

Twin Indices on Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality

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Introduction:

The UNDP report on *The Paths to Equal: Twin Indices on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality*, published on July 18, 2023, introduces two new experimental indices to measure the status of women's empowerment and gender equality across the world: the Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI).

Key Highlights:

The WEI focuses solely on women, measuring their power and freedoms to make choices and seize opportunities in life. It is composed of three dimensions:

- Economic empowerment: This dimension measures women's access to labor markets, income, and assets.
- Political empowerment: This dimension measures women's participation in political leadership and decision-making.
- Agency: This dimension measures women's ability to make their own choices and control their lives.

The GGPI assesses the gender gap across four dimensions of human development: health, education, inclusion, and decision-making. It compares the performance of women and men on each dimension and calculates a gender parity index for each country.

The report finds that, while some progress has been made on women's empowerment and gender equality, there is still a long way to go. Of the 114 countries covered by the WEI, only 16 have values of 0.7 or higher, indicating a high level of women's empowerment. The remaining 98 countries have values of 0.6 or lower, indicating a low or medium level of women's empowerment.

The GGPI also finds that the global gender gap remains significant. On average, women achieve only 70% of what men achieve on the four dimensions of human development. The largest gender gaps are found in political empowerment and decision-making, where women achieve only 35% of what men achieve.

The report concludes that more needs to be done to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls around the world. It recommends a number of policies and actions, including:

- Investing in girls' education and skills development

- Promoting women's economic empowerment
- Removing barriers to women's participation in political leadership and decision-making
- Addressing harmful gender norms and stereotypes

The UNDP report on *The Paths to Equal* provides a valuable new tool for measuring and tracking progress on women's empowerment and gender equality. The WEI and GGPI indices can be used by governments, policymakers, and civil society organisations to identify areas where progress needs to be accelerated and to develop and implement effective policies and programs.

The report also highlights the importance of investing in girls and women to achieve sustainable development. When women and girls are empowered, they are better able to contribute to their families, communities, and economies. This leads to higher levels of economic growth, poverty reduction, and social progress.

Conclusion

The UNDP report on *The Paths to Equal* is a timely and important contribution to the global dialogue on women's empowerment and gender equality. It provides a new and comprehensive way to measure and track progress in this area, and it highlights the importance of investing in girls and women to achieve sustainable development.

Read More at: <https://www.omidyarnetwork.in/insights/the-next-frontiers-skilling-and-employability-solutions-for-the-next-half-billion>

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