

GENDER BUDGETING

Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for promoting gender equality, women’s security and empowerment through gender responsive planning and budgeting processes.

WHAT	WHY	HOW
<p>Gender budgeting: It is a gender-based assessment of budgets incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures to promote gender equality. It is a tool for gender mainstreaming which uses the Budget as an entry point to apply a gender lens to the entire policy process.</p>	<p>The purpose of Gender Budgeting is threefold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It promotes accountability and transparency in fiscal planning. 2) Mainstreaming gender concerns in public expenditure and policy. 3) Gender audit of public expenditure, programme implementation and policies. 	<p>Integrating gender perspective into budgetary policy has dual dimensions- it creates gender equality dimension that benefits the economy through efficiency gains through the consideration of the social rate of return on investment in women, acting as a catalyst in the process of development. Gender budgeting can be a great help in addressing women’s concerns from a gender perspective.</p>

As per the details from Census 2011, Meghalaya had a population of 29.67 Lakhs, which includes 14.9 Lakh women. The Government of Meghalaya introduced its first Gender Budget for the financial year 2022-23. The GRB incorporates various schemes and programmes that caters to the empowerment of

PART A

- This part of the statement includes women specific programmes - those that have 100% allocation for women.

PART B

- This part of the statement includes pro-women schemes- those that have at least 30% allocation for women

women and girls in the state and is therefore divided into 2 parts – Part A with those schemes and programmes that are exclusively for women and Part B including the schemes and programmes that have 30-99% of their funds utilized for the women and girls of the state. There are 12

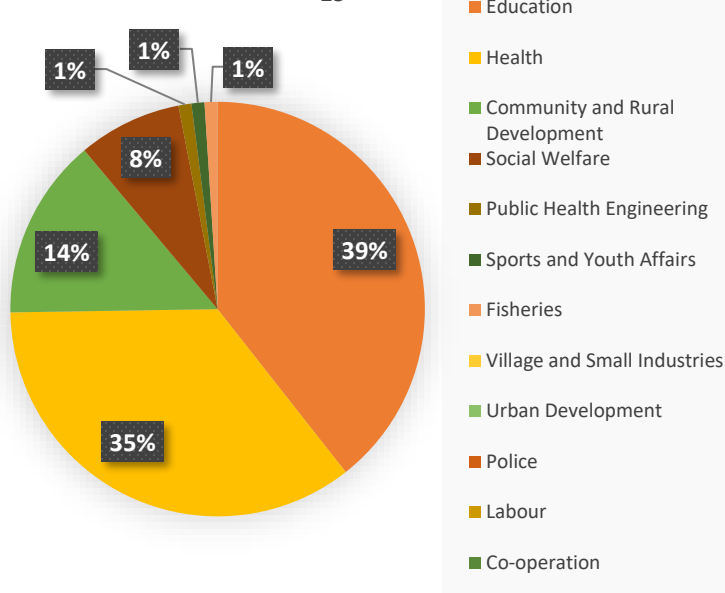
departments that have contributed to the schemes and programmes in the Gender Budget of Meghalaya in both Part A and Part B. The following are the list of departments that have allocations for promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls:

Part A (100% allocation for women)	Part B (30-99% allocation for women)
Education	Education
Health	Health
Social Welfare	Social Welfare
Village and Small-Scale Industries	Community and Rural Development
Community and Rural Development	Public Health Engineering
Co-operation	Urban Development
Police	Fisheries
Labour	Sports and Youth Services

Source: Meghalaya Gender Budget for the year 2022-23¹

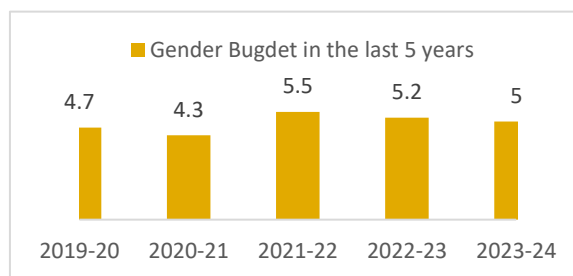
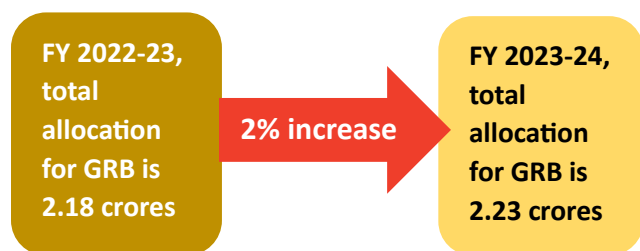
There are a total of 185 schemes and programmes from the various departments of the state of Meghalaya contributing to a total allocation of ₹2,495 crores which constitutes 13% of the total budget of ₹18,881 crores, for the financial year 2022-23. The following chart shows the allocations across departments in the Gender Budget as per BE 2022-23.¹

Gender Budget: Allocations across departments - as per BE 2022-23



Source: North Eastern Region District SDG Index & Dashboard: Baseline Report 2021-22

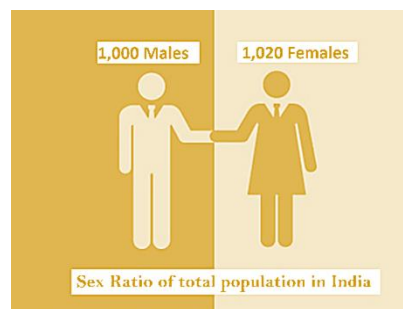
The Gender Budget for the financial year 2023-24 has a total outlay of ₹3,354.4 crores, which is an increase on 21% from the last financial year, constituting 15% of the total State Budget.



Source: Gender Budget, Union Budget 2005-06 to 2022-23

According to the budgetary allocation for women as a percentage of total expenditure has marginally increased from 4.3 percent in FY2017-18 to 5.0 percent in the Budget Estimate of FY2023-24.

According to the National Family Health Survey, 2019-2021, the sex ratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males) is 1,020 showing slight increase from 991 (females per 1,000 males) in the year 2015-2016.² The legal framework has been strengthened through the women-specific legislations such as the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and



Source: NFHS - 5, 2019-21

¹ As per the data available on the NFHS-5 (2019-2021). The sex ratio of the total population in India is calculated using the formula: Sex ratio = Female population * 1000 / Male population

² Same as above

Redressal) Act, 2013, etc. Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) can be used to enforce and monitor human rights. In India, 83.3% of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality under the SDG indicator are in place.³

Indicators revealing Gender Disparity

Health: The state of women’s health and well-being is left much to be desired as women’s health is in a poor condition as revealed by the National Family Health Survey (2019-2020).⁴ The state of Meghalaya brought out a State Health Policy 2021 to ensure adequate investment in health and to increase the health expenditure, which also indicates the poor gender disparity in the department of health.

Indicators	NFHS-5 (2019-20)		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Health			
Maternity Care (for last birth in the 5 years before the survey)			
1. Mothers who had an antenatal check-up in the first trimester (%)	63.2	52.3	53.9
2. Mothers who had atleast 4 antenatal care visits (%)	67.5	49.6	52.2
Unmet Need for Family Planning (currently married women aged 15-49 years)			
1. Total unmet need (%)	21.9	28.2	26.9
2. Unmet need for spacing (%)	13.3	19.5	18.3
Anaemia among Adults			
1. All women aged 15 - 49 years who are anaemic (%)	51.8	54.3	53.8
2. All women aged 15 -19 years who are anaemic (%)	44.6	54.6	52.6
3. Pregnant women aged 15- 49 years who are anaemic (<11.0/ g/dl) (%)	40.2	45.9	45.0
Nutritional Status of Adults (age 15-49 years)			
1. Women whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI <18.5 kg/m ²) (%)	10.2	11.0	10.8

Source: NFHS - 5

As indicated by the table, we can discern that:

- The maternity care for women is higher in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas. However, the percentage indicates that the maternal mortality rates are low within the state.
- Most of the women aged between 15-49 years are anaemic which is also the case for pregnant women which is directly related to the high mortality rates. This would also lead to higher prevalence of anaemia among children that are born from anaemic parents.
- The unmet need for family planning indicates that women who are at the risk of becoming pregnant are not using contraception but also do not want to become pregnant or have become pregnant with a mistimed pregnancy which is the case in the overall state.

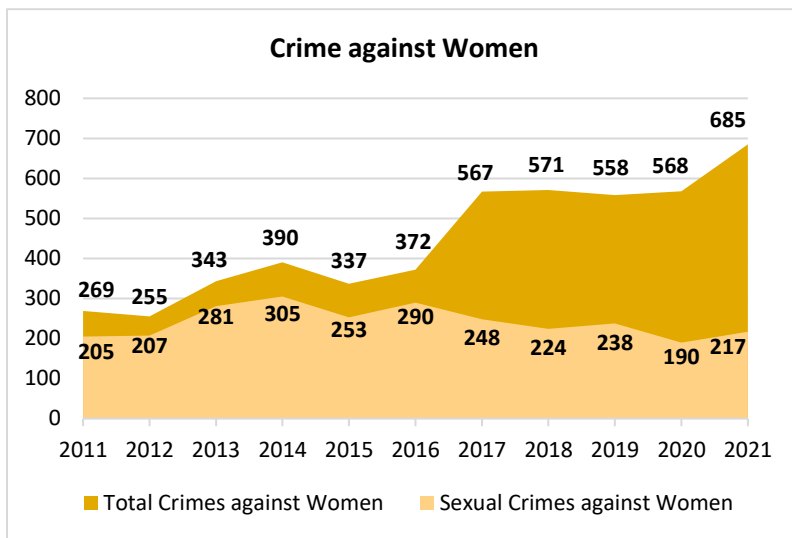
Crime rate against women: Statistics in terms of crime against women, such as rape, molestation and abduction are also on the rise when we compare data for the years ranging from 2011 to 2021 as shown in the following graph⁵:

³ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/india>

⁴ [https://mati.gov.in/docs/Academic%20Module%20-%201/PDF%20\(11th%20August%202021\)/NFHS%205%20Meghalaya%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf](https://mati.gov.in/docs/Academic%20Module%20-%201/PDF%20(11th%20August%202021)/NFHS%205%20Meghalaya%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf)

⁵ https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII_2021Volume%201.pdf

As indicated by the graph, we can clearly see that there is an increase in the total number of crimes against women as well as an increase in the number of sexual crimes against women. According to the report of the Meghalaya police Year-wise trends of crime against Women in the state (2007-2021), there are a total of 685 cases reported during the year 2021 alone in addition to the already pending 882 cases from the previous year⁶.



Source: NCRB

Gender Based Violence (age 18-49 years)	Urban	Rural	Total
Ever-married women aged 18-49 years who have ever experienced spousal violence (%)	23.2	14.2	16.0
Ever-married women aged 18-49 years who have experienced physical violence during any pregnancy (%)	2.5	1.4	1.6
Young women aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (%)	0.0	0.6	0.5

Source: NFHS-5

- As indicated by the data above, married women between the age of 18-49 years who have experienced spousal violence is 23.2 percent in the urban areas which is higher than in the rural areas with a percentage of 14.2 percent.

⁶ <https://megpolice.gov.in/sites/default/files/caw-cases-disposal-police-and-court-2007-till-2021.pdf>