CHAPTER V

GENDER EQUALITY
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Gender equality

This chapter focuses on the third Millennium Development Goal (MDG), “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women”. Data were drawn from the United Nations Statistics Division, the MDG database (accessed in November 2013).

Table V-1 is on gender parity in education. The Gender Parity Index (GPI), ratio of girls to boys, in primary, secondary and tertiary education is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the number of male students in each level. To standardise the effects of the population structure of the appropriate age groups, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) of the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for each level of education is used. The GER is the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education. The GPI reflects the level of access to education of females compared to that of males.

A GPI of less than 1 indicates that there are fewer females than males. The table presents the GPI estimates for each level of education since 2000. Gender inequities in education continue to exist in some Arab societies due to a variety of reasons. Most countries have almost reached or exceeded parity in the three levels of education. All countries have achieved parity between girls and boys in level of primary education with the exception of Yemen which is showing progress over the years. While in the level of Secondary education Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen have the lowest GPI. In Gulf countries, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia, there are fewer boys than girls enrolled in the tertiary level of education. Qatar recorded the highest enrolment for girls in the level of tertiary education.

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ويتضمن الجدول V-3 بيانات عن المرأة في صناع القرار. وتشمل هذه البيانات منحة المرأة من مجموع المقاعد في البرلمانات الوطنية، وحساب نسبة المناوبة من مجموع المقاعد. وتتيح البيانات عن الفترة 2000-2013 تفاوت محور بين نسبة المقاعد التي شغلها نساء في البرلمانات الوطنية في البلدان. الأعضاء في هذه الفترة. وفي عام 2013، تراوحت هذه النسبة من مستوى منخفض بلغ 0.3 في المائة في اليمن تليها 1.2 في مصر، و2 في لبنان، و3.1 في السودان، و25.2 في العراق إلى أعلى مستوى بلغ 26.7 في المائة في تونس. وتحتاج تونس إلى 3.3 نقاط مئوية لتحقيق الحصة المنشودة والبالغة 30 في المائة. غير أن التقدم المحرز باتجاه التوهم بالحقوق السياسية للمرأة في المنطقة لا يزال ضئيلًا. وفي عامي 2012 و2013، تراجع تمثيل المرأة في البرلمانات الوطنية بشكل ملحوظ في مصر. ومصر، والإمارات العربية المتحدة في حين أنها زادت بشكل ملحوظ في البحرين وليبيا والمغرب والمملكة العربية السعودية.

Table V-2 is on women in wage employment. The share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is expressed as a percentage of total wage employment. The indicator “share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector” measures the degree to which the labour market is open to women in the industry and services sectors. This openness not only allows for equal employment opportunities for women but also enhances general economic efficiency, therefore improving the ability of the economy to adapt to change. There has been an increase in the share of women in wage employment during 1995-2011 in Palestine and Yemen. This indicates that working women have become more integrated into the monetary economy through their participation in the formal and informal sectors. The share of women in wage employment is highest in Oman (24.5 per cent in 2000 and 21.9 per cent in 2008), and lowest in Yemen (7 per cent in 2000 and 11.7 per cent in 2010). The labour market remains strongly gender segregated in many countries. The short supply of productive work affects women’s employment disproportionately. Women are much more likely than men to work as contributing family workers without pay, and to work in the informal sector.

Table V-3 presents data on women in decision-making, namely data on the proportion of seats held by women members in single or lower chambers of national parliaments, as a percentage of all seats. Data from 2000 to 2013 show significant variations between member countries in the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments. In 2013, women’s share ranged from a low of 0.3 per cent in Yemen followed by 1.2% in Oman, 2% in Egypt, 3.1% in Lebanon, 24.6 in Sudan and 25.2% in Iraq to a high of 26.7 per cent in Tunisia. The latter is 3.3 percentage points from the target of 30 per cent. The process of advancing and enforcing the political rights of women is making slow progress in the region. Women are still underrepresented in national parliaments in most countries. In 2012 and 2013, women’s participation in national parliaments significantly declined in Egypt, Oman, and UAE while it significantly increased in Bahrain, Libya, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.
Sources

United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goals Database