



Gender Inequality at the Start of the 21st Century

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The world is a better place that at the start of the 20th century

- Spread of education and literacy
- Progress in science and medicine toward disease
- Freer exchange of information (makes oppression more costly)
- Greater voice for women in public and private arena
- Women's issues have gained greater prominence on the development platform, and many with intense reactions
 - Female genital mutilation
 - AIDS epidemic
 - Exploitation of women sex workers and trafficking
 - Dowry deaths and "honor killings"

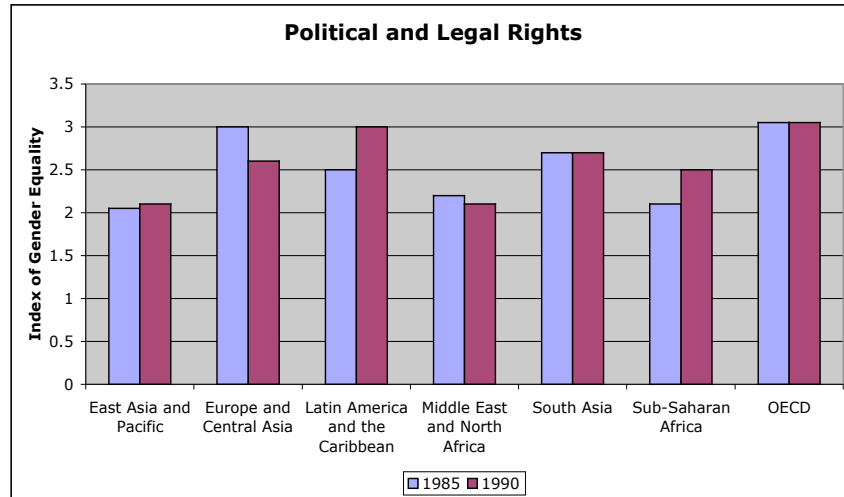
Inequalities Persist

- In no developing region do women enjoy equal rights with men
 - Some lack rights to own land or conduct business
- Gender discrimination has raised female mortality rates in some regions
- Female-run enterprises tend to be less well capitalized than those run by males
- Despite increases in women's educational attainment relative to men's, large gender wage gaps remain
- Women are underrepresented at all levels of government

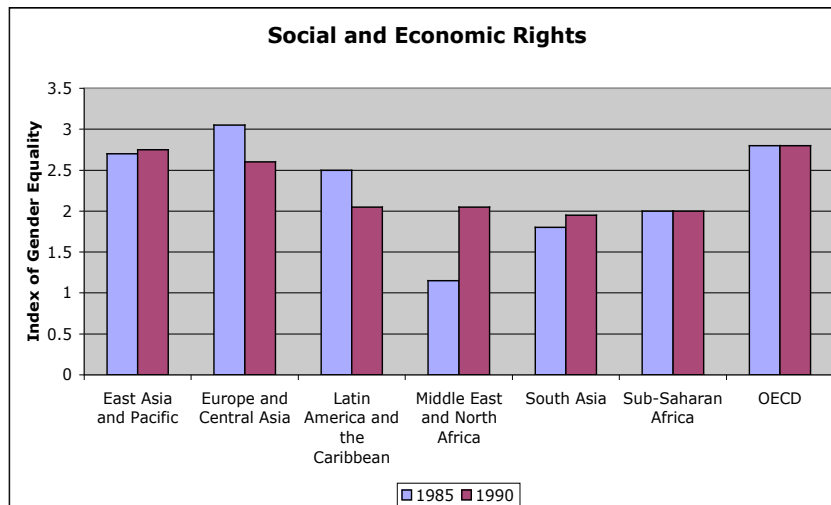
Defining Gender Equality

- Gender refers to socially constructed roles and socially learned behaviors and expectations associated with females and males
 - Men and women are different biologically
 - All cultures translate these biological differences into social expectations about what behaviors and activities are appropriate for males and females
- Gender is a social category (like race, ethnicity and class)
- Gender equality (defined by the World Bank) is defined in terms of equality under the law, equality of opportunity and voice

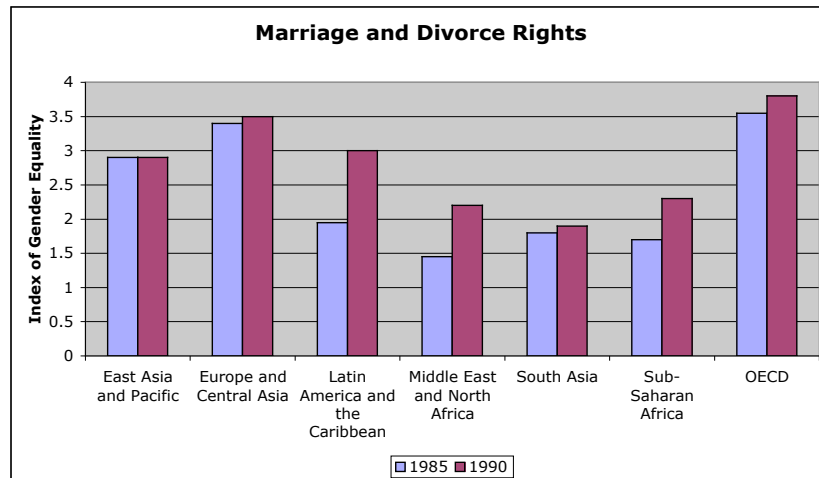
Political and Legal Rights



Social and Economic Rights



Marriage and Divorce Rights



Resources

- As with basic rights, women and girls tend to have systematically poorer access than men and boys to a range of resources
- Disparities limit women's ability to participate in development and to contribute to higher living standards for their families
- Disparities also result in greater risk and vulnerability in the face of personal or family crises, in old age, and during economic shocks

Education

- Female primary and secondary enrollment rates and average years of female schooling have generally risen over time
- Gains are slow and uneven in poorer regions
- Closing gaps even more critical as education becomes a more important foundation for developing flexible skills to participate in knowledge-intensive economic activity

Health

- Life expectancy at birth and mortality
 - Women tend to live longer than men (in part due to biological differences)
 - Offsetting factors: disparities in nutrition, frequent and complicated pregnancies, inadequate prenatal and obstetric care
 - “missing” number of girls due to excess female mortality in Asia
- Burden of disease
- Violence
- HIV/AIDS

Productive Assets

- Gender disparity in access to and control of such productive assets as land, information, technology, and financial capital hinder women's ability to participate in and take advantage of opportunities afforded by development
- In many developing countries, land is often vested in men
- Female farms and enterprises less capitalized
- Women farmers receive less technical support for agriculture extensive services
- Have less access to financial services (exception being success of some microenterprise initiatives)

Employment and Earnings

- Men have higher labor force participation rates
- In the labor force men and women commonly perform different tasks and work in different sectors
- Women tend to earn less than men, with a wider earnings gap in developing countries

Voice

- Limited command over productive resources and weaker ability to generate incomes constrain women's power to influence resources allocation and investment decisions within the home.

Summary: Patterns of Gender Inequality in Rights, Resources, and Voice

- Rights
 - Political and legal
 - Social and economic
 - Marriage and divorce
- Resources
 - Education
 - Health
 - Productive assets
 - Employment and earnings
- Voice