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STUDENT OFFICER:	Paulina, Bo Kyoung Jung
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Introduction

"Every child deserves to reach their full potential, but gender inequalities in their lives and in the lives of those who care for them hinder that reality," stated the United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Gender inequality is seen everywhere in India, both in communities and at home, and it affects the lives of both genders. It also leads to unequal opportunities, with women being at a great disadvantage. Statistically, women have a higher survival rate at birth; yet India is the only country where more women die than men. In India, men have greater freedoms than women, who face immeasurable restrictions on their freedom of choice due to deeply ingrained traditions, norms, structures, and patriarchal views that affect their education, social relationships, work, and marriage. On the other hand, if the nation is aware of the disadvantages and potential after-effects it will face if it pursues gender
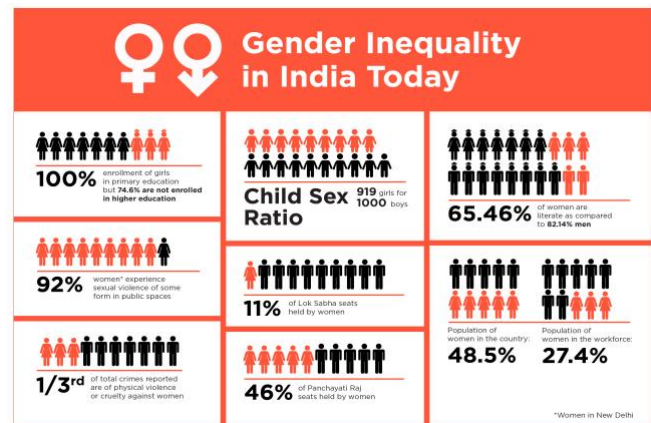

Gender Inequality in India

inequality, it could make progress that can be sustained in the long run. In other words, equality must be established as the foundation of all development. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has specifically mentioned in its 19th article that all men and women have the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Yet, there are innumerable risks, vulnerabilities, and violations that women face since they are born women. Gender inequality in India becomes critical because these limitations are directly linked to political, cultural, social, and economic disadvantages. Many of the manifestations–Teenage pregnancy, poor education and health, exploitation and violence, sexual abuse, child marriage, domestic child labor and teenage pregnancy–are associated with gender inequality. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the UN to guide the country towards a sustainable goal setting.

India is one of the fastest growing major economies where quality education is necessary for future prosperity. At the same time, India is a developing country - the so-called "Third World" - with the largest number of people living below the poverty line. However, the country has the largest youth population in the world with 600 million people under the age of 25 serving in the military, 28% of the total population under the

India's Education System in 2018

age of 14, and about 30 babies born every minute. The UN projects that India will overtake China as the largest nation by 2022, growing to about 1.5 billion people by 2030. Moreover, the UN has also projected that India will overtake China's economy by 2030 due to its innovation, large youth population, fast-growing language skills, and modernization. However, the nation is still struggling with sanitation problems, with many people ending up defecating in the open, causing the spread of cholera, COVID -19 and typhoid. In fact, the main cause of these critical sanitation problems in India is extreme poverty. Indeed, the sanitation issue reduces educational opportunities, social and economic development, and human well-being. Statistically, over 27 percent of the youth in India are unable to get education, training, or employment. At the same time, more than half of the total population is employed in informal sectors like agriculture that lacks job security. India should create 10 million jobs a year by 2030 to stabilize its working-age population, which is equivalent to creating more than 27,000 jobs a day over the next 12 years. However, unlike China, which created 13.14 million new jobs in its cities in 2016, India has created only about 150,000 to 400,000 jobs per year.

India is the largest ethnically or religiously diverse country with 29 separate states with different cultures and 9 union states, shaped and influenced by a long history. The main cause of ethnic or cultural problems in India is the creation of a dominant secular national identity, the nature of the political system, and the active civil society. The ethnic or religious conflict in India is primarily a product of a particular political context. In fact, religious conflict in India can cause the death of many people and disrupt economic activities with negative impact on national productivity. In conclusion, the nation should reduce international fomentation of ethnic hatred and disclose political information
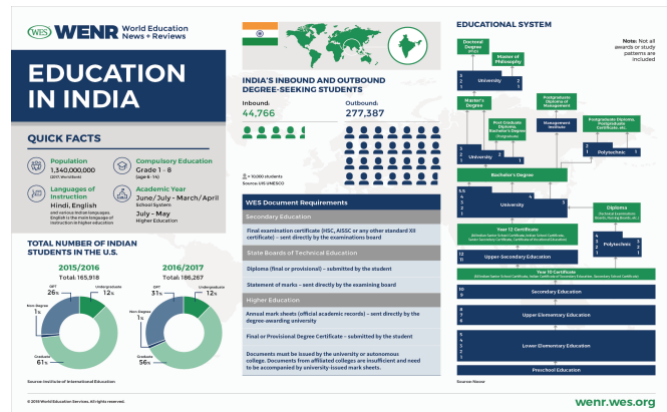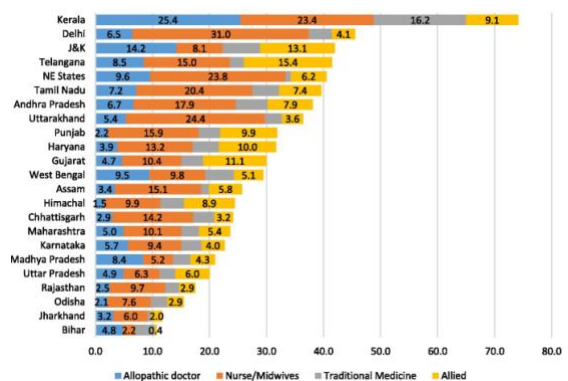
Background

"Women should stop fighting for the right to vote; they should instead focus on helping their husbands against the common enemy," declared Mahatma Gandhi - the champion of women's rights - in 1920. Long before the Indian government pushed through laws on women's rights and the #MeToo movement, feminists in India were fighting to promote women's rights in private and public sectors. Indeed, feminism in India has a

Indian Women Fighting for Women Rights

complicated history. Despite the beginning of the women's rights movement in 1975, most women were still incarcerated in the 1970s and only upper caste women could be benefited by the country. As the nation gained independence, political leaders discouraged female revolutionaries and reinforced strict gender roles for women as guardians of the home.

The Indian economy relies not only on technology, natural resources, and capital, but more importantly on the quality and quantity of the labor force: particularly, the efficiency of the labor force, which affects the productivity of the labor force. The efficiency of the labor force depends on many factors such as housing, nutrition, sanitary water and food, and health, but especially education and training. Over the time, India has continued to face educational problems.

Manpower in India

Education is the most important sector among the various social components since a well-educated workforce can accelerate the pace of economic development in a sustainable manner. The Indian government still faces educational problems due to the lack of funds towards education and the neglect of Indian languages. However, due to financial difficulties, funds toward educational institutions lacking infrastructure were cut, failing to show the expected progress. Moreover, since English is the language of instruction, especially in science subjects, rural students who do not receive an adequate English education cannot learn their subjects properly. Therefore, the Indian government should take measures to expand access to quality education in India, particularly in rural areas.

Problems Raised

Sanitation

Although India has made rapid progress in improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in terms of open defecation. Poor sanitation is the main cause of the country's slow development, as workers live shorter lives and suffer from diseases, earning and producing less as a result, and are unable to afford proper education that lays ground for a stable future for later generations. In 2013, UNICEF conducted a

Poor Sanitation in India

survey of Indian students in public schools asking them if they had adequate sanitation facilities, including toilets, water, and food. Surprisingly, 58 percent of public schools had no toilet at all, 22 percent had no adequate toilets for girls and 56 percent had no sanitary water.
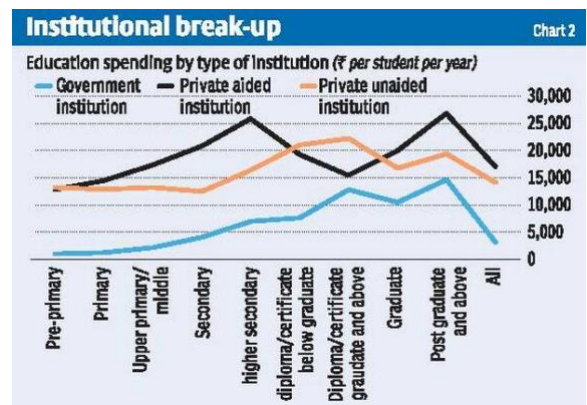
Inadequate WASH care in India contributes to the extremely high neonatal mortality rate, which was 24 deaths per 1000 births in 2014. Indeed, less than half of India's population has access to sanitary water and food, and two-thirds of India's population still faces extreme water scarcity.

Expensive education

Education expenditure in Africa has soared in India, creating a huge financial burden. More than half of the population in India still lives below the poverty line, so the present generation cannot afford an adequate education system, which also affects the future generation. At the same time, the education program seems to have made some progress in achieving India's latest victory in gender inequality. The number of students receiving secondary education has grown

Institutional Assistance for Education

significantly along with the increased funding for education.

International Actions

UNICEF

UNICEF states that it "works for children's rights across India; we have been working in India for 70 years to improve the lives of children and their families." UNICEF started their support to India in 1949, beginning with the introduction of the first penicillin in India, which supported children in 16 states of India. They also supported girls to get proper education and sanitary toilets to reduce neonatal mortality rate. UNICEF is one of the most significant programs that is an inclusive social policy associated with the Government of India National Development Agenda. UNICEF uses a set of policies and procedures to promote national development, good governance, natural resources, and effective implementation by encouraging public participation and recognition of children's rights. It aims to organize a social network to address a wide range of people, including gender or religion, which prevents children from accessing information, social services, and industry. Its inclusive programs promote and strengthen systems and national policies so that children can benefit from the program, be supported to go to school and be prevented from child labor.

Key Players

National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)

The NRDWP raised awareness to people in rural areas on all aspects of water supply and sanitation. They also educated children and students in India who cannot get adequate education about current sanitation situation in India. Moreover, wall writing is one of the major strategies that the NRDWP implemented to raise awareness to people who does not have any access to internet.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations agency responsible for health. It is an intergovernmental organization that usually works with member states through ministries of health. WHO is responsible for managing global health, setting agendas for health research, establishing norms and standards, formulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical assistance to countries, and monitoring health trends. WHO employs health professionals, other specialists and assistants at its Geneva headquarters, six regional offices and country offices. In carrying out activities and

Logo of WHO

achieving its objectives, the WHO Secretariat focuses on the following six tasks: Leadership on health crises and collaboration where action is needed; planning of agendas and functioning of generation, dissemination and translation of critical information; construction of norms and standards to promote and monitoring of implementation by member countries; articulation of evidence; provision of technical support and plan to have sustainability; and monitoring of health situation of each country. Thus, WHO has played a crucial role in India in relation to the health crisis and current health trends.

Possible Solutions

Collaboration and Convergence

Cooperation and integration are key features of the Indian national agenda, where WASH is the driving force behind child welfare and child care. It is committed to supporting growth and development, particularly in all areas of food security, reducing infant mortality among newborns with new symptoms, and improving learning outcomes. The UNICEF supports the government of India's flagship programs including: Swachh Bharat Mission , WASH in sanitation, schools and public spaces, the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP), and district-wide that support implementing national guidelines and costed plans.
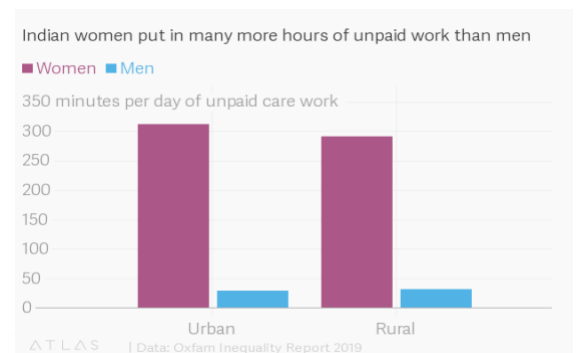
Logo of UNICEF

To support lagging states and regions, UNICEF operates in 16 states and 192 regions, providing technical assistance to governments, providing alternative services, and mobilizing community organizations and partners. UNICEF has begun to expand its program from rural areas to urban areas, where the urban poor often face sanitation problems. Therefore, collaboration and convergence with UNICEF is the key factor that can help eliminate sanitation problems in India.

Joint C4D- Gender Strategy

changing people's perception on the female gender collectively can contribute to the results of the collective product, some in the short term - increasing access to education, reducing anemia; others in the medium term - termination of child marriage, and others in the long term – gender, and eliminating sexual bias. Only when social perceptions change the idea of equal rights among girls and boys in India will become reality. Giving girls a chance

Indian women put in many more hours of unpaid work than men

■ Women ■ Men

350 minutes per day of unpaid care work

Ratio of Unpaid Work in India

requires partnership and cooperation. Providing girls with the care, knowledge, and skills needed in their daily lives can help them cope with the risks they face and enable them to grow and fully participate in the development of India.

Girls find it particularly difficult to obtain resources, information, and social media to save their daily lives. Programs tailored to the needs of girls, focusing on the development of education and life skills, can end violence and address the needs of vulnerable girls. Long-term solutions designed for girls can pave the way for girls' transformation and lifelong learning. Girls especially need a platform to describe the challenges they face in their daily lives and find solutions that suit them so that they and their communities can create a better future. The UNICEF plan for India in 2018-2022 aims to address the disparities faced by Indian children in India, including gender differences. The results of each plan focus on the priorities of the gender plan, which are clearly stated in its plan, budget, and results.

UNICEF's Telecommunications Development Team (C4D) utilizes behavior and social change communications to support individual outcomes. They work to resolve issues regarding unequal feeding, unequal investment in girls and boys, and negative gender stereotypes such as dangerous Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) practices and the use of money to permanently devalue girls than boys.

Glossary

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

Significant aspect of hygiene for women and juvenile girls between menopause and menarche which is often overlooked in post-disaster responses.

National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP)

Centrally Sponsored Scheme to improve the coverage of sanitary water to the rural areas among the country

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH is a critical issue in the third world country where there is lack of water and sanitation. WASH aims to equally provide cost-effective sanitary water to people living under the poverty line.

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