

**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women  
**Issue:** Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts  
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## I- Introduction

The women in rural areas who make the ¼ of the world population are people who lack the access to **education, credit, ownership of land** and other **natural resources**. These lack of access to basic things create a bridge to the gender discrimination and to lack of confidence. Most important reason for women not to actively take part in the social and working life is the **lack of confidence** and not being aware of their basic human rights. In most of the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) women are still oppressed by societies.

These societies are, most of the time, men focused which means that the women and men has stereotypical roles that they have to fulfill. Men are responsible for **working** and actively take part in working life while women have to **stay at home** and take care of the family. Also, **domestic violence** against women, undernourishment and lack of good health care are other things that affect women not to get their independence and confidence.

Another important obstacle for women to gain their confidence is the traditions in specific tribes and countries. Women are obliged to be a perfect wife and continue their marriage in the best manner they can and due to that, women cannot find the necessary courage to get out of a marriage which are hurting them and they are scared to leave the marriage because they have nowhere to go afterwards since they are not economically capable.

## II- Involved Countries and Organizations

### Saudi Arabia

The country is known as the most gender-segregated country in the world. Women are deprived of many basic human rights including wearing whatever they desire to wear, swimming in public places, interacting with men and many others. Women are not able to give major decisions without their male guardians consent and these decisions include travelling, getting a passport, getting married or divorced and signing contracts. The country currently removed the driving ban for women.

### Iran

In Iran, women are again deprived of many basic human rights. For example, they are not able to leave the country without the permission of their husbands and if single, without the permission from their fathers. They are banned from stadiums and not able to compete in sports without the permission from their husbands and fathers. Iranian government also does not allow to give citizenship to children who are born from ad Iranian woman but a foreign man. Another

example for the gender discrimination in the country is that the testimony of women are not accepted in certain offenses and the testimony of men is more important than a woman's. Another radical difference is that a man can divorce his wife whenever he wishes to.

## Ethiopia

Women are disadvantaged in many aspects compared to men. Child marriage is very common in the country and the girls are forced to marry at an early age have no access to basic education and they suffer from birth complications which leads to the pregnancy related death. The rights of women are not recognized as equal to men. Also domestic violence is very common throughout the country.

## Egypt

The government facilities are reported to use violence against women. Domestic violence is also very common in Egypt and one of the most major issues regarding the sexual health of woman is the Female Genital Mutilation practiced by the certain cultures. The government is trying to eliminate it however they couldn't successfully stop it.

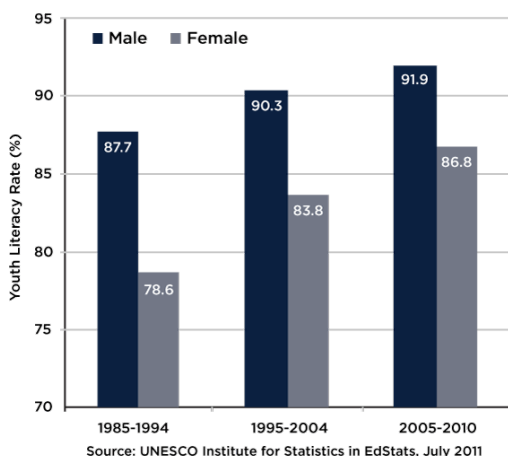
## UNDP

United Nations Development Programme works in conjunction with people and governments to improve life standards for everyone. Within 170 countries UNDP offers help on a global scale to empower lives.

## III- Overview

### Education

While in most of the Most Economically Developed Countries the right to get education is equally given to both men and women, the situation is different in LEDCs. Women are deprived from their right to get education especially after the primary school. High school and college education is very rare in countries like Somalia, Pakistan and Niger. Regarding the the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, two thirds of the 774 million adult illiterates worldwide are women. This difference in access to education is directly related to women not being able to gain economic independence and have different job opportunities.



## Political Life

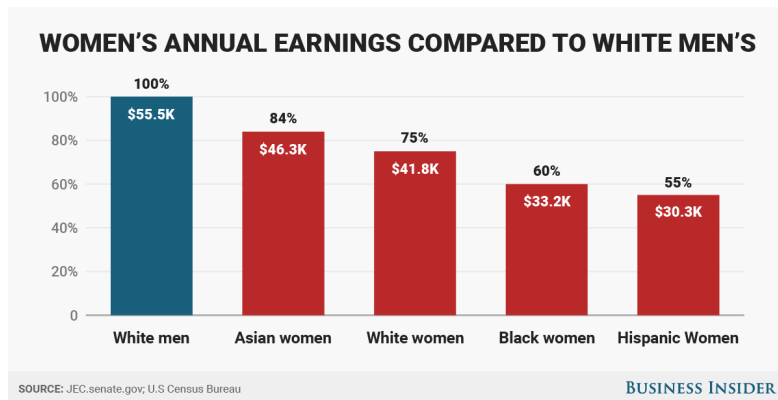
Even though the right to take a part in political life is accepted in most of the countries constitutions, women are not active in political life due to the long standing traditions in different cultures. The participation of women in governmental jobs have been increasing when compared to the past and the global rate of women in national level parliaments is approximately 20%. The public leaders chosen amongst women can hold a very important role as to empower women since they will constitute examples for young generations and destroy common beliefs.

## Violence Against Women

Domestic violence especially by the husbands or fathers of women can be addressed as a reason for being oppressed. The justification of violence against woman makes it a normal behavior that women has to endure if they d not follow the rules given by males. Raising awareness on this particular subject and supporting women in this process is very important.

## Working Life and Job Opportunities

The wage gap between men and women is one of the important aspect of gender discrimination. Even though, the international community has been trying to eliminate this difference, the little amount of difference is still present. According to the United States Department of Labor women earn 77 cents for every dollar men earn. Also, not only the wage difference but also the jobs opportunities differ in regards to gender. Most of the engineering jobs are given to men especially mechanical engineering and computer engineering.



## IV- Key Vocabulary

**Domestic Violence:** Any violent or aggressive behavior within the house by a partner in order to control the other can be defined as domestic violence. The couple can be married or unmarried. Domestic violence does not only include the physical abuse. Name calling or put downs, depriving partners from the right to contact their family or friends, stopping a partner from getting or keeping a job, stalking and sexual assault are all different types of domestic violence.

**Rural Context:** Rural context is referring to the places that are out of big cities and towns which have lower population compared to the cities. These places are not fully developed and lack some facilities regarding education, and basic health care.

**Empowerment:** Empowerment is defined as becoming or growing into a more powerful and confident version of oneself especially by claiming and fighting for rights. In our context, the empowerment is aimed to be achieved for women in rural areas which means to provide the access to education, health, job opportunities and healthcare.

**Gender Discrimination:** A situation in which someone is treated differently just because of their sex. Most of the time it occurs when a woman is less well than a man.

## **VI - Past Resolutions and Treaties**

### **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 as an international bill of rights for women.

### **The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

It was the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The members committed in twelve critical areas of concern.

### **Resolution 2010/7**

This resolution aims to strengthen the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### **Resolution 2011/6**

Focuses on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

## **V- Important Events & Chronology**

<b>Date (Day/Month/Year)</b>	<b>Event</b>
1869	Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association.
1920	Women were granted the right to vote.

1945	Millions of women had lost their jobs after World War II because servicemen had returned.
1963	The Equal Pay Act was passed during President John F. Kennedy's commission.
1964	Civil Rights Acts' Title VII passed, granting employment without discrimination.
2008	First time that the International Day of Women (15 October) was celebrated

**VIII - Possible Solutions**

Delegates can propose to create a safe space for women to gather with others and discuss issues such as gender equality, women's rights and health in their resolutions. Read Educate And Develop Community (READ) Centers can provide this for women.

Support independence and mobility by allowing women to leave the house without having to ask permission to their husbands.

Teach women to read, to be able to perform simple tasks like reading signs on a road, numbers on a phone, or directions on a medicine bottle.

Increase savings and income for women so that they can start small businesses and receive micro-loans to start these businesses or to provide education for their children.

Teach job skills and seed businesses for women to help them establish businesses of their own such as beekeeping, mushroom farming, sewing, and other income-generating skills.

Build self-esteem and confidence so that they can start to feel more comfortable speaking in front of the public and share their opinions. TEACH Centers may also help women gain this ability.

We must boost the decision-making power of women and by teaching the mentioned skills and most importantly reading, this will be provided to them naturally.

Impact women's health by informing them on topics such as health-care, family planning, domestic violence, women's health rights, and reproductive rights to help them protect their rights.

Build social networks to provide women support and greater opportunities to change their communities. By this, they will understand that they are not alone in facing issues like domestic violence, reproductive health/family planning, and help them get inspired by other women in their communities.

Create public leaders so they can be able to express their opinions in their communities and or their homes. This will help them raise their voice against violence and discrimination/sexism throughout their societies.

## IX - Useful Links

### [UN Women](#)

This site is the official website of our commission so I believe it will give the delegates solid insight on the issue and help them understand the general outlining of the issue from an objective perspective.

### [World Food Programme](#)

This site will give the delegates plenty of information on the 2030 agenda item on this issue and its key importance to be able to build a world without poverty and power for sustainable development.

### [United Nations Population Fund](#)

UNFPA's website talks about the importance of providing independence and autonomy for women of their political, social, economic, and health status to again, achieve sustainable development.

## X - Works Cited

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