

Panel 4: Measuring knowledge and Information Empowerment of Women

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Presentations by

- Rosario Garcia Calderon, UNESCO/UIS: Between Promise and Progress
- Aerina kim, Republic of Korea:
Enhancing Women's Empowerment through Education
- Wei Liu, China: Society of knowledge Economy;
Gender Differences in Education and Science
- Neda Jafar, UNESCWA: Gender Equality in Science –Arab Region

1. UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS

➤ Discussed:

- Importance of statistics for evidence based policy and decision making in the field of science, technology and gender statistics(STG)
- Necessity of sound statistical system and capacity building activities
- Analysis on the general issues of STG information, statistics and indicators.

UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS (contd...)

- Some statistics in the world atlas on gender statistics identified

Highlights of statistics presented include:

- ✓ Two thirds of countries show gender parity in primary education
- ✓ One third of countries have equal proportion of boys and girls enrolled in secondary education
- ✓ Many adolescent girls remain out of school in Sub Saharan Africa, South or West Asia as well as Arab states.

UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS (contd...)

- ✓ Women account for the majority of tertiary students in two thirds of countries
- ✓ Men continue to dominate highest levels of study
- ✓ Women are more present in education, social science, business and law
- ✓ There is gender gap in science
- ✓ Gender gap is an issue at all levels

UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS (contd...)

The paper also reports that:

✓ In mainstreaming science , technology and gender , considerable progress has been made in data collection, research, capacity building and reporting.

✓ The paper concludes that STG statistics have been progressively mainstreamed.

✓ New indicators are available. However information is still insufficient and provides partial picture.

UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS (contd...)

Personal opinion

- ✓ No doubt that the paper has provided a lot of gender statistics. However I feel that given the objectives of the paper it did not adequately highlight the importance of statistics for evidence based policy and decision making (GTG)
- ✓ It also did not discuss the necessity of sound statistical systems in data production and dissemination.

UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS (contd...)

- ✓ Statistics is vital for policy and programme planning, monitoring , evaluation, impact analysis and assessment.
- ✓ It is also useful for advocacy and informed public debate among others. This should have been reflected on the paper.

UNESCO/UIS: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PROGRESS (contd...)

- ✓ A sound statistical system is required for provision of comprehensive reliable, timely, cost effective and customers driven statistical information.

Republic of Korea: Enhancing women`s Empowerment trough Education

- Discussed gender policy in Korea, women`s Empowerment in the country and measures to enhance knowledge information of women.
- ✓ In describing the gender sensitive policy, the paper highlights issues such as gender impact analysis , legal framework and operation of the system.

Republic of Korea: Enhancing women`s Empowerment through Education (contd...)

- ✓ In terms of women empowerment, it provides some statistics on the status of women in the country and highlights some support areas for women empowerment as well as measures aimed at unlocking the potential of women.

The measures identified include :

- ✓ Quotas for employment of women,
- ✓ favorable policies and use of gender statistics

Republic of Korea: Enhancing women`s Empowerment through Education (contd...)

Personal observations :

- ✓ One would have expected that in profiling the status of women, their educational profile would have been highlighted alongside their participation in decision making so as to appreciate the role of education.
- ✓ There was also no clear statement on the role of education in women empowerment in the paper.

Republic of Korea: Enhancing women`s Empowerment through Education (contd...)

- ✓ There is not doubt that educating women enables them to participate in economic activities and decision making .
- ✓ It also promotes family well being in health, poverty reduction and employment among others.
- ✓ It is very clear that education is a veritable tool for women empowerments. Governments should focus on education of women as a good vehicle for socio-economic development.

3. China Society of knowledge Economy: Gender differences in Education

The paper identified gender equality mechanism in China , which include:

- ✓ The Basic National Policy
- ✓ National Programme of Action for Development of Women and Children and Women among others.

It also listed data sources of gender statistics in education, science and technology activities.

3. China Society of knowledge Economy: Gender differences in Education (contd...)

- ✓ In reporting gender gaps , education and science the paper highlights indicators such as promotion rates by level of education, gross enrolment ratio, number of students by educational level and compared gender differences in science and technology fields.
- ✓ The paper concluded that there is significant improvement in females socio-economic status.
- ✓ However gender disparity still persists in education, employment levels and access to science and technology fields.
- ✓ It sees education of females as the fundamental solution to gender differences in education

3. China Society of knowledge Economy: Gender differences in Education (contd...)

Personal Opinion:

✓ The paper provided a handful of gender statistics on education and science, one would have expected more statistics on the tertiary level of education.

✓ Statistics on promotion and enrolment rates at primary and secondary levels provided were not disaggregated by sex to track further gender differentials in education.

4. UNESCWA: Gender Equality in science –Arab Region

- ✓ Discussed gender dimensions of science, importance of science and technology in promoting economic growth, the need to compile data on the key indicators on women and men as key to mainstreaming approach to equal opportunities.
- ✓ The paper analysed the participation of women in various field of endeavor across selected Arab countries and concludes that there is gender inequality in the field of science.

UNESCWA: Gender Equality in science –Arab Region (contd...)

- ✓ It therefore recommends with respect to data, the need for regular collection of sex disaggregated science data; harmonise statistics to promote comparison and dissemination to enable effective monitoring of progress among others.
- ✓ It also made recommendations in the area of policy, and noted that profiling men and women is important for the implementation of gender equality measures.

UNESCWA: Gender Equality in science –Arab Region (contd...)

- Notes:

The paper is quite focussed on its objectives.

- ✓ Its conclusion that there is gender imbalance in the field of science seem to be the case globally

Point to note

- ✓ Statistics must inform policies and decisions at all levels of development. For this to happen, it must be credible, comprehensive, timely, user friendly and in understandable formats and standardised methodology.