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Analytical Study of Empowerment of Women in Indian and World Economy

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Abstract

Strengthening the economic empowerment of women is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development and pro-poor growth and for achieving all economic participation. Enhancing the empowerment of women is an integral part of building their rights and an equitable society. Achieving economic empowerment means having the means, for women and men, to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the development process in a way that assures them recognition of the value of their contribution and respect for it. Dignity, as well as the possibility of negotiating a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development, can help.

Keywords: women's economic, empowerment, Dignity, sustainable development, participation, contribution.



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Introduction

Women's economic participation and empowerment are the key to strengthening their rights and enabling them to take control of their lives and make an impact in the community. For women, this means easier access to economic resources and tools, including employment, financial services, land, and other means of production, training, and market information.

“Women do 56% of the world's work and produce 60% of the food, but receive only 10% of the income and own only 1% of the land. Whether it's improving education in the developing world, tackling global climate change, or virtually any other issue, empowering them is only part of the equation. It is an integral part of building a just and equitable society. Women often face persistent discrimination and inequalities compared to men, and some of them experience a range of discrimination and exclusion, for example, because of their ethnic origin or the caste to which they belong. Is. United States at the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (September 2009)



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Excerpt from a speech by former US President Bill Clinton

Enhancing women's economic empowerment is a precondition for achieving sustainable and pro-poor growth and all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Gender equality and empowerment of women have a catalytic effect that can lead to increased development efforts. Of all the investments made in the latter, those aimed at promoting equality between women and men have the highest returns.³ Women typically devote a larger proportion of their earnings to their families and communities than men. A study in Brazil showed that a child's chances of survival increase by 20% when the mother is the breadwinner.

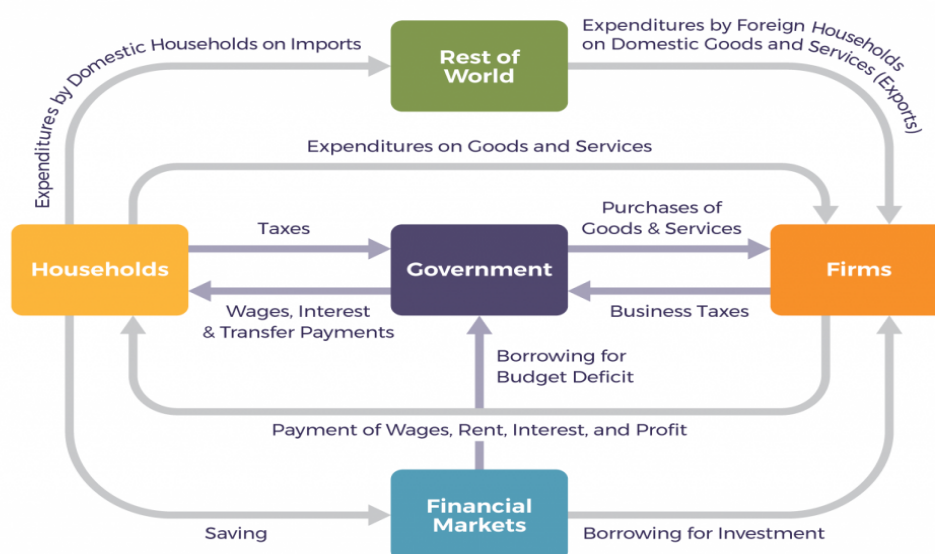


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Role of women in the economy

Strengthening the role of women in the economy is part of the recovery from the financial and economic crisis, and is essential for the economy's resilience and growth. But it is also important to be cognizant of the fact that, in some cases, it is women who bear the brunt of the post-crisis recovery, i.e. who are primarily affected by job cuts. Working conditions and increasing uncertainty.

The box below explains how empowering women economically can accelerate development and help in achieving G.D.P. Why women's economic empowerment is important to achieve pro-poor development.

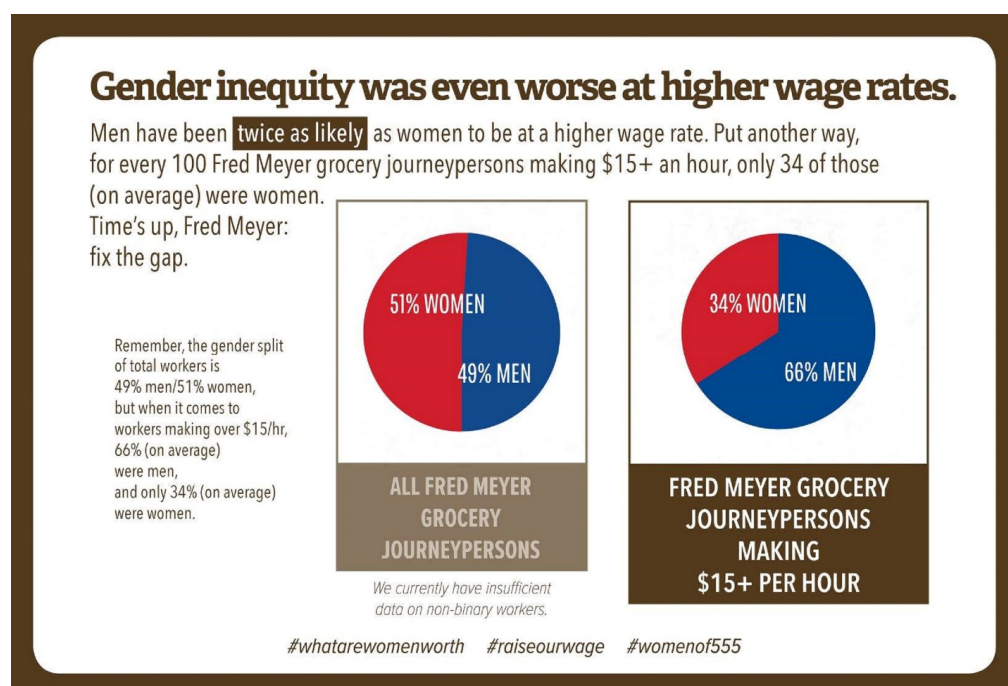


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Women's earnings a source of long-term economic development

- Increased women's earning and bargaining power leads to greater investment in children's education, health, and nutrition, a source of long-term economic growth. The share of women in salaried employment increased from 42% in 1997 to 46% in 2007.
- In India, if the ratio of women to men in the workforce increases by 10%, GDP can increase by 8%.
- In Africa, total agricultural production could increase by up to 20% if women had equal access to agricultural inputs as men.
- Women-owned businesses account for no less than 38% of all registered small businesses worldwide. In Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, their numbers are growing rapidly and this growth is having a direct impact on job creation and poverty reduction.

Source: United Kingdom Department for International Development (2010), Agenda 2010 – Turning Point on Poverty: Background Paper on Gender.

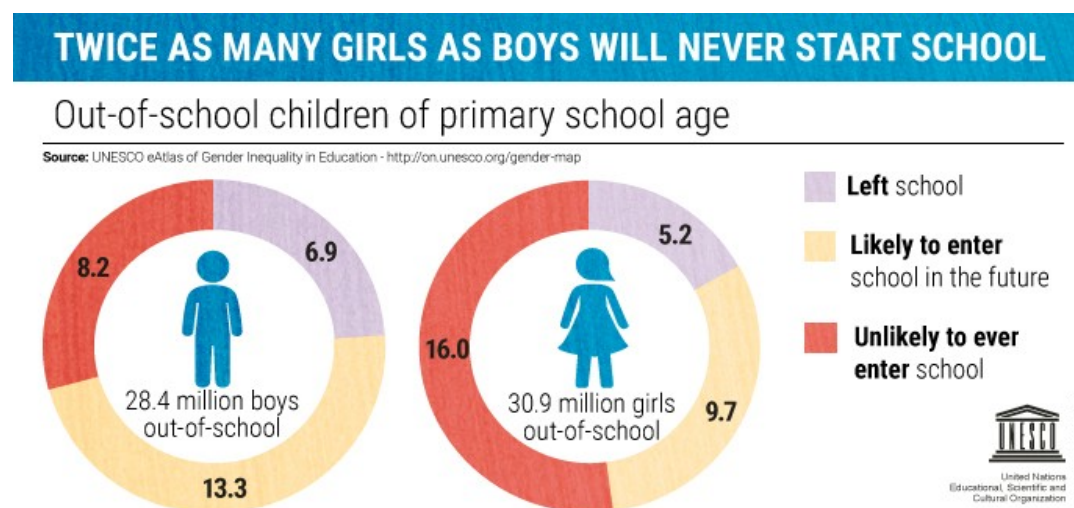


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Gender equality and women empowerment in productive sectors

- US\$4.6 billion out of a total of US\$22 billion in assistance to DAC members targeting gender equality and women's empowerment in economic infrastructure and productive sectors. A major portion of this amount is directed toward promoting gender equality in the fields of agriculture and rural development.
- The priority given to gender equality was lower for the economic infrastructure and productive sectors than for all sectors (including social sectors) combined.
- There is scope for donors to increase investment efforts in the economic empowerment of women.

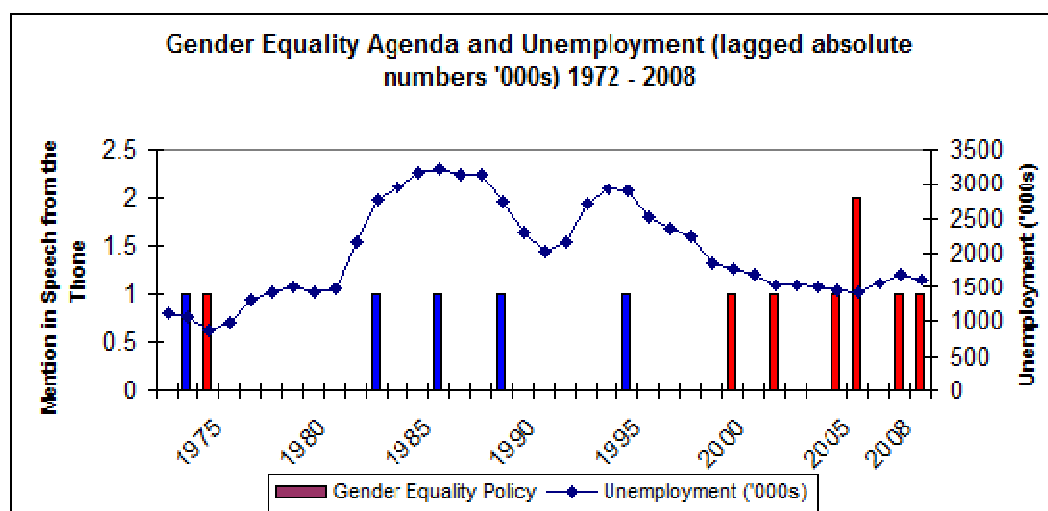
DAC members' aid commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment in economic infrastructure and productive sectors (excluding areas such as health and education) averaged US\$4.6 billion per year for the period 2007–2008 (pictured, inner circle). DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS).



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Gender equality in economic infrastructure and productive sectors

The share of bilateral aid to all sectors (including social sectors) combined leading to gender equality is significantly higher, accounting for a third of total aid (US\$18 billion per year). Area Allocable Assistance for 2007-2008. DAC members have paid relatively little attention to gender equality in economic infrastructure and productive sectors compared to other sectors. This accounts for a fifth of total bilateral aid commitments for activities in economic infrastructure and productive sectors (Figure 1, outer circle). Looking at aid commitments only to fragile and conflict-affected states, the share of aid targeting gender equality in economic infrastructure and productive sectors is very similar.



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Contribution of women empowerment in agriculture and rural development

Agriculture and rural development account for the largest share (US\$1.9 billion) of bilateral aid commitments under gender equity in economic infrastructure and productive sectors (Figure 1, inner circle and Appendix). The involvement of banks and corporations in public sector financial management and urban development has also been important (Figure 1).

In contrast, only a small proportion of aid towards gender equality and women's empowerment has been allocated to mining industries, construction, transport and storage (including road building), energy, communications, and trade (Chart 2). The corresponding figures, which represent commitments, point to areas where donors can step up their investment efforts in women's economic empowerment.



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Specific Challenges to the Economic Empowerment of Women

Main message-

- There is no magic solution to increase the economic empowerment of women. Achieving this requires strong government policies, a comprehensive approach, and long-term commitment from all developers.
- Strengthening women's economic empowerment is their right as well as "good economic calculation".
- Developers should try to reach out to the poorest people and women in remote communities and improve opportunities for them. Helping those most likely to succeed is not enough.

Some of the questions raised by strengthening women's economic empowerment are particularly delicate, even sensitive. It is important to look at them and analyze them. Achieving this goal requires sound policies, a comprehensive approach, and long-term commitment on the part of all developers. Because there is no miracle way to achieve it.



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World Bank calls promoting gender equality "an asset to the economy"

In recent years, many donors (both bilateral and multilateral) have framed their work on gender equality through the lens of "higher returns" from investment aid in favor of women and girls, in line with the spirit of the Action Plan. The World Bank defines the promotion of gender equality as "an asset to the economy". This so-called "instrumentalist" approach is often presented as being in direct opposition to, or even hostile to, an approach based on respect for rights and the pursuit of social justice. The optimal solution from a pro-poor development perspective is to view these objectives as mutually supportive rather than mutually exclusive. For example, women's economic rights can be strengthened by reforming the national administrative and legal framework covering land rights, inheritance rights, and property rights.



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Empowering women

“Empowering women is also largely a matter of fairness and decency. Young girls should have the same opportunities as boys to lead full and fruitful lives. [...] Empowering and empowering women makes good economic sense.”

Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, World Bank Spring Meeting, April 2008.

12-Reaching out to the poorest people and women in remote areas

Evidence shows that donors and multilateral agencies have great difficulty adopting some aspects of strengthening women's economic empowerment and tend to gravitate towards approaches that, for example, establishing microcredit or supporting women entrepreneurs Which could have been successful anyway.

However, it is essential to reach out to poor women, landless farmers, small agricultural producers, cross-border traders, factory workers, and domestic workers and ensure that they can avail themselves of the opportunities and benefits of economic growth and trade. Working with the poorest women comes with special challenges. For example, they:

- There is a low level of literacy,
- access to resources is restricted and control over them is limited,
- have less access to networks and people who can provide help and support,
- Are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse at the community level, if not at the household level.

It is therefore essential that donors consider the specific needs of the poorest women when designing their programmers, especially for their investment activities in road or telecommunications infrastructure.



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Is doing enough to support the farmer and her husband

As farmers, processors, and traders, women supply local, regional, and international markets with a wide range of products. The established belief that farmers are mostly men, while it is the contrary, is a significant barrier to improving agricultural production and productivity.

The persistence of inequalities between women and men has a direct impact on agricultural and human development outcomes. A study conducted in four African countries showed that providing the same quality and same quantity of inputs to women farmers, as is normally achieved.

men, and by giving them more access to agricultural education, it was possible to increase national agricultural production and income by about 10 to 20%.

"If the gap between men and women were to be closed in terms of agricultural inputs alone, about 100 to 150 million people would be saved from hunger."



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Lending to women: microfinance is no panacea

Microfinance--specifically microcredit--is often seen as a means of empowerment. Certainly, it can allow those who benefit from it to stabilize their means of subsistence and have greater possibilities of choice and access to start-up capital to invest in productive activities. and help the poor to consume on a more regular basis. and educate your children. However, if the programs are not well designed, they can also become a factor in increasing indebtedness and exclusion.

"Microloan is a microloan".

David Holmes (University of Manchester), OECD Development Center Seminar "Simply Giving Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South" (21 October 2010).

It has been found that by placing microfinance in a collective rather than individual approach and supplementing the services it provides with actions such as training or initiatives aimed at helping women become aware of their rights, and their direct control It is possible to enable enhancement. resources.



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Helping the women most likely to succeed isn't the only way to support women entrepreneurs

Many bilateral and multilateral donors and private sector financiers have decided to prioritize support for women entrepreneurs. With increasing urbanization, many rural areas in Africa and other countries are becoming more market-oriented. Linking rural producers to urban markets is a potential way for donors and governments to increase market opportunities for women (see Box 12: Business in hand: commercial outlets thanks to mobile phones").

However, when designing their programs, donors need to ask themselves the following questions: Will supporting women-owned businesses increase employment and self-employment opportunities for people living in poverty, or will it only benefit those who will be successful anyway?

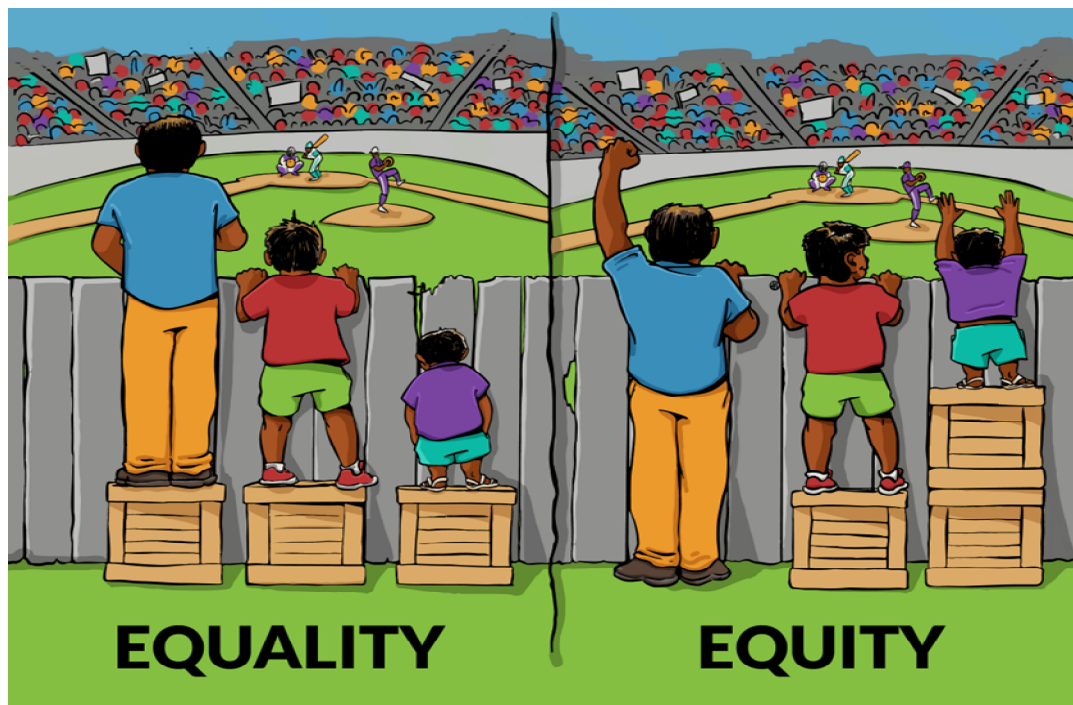


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We should make public policies sensitive to the principle of equality between women and men

Ultimately, a country must adopt a multi-pronged and inclusive approach to the management and implementation of its public policies, including its macroeconomic, financial, and trade policies, to be successful in increasing the empowerment and potential of women.

- **Public Financial Management:** It covers the entire budget cycle followed in a country from strategic planning to auditing. To help women gain greater economic power, it is necessary to integrate the principle of gender equality into public finance management systems. Systematically taking this principle into account in the management of public finances means ensuring that resources are rationally allocated according to identified needs and that revenues and expenditures are structured in such a way that women and both men should be benefited.



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Conclusion

Contribution of Women's Empowerment to Economic Growth and GDP Education and Training: Education is one of the most powerful tools to empower women. It equips them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence to engage in the pursuit of opportunities for material success. The abolition of school fees and providing financial assistance to encourage the enrollment of girls has proved useful in increasing their school attendance and completion rates. Necessary measures to be taken include building schools closer to remote communities, providing them with quality teachers – both male and female, equipping them with adequate sanitary facilities, and ensuring that girls are safe. Well-designed vocational training activities

empower women to take up better-paying work and avoid their concentration in low-wage and low-skilled jobs or reinforce occupational segregation between women and men.

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