

Statistics on Women

Researched by:

Sisterhood Is Global Institute

Institut pour la solidarité internationale des femmes

<http://www.sigi.org/>

Women and Work

- Women account for only 11 to 12 percent of corporate officers in the 500 largest corporations in the USA (1999).
- Women's work is never done: through the world, they feed families, carry water, and collect fuel. This is not counted as work (1995).
- 90 percent of the rural female labor force are called "housewives" and excluded from the formal definition of economic activity.
- In both developed and developing countries, women work 35 hours more than men every week (1996).
- Women produce 80 percent of the food on the planet, but receive less than 10 percent of agricultural assistance (1995).
- Women make up 82.3 percent of employees in Export Processing Zones (EPZs), which are tax free industrial areas for foreign companies and where labor laws are often suspended and workers unprotected. In 1995, there were EPZs in 60 countries around the world, mostly in Asia (1995).

Women and Money

- There is no country in the world where women's wages are equal to those of men (2000) .
- Women own approximately 1 percent of the world's land (1995).
- 70 percent of people in abject poverty (living on less than \$1 per day) are women (UNIFEM - 1995).

- Only 5 percent of those in need of microcredit access are receiving it (1995).
- In Silicon Valley, for every 100 shares of stock options owned by a man, only one share is owned by a woman (1995).

Women and Politics

- Women are denied voice or power over the most fundamental human decisions, such as whether and when to bear children, to get an education, or to go to work.
- In early 2000, only nine women were heads of State or Government.
- 12% of the world's total parliament seats are held by women (1999). Women's representation, on average, was highest in Western Europe (21 percent) and in the "developed" regions outside Europe (18 percent). Only Nordic countries and the Netherlands have at least one third women parliamentarians (1999).
- In UN agencies, only 21 percent of senior officials are women (1999).
- There are currently only 39 women ambassadors to the UN.

Women and Violence

- Everyday, 6000 girls are genitally mutilated - more than 200 000 per year (2000).
- Every year in India, 5000 brides are murdered or commit suicide because their marriage dowries are considered inadequate. (2000)
- In the US, one in five women will be victims of rape in their lifetime. A woman is raped every 3 minutes. 55 percent of American women report having experienced rape and/or physical assault in their life-time. 10 women are killed by their batterers each day (1998).
- In Russia, half of all murder victims are women killed by their male partners. (1995)
- Israel, Japan, Trinidad & Tobago, Brazil, Pakistan, Peru, Argentina, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Ecuador and Tunisia each have less than 10 shelters for battered women (1995).

Women and Education

- Two thirds of the world's 876 million illiterates are women (2000).
- Primary school enrollment among girls in the developing world is 6 percent lower than boys' enrollment (1999).
- Secondary school enrollment among girls in the developing world is only 41 percent, whereas enrollment of boys is 53 percent (1999).
- For every year beyond fourth grade that girls go to school, family size drops 20 percent, child deaths drop 10 percent, and wages rise 20 percent; yet, the international aid dedicated to education is declining (1995).
- Women make up 29 percent of world internet users. In the Philippines, Croatia, France, Sweden, Australia and the USA, they represent more than 40 percent of the users (2000).

Women and Armed Conflict

- In times of conflict, women and children are sold into forced servitude and slavery.
- In the former Yugoslavia, 20,000 women and girls were systematically raped by both sides of the conflict during the first *months* of the war.
- 75 percent of the refugees and internally displaced in the world are women who have lost their families and their homes. As refugees, women are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence while in flight, in refugee camps and/or during resettlement (2000).

Women in Canada

- Women form the majority of poor people in Canada – one in five Canadian women (2.8 million) lives in poverty (2000).
- Single mothers and other “unattached women” are most likely to be poor, with poverty rates for those groups reaching as high as 56 percent for single mothers under 65, and 49 percent for unattached women over 65 years of age (1997).
- Single mothers with children under seven had poverty rates as high as 82.5 percent in 1995, and single mothers under age 25 had a poverty rate of 83 percent.

- In 1990, 33 percent of Aboriginal women, 28 percent of visible minority women, and 21 percent of immigrant women were living below the low-income cut-off. As well, 25.2 percent of all adult women with disabilities were poor in 1991.
- In 1999, 55 percent of all women ages 15 and over had jobs, compared to 42 percent in 1976.
- In 1999, 28 percent of all employed women worked less than 30 hours per week compared with just 10 percent of employed men.
- In 1997, the earnings of women employed full-time were equivalent to 73 percent of what men earned that same year.
- In 1997, there were 44 births for every 1000 women aged 15 to 49 in Canada, whereas in 1956, there were 116 births per 1000 women in the same age range.
- In 1986, 51 percent of women university graduates worked in high-level jobs compared with 74 percent of men. By 1998, 49 percent of women and 62 percent of men university graduates aged 25 to 64 were working in high-level jobs.

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General Statistics

- The 3 RICHEST PEOPLE in the world own assets that exceed the combined gross domestic products of the world's POOREST 48 COUNTRIES.
- Among the 4.5 billion people who live in developing countries, nearly 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE do not have access to clean water,
- one in seven children of primary school age is out of school,
- about 840 MILLION are malnourished,
- approximately 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE live on less than \$1 per day,
- 3 MILLION PEOPLE die each year from air pollution and more than
- 5 MILLION die from diarrhoeal diseases caused by water contamination,
- about 340 MILLION women are not expected to survive to age 40,
- the 20 percent of the world's population that lives in the richest countries CONSUMES 84 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S PAPER,
- THREE-FIFTHS have no access to basic sanitation,
- almost ONE-THIRD are without safe drinking water,
- ONE-QUARTER lack adequate housing,
- ONE-FIFTH live beyond reach of modern health services,
- and ONE-FIFTH of the children do not get as far as grade five in school.

Basic education for all would cost \$7-8 BILLION a year--

- \$8 BILLION is spent annually for cosmetics in the United States alone.

Installation of **water and sanitation** for all would cost \$9 BILLION plus some annual costs--

- \$11 BILLION is spent annually on ice cream in Europe.

Reproductive health services for all women would cost \$12 BILLION a year--

- \$12 BILLION a year is spent on perfumes in Europe and the United States.

Basic health care and nutrition would cost \$13 BILLION;

- \$17 BILLION a year is spent on pet food in Europe and the United States.

- \$35 BILLION is spent on business entertainment in Japan;

- \$50 BILLION on cigarettes in Europe;

- \$105 BILLION on alcoholic drinks in Europe;

- \$400 BILLION on narcotic drugs around the world;

- and \$780 BILLION on the world's militaries.

- It is estimated that, per year, crime syndicates gross \$1.5 trillion.

Sources: United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 1999 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999); United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 1998 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998).

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