unpaid work is excluded

- Highlights undervaluation of unpaid and care work