Women's Empowerment, SDGs and ICT C1

Objectives of Core Module 1

To introduce key concepts of:

- Empowerment
- Women's empowerment – its barriers and enablers in present times
- The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) to achieve women's empowerment
- ICT – its challenges and opportunities in promoting women's empowerment

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe key concepts of women's empowerment in relation to the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals
2. List the major barriers and enablers of women's empowerment
3. Cite specific examples of how ICT can support women's empowerment

Three Sections of C1

A. Women's Empowerment and Why It Matters
B. Barriers and Enablers of Women's Empowerment
C. How Can ICT Promote and Enable Women's Empowerment

Section A

Women's Empowerment and Why It Matters

Learning Outcome:
Describe the key concepts of women's empowerment in relation to the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals

Write it down

Write down three words on a piece of paper.

What does EMPOWERMENT mean to you?

Case Study 1

A woman from South Asia/A typical profile

I grew up in a village. At age six, I started going to school but I had to help my mother cook and clean at home so I did not have much time to do homework. At times that we had drought, I stopped going to school to help my mother fetch clean water. My only hope was to marry a man who would care for me. I married at age fifteen. I am now 30 years old and I have five children. My husband works hard in the fields to provide food and money for our needs. I would like to earn extra money, maybe raise ducks or chickens and sell the eggs, but I cannot get a loan. I might get a job in a factory in town, but women who moved a log between home and work can get raped. I can look after a rich lady's children and stay in her house. It does not pay as much but it would be safer. But who would look after my children?

Empowerment means that people – both women and men -- can:

- take control over their lives
- set their own agendas
- gain skills – or have their own skills and knowledge recognized
- increase self-confidence
- solve problems, and
- develop self reliance

UN Women, Women's Empowerment Principles 2011

Empowerment is:

- a process of change
- increases choice (resources)
- enhances capacity to make or act on choices favorable to oneself, to society

agency

True empowerment provides women with agency.

Ability to make decisions about her life

To work on decisions to achieve desired outcomes without outside influence or fear

- Agency drives a woman to overcome the systemic societal disadvantages.
- It makes sure that women are:
  - Free from violence
  - Have control over their sexual and reproductive rights
  - Can get their voice heard
  - Have social and economic mobility
  - Have the ability to own and control financial assets
  - Have control over their own income

If women are empowered through employment…

Families are usually smaller, better fed, and better educated (lower fertility rates)

Developing countries would have lower infant mortality rates

GDP would increase

Higher literacy rates

Average household income would increase

World Bank (2014), *Voice and Agency*
Aguirre et al. (2012), *Empowering the Third Billion*

Components of Women Empowerment

Cognitive	Education
Psychological	Norms and society
Political	Right to vote Eligibility as leaders
Economic	Property ownership Land rights Access to credit & other productive resources

Atefe Mansoori, Afghan Company Director

- Saffron processing and export
- Only a few farmers started to supply her just to test her ability
- Convinced men and women in her village on benefits of employment

Something to do:

In terms of women's representation at the local and national levels,

- In which sectors of the country are women doing well?
- In which sectors they are lagging behind?

According UNDP's Gender Inequality Index, how is the country doing?

Please consult: http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii

Is there scope(s) for improvement? If yes, how?

Sustainable Development Goals & Women's Empowerment

- 17 goals and 169 targets
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace

http://www.womendeliver.org/knowledge-center/facts-figures/sustainable-development

- SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Target 5.b - Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular ICT, to promote the empowerment of women

ICT for women's empowerment

- ICT has a critical role to play in ensuring gender equality and gender empowerment.
- Access to ICT can empower women to get their **voices heard** at community, state and international levels.
- ICT helps women to **create their own space and agency.**
- ICT helps women to **gain better status** within their society and to **excel professionally**, according to **their own choice.**
- ICT not only helps to achieve SDG 5, but also **works as a key enabler to achieve** the other SDGs

(MORE on Section C)

Something To Do

- In terms of fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals, how did the country perform?
  - Please consult: *http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx*
- Write down some major opportunities and challenges your country may experience while achieving SDGs.
- Identify elements to focus on in order to achieve SDG 5 in your country.

Women's empowerment is the process of enabling women to take control of their own lives.

Key Messages

The SDGs promote women's empowerment by observing the principle of inclusiveness, whereby development must ensure that no one is left behind. The SDG 5 gives special focus to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

ICTs can enable women's empowerment because they are tools that can raise awareness on empowerment, encourage literacy and education, connect markets with sellers, and serve as a platform for dialogue.

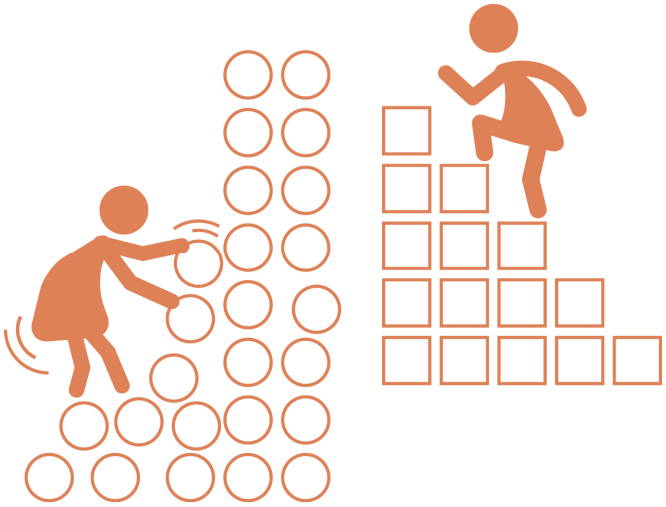
Section B

Barriers and Enablers of Women's Empowerment

Learning Outcome:

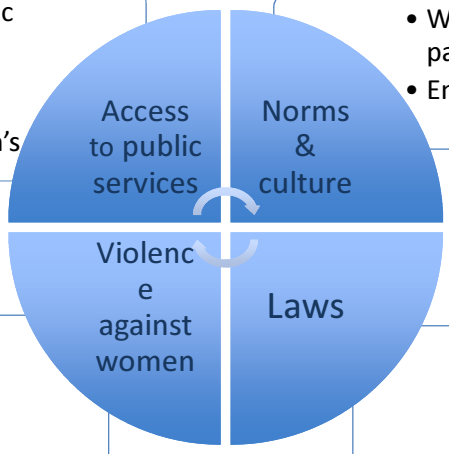
List the major barriers and enablers of women's empowerment.

Barriers and Enablers



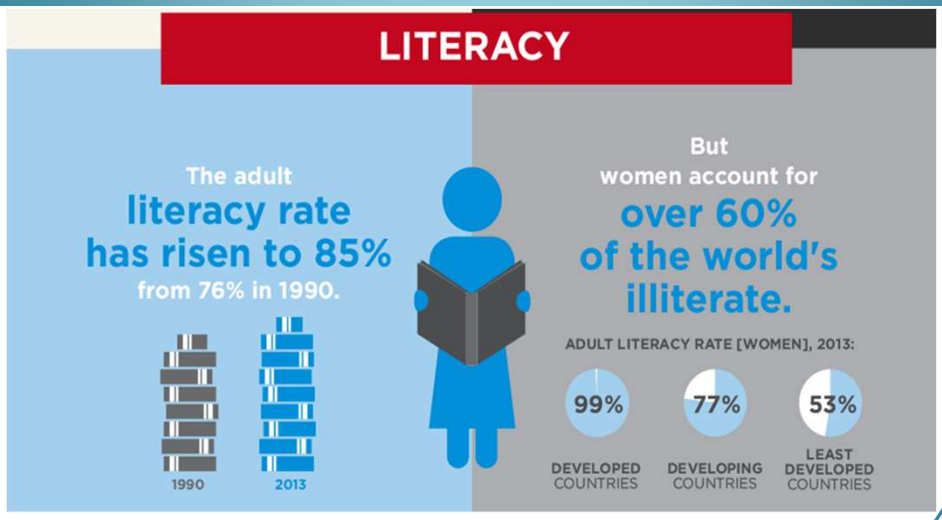
Barriers and Enablers

- Improving public services for women, mechanisms to address women's needs
- Women's political participation
- Entrepreneurship



- Inclusive social initiatives
- Legal reform & responses

Global Situation: Where are we today?



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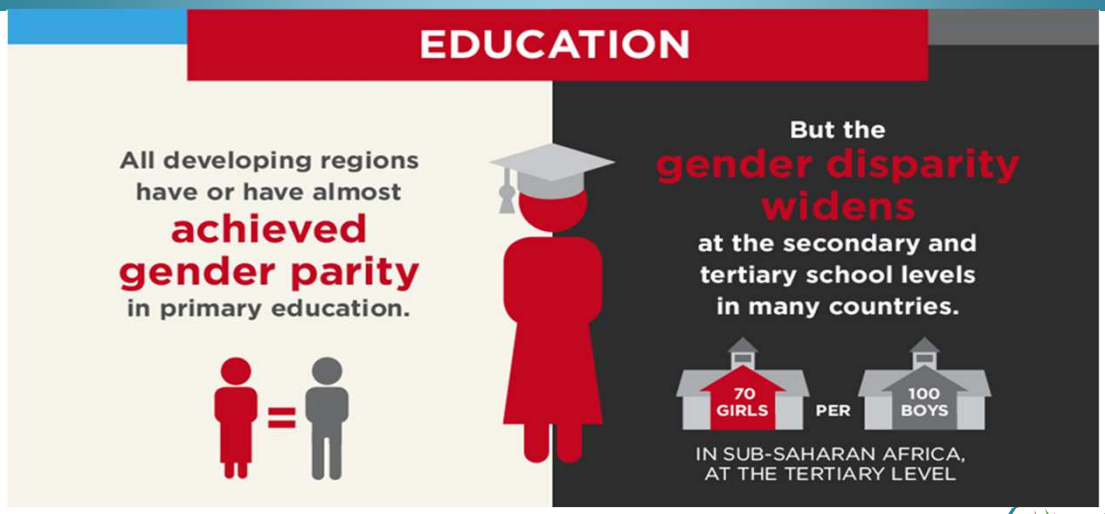

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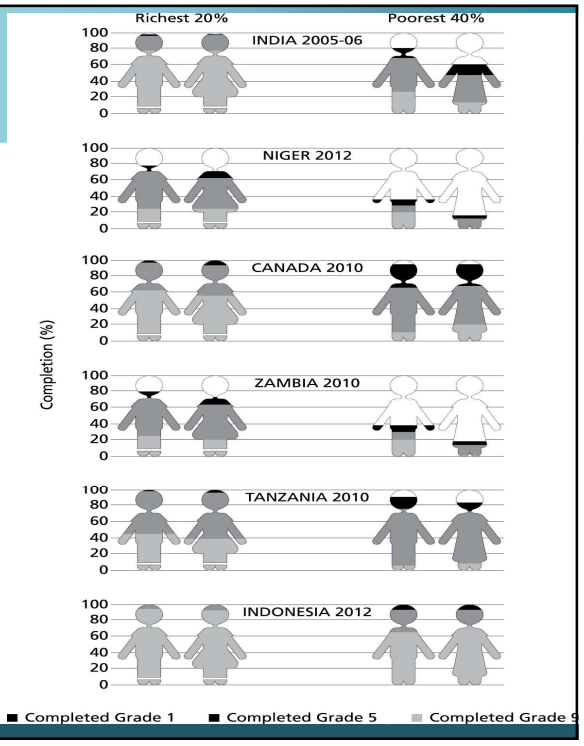
Global Situation: Where are we today?

- Girls from the poorest households are less likely to complete their primary education than boys, whereas girls and boys from rich households are equally likely to complete primary school.



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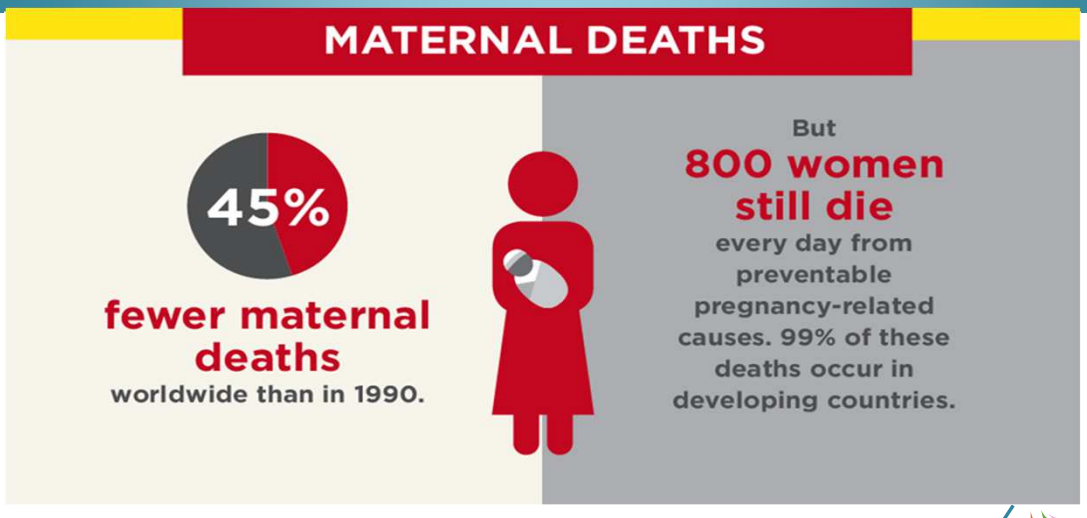

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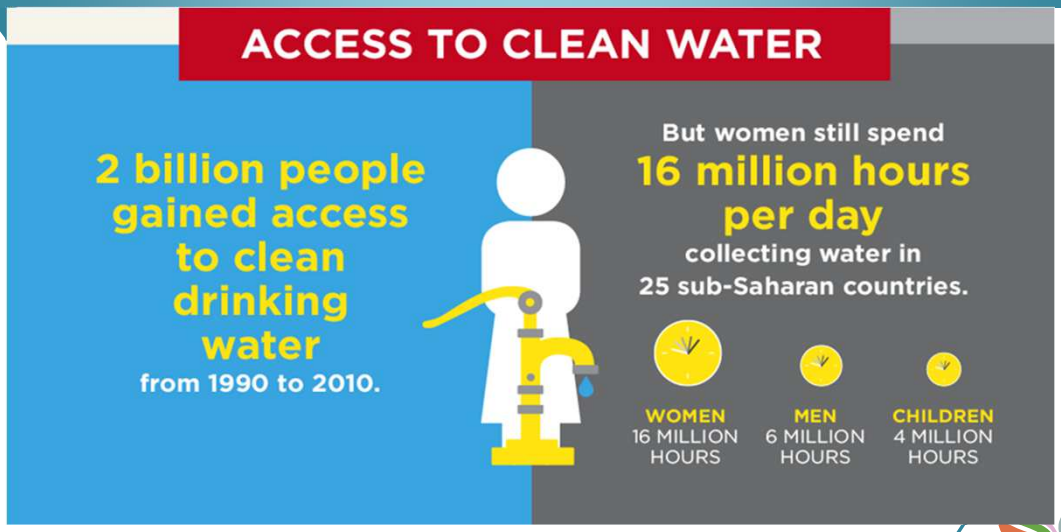
Where are we today?



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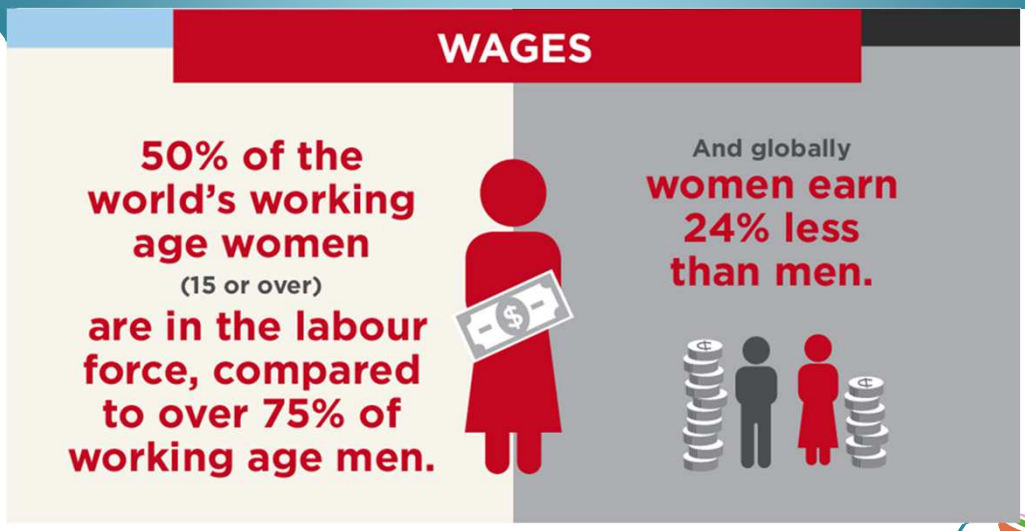

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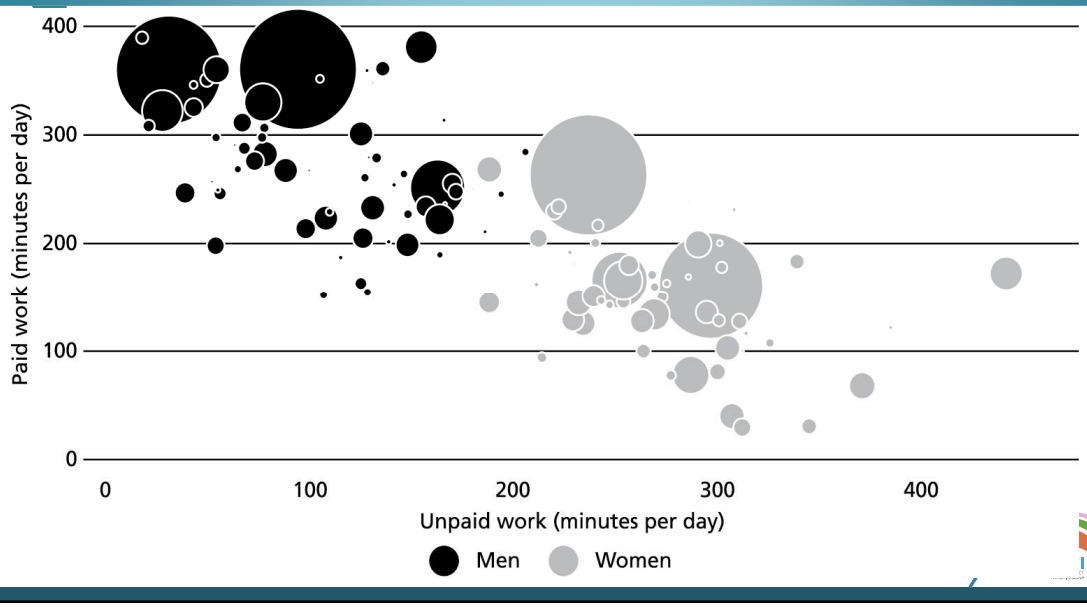
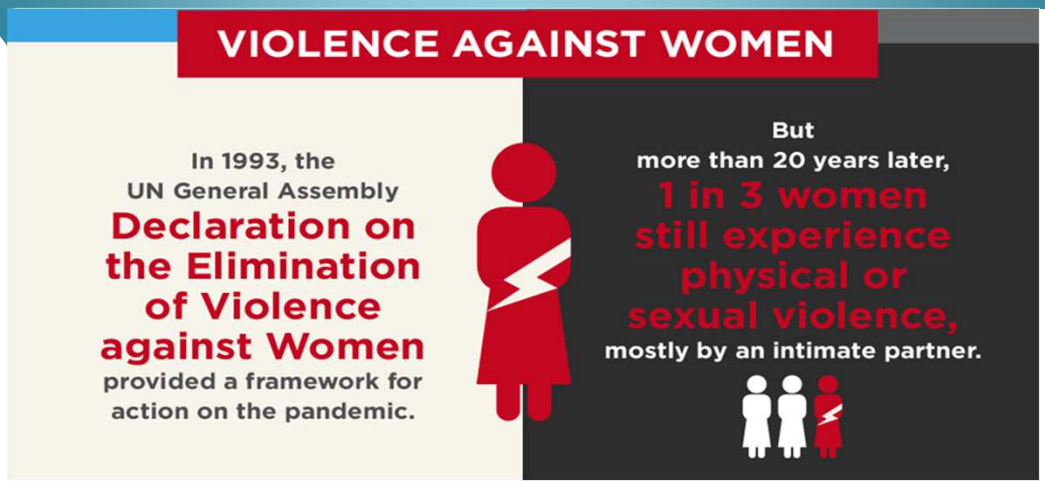
Women take the major work burden



Global Situation: Where are we today?



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Another perspective on gender gaps and opportunities to reduce these gaps – the Global Gender Index.

Global Gender Gap Index (2006-2017)

World Economic Forum (WEF) introduced this in 2006 to provide a framework for measuring gender disparities and track progress over time.

Rankings are designed to create global awareness of the challenges posed by gender gaps and opportunities created by reducing them.

Benchmark of 144 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions:

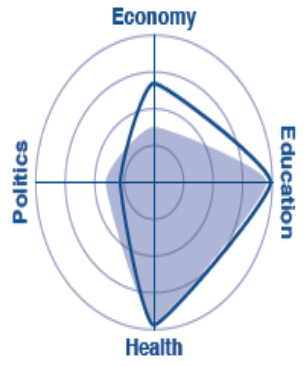
- Economic participation and opportunity
- Educational attainment
- Health and survival
- Political empowerment

Ranking of Selected South Asian Countries Global Gender Gap: 2017

Countries	Rank	Overall Score
Iceland	1	0.878
Bangladesh	47	0.719
Maldives	106	0.669
India	108	0.669
Sri Lanka	109	0.669
Nepal	111	0.664
Bhutan	124	0.638
Pakistan	143	0.546

GGG Index: INDIA

SCORE AT GLANCE



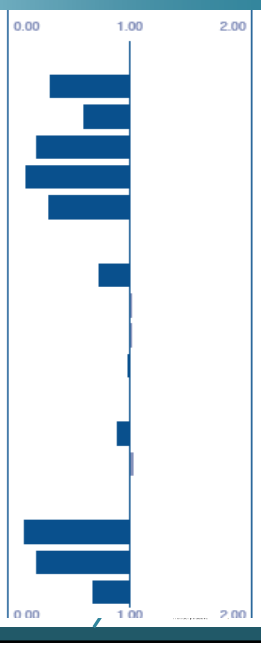
KEY INDICATORS

GDP (US$ billions)	2,263.52
GDP per capita (constant '11, intl. $, PPP)	6,092.65
Total population (1,000s)	1,324,171.35
Population growth rate (%)	1.14
Population sex ratio (female/male)	1.08
Human Capital Index score	55.29

	2006		2017	
	rank	score	rank	score
Global Gender Gap score	**98**	**0.601**	**108**	**0.669**
Economic participation and opportunity	110	0.397	139	0.376
Educational attainment	102	0.819	112	0.952
Health and survival	103	0.962	141	0.942
Political empowerment	20	0.227	15	0.407
rank out of	115		144	

GGD Index Selected Indicators: INDIA

	rank	score	avg	female	male	f/m
Economic participation and opportunity	**139**	**0.376**	**0.585**			
Labour force participation	136	0.347	0.667	28.5	82.0	0.35
Wage equality for similar work (survey)	80	0.620	0.634			0.62
Estimated earned income (PPP, US$)	137	0.232	0.509	2,424	10,428	0.23
Legislators, senior officials and managers	114	0.148	0.320	12.9	87.1	0.15
Professional and technical workers	118	0.338	0.758	25.3	74.7	0.34
Educational attainment	**112**	**0.952**	**0.953**			
Literacy rate	118	0.752	0.883	59.3	78.9	0.75
Enrolment in primary education	1	1.000	0.979	92.9	91.7	1.01
Enrolment in secondary education	1	1.000	0.971	62.2	61.4	1.01
Enrolment in tertiary education	95	0.990	0.938	26.7	27.0	0.99
Health and survival	**141**	**0.942**	**0.956**			
Sex ratio at birth	141	0.904	0.920			0.90
Healthy life expectancy	117	1.028	1.037	60.4	58.8	1.03
Political empowerment	**15**	**0.407**	**0.227**			
Women in parliament	118	0.134	0.279	11.8	88.2	0.13
Women in ministerial positions	76	0.227	0.209	18.5	81.5	0.23
Years with female head of state (last 50)	3	0.697	0.200	20.5	29.5	0.70



: INDIA

SELECTED CONTEXTUAL DATA

Workforce Participation	female	male	value
Non-discrimination laws, hiring women			yes
Youth not in employment or education	49.3	8.0	6.19
Unemployed adults	7.7	4.1	1.88
Discouraged job seekers	–	–	–
Workers in informal employment	70.3	75.7	0.93
High-skilled share of labour force	1.8	8.1	0.23
Workers employed part-time	–	–	–
Contributing family workers	31.5	10.3	3.05
Own-account workers	51.2	67.8	0.75
Work, minutes per day	536.6	442.3	1.21
Proportion of unpaid work per day	65.6	11.7	5.60

Economic Leadership	female	male	value
Law mandates equal pay			no
Advancement of women to leadership roles			≈ 0.64
Boards of publicly traded companies	11.4	88.6	0.13
Firms with female (co-)owners			0.12
Firms with female top managers			0.10
Employers	0.5	10.3	0.05
R&D personnel	14.7	85.3	0.17

INDIA

Access to Assets	female	male	value
Hold an account at a financial institution	42.6	62.5	0.68
Women's access to financial services			part
Inheritance rights for daughters			part
Women's access to land use, control and ownership			part
Women's access to non-land assets use, control and ownership			part
Mean monthly earnings (1,000s, local curr.)	5.4	8.1	0.67

Political Leadership	female	male	value
Year women received right to vote			1935
Years since any women received voting rights			82
Number of female heads of state to date			2
Election list quotas for women, national			–
Election list quotas for women, local			–
Voluntary political party quotas			no
Seats held in upper house	27.3	72.7	0.38

Family	female	male	value
Average length of single life	20.7	24.9	0.83
Proportion married by age 25	73.9	34.7	2.13
Mean age of women at birth of first child			27
Average number of children per woman			2.33
Women's unmet demand for family planning			21.00
Potential support ratio			11
Total dependency ratio			52

Summary of Key Barriers

- Discriminatory social norms and culture
- Gender-biased laws, regulatory environment
- Limited access to public services (e.g., education, health care), infrastructure, productive resources (e.g., land, capital, markets)
- Violence against women

Something To Do

- What is the present ranking of your country in UNDP's Human Development Index? Consult: http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi
- In which sectors are women from your country engaged in professionally? Are they facing any discrimination?

  Please consult: http://www.ilo.org/gender/lang--en/index.htm
- In your country, are there any laws that discriminate against women in terms of social, legal and professional rights?
- Are there any discriminatory social norms that are not sanctioned by the government but widely practiced?

Enabling Factors

Engaging other stakeholders

Legal reform and responses

Increasing women's political participation

Improving education services for women

Leveraging ICT

Ringing the bell against domestic violence in India

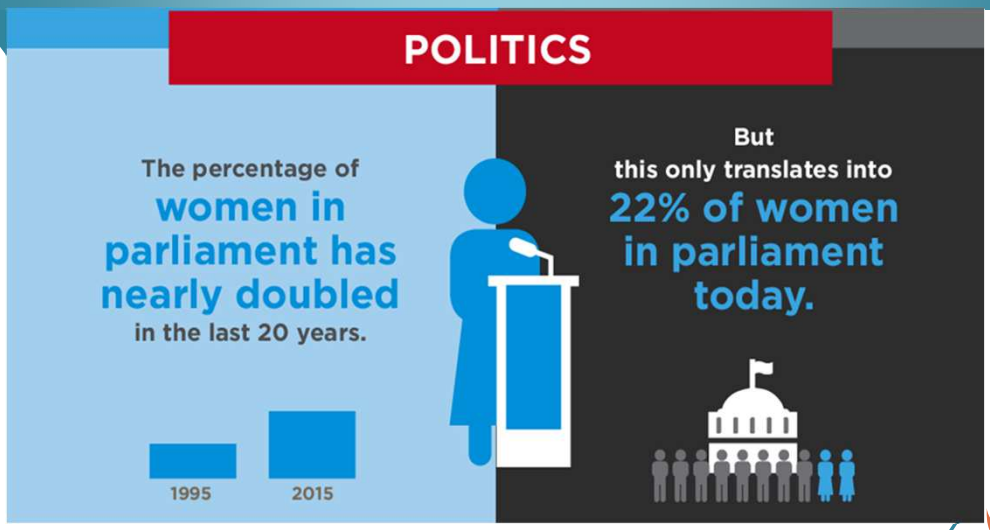
- Indian men and boys have started to break the cycle of violence against women. When they hear a man abusing a woman inside a nearby home, they would ring the doorbell or find a way to interrupt the violence.
- This campaign known as *Bell Bajao* ("ring the bell" in Hindi) has led to an increased awareness of laws against domestic violence and increased reporting of the crime.
- Once seen as acceptable, it is making violence against women unacceptable and helping promote a natural alliance among women and men against any form of abusive behavior.

Related links:
- Bell Bajao homepage *http://www.bellbajao.org/*.
- Why should men care about domestic violence? *http://bellbajao.org/home/men-for-bell-bajao/*

Legal reforms

- Promoting women's empowerment will require changes in
  - the national constitution
  - in legal processes and procedures
  - in government regulations and in budgetary provisions
- In order to combat gender-based violence, different countries are enacting specialized laws or incorporating provisions within the existing legal structure
- A study shows that 38 out of the 100 countries analyzed have explicitly criminalized marital rape and sexual assault within marriage

Increasing political participation



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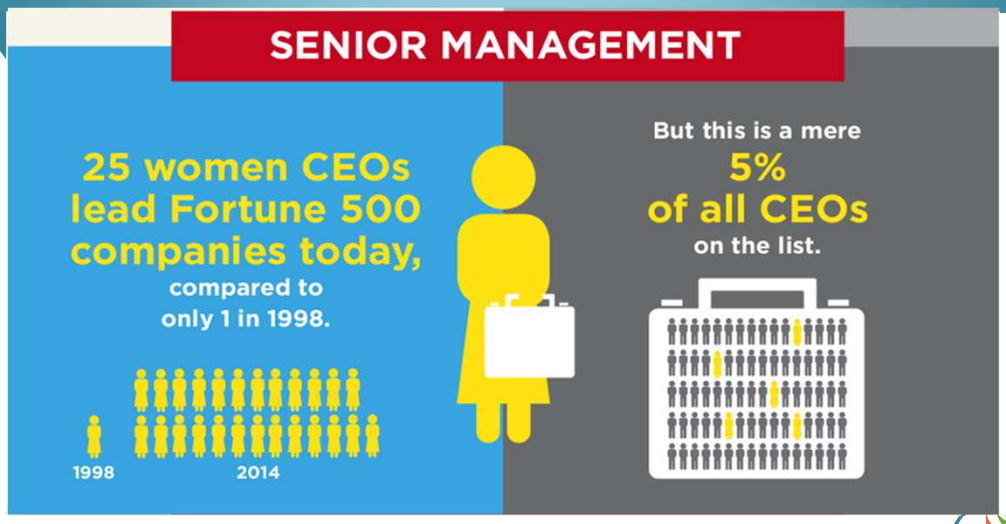
Increasing roles decision making



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Education for Women

- An extra year of education increases a girl's income by 10 to 20 percent and is a significant step on the road to breaking the cycle of poverty.
- Women need particular support and encouragement to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- Recent research found significant and positive correlations between STEM education and women with high capabilities.

Leveraging ICT

- ICT can provide new opportunities for women's economic empowerment by:
  - Creating business and employment opportunities for women as owners, managers and employees of ICT-based projects.
  - Improving services that are run by women (e.g., literacy programs, business planning courses, ICT training, access to market and trading information services, and e-commerce initiatives).
  - Offering economic opportunities in salaried employment and entrepreneurship, as well as in the ICT sector itself and in jobs enabled by ICT.

Key Messages

- Women comprise half the world's population and are contributing to socio-economic, political and cultural development.
- Women are relegated on the side as passive participants of development (discrimination), are unable to benefit from public services, and are often victims of violence.
- For women to claim their place as equal partners of development, processes for empowerment must be supported.

Section C

How can ICT Promote and Enable Women's Empowerment?

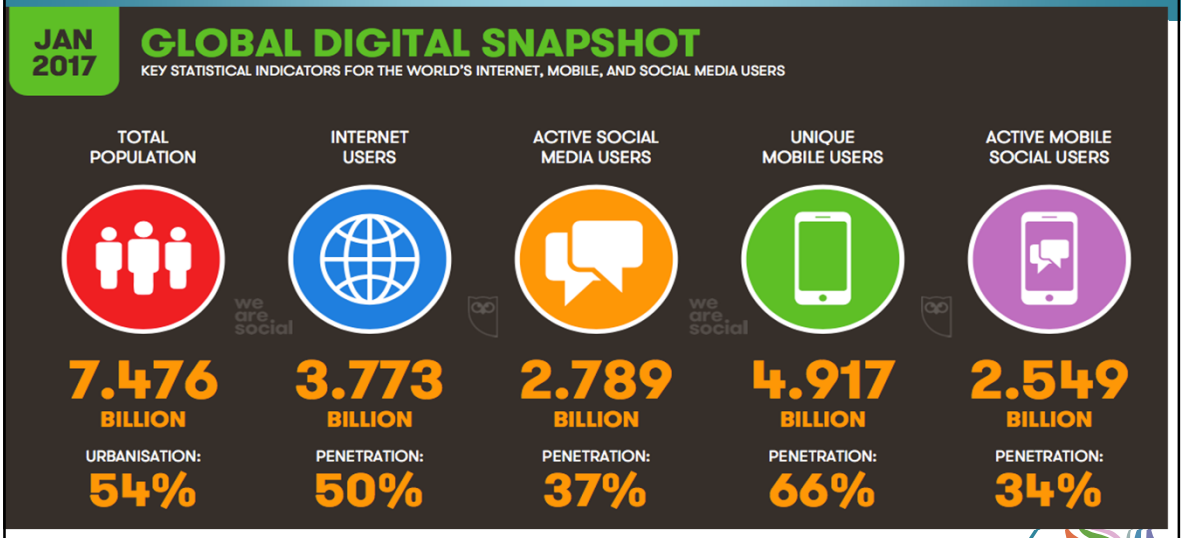
Learning Outcome:

Give specific examples of how ICT can support women's empowerment

What is ICT?

- Information and Communication Technology or ICT refers to all technology for creating, manipulating, storing, managing, sending and receiving information.
- ICT encompasses a wide range of multimedia and communication tools
- ICT can include, but is not limited to,
  - Old media such as radio, television and telephone, as well as
  - New media networks (fixed or wireless Internet), hardware (computers, mobile phones, tablets, etc.),and
  - Software (social media services, multimedia applications, mobile applications, etc.)

ICT trends



http://fredericgonzalo.com/en/2017/01/30/the-state-of-social-media-in-2017/

Something To Do

- What is the present ranking of your country in the World Economic Forum's Network Readiness Index?
  Please consult: http://reports.weforum.org/global-information-technology-report-2016/networked-readiness-index/
- Is there scope for improvement? If yes, how?

India's Rank in Network Readiness (WEF Global Information Technology Report 2016, printed handout)

- Network readiness covers
  - Environment sub-index (political & regulatory, business innovation)
  - Readiness (infrastructure & digital content, affordability, skills)
  - Usage (individual, business & government usage)
  - Impact (economic & social)

Ranks of Selected Economies: 2016

1 – Singapore (Value = 6.0)

5 – US

8 – UK

62 – Thailand

63 – Sri Lanka

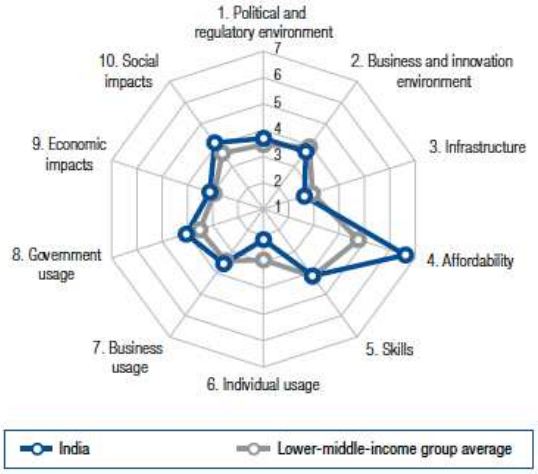
77 – Philippines

91 – INDIA (Value = 3.8)

139 – Chad (Value = 2.2)

India

	Rank (out of 139)	Value (1–7)
Networked Readiness Index	**91**	**3.8**
Networked Readiness Index 2015 (out of 143)	89	3.7
Networked Readiness Index 2014 (out of 148)	83	3.8
Networked Readiness Index 2013 (out of 144)	68	3.9
A. Environment subindex	**99**	**3.7**
1st pillar: Political and regulatory environment	78	3.7
2nd pillar: Business and innovation environment	110	3.7
B. Readiness subindex	**88**	**4.4**
3rd pillar: Infrastructure	114	2.6
4th pillar: Affordability	8	6.6
5th pillar: Skills	101	4.1
C. Usage subindex	**103**	**3.3**
6th pillar: Individual usage	120	2.1
7th pillar: Business usage	75	3.6
8th pillar: Government usage	59	4.1
D. Impact subindex	**73**	**3.6**
9th pillar: Economic impacts	80	3.1
10th pillar: Social impacts	69	4.1



How ICTs enable women's empowerment

- Enhanced communication and access to information
- Improves access to public services
- Provides opportunities for socio-economic participation
- Provides opportunities for online political participation

Nasibakhon Aminova, Founder, Tajik-Mama

- Info sharing
- Schools
- Parenting
- Livelihood opportunities
- Attracts parents and grandparents

http://www.tajikmama.tj

maymay app from Ooredoo, Myanmar

- Maternity healthcare services for pregnant women
- Three maternal health advice messages per week
- Hotline to call doctors
- Contact info on the nearest health workers
- Fathers' version

Usha Wanita mobile service in Indonesia

- A teaching tool to help women entrepreneurs
- Essential business tips and market information through a mobile app
- It has delivered business capacity building training for 2,000 women
- Reached more than 14,000 women in Indonesia

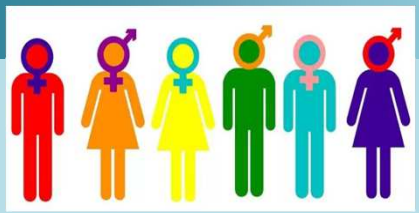
Something To Do

- In your community/country, what are the ways in which ICT can help women to empower themselves?
- What are the specific ways in which ICT can help your community's women in entrepreneurship, education, health and political participation?

Challenges to Women's Use of ICT

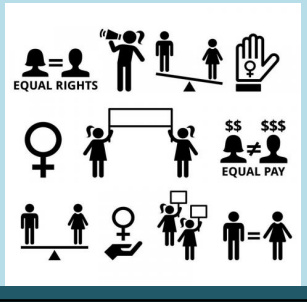
- Digital divide – access issues
- High cost of ICT infrastructure
- Online violence against women
- Poor enforcement of ICT policies, cyber laws

Key Messages



ICT can be used to aid social transformation and ultimately help empower women and men.

ICT for women's empowerment can improve access to information, public service delivery, and economic and political participation.



Socio-economic factors can prevent women from actively using ICTs to help themselves and take control of their lives.

Thank You!