

# Gender Inequality Index: A Development Index?

SEM-IV[Hons.]

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# Basis for discussion

The Gender Development Index (GDI) is an index designed to measure gender equality. GDI, together with the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) was introduced in 1995 in the Human Development Report written by the United Nations Development Program.

In 2010 in the Human Development Report an alternative to the GDI was introduced which is called the Gender Inequality Index (GII).

# What is Gender Inequality Index?

The GII is a composite measure, reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions:

- ❖ Reproductive health,
- ❖ Empowerment and
- ❖ The labour market.

# What is actually this Gender Inequality?

It is actually the inequalities in opportunities between men and women.

The gender biasness is observed in health care, schooling, food and nutrition.

Capability deprivation results in gender inequality.

Missing women concept-> It is the adverse sex ratio which has been observed in Asia and North Africa.

# Continuation

Sex-selective abortion-> Female foetuses are eliminated so that no girl child is born.

As a result in 1998, there was a short fall of women relative to men which even exceeded 100 million.

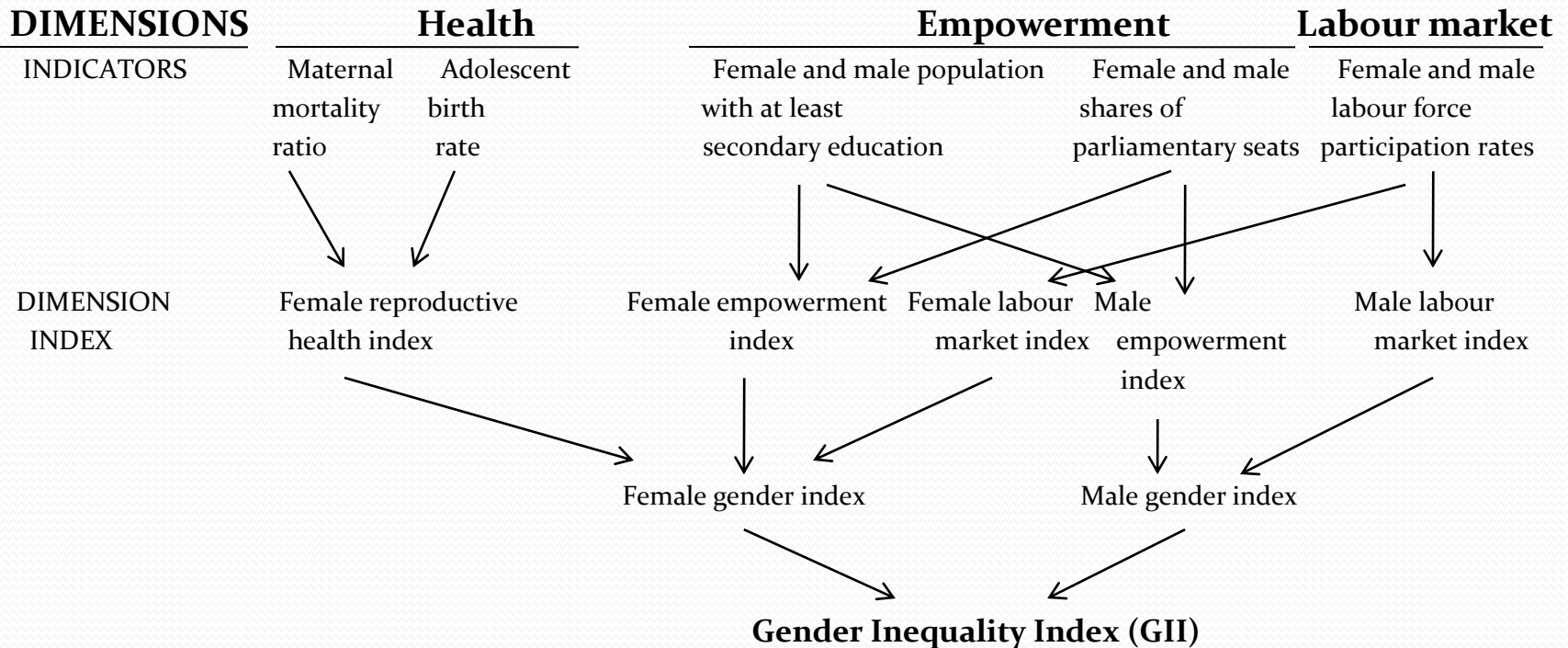
2012 World Development Report puts this figure to 3.9 million in low income countries.

# Continuation

Substantive freedoms that a male member enjoys are denied to a female member.

- ❖ Women eat less and get little medical attention.
- ❖ Educational gender gap is also seen.
- ❖ Women have less or no power in household decision making.
- ❖ Outside home, they are politically marginalised.

# How to measure this inequality?



A Graphical Representation of Gender Inequality Index (GII)

# Selected Values of GII for Some Countries

	HDI	Ranking	GII	Ranking
<b>Very High Human Development</b> (59 countries out of 189 countries) (0.800 and more)				
1.Norway	0.953	(1)	0.048	(5)
2.United States	0.924	(13)	0.189	(41)
3.Germany	0.936	(5)	0.072	(14)
<b>High Human Development</b> (53 countries) (0.700-0.799)				
4.Cuba	0.777	(73)	0.301	(65)
5.Brazil	0.759	(79)	0.407	(94)
<b>Medium Human Development</b> (39 countries) (0.550-0.699)				
6.Thailand	0.755	(83)	0.393	(93)
7.China	0.752	(86)	0.152	(36)
8.Sri Lanka	0.770	(76)	0.354	(80)
9.India	0.640	(130)	0.524	(127)
<b>Low Human Development</b> (38 countries) (<0.550)				
10.Afghanistan	0.498	(168)	0.653	(153)
11.Niger	0.354	(189)	0.649	(151)



# Continuation

## Implications

The value of GII varies between 0 and 1. If men and women fair absolute equality the index becomes 0. Greater the inequality in achievements, between men and women, the index tends to one. Thus a low GII value indicates low inequality between women and men.

# India's Ranking

As per the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 published by the World Economic Forum India is ranked at 140 out of 156 countries with a score of 0.625 (out of 1) which is 28 spots lower than its 2020 ranking.

# 2021 Report Least gender equal countries in the World in 2020.

Characteristics	GII (0= full equality, 1= full inequality)
Yemen	0.8
Papua New Guinea	0.73
Chad	0.71
Central African Republic	0.68
Mali	0.67
Afghanistan	0.66
Liberia	0.65
Sierra Leone	0.64
Niger	0.64
Cote d'Ivoire	0.64
Haiti	0.64
Mauritania	0.63
Congo	0.62

# Continuation

According to the GII 2020, Yemen was the least gender equal country in the world.

Switzerland was considered the most gender equal country worldwide. Norway, Finland and Iceland topped the list on Women's well-being while Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen were at the bottom.

# Paradox

U.S.A. having the rank of 13 in HDI ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in terms of GII.

Norway ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in terms of HDI ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in terms of GII.

So an economically developed country may not have a satisfactory position in terms of GII. Or in other words the position of a women in a so-called developed country may not be that good enough.

It also implies that the Index for measuring development of a country is also fast changing with GII and GDI and GEM becoming more relevant in modern times.

# Breaking the stereotype of WOMEN'S DAY

If we celebrate a day for women, let us celebrate freedom from stereotypes, from expectations, from idolisation, from sacrifice.....

Stop making her look at herself through a conveniently male viewpoint. Let her be imperfect, whimsical, irresponsible, boorish, lazy, fierce, opinionated, loud, flabby, ungroomed, adventurous, unpredictable, unprepared, impractical.....

**Happy Women's Day** for being you and not being what the rest of the world wants you to be.....