

Gender and Development in Nepal: Inequality, Happiness, and Social Well-Being

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Abstract

Gender inequality is a topic of high priority especially in the world's poorest countries. Women are subjected to ruthless activities such as child-marriage, human trafficking, and domestic violence. In Nepal, one of the poorest countries in South Asia, where gender inequality is very evident, the suicide rates are high for young women unable to enjoy satisfactory status. Low status of women impedes economic development while fueling population growth, and as population increases, it hinders women's status from improving – a vicious circle occurs. To end this cycle, raising the position of women is the key. That, in turn, means giving women control over their bodies, homes, and their working lives.

After looking at the unique historical and geographical background of Nepal, this study discusses women's status and the importance in raising it. The data on women's health, marriage, birth, education, and work are analyzed to see the current situation Nepali women are placed in. The results found showed that slowly but certainly, women's status has been changing; however, warns that the pace of change may still be too slow. To improve this situation, creation of female and male role models is suggested to increase respect towards women.