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GENDER INEQUALITY AND HOW IT AFFECTS THE SOCIETY.

WHAT IS GENDER INEQUALITY ?

Gender inequality can be defined as allowing people different opportunities due to perceived differences based solely on issues of gender. Gender discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of an individual or group due to gender. Gender inequality and discrimination are generally discussed as pertaining to women, but anyone can experience gender-based inequality or discrimination.

**Gender inequality** acknowledges that [men](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men) and [women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women) are not equal and that [gender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender) affects an individual's living experience. These differences arise from distinctions in biology, psychology, and cultural norms. Some of these types of distinctions are empirically grounded while others appear to be socially constructed. Studies show the different lived experience of genders across many domains including education, life expectancy, personality, interests, family life, careers, and political affiliations. Gender inequality is experienced differently across different cultures.

SOME CAUSES OF GENDER INEQUALITY

1.Improper Education “Knowledge is power.” It might not be a strong point, but this is pointing more towards some parts of Nigeria that are rejecting western views on women, to stick to cultural ones. Education is nothing if you leave all you learn in school and still behave like a savage when you get back home. In other words, it must be obvious that you are educated. There are two ways to this, a community that’s poorly educated can never know the worth of women and a woman that is not educated cannot know her rights, talk less of the myriad of things she’s capable of contributing to the modern society. Gender Institutions and Development Data Base (GID-DB) statistics show that about 65% of women are educated in Africa, behind a higher percentage of 70% of men. It has also been noticed that parents don’t usually encourage the education of their female children because they believe it will be of no benefit to them, as any money or success she earns in the future, due to her education, will be of her husband’s, not their's.

2. Tradition and Culture Tradition is said to be the custom of a particular society, while culture is simply the way of life. When was the last time you heard about a female traditional ruler among the ethnic groups? The reason it has never happened is that it is deemed an abomination in almost every ethnic group. “Why should a woman be leading when there are able men to that could lead?” such is the typical cultural dogma that has plagued many thrones and political seats in Nigeria. Don’t even dare suggest female leadership to the elders of the community, you might lose your head.

3. Mentality It’s hard to keep “mentality” as a standalone point, as it is largely influenced by culture and tradition. However, if you look at it from a subjectively, from a woman’s view, it stands alone, how? Many women are not ambitious because they believe top positions aren’t meant for men. Even some ladies complain about having a female boss simply because are used to having a male boss. It almost seems clandestine for women to want to occupy a political position or the hot sit in a company. Such a mentality is usually created and forged by a woman’s immediate environment. If you’ve never seen a woman lead, you would think that it is normal for women not lead even if you weren’t directly told, right?

4. Religion It’s not a secret that religion is one of the top contributors to gender inequality in the world. Should religion be erased? No. In fact, religion is one of the many things that guide the masses in living a good and peaceful life. Religion is one of the biggest contributors to peace on earth. However, some religions or religious practices restrict the role of women to just domestic roles, making it impossible for them to even think about holding a political post.

SOME EXAMLES OF GENDER INEQUALITY.

Education. Many of the girls and women in African countries have never stepped inside a school.

Economic independence. Even if some women were allowed to visit the school and get an education, they still face a problem of inequality when participating in the labor market. They work hard but are paid lower wages. It happens because women are thought to be weaker employees if compared to men.

Illiteracy. Due to a lack of education, about 774 million people around the world cannot read. 61 percent of them are girls. A child of a mother who is illiterate has fewer chances to survive the age of five. Illiteracy is the primary reason why they cannot gain the necessary knowledge and help their children to cope with diseases in the right way.

Infant life expectancy. Due to some cultural matters, many tribes give preference to male children. The girls are provided with fewer survival advantages. That’s why one can observe a high risk of child mortality of girls between the ages from one to five years.

Access to medical care. Most of the mothers in developing countries, which have problems with gender inequality, give birth to their babies in improper conditions. The men get both necessary medical care and vaccination.

Human trafficking. About 71 percent of the total human trafficking rate is accounted for women and girls. In most cases, they trafficked with the purpose sexual exploitation.

Women leadership positions in government. Gender inequality is one of the key reasons why you do not see a lot of women in administrative organs.

Child marriages. This problem destroys not only the hope for a happy future but isolates the young girls from the world and the opportunities, which are accessible for men.

Violence against women and sexual assault. Women often become the victims of violence and sexual assault both at work and home.

HOW TO REDUCE GENDER INEQUALITY

1. Reduce socialization by parents and other adults of girls and boys into traditional gender roles.
2. Confront gender stereotyping by the popular and news media.
3. Increase public consciousness of the reasons for, extent of, and consequences of rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.
4. Increase enforcement of existing laws against gender-based employment discrimination and against sexual harassment.
5. Increase funding of rape-crisis centers and other services for girls and women who have been raped and/or sexually assaulted.
6. Increase government funding of high-quality day-care options to enable parents, and especially mothers, to work outside the home if they so desire, and to do so without fear that their finances or their children’s well-being will be compromised.
7. Increase mentorship and other efforts to boost the number of women in traditionally male occupations and in positions of political leadership.