

Corruption and Gender Equality

Prof.Dr.Aung Tun Thet
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When you **invest**
in a girl's education,
she feeds herself,
her children, her
community and
her nation

Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway





GENDER INEQUALITIES

- **Pervasive** in South and Southeast Asia
- **Literacy rate:** *Men (87.5%); Women (79.6%)*
- **Labour force participation:** *Men (80.8%); Women (57.9%)*
- **Members of Parliament:** *Males (76.7%); Females (16.6%)*



GENDER INEQUALITIES



- Women more vulnerable to **specific types** of corruption - **sexual extortion**
- **Corruption** and **clientelism** discourage women from participating in political processes and public life
- Women's **legal rights** threatened through corruption



CORRUPTION



- Linked to **gender equality** issues
- Impact **women's empowerment**



GENDER EQUALITY

- Broader process of *advancing* **women's rights**
- Crafting more **effective strategies** to combat corruption



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE



- **Associated with:**
- *Better governance*
- *Lower levels of corruption*



CORRUPTION AND GENDER



- Women and men **affected differently**
- No evidence women or men **less corruptible**



CORRUPTION



- Hit **the poor** the hardest - especially **women** - *represent higher share of world's poor*
- Gender commonly **delineate** divisions of labour, control over resources and decision-making



CORRUPTION



- **Correlation** between proportion of **women in positions of power** and **measures of corruption**
- Does not necessarily follow **higher level of participation** by women in public life would lead to **lower levels of corruption**



CORRUPTION AFFECT WOMEN DIFFERENTLY



- Confronted with **corruption** when **accessing** public services - health, education, water and sanitation
- Forced to **pay bribes** for basic services
- Reinforcing *vicious* **cycle of poverty**



CORRUPTION AFFECT WOMEN DIFFERENTLY



- Vulnerable groups in society frequently subjected to **monetary bribes** or solicited for **sexual favours** in exchange for employment or operating business



ARE WOMEN MORE OR LESS CORRUPT THAN MEN?



- **Opportunity and exposure** matters
- **Gender equality** important tool to help prevent **corruption**
- Companies with greater number of women in **decision-making positions** perform better in terms of **ethics, corruption levels** and **perform better financially**
- Increasing **share of women** in male-dominated work places or public institutions **disrupt** embedded corruption



GENDER AND UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

- States Parties required to develop **strategies** to address corruption
- Harness **gender** as **agent for change** and **inclusion**



GENDER AND UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

- Support women to actively **participate** and **contribute** to design of anti-corruption measures — “**Women against Corruption**”
- Anti-corruption ‘**champions**’



EMPOWERING WOMEN



- Need to be **important part** of anti-corruption agenda
- **Positive agents** for change in tackling corruption
- Harnessing **gender dimensions** of fight against corruption
- Lead to more **inclusive societies**

RELATED SDGS



**UNITED
AGAINST
CORRUPTION**





If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.

(Abdul Kalam)