Ethiopia

Education and employment

- Around 1.3 million people are enrolled in primary school in Ethiopia. By 2012 this had risen to 14.5 million—an increase of nearly 100%. Secondary school enrollment also grew more than doubled during this period.

- The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has been instrumental in driving educational reform in Ethiopia. For instance, ODI has worked with the Ministry of Education to implement initiatives aimed at improving education outcomes. These initiatives have included:
  - Increasing teacher salaries and providing incentives to retain qualified teachers.
  - Implementing innovatory curricula that focus on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
  - Introducing assessments that are more reflective of the quality of education provided.

- The composition of the student body also reflects significant gains. In 2012, the gross enrollment ratio for boys was 98%, while for girls it was 92%—one of the largest improvements worldwide.

- By 2012, female students had almost closed the gender gap in enrollment. In 2011, just 90% of girls and 91% of boys were enrolled in school, but by 2012 this had improved to 97% and 98%, respectively.

- According to the World Bank’s World Governance Indicators, Ethiopia’s global position on voice and accountability is ranked 130th. However, this ranking has improved significantly in recent years, highlighting Ethiopia’s progress in empowering its citizens.

- The political gains for women was ratified, and following the October 2014 elections, 31% of all elected MPs were women, an increase from below 10% in 1995. This is testament to the progress made towards gender equality, with extensive reforms of family law and the gradual elimination of gender-based discrimination in health, education, and employment.

- Between 1990 and 2011, fertility rates almost halved while girls’ enrollment in secondary school increased from 12% to 44%, and this was followed by a 20% increase in primary school enrollment, compared to just 1% in 1990. Since the 1990s, various women’s movements have made women’s equality central to public debate. They helped to draft legislation leading to a gender-parity quota on party electoral lists.

- Tunisia

Women’s empowerment

- For decades Tunisia has been considered one of the best performing countries in the Arab and Muslim world with regard to women’s rights. Since independence, significant progress has been made towards gender equality. Women play an active role in the governance of family law and the gradual elimination of gender-based discrimination in education and employment.

- Tunisia is one of only a few countries in the world where women hold significant political positions. Despite this, women remain underrepresented in high-level positions. However, significant steps have been taken to improve this situation.

- Tunisia’s constitution guarantees women’s rights, and the country has a number of laws specifically designed to protect women’s rights. These laws cover a wide range of issues, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based discrimination.

- The constitution also provides for equal pay for men and women, and women are entitled to the same benefits as men in the workplace.

- In addition, Tunisia has signed and ratified a number of international conventions designed to protect women’s rights.

- Political participation has increased significantly over the past decade. The percentage of women in the parliament has also increased, with women now holding a number of high-level positions in government.

- Tunisia has one of the highest rates of female political participation in the Arab world, with women holding a number of high-level positions in government.

- In 2015, Tunisia was ranked 63rd in the Global Gender Gap Report, with an overall gender gap index of 0.74. This indicates that women in Tunisia have achieved a gender gap index of 0.74 compared to men. The report measures gender gap index on four key dimensions: economic participation and opportunity, political empowerment, education, and health.

- The economic participation and opportunity index measures the gap between men and women in the labor market. In 2015, Tunisia had a gender gap index of 0.64, indicating that women had a gender gap of 0.64 compared to men in terms of labor market participation.

- Despite these gains, however, women in Tunisia still face a range of challenges, including discrimination, violence, and low representation in decision-making positions.

- The ongoing process of political transition in Tunisia presents an opportunity to address these challenges. However, it is important to ensure that this progress is sustained and that women’s rights and gender equality continue to be safeguarded.

Through the people’s lens

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