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?
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)
- Average household income would increase
- GDP would increase
- Higher literacy rates
- Developing countries would have lower infant mortality rates

World Bank (2014), Voice and Agency
Aguirre et al. (2012), Empowering the Third Billion
### Components of Women Empowerment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>Norms and society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>Right to vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eligibility as leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Property ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to credit &amp; other productive resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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
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 to UNDP’s Gender Inequality Index, how is the country doing?

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

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

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

- 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.
Key Messages

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

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

- Legal reform & responses
- Inclusive social initiatives
- Women's political participation
- Entrepreneurship
- Improving public services for women, mechanisms to address women's needs
- Access to public services
- Norms & culture
- Laws
- Violence against women
- Legal reform & responses
- Inclusive social initiatives
Global Situation: Where are we today?

LITERACY

The adult literacy rate has risen to 85% from 76% in 1990.

But women account for over 60% of the world's illiterate.

ADULT LITERACY RATE (WOMEN), 2013:
- 99% in Developed Countries
- 77% in Developing Countries
- 53% in Least Developed Countries


Global Situation: Where are we today?

EDUCATION

All developing regions have or have almost achieved gender parity in primary education.

But the gender disparity widens at the secondary and tertiary school levels in many countries.

70 GIRLS PER 100 BOYS

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL

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.

Global Situation: Where are we today?


MATERNAL DEATHS

45% fewer maternal deaths worldwide than in 1990.

But 800 women still die every day from preventable pregnancy-related causes. 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries.

Where are we today?

**ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER**

2 billion people gained access to clean drinking water from 1990 to 2010.

But women still spend 16 million hours per day collecting water in 25 sub-Saharan countries.

- **WOMEN**: 16 MILLION HOURS
- **MEN**: 6 MILLION HOURS
- **CHILDREN**: 4 MILLION HOURS


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Global Situation: Where are we today?

**WAGES**

50% of the world’s working age women (15 or over) are in the labour force, compared to over 75% of working age men.

And globally women earn 24% less than men.

Women take the major work burden

Global Situation: Where are we today?

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1993, the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women provided a framework for action on the pandemic.

But more than 20 years later, 1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.

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


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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Overall Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>0.719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>0.664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>0.638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>0.546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Gender Gap score</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
<td>0.861</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>0.869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic participation and opportunity</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>0.397</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>0.376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational attainment</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>0.819</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0.952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and survival</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>0.962</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>0.942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political empowerment</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.227</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rank out of</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
<td>144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GGD Index Selected Indicators: INDIA

**Economic participation and opportunity**
- Rank: 130
- Value: 0.376, 0.565

**Labour force participation**
- Rank: 156
- Value: 0.397, 0.667, 28.5, 82.0, 0.35

**Wage equality for similar work (survey)**
- Rank: 80
- Value: 0.620, 0.634, 0.62

**Estimated earned income (PPP USD)**
- Rank: 157
- Value: 0.222, 0.509, 2,224, 10,428, 0.23

**Legislators, senior officials and managers**
- Rank: 114
- Value: 0.148, 0.320, 12.9, 87.1, 0.15

**Professional and technical workers**
- Rank: 118
- Value: 0.388, 0.758, 25.3, 74.7, 0.34

**Educational attainment**
- Rank: 112
- Value: 0.032, 0.803

**Health and survival**
- Rank: 141
- Value: 0.042, 0.556

**Social protection**
- Rank: 113
- Value: 0.92, 0.99

**Political empowerment**
- Rank: 15
- Value: 0.407, 0.227

**Women in parliament**
- Rank: 118
- Value: 0.144, 0.279, 11.8, 88.2, 0.13

**Women in ministerial positions**
- Rank: 76
- Value: 0.227, 0.209, 10.5, 81.5, 0.23

**Years with female head of state (last 50)**
- Rank: 3
- Value: 0.697, 0.200, 20.5, 20.5, 0.70

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**SELECTED CONTEXTUAL DATA**

**Workforce Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-discrimination laws, hiring women</td>
<td></td>
<td>yea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth not in employment or education</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed adults</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discouraged job seekers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers in informal employment</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-skilled share of labour force</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers employed part-time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing family workers</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own-account workers</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work, minutes per day</td>
<td>530.0</td>
<td>442.3</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of unpaid work per day</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economic Leadership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law mandates equal pay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement of women to leadership roles</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boards of publicly traded companies</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firms with female (co-)owners</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firms with female top managers</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;D personnel</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

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

The percentage of women in parliament has nearly doubled in the last 20 years.

But this only translates into 22% of women in parliament today.


Increasing roles decision making

25 women CEOs lead Fortune 500 companies today, compared to only 1 in 1998.

But this is a mere 5% of all CEOs on the list.

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


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)
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

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

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!