



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

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040
Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**

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%:

o 3% of **private capital emissions**

o 10% of **consumption-based emissions**

- Richest 10%:

o 77% of **private capital emissions**

o 47% of **consumption-based emissions**

- Top 1% alone:

o Responsible for **41% of private capital emissions**

o Emit **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

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