

Resources:

Bellamy, Liz and Moorse, Kate

The Changing Role of Women

Hodder Murray, 1996, ISBN: 978-0719551079

This book investigates women's history through source-based enquiries, tackling key questions. The book studies the reasons why the role of women has changed from the middle ages to the present day.

Otto et al, Diane

Rights of Women

International Women's Tribune Centre, 1998

A guide to the most important United Nations treaties on women's human rights. This book includes the UN treaties relevant to women's human rights, a do-it-yourself country manual, treaty ratification charts and a guide to using the internet as a human rights tool.

Parker, Victoria

What's the big idea? Women's rights

Hodder Children's Books, 1996, ISBN: ISBN-13: 9780340655894

This book takes a thought-provoking look at an issue, which affects your future whether you're female or male.

Ross, Mandy

The Changing Role of Women

Heinemann Library, 2002 ISBN-13: 9781588106605

This book tackles these questions using photos, maps and fact summaries and also contains lists for further reading and key websites for more information.

Stearman, Kaye

Feminism

Hodder Children's Books, 2003 ISBN-13: 9780750243650

This book looks at the growth of the Women's Liberation Movement and at the focus feminism today.

Stearman, Kaye

Women's rights Changing attitudes 1900-2000

Discovery Books, 1999 ISBN-13: 9780750222143

This book looks at the action taken by women to achieve equality since 1900.

Sproule, Anna

Solidarity Women History Makers

Macdonald and Co, 1987 ISBN-13: 978-0750000826

Focuses on the role that women have played in shaping our lives by looking at case studies of women from different countries throughout history. This book looks at the theme of women history makers through the experience of three women: the British Annie Besant, the Japanese Kageyama Hideko, and the American Mary Harris Jones.

Websites:

Eastend Talking

<http://www.eastendtalking.org.uk/ourHistory/local-legends>
Here you can find out about Sylvia Pankhurst and other women in the Suffragette movement who campaigned to get the vote for women.

www.internationalwomensday.com

International Women's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate their achievements.

www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

The Women's Library is a cultural centre, housing the most extensive collection of women's history in the UK. As well as the Reading Room there is a lively exhibition and events programme. Visit the women's library, as there is something to discover.

Oxfam

www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/gender/index.htm

is concerned about gender inequality because the majority of the world's poor are women: around 70 per cent of the 1.3 billion people who live in extreme poverty, on less than one dollar a day, are women and girls.

www.amnesty.org

Go to 'Stop violence against women' to find out about how women's human rights are violated when violence is used against them.

Amnesty USA

www.amnestyusa.org/women/index.do
Contains news and reports on how women's rights are being violated around the world as well as a 'links' section where useful web addresses can be found.

www.ungei.org

The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). Its goal is to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education.

www.cedpa.org

The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) improves the lives of women and girls worldwide. Our work is grounded in the belief that women are critical for advancing development and democracy.

Millennium Development Goals Report 2010

United Nations MDG update
<http://tinyurl.com/2uo5wj4>
(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf>)

Maternal Mortality MDG Addendum 2 2010

<http://tinyurl.com/4xbysd9>

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"Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights" - Rallying call for women's groups at 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

Many women and girls in poorer countries are still finding it very difficult to get an education or find a job simply because of their gender. Where this sort of inequality is widespread, women are unable to secure their future and contribute to the economy. This makes it much harder for countries to tackle poverty and to develop.

That's why one of the key priorities of the MDGs is to get more girls into school. There has been some real progress in recent years, but 60 million girls compared to 45 million boys still aren't enrolled in school.

Women on an unequal footing

"...The peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women...., Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

Historically women have been seen as less important than men socially, economically, politically and culturally.

Gender inequality starts early and keeps women at a disadvantage throughout their lives. In some countries, infant girls are less likely to survive than infant boys because their parents favour the boys and neglect the girls.

Girls often receive less food than boys do. They are more likely to drop out of school and to receive less education than boys.

How do we break this vicious circle of gender inequality?

One crucial way is to invest in the education of girls. The Millennium Report says: "Experience has shown, over and over again, that investments in girls' education translate directly and quickly into better nutrition for the whole family, better health care, declining fertility rate, poverty reduction and better overall economic performance."

Is Maternal Health improving?

Progress has been made in sub-Saharan Africa, with some countries halving maternal mortality levels between 1990 and 2008. Other regions, including Asia and Northern Africa, have made even greater headway. In 2010 the Millennium Report states that "Progress has stalled in reducing the number of teenage pregnancies, putting more young mothers at risk."

Global Leaflet 12: Women

Global Context

Many women and girls in poorer countries are still finding it very difficult to get an education or find a job simply because of their gender. Where this sort of inequality is widespread, women are unable to secure their future and contribute to the economy. This makes it much harder for countries to tackle poverty and to develop. More than 350,000 women die annually from complications during pregnancy or childbirth, almost all of them -99 per cent in developing countries.

"Women are half the world's population, yet they do two-thirds of the world's work, earn one-tenth of the world's income, and own less than one per cent of the world's property. They are among the poorest of the world's poor".

Barber Conable, former President of World Bank

Millennium Development Goals

Goal three - Promote gender equality and empower women.

Target - eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

Many countries have successfully promoted girls' education as part of their efforts to boost overall enrolment. Girls' primary enrolment increased more than boys' in all developing regions between 2000 and 2006. As a result, two out of three countries have achieved gender parity at the primary level.

While there is evidence of some success, especially in enrolment at the primary level, gender disparities in education are clearly evident in some regions. Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia have the largest gender gaps in primary enrolment. At the current rate of progress, the Goal 3 target of remains far from being achieved.

Goal five - Improve Maternal Health

Target - Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

Target - Reduce the number of teenage pregnancies. In sub-Saharan Africa, a woman's maternal mortality risk is 1 in 30, compared to 1 in 5,600 in developed regions.

Every year, more than 1 million children are left motherless. Children who have lost their mothers are up to 10 times more likely to die prematurely than those who have not. Most maternal deaths could be avoided. Haemorrhage, for example, which accounts for over one third of maternal deaths, can be prevented or managed through a range of interventions administered by a skilled health-care provider with adequate equipment and supplies.

Events

8 March

International Women's day

7 April

World Health Day

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Women's Rights

The Shift in World Consciousness:

- 1948: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims "the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family."
- 1975: The First United Nations Women's Conference in Mexico City establishes the women's movement as a global phenomenon, and launches the UN Decade for Women.
- 1979: The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) calls on nations "to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women...which are based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of the sexes."
- 1980: The Second United Nations Women's Conference in Copenhagen first addresses the issue of women and development.
- 1985: The Third United Nations Women's Conference in Nairobi helps to catalyse the emergence of women's NGOs worldwide.
- 1993: Women's groups at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna declare that women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights.
- 1993: The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women proclaims that "violence against women constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women."
- 1995: The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, calls for gender issues to be fully mainstreamed into government policies and actions - making women full and equal partners in society - and creating a strong platform for action and advocacy for women.
- 2000: Women mobilise in New York for Women 2000: Beijing +5, to hold governments accountable for the commitments they made at Beijing, and to address new issues of domestic violence, trafficking, HIV/AIDS and globalisation.
- 2000-2006: United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women was entered into force. The enquiry procedure of 2006 allows investigation of substantial abuses of women's human rights by an international body of experts
- 2011 The Bangladeshi government announced its National Women Development Policy 2011, which ensures women expanded rights in property and education.

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Case Study

Bangladesh

Many women and girls in poorer countries are still finding it very difficult to get an education or find a job simply because of their gender. Where this sort of inequality is widespread, women are unable to secure their future and contribute to the economy. This makes it much harder for countries to tackle poverty and to develop.



That's why one of our key priorities is to get more girls into school. There has been some real progress in recent years, but 60 million girls – compared to 45 million boys - still aren't enrolled in school.

Education is a right, not a privilege. Investing in basic education for girls and women has a positive impact on the wider society by boosting family incomes, reducing fertility rates and contributing to better health and nutrition. Having more girls in school leads to greater economic growth and less poverty.

Countries like Bangladesh are pointing the way forward, with the Bangladeshi government now openly recognising the importance of equality for women in helping the country develop.

In March 2011, the day before International Women's Day, the Bangladeshi government approved new rules ensuring that every child would inherit the same amount, this led to demonstrations against the policy.

Bangladesh, which is 90% Muslim, has a secular legal system, but in matters relating to inheritance follows Sharia law. In Dhaka, the capital, hundreds of women, took to the streets to denounce those opposing the policy, which has resulted in death and injuries to protesters.



"The approval of the women development policy has created a great scope for the advancement of women empowerment,"

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children said.

Case Study

Saving mothers' lives in Sri Lanka

In the 1950s, the maternal mortality ratio in Sri Lanka was estimated at between 500 and 600 per 100,000 births.

Intervention or Program:

Beginning in the 1950s, the government of Sri Lanka made special efforts to extend health services, including critical elements of maternal health care, through a widespread rural health network. Sri Lanka's success in reducing maternal deaths is attributed to widespread access to maternal health care, which is built upon:

- a strong health system that provides free services to the entire population, including in the rural areas;
- the professionalization and broad use of midwives;
- the systematic use of health information to identify problems and guide decision-making; and
- targeted quality improvements to vulnerable groups.

Impact:

Sri Lanka has halved maternal deaths (relative to the number of live births) at least every 12 years since 1935. This has meant a decline in the maternal mortality ratio from between 500 and 600 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1950 to 60 per 100,000 today. In Sri Lanka today, skilled practitioners attend to 97 percent of the births, compared with 30 percent in 1940.

Cost and Cost-Effectiveness:

Sri Lanka has spent less on health - and achieved far more - than most of the countries at similar income levels. In India, for example, the maternal mortality ratio is more than 400 per 100,000 live births, and spending on health constitutes over 5 percent of GNP. In Sri Lanka, the ratio is less than one-quarter of that, and the country spends only 3 percent of GNP on health.

Case study from Centre for Global Development <http://tinyurl.com/3oxu6r8>

http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/_active/millionssaved/studies/case_6/

For full case study go

http://www.cgdev.org/doc/millions/MS_case_6.pdf

Online activities:

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative

The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) was launched in April 2000 at the World Education Forum in Dakar by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Its goal is to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education. www.ungei.org

Generation Why (from Oxfam)

An excellent quiz on current position of women internationally.

<http://tinyurl.com/lwhxly>

(http://www.oxfam.org.uk/generationwhy/do_something/campaigns/healthandeducation/quiz/index.htm)

Every Day Should be Mothers Day

This activity asks young people to participate in the global campaign to improve maternal health.

<http://tinyurl.com/3pyr7pa>

(http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/mothers_day_2011/?8)

Info please - quiz

Quiz about 12 famous world leaders who were women.

<http://www.infoplease.com/quizzes/womenleaders/1.html>

Discovery Education

Match the quote to the woman who said it.

<http://tinyurl.com/nsdv8l>

(<http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/womenofthecentury/notethequote/index.html>)

BBC

A game about women's rights in Britain in the Victorian times.

<http://tinyurl.com/cxmxc0>

(http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/launch_gms_womens_rights.shtml)

Women on the Map

<http://www.imow.org/economica/stories/map>

Honour Women Around the World The International Museum of Women's Women on the Map! allows you to pay tribute to the women who have made a difference in your life. The result will be a powerful visual representation of the vast, change-making impact women have on our world. Taking part is easy!

Maternal Mortality:

Suitcases of evidence from around the world

Images, video and text to explore why maternal mortality is a human rights crisis

<http://tinyurl.com/67fys2n>

(<http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/demand-dignity/issues/maternal-mortality/rights-journey/evidence/maternal-mortality>)