

The Status Of Women, Families, And Marriage In Changing Social Norms In A Developed India By 2047

Dr. Rituraj Trivedi¹ & Jahnvi Singh²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of English & Foreign Languages, IGNTU, Amarkantak, M.P.

²Research Scholar, Department of English and Foreign Languages, IGNTU, Amarkantak, M.P

Received: 08 November 2025, Accepted: 20 November 2025, Published online: 30 November 2025

Abstract

The status of women, families, and marriage is set to change significantly as India approaches its centenary of independence in 2047. This will be a reflection of the country's progress towards gender equity, modernisation, and inclusive development. This article examines how these institutions in India, a rapidly developing country, are shaped by changing social norms. Driven by education, economic empowerment, and digital inclusion, women's roles are expanding beyond traditional domestic boundaries to encompass leadership, innovation, and policy influence. Concurrently, the idea of a family is becoming more diverse; traditional joint family structures are increasingly coexisting with nuclear, single-parent, and live-in arrangements. Legal equality, mutual respect, and personal choice are redefining marriage, which was once primarily viewed as a social obligation. A shift towards social liberalisation is also indicated by shifting perceptions of same-sex, interfaith, and inter caste relationships. Nonetheless, there are still issues with addressing gender-based violence, ensuring equal opportunities across socio-economic levels, and bridging the gap between urban and rural areas. The article argues that India's ability to integrate cultural customs with the advancing ideals of equality and justice will determine the future of women, families, and marriage in the country.

By 2047, a developed India could become a society in which women are equal architects of the nation's development, not just participants, and where marriages and families reflect the values of strength, diversity, and partnership—reflecting the maturity of a nation that respects its cultural heritage and is confident in its modern identity.

Keywords: Gender equity, Modernisation, Social norms, Traditional domestic boundaries, Modern identity.

Introduction

India, a country that is firmly anchored in its cultural traditions while actively pursuing modernisation, is at a pivotal point in its history as it hopes to become a developed nation by 2047, the year of its 100th anniversary of independence. The path to this vision is deeply social and cultural as well as economic and technological. The way that women's status is changing, how families are changing, and how marriage is perceived are some of the most important markers of this change. Education, globalisation, digitalisation, and legislative reforms all constantly redefine these three interrelated dimensions, which form the basis of Indian society.

Since independence, women's status in India has significantly improved.

“Urbanization and globalization have been key drivers of these changes, reshaping family structures, relationships, and values”. (Drishti IAS — Mains Practice / Social Issues, 2024, p. 01.)

Women are now making significant contributions to politics, science, entrepreneurship, and governance after previously being restricted to the home. Women are now better equipped to confront patriarchal limitations and actively engage in public life thanks to increased literacy, access to higher education, and knowledge of

their legal rights. However, despite these developments, gender inequality still exists, especially in rural areas where social norms and financial constraints continue to limit women's opportunities and mobility. By 2047, a developed India must guarantee both legal and practical equality, with women's voices and choices valued in all spheres of society. The Indian family, which is the foundation of social life, is undergoing rapid changes at the same time. Due to factors like urbanisation, mobility, and shifting economic priorities, nuclear families are gradually replacing traditional joint family systems.

“There's a growing prevalence of nuclear families, especially in urban areas. In metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Bangalore, the majority of households are now nuclear families”. (Drishti IAS — Mains Practice / Social Issues, 2024, p. 01.)

A move towards individualism and autonomy is reflected in new types of family arrangements, such as live-in partnerships, dual-income families, and single-parent households. Emotional and social ties within households are being redefined as a result of this evolution, which challenges traditional expectations of gender roles and intergenerational responsibilities. In the context of contemporary India, marriage is also undergoing a re-evaluation.

“Changing Marriage Patterns: There's a shift towards later marriages, increased divorce rates, and greater acceptance of inter-caste and inter-religious marriages”. (Drishti IAS — Mains Practice / Social Issues, 2024, p. 02.)

Marriage used to be primarily seen as a religious or social duty, but it is now more often based on mutual respect, emotional fulfilment, and compatibility. The acceptance of same-sex, interfaith, and inter-caste marriages indicates a slow but uneven social liberalisation. But problems like dowries, domestic abuse, and discrimination based on honour serve as a reminder that moral and legal change must coexist with cultural advancement. India's progress in redefining gender roles, family values, and marital institutions will depend on how education, technology, and progressive social policy come together as 2047 draws near. In a fully developed India, every household and relationship will uphold equality, dignity, and choice as fundamental rights rather than privileges.

Evolving Gender Roles and Women's Empowerment in a Developed India by 2047

One of the most significant social changes that will occur as India aims to become a fully developed country by 2047 is the redefinition of gender roles and the ongoing advancement of women. A country's progress is inextricably linked to the status and involvement of its women, and India's development trajectory demonstrates an increasing dedication to social justice, inclusivity, and gender equality. The evolution of gender roles involves more than just women joining the workforce; it also involves questioning and changing long-standing stereotypes that have shaped men's and women's identities for many generations.

Indian women have moved from being mostly restricted to the home to actively participating in all fields, including politics, science, business, sports, technology, and governance, in the decades since independence. Empowerment has been made possible by government programs like ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’, women's reservation in local government, and gender-sensitive education. It is anticipated that by 2047, these reforms will have developed into a society in which women are leaders of change as well as beneficiaries, holding important positions of decision-making in all spheres of national life.

“Empowering women to participate in economic and social life across sectors ... is essential ... as social norms and attitudes around the roles and choices of women remain prevalent.” (Anmol Narain, A Portrait of Women's Empowerment in India, NITI Aayog / DME0, p. 01.)

Gender dynamics have changed significantly as a result of technology and digital inclusion. Geographical and social barriers have been overcome by women thanks to the quick growth of digital education, internet

access, and remote work opportunities. Women's agency has been further enhanced by economic independence, which is bolstered by start-up ecosystems and entrepreneurship. Women's increasing prominence in leadership and innovation is a sign that discrimination based on gender is giving way to recognition based on merit.

“Women’s empowerment is critical for achieving gender equality and societal progress. Despite various efforts, significant disparities in women’s empowerment persist across different states in India.” (Vignitha B, Debnath A, Pvs A, Sai TK, Charag S., *Women’s Empowerment in India: State-Wise Insights from the National Family Health Survey 5*, PMC article, p. 01.)

But there are obstacles in the way of empowerment. True equality is still hampered by pervasive patriarchy, wage disparity, and gender-based violence. It is still crucial to close the gap between India's rural and urban areas so that women from underrepresented groups can take advantage of opportunities in technology, healthcare, and education. Gender-sensitive education, ongoing policy support, and social awareness that eliminates discriminatory practices will be necessary for women's empowerment to succeed by 2047. A developed India must have a gender-balanced society by 2047, where equality is practised rather than mandated. Respect, cooperation, and freedom of choice will serve as the guiding principles for men's and women's shared responsibilities at home and at work. Gender roles will change as a result of women's advancement as well as a general shift in India's social consciousness towards a more just, inclusive, and developed future.

The Status of Women and Transformation of Family Structures and Values in a Developed India by 2047

One of the most important aspects of India's progress towards realising its goal of becoming a developed country by 2047 is the way social institutions are changing, especially concerning women's status and the changing nature of family structures and values. These changes are intricately linked, mirroring the larger cultural and socio-economic changes reshaping contemporary India. Women's increased participation in the workforce, increased access to education, and empowerment are redefining not only their personal identities but also the basis of social relationships and family life. Indian women's roles in the post-independence era were largely determined by household duties and cultural expectations of sacrifice and obedience. Over time, women have been able to transcend these conventional boundaries thanks to education, legal changes, and exposure to international concepts. It is anticipated that women will have an equal and significant role in all facets of national development by 2047, including political, economic, and cultural. The idea of empowerment has evolved from simple representation to actual involvement, where women make decisions on their own and contribute equally to household income, social leadership, and innovation.

“Women-led development is a core priority of the Government of India in the next five years ... to achieve the vision of developed India by 2047.” (United Nations. *India Report Beijing+30*. UN Women, Sept. 2024, p. 14.)

Family structures have changed significantly as a result of this empowerment. Once the cornerstone of Indian society, the traditional joint family structure is gradually being replaced by nuclear families, which place an emphasis on economic independence, privacy, and mobility. In a developed India, a modern family is probably defined by mutual respect, shared responsibilities, and equality between partners. As gender norms are being redefined more broadly, men are becoming more involved in household and caregiving responsibilities. Furthermore, a growing recognition of individual choice and varied lifestyles is indicated by the acceptance of single-parent households, cohabitation, and childless marriages. Family values continue to strike a balance between tradition and modernity, despite their evolution. Respect, compassion, and emotional support are still

vital, but their significance is changing to include gender equality and personal well-being. Families in India are expected to be inclusive by 2047, valuing individual liberty while preserving emotional ties and cultural continuity.

In the end, India's social development is reflected in the status of women and the evolution of families. A developed India will be one in which family structures change to support equality, compassion, and shared growth, and women's empowerment enhances family harmony—reflecting a country that respects both its history and its progressive spirit.

The Status of Women: Redefining Marriage and Partnership Dynamics in a Developed India by 2047

One of the most significant social changes as India aims to become a fully developed country by 2047 is the redefining of marriage and partnership dynamics. A major factor in this change is the status of women, which has changed significantly over the last few decades. In India, marriage has long been seen as a social and religious institution that is based on custom, family honour, and cultural norms. However, marriage is being reinterpreted as a partnership based on equality, mutual respect, and personal fulfilment rather than obligation due to shifting gender roles, increased education, and the growing assertion of women's autonomy.

In the past, women's responsibilities in marriage were mostly limited to providing care, taking care of the home, and providing emotional support. Their ability to make decisions was frequently restricted by social norms and economic reliance. Indian women in the twenty-first century, on the other hand, are becoming more self-reliant, educated, and focused on their careers. As India becomes a developed nation by 2047, it is anticipated that marriages will be marked by equal participation, with both partners sharing household, emotional, and financial responsibilities. Modern partnerships will be built on cooperation and understanding rather than hierarchy. Attitudes towards love, companionship, and partnership have also changed as a result of the digital age, globalisation, and exposure to various cultures. Compatibility, communication, and common goals are now more important to people than conventional factors like caste, religion, or social standing. Acceptance of same-sex, interfaith, and intercaste marriages is a sign of a society that is becoming more accepting of individual autonomy. Delayed marriages, higher divorce rates, and an increase in cohabitation or live-in relationships all point to a shift towards personal autonomy and emotional authenticity.

“Live-in relationships have emerged as a significant social phenomenon in India, reflecting changing attitudes toward personal autonomy along with gender equality and traditional family structures.”
(Kumar, Ish. “The Legal Status of Live-in Relationships in India: Evolution and Judicial Recognition.” *International Journal of Law, Policy and Social Review*, vol. 6, no. 4, 2024, pp. 114–118.)

All facets of society are not experiencing this change, though. While rural and conservative communities continue to adhere to patriarchal norms, urban India is quickly adopting new partnership dynamics. By 2047, a society that is genuinely inclusive and equitable will require closing this social gap. In a developed India, marriage will be seen as a voluntary union between equals rather than just a social requirement. The concept of partnership will continue to be redefined by women's empowerment, turning marriage into a place of mutual development, respect, and autonomy. This development will represent a more advanced level of cultural maturity, where tradition and contemporary concepts of equality and human dignity coexist peacefully.

The Status of Women: Technology and Economic Growth on Social Norms in a Developed India by 2047

Technology and economic expansion are becoming significant factors that are changing social norms, especially those about women's status, as India aims to become a fully developed country by 2047. Gender roles, participation in the workplace, education, and the very fabric of social interactions have all started to change as a result of the intersection of these factors. Women's empowerment is increasingly being fuelled by

digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, and access to economic opportunities that cut across conventional boundaries rather than being limited to political or social reform.

“Increased internet access and usage have been found to boost women’s income and earning potential; provide them with greater freedom and increase their sense of equity.”

(United Nations Development Programme and ICRIER. *Digital Technology as an Instrument to Bridge the Gender Gaps in Access to Labour Markets*. UNDP-ICRIER, 4 Feb. 2025, p. 1.)

Technological advancement has provided women with new platforms for learning, earning, and leading. From digital literacy initiatives to the rise of women-led start-ups, technology has democratised access to information and employment opportunities. Women in both urban and rural areas are harnessing online education, e-commerce, and remote work opportunities to achieve financial independence. By 2047, these digital tools are expected to close long-standing gender gaps in education and employment, empowering women to become equal contributors to India’s innovation-driven economy. Artificial intelligence, automation, and digital finance will further enhance women’s participation in sectors once dominated by men, promoting inclusivity and economic diversity.

Growth in the economy has also been crucial in changing how society views gender. Social norms and family structures are being reassessed as more women enter the workforce and take on leadership positions. The concept of women making equal financial decisions is gaining traction, and dual-income households are becoming more common. Social attitudes have changed as a result of this economic empowerment, promoting respect for women's autonomy and redefining their place in families and communities. But everyone must have access to the advantages of economic and technological advancement. Gender-sensitive governance and inclusive policies are necessary to address issues like the digital divide, unequal compensation, and the under-representation of women in STEM and leadership positions.

A developed India envisions a society by 2047 in which economic prosperity and technology uphold gender equality and change antiquated social norms. The country's digital and economic future will be shaped by women, who will not only take part but also take the lead. This development will represent the maturity of Indian society, where equality, empowerment, and innovation all work together to create a fair and inclusive future.

Policy, Law, and the Equitable Development Path for Women in India by 2047

The fair development of women is a key component of India's progress as it moves closer to its objective of becoming a developed country by 2047. Without guaranteeing that women, who make up almost half of the population, have equal rights, opportunities, and representation in all areas of life, true development cannot be attained. Therefore, legislation and policy are crucial in creating a just and inclusive society that protects women's freedom and dignity, while enabling them to make significant contributions to the country's development.

“Today, women are leading the march toward development, and Modi Government is committed to creating an inclusive ecosystem that empowers Nari Shakti through education, skill development, entrepreneurship, and equal workforce opportunities.” (Press Information Bureau (PIB), 25 Aug. 2025.)

India has made notable legislative and policy advancements to advance gender equality over the years. Progressive laws like the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Domestic Violence Act, the Maternity Benefit Act, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act have reinforced constitutional guarantees like equality before the law and non-discrimination based on gender. Women's participation in education, work, and leadership has been further supported in recent years by programs like ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’, reservations

for women in local government, and gender-responsive budgeting. However, persistent disparities in decision-making, compensation, and resource access show that implementation frequently falls short of intent.

By 2047, policies that incorporate gender perspectives into all aspects of planning—education, health, the economy, technology, and governance—must be the driving force behind the equitable development of women. Economic policies should guarantee women in both rural and urban areas equal compensation, financial inclusion, and support for their entrepreneurial endeavours. Stereotypes must be dispelled, and gender-based violence must be addressed through awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs, and more robust institutional frameworks. To ensure prompt justice and accountability, legal systems should change to address modern issues like cyber harassment, workplace bias, and reproductive rights.

New opportunities for empowerment are made possible by technology and digitalisation, which give women access to healthcare, work, and educational opportunities regardless of where they live. But in order to guarantee that no woman is left behind, policies must also concentrate on closing the digital divide. By 2047, a developed India must be based on the values of equality, justice, and inclusivity, where policies are empowering rather than merely corrective and laws are both protective and transformative. The path of equitable development for women will represent the nation's moral and social maturity—a vision of India in which men and women coexist as equal partners in development and prosperity.

Conclusion

The changing status of women, families, and marriage reflects the larger evolution of the country's social fabric as India steadily advances towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Today's women are becoming leaders in public life, equal contributors to the economy, and advocates for change across the board. In addition to increasing personal liberties, their empowerment has completely changed the basis of marriage and family life. Values based on equality, respect, and understanding are replacing conventional ideas of gender roles and social obligations.

In India, families are shifting from rigidly structured joint systems to more adaptable, varied arrangements that take into account the realities of contemporary life. The fundamentals of family—love, care, and interdependence—remain the same, but their manifestations are changing to meet modern demands. In a similar vein, marriage is being reinterpreted as an equal partnership that emphasises individual autonomy, camaraderie, and shared accountability. The institution's prior emphasis on social conformity and patriarchal expectations has significantly changed with this redefinition. But there are obstacles in the way of India becoming a socially advanced nation. Progress is still hampered by ingrained patriarchal beliefs, gender-based violence, and unequal access to opportunities. Ensuring that development reaches every woman, regardless of class or location, and bridging the gap between urban and rural areas continue to be crucial objectives. By 2047, a fully developed India must have a social structure that upholds women's rights and dignity, fosters equality and emotional health within families, and views marriage as a means of mutual development rather than social pressure. The evolving social norms must reflect India's maturity as a just and inclusive society where progress is gauged not only by economic growth but also by the harmony and empowerment of its citizens.

References-

1. NITI Aayog. SDG India Index & Dashboard 2023–24. NITI Aayog, 2024.
2. *Drishti IAS — Mains Practice / Social Issues*, 2024, n. p. 01-02. <https://www.drishtias.com/mains-practice-question/question-8452/pnt>.
3. Anmol Narain, *A Portrait of Women's Empowerment in India*, NITI Aayog / DMEQ, p. 01. NITI Blogs

4. Vignitha B, Debnath A, Pvs A, Sai TK, Charag S., *Women's Empowerment in India: State-Wise Insights from the National Family Health Survey 5*, PMC article, Cureus 2024 Jul 27;16(7): e65509. doi: 10.7759/cureus.65509 p. 01.
5. United Nations. *India Report Beijing+30*. UN Women, Sept. 2024, p. 14. https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/b30_report_india_en.pdf.
6. Kumar, Ish. "The Legal Status of Live-in Relationships in India: Evolution and Judicial Recognition." *International Journal of Law, Policy and Social Review*, vol. 6, no. 4, 2024, pp. 114–118. <https://www.lawjournals.net/assets/archives/2024/vol6issue4/7094.pdf>
7. United Nations Development Programme and ICRIER. *Digital Technology as an Instrument to Bridge the Gender Gaps in Access to Labour Markets*. UNDP-ICRIER, 4 Feb. 2025, p. 1.
8. Choudhury, Rini /Alexander, Anjelina. "Nari Shakti se Viksit Bharat: Women Leading India's Economic Transformation Story." *Press Information Bureau*, Government of India, 25 Aug.2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2160547&utm>
9. World Bank Group. *Women, Business and the Law 2024*. World Bank, 2024.
10. UN Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2023/24: Transforming economies, realizing rights*. UN Women, 2023.
11. Malhotra, Arun. *Changing Family Structures & Marriage Systems in India*. Ane Books Pvt. Ltd., 2023.
12. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), and ICF. *National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019–21: India. Volume II*. IIPS and ICF, 2021.
13. Kumari, Nutan, Alan H. Bittles, and Prem Saxena. "Has the Long-Predicted Decline in Consanguineous Marriage in India Occurred?" *Journal of Biosocial Science*, vol. 52, no. 5, Sept. 2020, pp. 746–755. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-biosocial-science/article/abs/has-the-longpredicted-decline-in-consanguineous-marriage-in-india-occurred/F3A8CAE2EAA8C011ECD7084A3ECFB2BC>.
14. Singh, Manisha, C. Shekhar, and Neha Shri. "Patterns in Age at First Marriage and Its Determinants in India: A Historical Perspective of the Last 30 Years (1992–2021)." *SSM — Population Health (or SSM — Social Science & Medicine family)*, 2023.
15. Tandon, Ajay, et al. "Adverse Birth Outcomes among Women with 'Low-Risk' Pregnancies in India: Findings from the Fifth National Family Health Survey, 2019–21." *The Lancet Regional Health — Southeast Asia*, vol. 15, Aug. 2023. <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lansea/article/PIIS2772-3682%2823%2900113-0/fulltext>.
16. Uberoi, Patricia, editor. *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*. Oxford University Press (India), 1994, pp.502.
17. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023-en.pdf>.
18. https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG_India_Index_2023-24.pdf.