

GENDER EQUALITY

Watch the [video](#) “Gender Equality: Now” by World Fish.

1 FACT OR FICTION?

Task 1: Decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. Globally, women earn approximately 77 cents for every dollar earned by men.
2. As of 2023, only 30% of the world's parliamentary seats are held by women.
3. UNESCO reports that 132,000 girls are still out of school globally.
4. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the global labour force participation rate for women is about 48.5%, compared to 75% for men.
5. Women do the majority of unpaid care work globally, spending more than twice as much time as men on unpaid domestic and care work, according to the UN.
6. As of 2021, 50 countries have laws that stop women from working certain jobs.

Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.

- a. What is gender equality?
- b. Why is gender equality important?
- c. How does gender inequality show itself in society?
- d. Are you surprised by any of the facts from task 1? Explain.



2 KEY WORDS

Task 1: Match the words in the box to their definitions.

gender norms cultural beliefs to perpetuate representation to empower

- a. to keep something going, often referring to keeping a certain idea, tradition, or behaviour alive over time.
- b. giving a voice or visibility to different groups or communities.
- c. expectations about how people should behave based on if they are male or female.
- d. to make someone, or a group feel strong and confident.
- e. ideas that a group of people share because of their history or traditions.

Task 2: Complete the sentences using the words from the box.

1. Stereotypical portrayals in movies and TV shows can _____ harmful misconceptions about certain groups.
2. In some cultures, strict _____ control the roles and behaviours expected of men and women.
3. Education can _____ people to challenge societal expectations.
4. _____ can restrict women's opportunities, such as in parts of Zambia where women cannot paddle their boats, as it is considered a bad omen.
5. In democratic societies, voting is essential for citizens to have a voice and fair _____ in government decisions.

Task 3: Practice using the words by answering the questions.

- a. Can you give examples of **gender norms** present in your culture?
- b. What role do **cultural beliefs** play in shaping our ideas about gender?
- c. In what ways does the media **perpetuate** stereotypes about gender?
- d. Why is **representation** important in politics?
- e. How can education be used to **empower** people?

3 VIDEO: COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Watch the [video](#), then decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. Gender norms are learned behaviours that shape societal expectations for both men and women.
2. In many countries, girls are often not sent to school, which limits their ability to earn money and realise their potential as adults.
3. Rural women in developing countries can formally own land, allowing them to invest in their farms or businesses.
4. Men generally control household decisions, including how to use the family's assets.
5. Cultural beliefs can sometimes restrict women's opportunities, such as in parts of Zambia where women are prohibited from paddling boats.
6. The limitations placed on women's access to resources perpetuate the problem of poverty and hunger in the developing world.
7. A gender transformative approach aims to influence social norms and bridge the gaps in access to resources and services between men and women.
8. Both men and women need to be involved in creating change in gender inequality.
9. Organisations shouldn't invest in programs that promote gender equality alongside improving productivity and income.
10. Policies that increase women's access to services and resources should be created to address gender inequality.
11. Communities should not support women as farmers and leaders.
12. Increasing women's voice and agency is not valuable for development efforts.



4 VIDEO AND TOPIC DISCUSSION

Task: Discuss the following video and topic-based questions as a class.

- a. How do gender norms influence the opportunities available to women in society?
- b. What are some consequences of gender inequality mentioned in the video?
- c. What role do rural women play in agricultural development, and what challenges do they face in many developing countries?
- d. Can you give examples of how cultural beliefs contribute to limiting women's opportunities?
- e. What impact does gender inequality have on poverty and hunger in the developing world, according to the video?
- f. Do you agree that it is important for both men and women to be involved in bringing about change regarding gender inequality?
- g. If you were president of your country, what policies would you introduce to reduce gender inequality?
- h. In your own life, what can you do to promote gender equality in your community?
- i. What are some examples of progress towards gender equality?
- j. What barriers exist to achieving gender equality?
- k. How does gender equality benefit everyone in society?
- l. How would you feel if someone told you that you couldn't do something because of your gender?
- m. What role can social media play in reducing gender equality?
- n. How do you feel about gender representation in modern films or series?



5 IMPORTANT WOMEN

Task 1: Write the names of three important women in your life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Task 2: Explain how they've helped or inspired you in relation to the aspects of life below.



1. Career advancement.



2. Health and wellness.



3. Activism.



4. Language learning.



5. Politics.



6. Creativity.

6 DEBATE

Task 1: Study the statements, then decide if you agree or disagree with them. Use the language in the table at the bottom of the page to help structure your answer.

John

 In my opinion, women don't need special treatment; equality has already been achieved.

Oli

 I believe that men are naturally better suited for leadership roles than women.

Beth

 Efforts to enhance women's job opportunities are essential for creating gender equality and maximising societal progress.

Amy

 The gender pay gap exists because women choose lower-paying professions and prioritise family over career advancement.

<p style="text-align: center;">Express an opinion</p> <p>It seems to me that...</p> <p>I feel that...</p> <p>I'm absolutely convinced that...</p> <p>In my opinion,...</p> <p>I believe / suppose / feel (that)...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Express disagreement</p> <p>I don't agree with you about...</p> <p>I can't accept your view that...</p> <p>I have a different opinion...</p> <p>I'm not sure if...</p> <p>I'm not convinced that...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Express pro's and con's</p> <p>There are two sides to this point...</p> <p>On the one hand...,on the other hand...</p> <p>An argument for / against is...</p> <p>Some people think that...,others say that...</p> <p>The advantages / disadvantages are...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summarise</p> <p>So, in conclusion...</p> <p>To summarise..</p> <p>Overall, it is clear that...</p> <p>As a result..</p> <p>The bottom line is...</p>

7 QUOTES

Discuss the following quotes, related to gender equality and women's rights, as a class. Use the prompts (1-4) to help guide your discussion.

1. Discuss the meaning of each quote.
2. How could you apply the meaning of each quote to your life?
3. To what extent do you agree/disagree with each quote?
4. Can you think of any real-life example where you have seen the meaning of each quote in practice?

1. "Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." - G.D. Anderson.

2. "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." - Alice Walker.

3. "No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half its citizens." - Michelle Obama.

4. "I think every woman in our culture is a feminist. They may refuse to articulate it, but if you were to take any woman back 40 years and say, 'Is this a world you want to live in?' They would say, 'No.'" - Helen Mirren.

5. "If you give an education to a girl, that's how you're changing her life, and that's how you're also changing the world." - Malala Yousafzai.



HOMework

Read the article then complete the writing exercise on the following page.

1 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day, celebrated annually on March 8th, is a global commemoration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It also serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality and the empowerment of all women worldwide.

Originating from the early 20th century labour movements, International Women's Day has evolved into a day of activism, unity, and celebration. It provides a platform to recognise the contributions of women throughout history, from scientists and inventors to activists and leaders who have shattered glass ceilings and societal norms.

The theme of International Women's Day varies each year, reflecting current global issues and priorities affecting women. Themes often encompass gender equality, women's rights, violence against women, economic empowerment, and women's health. These themes highlight the different challenges women continue to face and inspire collective action towards positive change.

One of the central goals of International Women's Day is to promote gender equality in all aspects of society. Despite significant progress in recent decades,

gender inequalities persist in areas such as education, employment, politics, and representation in decision-making roles. International Women's Day serves as a call to action to address these disparities and create a more inclusive and equitable world for future generations.

Celebrating International Women's Day involves a variety of activities, including marches, protests, group discussions, workshops, art exhibitions, and social media campaigns. These events provide opportunities for women to share their stories, raise awareness about gender inequality, and advocate for change. They also serve as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among individuals and organisations committed to advancing women's rights.

Ultimately, International Women's Day is not just a day of celebration but a global movement towards gender equality and women's empowerment. It reminds us of the importance of standing in solidarity with women everywhere, amplifying their voices, and working together to build a more just and inclusive world for all. As we celebrate International Women's Day, let us renew our commitment to fighting for women's rights and creating a future where every woman and girl can thrive.



2 ARTICLE-BASED EXERCISES

Task 1: Define the words and phrases, then use them in your own example sentences.

1. empowerment.
2. glass ceilings.
3. to encompass.
4. collective action.
5. disparity.
6. advocate for change.
7. a catalyst.
8. standing in solidarity.



Task 2: On a separate piece of paper, write detailed answers to the following questions.

- a. Why do we celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th every year?
- b. How has International Women's Day changed since it first started?
- c. What are some of the main topics discussed on International Women's Day?
- d. Despite progress, what are some persistent gender inequalities mentioned in the article, and in which areas do they still exist?
- e. How does International Women's Day serve as a catalyst for action and change regarding gender equality?
- f. What are some common activities and events associated with International Women's Day celebrations?
- g. How does International Women's Day provide a platform for women to share their stories and advocate for change?
- h. What is the ultimate goal of International Women's Day, as described in the article?
- i. Why is it important for people to support each other in fighting for women's rights?
- j. Besides celebrating, what else can people do to help make things more equal for women?

