

Girl



Name of the lecturer

Gender equality



Empowering women and girls is essential for achieving development and poverty reduction.



Gender equality is a human right and to empower women and girls is extremely important when it comes to development and poverty reduction. By strengthening women's and girls' rights, the health and productivity of families and entire communities gets improved.

Gender discrimination



- **Housework:** Girls do more domestic work.

- **Education:** 13 % of girls aged 15-24 in low-income countries cannot read or write.

- **Child Marriage:** Is a large violation of girl's rights and exposes them to great risks.



These are some examples on how girls are discriminated against simply because they are girls:

- Too much and heavy housework affects children's opportunity to develop and their opportunities to go to school and is thus a great risk.
- 13 percent of young women cannot read or write, while the corresponding figure for young men is 8 percent. This reduces women's ability to earn a living and take care of themselves and their family.
- Child marriage affects more girls than boys and violates a multitude of rights.

Education



- For the first time ever, as many girls as boys enroll in school!
- However - fewer girls than boys complete their education.
- If a family has to prioritize between multiple children, it is often girls who are taken out of school early.



Educating girls has a positive impact both for the individuals and for society as a whole. Educated girls are healthier and marry later. If they have children in the future it also increases the chance of these children surviving and being healthy. For each year a girl stays in middle school or high school it increases her future income by 15-25 percent. If the family has to prioritize between multiple children, it is often the girl who is taken out of school early.

Young brides



- 39,000 under aged girls are estimated to become young brides every day.
- Every third girl in a developing country is at risk of becoming a young bride before her 18th birthday.
- Child marriages occur worldwide but are most common in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Child marriages reduce the chance for education and thereby increase the risk of keeping girls in poverty.



Child marriages often take place against a child's wishes and limits the future of those affected. The girls often have to quit school and become dependent on their husbands which reduces their ability to exercise control over their own lives. Child marriage often means early pregnancy which also means risks to life and health for the girls since it is dangerous for young girls to be pregnant and give birth to children.

Every year 14.2 million girls risk becoming young brides (39,000 daily).

Female Genital Mutilation



- Female genital mutilation (FGM) occurs in many countries.
- The surgery involves cutting off parts of a girl's or woman's genitals.
- Over 200 million girls and women have been genitally mutilated.



Female genital mutilation occurs in many parts of the world but is most common in Africa. FGM involves the cutting off or damaging of parts of a girl's genitals.

Usually the girl is between four and eight years old at the time of surgery, but it also occurs that babies, teenage girls and young women are mutilated. The surgery is usually done without anesthesia and under primitive forms which means a great risk of infection.

This results in intercourse becoming painful and childbirth often more difficult with the risk of death for both mother and child. FGM is deeply rooted in many cultures but thanks to **interventions for prevention of FGM the incidence decreases slowly but surely.**

Pregnancy and childbirth



- Pregnancy and childbirth are the second leading cause of death among girls between 15 and 19 years old in developing countries.
- Stillbirths and death during the first week are 50% more common among children with young mothers.
- Only 22% of girls between 15 and 19 have access to contraceptives.
- Older spouses increase the risk of getting HIV.



Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls between 15 and 19 years old in developing countries.

Stillbirths and deaths during the first week is 50% more common among children with young mothers.

When girls don't have access to contraception the risk of early and frequent pregnancies increases since the girls cannot choose for themselves whether and when to become pregnant.

Married adolescent girls are actually at greater risk of getting HIV than unmarried sexually active girls. It is because the spouses of the married girls' often are older and have had multiple partners before, and the girls often do not have the power and ability to demand condom use within marriage.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



1. **End poverty** in all its forms everywhere.
2. **End hunger**, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality **education** and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve **gender equality** and empower all women and girls.





The Swedish United Nations Association supports projects in the Afar region of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the UN Population Fund, UNFPA. The projects aims to prevent child marriage and genital mutilation of girls, which both are practices widespread in the country. The project is done through local teachers educating girls between 10-19 years about child marriage and reproductive health. Even political and religious leaders and the media are involved in the project to bring about a permanent change, as well as healthcare workers who bring up the issue with new parents. The project also gives compensation to parents if they wait with marrying their daughter off. Examples of compensation may be access to water or other food or goods such as a goat.

Lokoha



Involving young people through:

- School group information
- Theatre
- Reporting



Lokoha lives in the Afar region of Ethiopia. She has learned about her rights and about the problems of child marriage and genital mutilation in the school group she's in. She now knows that you do not have to do this and she knows why it is dangerous. The school management has now taken hold of the problem and is trying to stop child marriages. Lokoha and the other members of the group have an important role because they report if they hear of someone who is at risk of becoming a child bride.

Get involved!



- Like the Facebook Page *Stoppa barnäktenskap* and spread it
- Create an activity to spread information
- Donate 50 kr by texting FLICKA to 72909 or visit www.fn.se



Flicka

ETT PROJEKT FÖR FLICKORS RÄTTIGHETER

Thank you!

