



5 GENDER EQUALITY



EDAI
EDUCATION AI



Achieve gender equality, empowering all women & girls

Artificial Intelligence for Gender Equality

SDG 5 faces significant data availability challenges, making it difficult to accurately assess its status. However, based on the available data, only 1 target (5.6 Technology for Women Empowerment) is on track. At the current pace, it is projected to take 300 years to end child marriage and 286 years to close the gender gaps in legal protection.

The connection between AI and SDG 5 is not extensively documented in various AI use case repositories from the UN: 3 use cases out of 40 in AI for Good: Innovate for Impact, and approximately 90 use cases out of 408 in the UN Activities on AI.

However, there are a few AI use cases that can contribute to the progress of SDG 5. For example, AI can facilitate the monitoring of the goal at a country or company level, which is particularly relevant given the limited availability of data on gender equality globally. Additionally, **AI can support the development of platforms or chatbots for women to quickly seek help in cases of violence or abuse. AI could also drive the use of connected devices in households, reducing the time required for chores.** For instance, automated robot cleaners can alleviate some of the burden of household chores, which disproportionately impact women. While AI can advance certain targets of SDG 5, it is important to address the associated risks for gender equity. For instance, many AI solution developers are men, posing challenges for women to enter this field.

According to the World Economic Forum, women make up only 22% of AI professionals globally, only 14% of AI paper authors are women, only 18% of authors at the leading AI conferences are women and just 2% of venture capital was directed towards start-ups founded by women in 2019. This under representation can result in solutions that do not account for women's needs and limit work opportunities for women. Moreover, historical data used in many AI solutions may contain inherent biases. For example, common GenAI tools have associated women's names with words such as "home", "family", or "children", while men's names were linked with "business", "salary", or "career". In finance, AI use can lead to bias against women, limiting their access to loans or credits.

Across various sectors, AI-driven bias may restrict women's access to employment, financial services, health services, insurance, and more. Additionally, AI-driven content on social media can exacerbate gender-based roles, leading to challenges with body-image and instances of toxic masculinity, thereby compromising women's safety on the internet.

Key Considerations for Stakeholders

- **Women-centricity:** The development of AI solutions should be aligned with UNESCO's "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" to ensure that human dignity is maintained.
- **Diversity in development:** Provide women and girls the appropriate financial and emotional support to join STEM careers, and work or connect them with NGOs that can provide the right technical skills and ecosystem to push those aspirations forward.

Impact

AI could act as an (positive) enabler for 56% of the SDG 5 targets and act as an inhibitor (negative) for 33% of the targets.

Use case 1

Creating a tool to explore natural language processing (NLP) software to identify biases and stereotypes.



Use case 2

Developing of a tool to help measuring Gender Based Violence in Latin America.



Use case 3

Designing an AI-driven transit safety app for Manila to Ensure Women's Transport Safety





Gender equality

- The world continues to lag in its pursuit of gender equality by 2030. Harmful practices are decreasing but not at a rate keeping up with population growth. One in five girls still marry before age 18. A staggering 230 million girls and women have been subjected to female genital mutilation. Far too many women still cannot realize the right to decide on their sexual and reproductive health. Violence against women persists, disproportionately affecting those with disabilities.
- Parity in women's participation in public life remains elusive, and in management positions, at current rates, parity will require another 176 years. Women carry an unfair burden of unpaid domestic and care work, spending 2.5 times more hours a day on it than men.
- Strong commitments to changing biased social norms, eliminating harmful practices & abolishing discriminatory laws are urgently needed.



Women in the fishing industry in Burundi demonstrate against gender-based violence during an annual campaign for the elimination of violence against women.

Enhancing women's roles in leadership and decision making and adequately scaling up investments in gender equality on national, regional and global scales are top priorities.

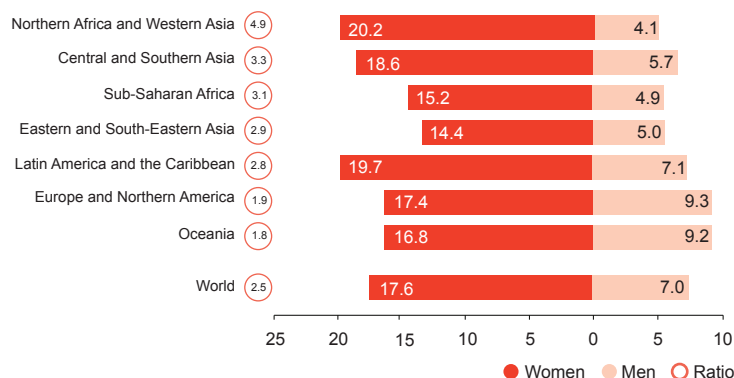
Heavy burdens of unpaid domestic and care work trap women in poverty and inequality

Despite variations across regions and country-specific differences, women in general perform most unpaid domestic and care work. This disproportionate burden is amplified in lower-income households, contributing to poverty, inequality and precariousness, including by limiting labour-market participation.

On average, each day, women spend 2.5 times more hours on unpaid domestic and care work than men. Regional disparities are marked, at five times more in Northern Africa and Western Asia compared to about two times more in Oceania, Europe and Northern America.

Differences are primarily attributed to men allocating more time to unpaid work than to regional differences among women's engagement in unpaid labour.

Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex (percentage) and ratio between women and men (bubbles), 2000- 2022

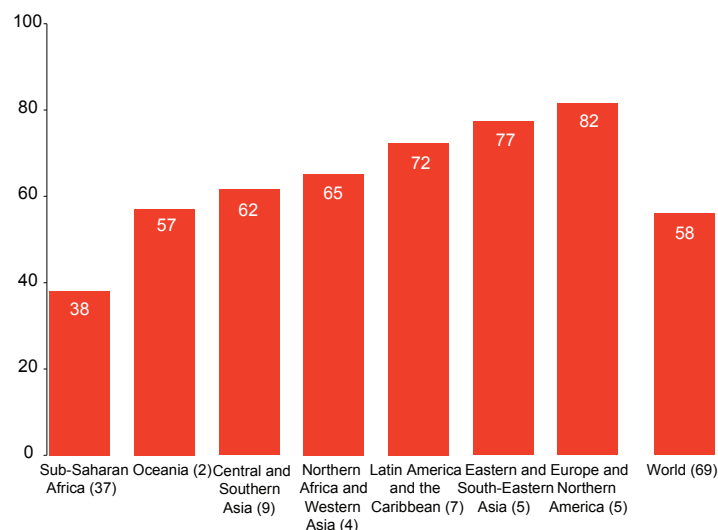


Women's empowerment in sexual and reproductive health decisions remains restricted globally, although positive strides are evident in some places

Data from 69 countries show that 56 per cent of married or in-union women aged 15-49 can decide on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, ranging from 38 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa to over 80 per cent in Europe. Although 89 per cent of women can autonomously decide to use contraception, one in four cannot make health-care decisions or say no to sex. New data from 32 countries show that 19 have seen a positive trend in women's ability to make decisions on sexual and reproductive health, particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa. Conversely, Western and Central Africa has experienced notable declines.

Socioeconomic factors such as household wealth, education and place of residence may shape these outcomes. For instance, data reveal shifts in the urban-rural gap, with some countries seeing decreased disparities and some, such as Armenia and Uganda, experiencing widening gaps. Understanding the trends is crucial in developing policies and programmes for vulnerable groups. Focusing on rural populations, the lowest wealth quintiles and individuals with limited education could help bridge significant gaps.

Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights, 2007-2022 (percentage)



Note: The number of countries with comparable survey data included in the regional aggregations is presented in parentheses. Based on the Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and other national surveys conducted from 2007 to 2022.

Global Youth AI Advisory Body



Delhi School of Artificial Intelligence

