

ACADEMIC GUIDE



Defying the ordinary, building the extraordinary

Committee

UN Women

UN WOMEN

Junior

Topic A:

The prevention of child marriage in developing countries

Topic B:

Addressing inequalities in health: The lack of research regarding health conditions targeting women

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Welcoming letter

Distinguished delegates,

As your presidents, we are very excited to welcome you to the 15th edition of MMUN. We are pleased to recognize your role in this committee UN WOMEN and we are greatly enthused by the topics that will be addressed within. We have worked very hard in order to create an unforgettable experience for you. This will be a safe space where you will be able to learn, make mistakes, improve and explore new points of view, all while having fun. We hope this process will not only enhance your academic and debating skills but also your teamwork skills.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any doubts or concerns.

Kind regards,

Catalina Londoño & Juliana Cubillos



Introduction to the commission

UN Women, formally known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, is a United Nations organization established in July 2010 by the UN General Assembly. Its primary goal is to address the needs and rights of women and girls worldwide by promoting gender equality and their empowerment.

The mission of UN Women is to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower them to reach their full potential, and ensure that gender equality becomes a reality across all societies. The organization envisions a world where women enjoy equal opportunities, live free from violence, and participate fully in all aspects of society, including political, economic, and social life.

UN Women plays a critical role in developing gender-sensitive policies, partnering with governments and organizations to implement transformative programs, and advocating for change. Through its efforts, it provides critical data and insights to shape evidence-based solutions.

Additionally, globally, only 26.7% of parliamentary seats are held by women, and one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. Women also carry out 2.5 times more unpaid domestic work than men, a factor that limits their economic and social opportunities.

To address these challenges, UN Women leads initiatives focused on ending violence against women, promoting economic empowerment, supporting leadership opportunities, and addressing the needs of women in crisis and humanitarian settings. These programs not only transform individual lives but also contribute to creating equitable and sustainable societies.

UN Women calls on individuals, communities, and nations to join the movement for gender equality, working together to build a world where every woman and girl has the opportunity to thrive and lead.

Topic Summary

Topic A: The prevention of child marriage in developing countries

Child marriage in developing countries is driven by factors such as poverty, lack of education, and cultural traditions, leading to millions of girls being married before the age of 18. This practice severely impacts girls' health, education, and economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. It is crucial that we work together to address these inequalities considering all of the factors that lead to these marriages and the catastrophic repercussions that they have on the impact of millions of lives.

Topic B: Addressing inequalities in health: The lack of research regarding health conditions targeting women

Despite advances in healthcare, significant inequalities persist due to the underrepresentation of women in medical research. This lack of gender-specific data leads to misdiagnosis and inadequate treatments for women, particularly in areas like reproductive health, autoimmune disorders, and mental health. Addressing these inequalities requires a united effort to include women in clinical research, allocate dedicated funding for women's health studies, and promote awareness among healthcare providers.

TOPIC A: The prevention of child marriage in developing countries

Introduction to the topic

Child marriage is defined as a formal or informal union in which at least one of the parties involved is younger than 18 years of age. To date, it remains a pervasive problem across the globe, and despite international laws and conventions that attempt to advocate for the rights of children millions of young girls and boys continue to be forced into these early marriages, which more often than not result in severe consequences for their health, education, and overall wellbeing. It is important to highlight that both girls and boys can be subject to these child marriages, however, due to social practices it is much more common that a girl finds herself in this sort of situation.

Children who are married at a young age tend to face significant challenges in terms of health, education and social development. In the vast majority of cases, they experience a disruption in their education, an increased risk of domestic and sexual violence, as well as complications during pregnancy and childbirth due to their still-developing bodies. At these ages, they are not physically or mentally prepared for everything that comes with marriage, nor are their brains developed enough to make a decision like this.

Because of this, child marriages are a violation of human rights and are prohibited by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as other international human rights instruments.

Key Concepts

Child marriage: Any formal or informal union in marriage of a child under 18.

Arranged marriage: A marriage where bride or groom are selected by someone other than themselves.

Love marriage: A marriage in which the participants choose who to marry.

Human rights: Rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status.

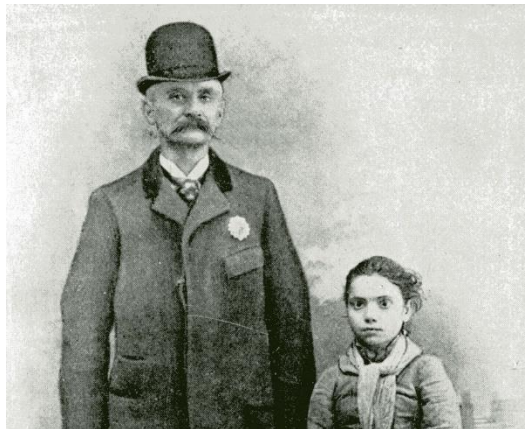
Child labour: Work that deprives children of their childhood

Poverty: A state or condition in which an individual lacks the financial resources and essentials for a certain standard of living.

Historical Context

Child marriage is not a problem that has only just come to the surface, it is a practice that is deeply embedded in economic, social and cultural systems across various societies. In ancient civilizations such as Egypt and Mesopotamia girls were often married just after reaching puberty. Marriage was in great part simply a social and economic transaction, aimed towards securing alliances and or the continuation of a lineage. In civilizations such as Greece and Rome, which we so often romanticize, girls typically married in their early teens to much older men, in order to ensure their chastity and legitimate offspring.

The early modern period saw child marriage in colonial America and Africa, where it was a necessity in frontier areas with a lower life expectancy. In several African societies colonial rule often reinforced traditional practices, including child marriage, In South Asia, these types of marriages have been practised for centuries since they are deeply rooted in religious and cultural traditions.



The Industrial Revolution however brought significant social changes, and these included a shift in marriage practices. In many parts of Europe and North America, the age of marriage began to rise as child labour laws and compulsory education became more widespread. However, child marriage persisted in rural areas and among immigrant communities. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the introduction of legal reforms aimed at setting minimum marriage ages, driven by broader movements for children's rights and women's rights.

The mid-20th century marked the beginning of international efforts to combat child marriage. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) established frameworks for protecting children's rights, including the right to choose when and whom to marry. The global women's rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s brought increased attention to child marriage as a form of gender-based violence and discrimination, highlighting the negative impacts on girls' health, education, and autonomy.

Everything that is behind child marriage reveals how it is a practice that has roots all throughout the economic and cultural systems of so many societies. And while there has been substantial progress over the last few decades in raising awareness and implementing legal protections for these children, it is still one of the most urgent problems to solve. and understanding its historical backdrop is crucial to creating effective strategies to combat it and ensure that all children can enjoy their rights and reach their full potential in life.

Current Situation

Nowadays, with advances in technology, the empowerment of women, new legislation and many other factors, cases of child marriages have decreased significantly, however, this in no way means that they have completely disappeared and continue to be a prevalent problem in many countries. **Each year, 15 million girls around the world are married before they turn 18.** One may wonder, why would traditions such as child marriages persist regardless of legislation against it, new information, and all of the new advancements that the world has recently seen?

In many developing countries where child marriage is a great problem, there are a series of factors that contribute to its survival in our modern world. These include gender discrimination, many of these cultures value women as less than men, and give them in some way the status of second-class citizens. Because of this, women in some way become “expendable” and a burden that families want to rid themselves of. Child labour is one of the main underlying causes of child marriages since most of these families attempt to unburden themselves by sending their daughters to work and later marrying them off. If this is not the case, then young girls who are sent off to work may see marriage as the only way of escaping these harsh work environments.

CHILD MARRIAGE

A Violation of Human Rights

- Every 2 seconds, a girl is married before 18.
- She is deprived of her rights to health, to education and to a life free from violence.
- Marriage is an abrupt end to her childhood.



Child marriage denies a girl's right to:

HEALTH

CHILD BRIDES ARE OFTEN **PRESSURED INTO MOTHERHOOD** putting them at risk of death or injury in childbirth.

Girls who give birth before 15 are **5 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE IN CHILDBIRTH** than women aged 20-24.



CHOICE

CHILD BRIDES HAVE **LITTLE OR NO SAY IN IF, WHEN AND WHOM THEY MARRY.**

"Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses"

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948



LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE

A girl who marries before 18 is more likely to experience **PHYSICAL, SEXUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT HER LIFE.**



EDUCATION

After marriage child brides **USUALLY DROP OUT OF SCHOOL** if they were in school at all.



Child marriage violates treaties and conventions that governments around the world are bound by, including:

The Convention on the **RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the **RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA**

PARENTS refuse to engage in dowry or bride price and choose not to marry off their children.

COMMUNITY LEADERS support alternative roles for girls beyond marriage.

MEN AND BOYS choose not to marry girls who are still children and speak up against the practice.

GIRLS are able to support one another through peer groups and collective action.

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN PROTECTING GIRLS' RIGHTS

TEACHERS are trained to identify and report child marriages.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS register children at birth and check the ages of the bride and groom before marriage.

GOVERNMENTS adopt and implement strong laws and policies to prevent child marriage and support married girls.

HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES hold governments accountable for setting and implementing laws to end child marriage and promote gender equality.

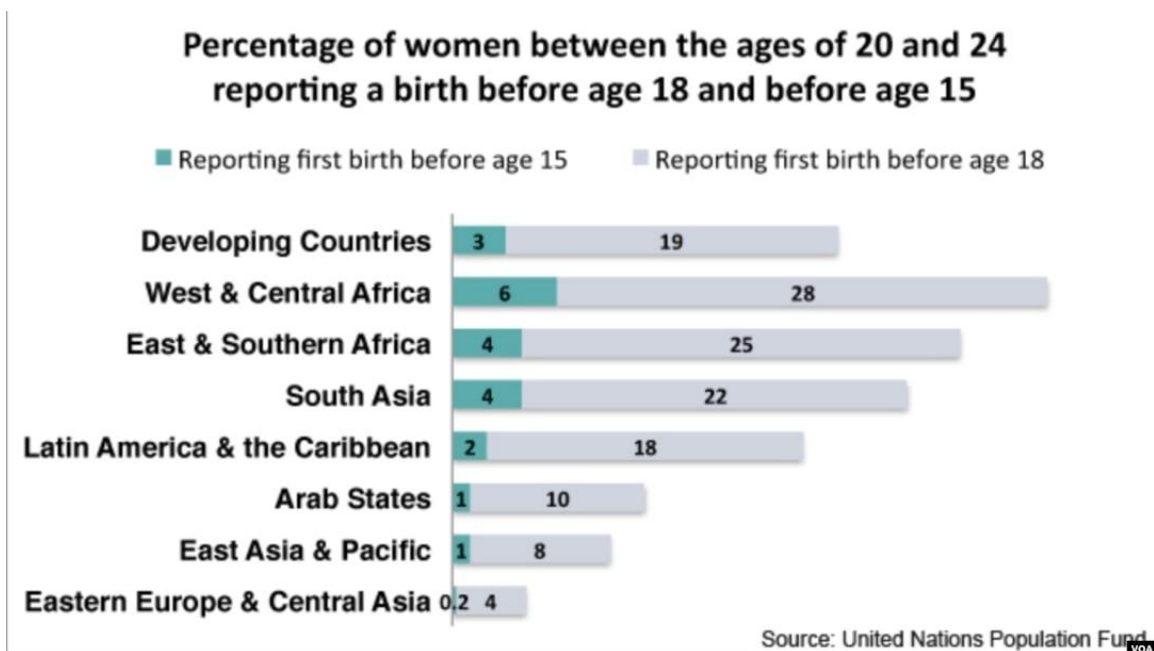
END CHILD MARRIAGE AND WE WILL BUILD A SAFER, HEALTHIER AND MORE EQUAL FUTURE FOR ALL.

www.GirlsNotBrides.org

[#EndChildMarriage](https://twitter.com/EndChildMarriage)

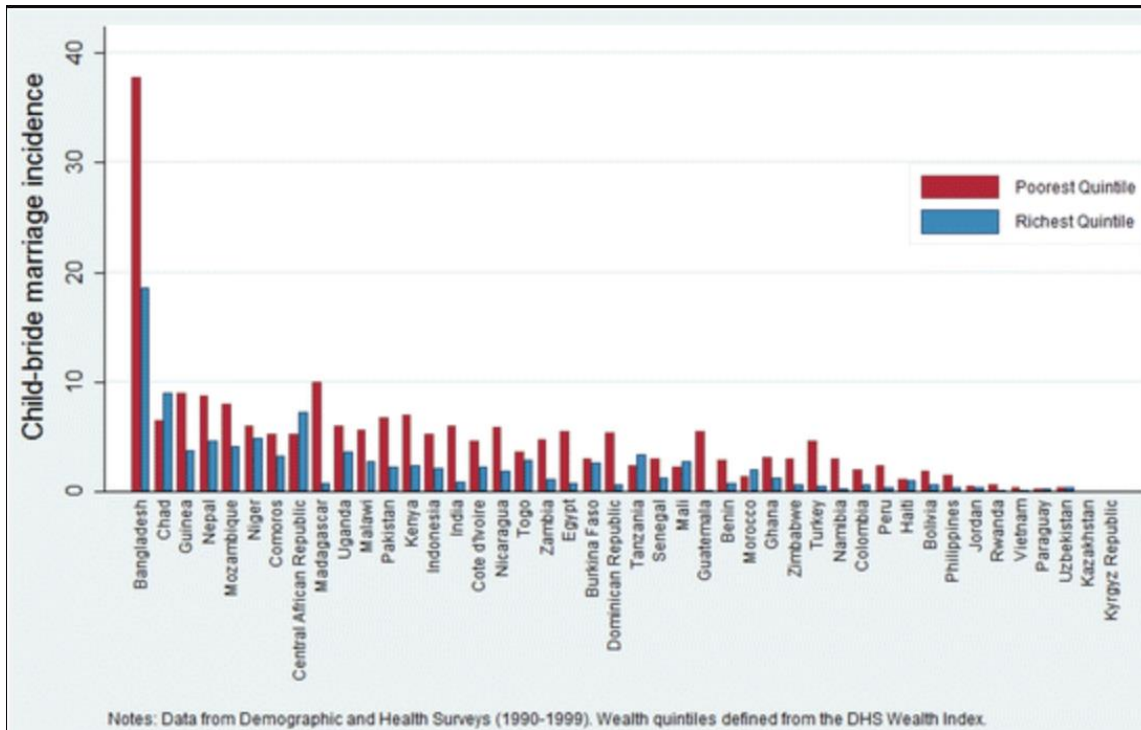


Another factor that can push a girl into marrying before she turns 18 is education. Many girls in these countries aren't given the same education as their male counterparts, not only because of the sexism that is present in these countries but also because of the expenses that taking a daughter to school implies for a family. Regardless if the education is public or private, there are expenses like uniforms, books, pencils etc. that a family has to factor in when deciding to matriculate a daughter in school. This is strongly tied to the incredibly high rates of poverty that the countries in which this problematic is still seen at an alarming rate. It is much more common that a girl living in a situation of poverty finds herself subject to child marriage than a girl whose family has a stable, economic income in which they can provide for all their necessities.



Because of these conditions of poverty, a child may feel compelled to marry young to lighten the economic burden on their family. If a girl is married off young there are fewer mouths to feed, this however could be avoided if these girls had access to sexual education. This includes their sexual rights, contraceptives, sexual health, and many other things that they have no knowledge about before entering a marriage. Many of these girls end up pregnant within their first two years of marriage, which in many cases means that many of them give birth for the first time before turning 18. this is one of the main reasons why child marriages

can lead to the severe deterioration of a girl's mental and physical health, since her body is not yet ready for many of the things that marriage implies.



Another factor that may result in child marriage is social pressures, it may seem like it has nothing to do with it, however, rumours may turn out to be disastrous in the life of a young girl. In an enclosed community in which child marriage is a common practice, and the value of a woman is less than that of a man, the creation of a rumour that a girl has been seen “talking romantically” to a man, or even just been seen exchanging glances, may result in being forced to marry. One may believe that these are rather antiquated practices, however, they are very much present in these young girls’ lives. In most cases, these are considered love marriages, however, in these cases, the word love is simply consent. The concept of a love marriage just means that both parties agreed to the marriage rather than being forced into it.

Because of this, whether it is a forced child marriage or a “love” marriage, the damage done to these girls is usually the same, and the damage it does to these girls' lives is undeniable.

According to Human Rights Watch, today, these are the major factors that can drive a family to decide to arrange a child marriage for a daughter:

1. Parents who are unable to feed their children or meet the costs of their education may seek a husband for their daughters, simply so that they can ensure food;
2. Young women from poor sectors lack access to education because their families cannot afford the costs of tuition for exams, uniforms, school supplies or other associated expenses, even when education is “free”;
3. Young girls who leave school are often forced into marriage by their parents;
4. The sexual harassment of young people who are not married, and the police inaction that does not put an end to this harassment, also encourages child marriage;
5. Social pressures and traditions, including the widespread practice of giving dowry (which for younger girls is of lesser value), mean that child marriage is not only accepted but even an expected practice. some communities.

There have been many efforts to reduce and hopefully eradicate child marriage in these countries, however, even if many laws have been put into place and several NGOs have made it their goal to empower these women, change takes time. a law may be put into place, but it's implementation is something completely different, and child marriages are something deeply embedded in many cultures, because of which persistence to solve this problem is crucial.

CHILD MARRIAGE IS A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Relevant approaches

We would like the debate to center on solutions regarding child marriage and how it should be prevented, taking into account that it is a violation to human rights, some topics that we would like delegates to touch on are:

- Minimum age requirements to marry
- Access to education
- Equal rights for men and women
- Child labour
- Arranged marriages

Block Positions

Block of Unwilling Countries: Some countries might be unwilling to increase their legal age to marry, or they might not even have one, this may be due to these practices being part of their culture or their lack of association to certain world organizations. Countries such as Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen do not specify a minimum age for marriage. In many countries, even those that allow minors to wed, minimum age requirements are often ignored. It is important to highlight that as representatives of a country, each delegate should insist that inside their country the minimum age to marry requirements be met, even if they are often ignored.

Block of Urgent Action Countries: On the other hand, some countries feel desperate for immediate action. These nations see the urgent need to tackle child marriage, by having clear minimum age requirements and seeing them violated very often. Countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Nigeria and many others see themselves in this position.

Block of Slow Transition Countries: Some countries do not see themselves as affected by this problem, however, they do want to help counter it, they move the debate through proposals and ideas to help countries that see themselves in need of urgent action.

QARMAS

- What percentage of the country represented by my delegation lives in poverty?
- What is the rate of child marriage in the country represented by my delegation?
- What is the minimum required age to marry in the country represented by my delegation?
- Does the country represented by my delegation have any legislation in place to prevent child marriage?
 - Are they being commonly ignored?
 - What are they?
 - How do they ensure their implementation?
- What resources does the country represented by my delegation that can help prevent child marriage?
- Is my country unified in its legislation regarding child marriage or the minimum required age to marry? eg. states

Useful links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yToMyZLdcEs>
- Testimony- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkH0jZPLB5M>
- Testimony- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPAG3I8P34k>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRiAnrfX3Io>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfb3Cx3E3Lw>
- Nyla's law- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyV5s7v1Q_I
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dmv1Tbtw7I>

WE CANNOT IGNORE CHILD MARRIAGE DURING HUMANITARIAN CRISES



9 out of the **10** countries with the highest child marriage rates are fragile states.

Girls can be more vulnerable to child marriage during and after:



Conflict



Displacement



Natural Disasters

Due to:

- Increased insecurity
- Increased poverty
- Weaker social networks



As a result, families may see child marriage as

- A form of protection from violence
- A way to cope with poverty

In some conflicts areas, such as Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Nigeria, women and girls have also been **abducted and forced to marry**.



More needs to be done to protect girls from child marriage during crises:

- 1 Recognise child marriage as a critical issue in times of crisis – not just an afterthought
- 2 Identify what makes girls vulnerable to child marriage in humanitarian crises by involving and listening to them.
- 3 Include child marriage prevention and support to married girls in any humanitarian response from the beginning of a crisis. Involve all sectors.
- 4 Do more research to understand how crises affect adolescent girls in different contexts



www.GirlsNotBrides.org

#EndChildMarriage



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

CHILD MARRIAGE

A global problem too long ignored

Child marriage robs girls of every opportunity to thrive. A human rights violation, child marriage denies girls their *health, education and the choice* of when and whom to marry.

Child marriage directly hinders progress on 6 of the 8 Millennium Development Goals. Unless the international community tackles child marriage, it will not fulfil its commitments to reduce global poverty.



What does child marriage mean for girls?

POVERTY

Child brides do not receive the educational and economic opportunities that help lift them and their family out of poverty. **THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE POOR AND REMAIN POOR.**



EDUCATION

Child brides are likely to **DROP OUT OF SCHOOL**, hindering their personal development, preparation for adulthood and their ability to contribute to their family and community.



INEQUALITY

Child brides normally have **LITTLE SAY IN WHEN OR WHOM THEY WILL MARRY**. Marriage often ends girls' opportunities for education, better paid work outside the home and decision making roles in their communities.



HEALTH

Child brides face high risk of death or injury; girls who give birth before the age of 15 are **5 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE IN CHILDBIRTH** than girls in their early 20s. Their children are less likely to live beyond their 1st birthday.



HIV/AIDS

Child brides lack the knowledge or power to abstain from sex or negotiate safe sexual practices, leaving them at increased **RISK OF HIV/AIDS AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.**



VIOLENCE

Child marriage puts women and girls at increased risk of violence throughout their lives. Child brides are **MORE LIKELY TO DESCRIBE THEIR FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE AS FORCED.**



TOGETHER WE CAN END CHILD MARRIAGE. JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

www.GirlsNotBrides.org

#EndChildMarriage



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage



UN WOMEN
Defying the ordinary, building the extraordinary

Child marriage



Marriage before the age of **18** is a violation of girls' rights



Child marriage has destroyed the childhoods of more than **700 million** women in the world



250 million women were younger than **15** when they got married.

World map

Half of women in Southern Asia and more than one third in Sub-Saharan Africa get married before the age of 18



>60%

Niger (77%, the World's highest rate), Bangladesh, Chad, Mali

>40%

Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, India, South Sudan, Malawi, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Nicaragua, India, Eritrea

>30%

Zambia, Afghanistan, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Cambodia, Honduras, Laos, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sao Tome, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Yemen, Zimbabwe

There have been improvements, but they mainly benefit families with the highest incomes

Causes



Poverty



Low education levels



Traditions



Lack of opportunities



Social concerns about purity

Consequences: poverty doesn't stop



Dropping out of school



Social isolation



Adolescent pregnancy and complications for the newborn



Higher risk of being victim of violence



Risk of HIV infections

How to eradicate it?



Promote girls' education



Encourage participation spaces



Raise awareness among parents and communities



Boost financial support



New anti-child marriage laws



Political commitment to eradicate child marriages



Source: Unicef

With the support of:
BILL & MELINDA GATES Foundation

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<https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage>

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/>

TOPIC B: Addressing inequalities in health: The lack of research regarding health conditions targeting women

Introduction to the topic

One of the most impactful gender gaps is the lack of healthcare research regarding women, this gender gap affects the health and well being of women around the world. Clinical trials and surgical protocols have historically been based on male anatomy due to the male-dominated nature of the scientific profession, resulting in a significant gender bias issue, this bias has led to data primarily being collected from males and generalized to females, potentially causing women to be misdiagnosed in emergency situations where their symptoms are different from those typically observed in males. This can have a significant impact on life, as well as physical and mental health.

Why is research in women's health important?

- Why are women three times more likely to acquire an autoimmune disease?
- Why are women more likely to wake up from anesthesia during surgery compared to men?
- Why are women less likely to be appropriately diagnosed with a heart attack compared to men?
- Why are women 37% more likely to have COPD than men?
- Why do 16% of women over the age of 70 have Alzheimer's disease compared to 11% of men?
- Why are women twice as likely to suffer from depression than men?

Because we need answers to these important questions.

For many years women were not included in clinical research. As a result, we know less about the influences of sex and gender on health and disease.

The Illinois Women's Health Registry is trying to change that.

Taken from: *Importance of Women's Health*. (2018, 13 diciembre). Women's Health Research Institute. <https://womenshealth.obgyn.msu.edu/importance-womens-health>

The basic faculty training for medicine is mostly men symptom training. As a result, women's health issues, especially heart diseases are mostly overlooked and misdiagnosed. Even though males and females have some of the similar symptoms like chest pain, dizziness, fatigue, etc, women's symptoms go beyond those, like vertigo, nauseous, indigestion, which most regularly delays diagnosis and the treatment process. Women don't get fully diagnosed as fast as men due to this. Solving this problem could create a huge impact by preventing (due to the late diagnosis) deadly and harmful diseases.

Key Concepts

Gender inequality in health research: The significant gap in women's medical research compared to men.

Lack of research funding: The insufficient funding and resources assigned to study diseases and conditions that predominantly affect women.

Biological differences: The importance of the differences between the male and female anatomy.

Gender health gap: the disparities in health outcomes, treatment, and medical research between men and women, often due to historical biases that have led to the underrepresentation of women in clinical studies and healthcare protocols.

Historical Context

Most clinical trials and surgery protocols were based on the male anatomy, this is because science is a traditionally male dominated profession, so it has a historical gender bias problem. Historically, data has been collected from the male and generalized to women so in emergency situations women could go undiagnosed since they have different symptoms as the male. Women's health research was considered (and still does to this date) underfunded, underrepresented and understudied, which clearly had a huge impact on women's health. Studies that did include women at that time were only about reproductive science, but the spectrum of women's health goes beyond just the ability to reproduce.

However, the awareness of gender disparities in health research began to grow, in september of 1990, the ORWH (Office of Research on Women’s Health) was created in response to the concerns professionals had by the lack of consistent inclusion of women in NIH-supported clinical research, that could lead to healthcare decisions for women being based solely on findings from studies of men, without any proof that these findings apply to women. And finally in june of 1993 progress was made with the NIH (National Institutes of Health), women were finally considered to be part of those studies. All programs inside of the NIH like the ORWH and the NHLIB (National Heart Lung and Blood Institute) worked together in order to start closing the gender health gap. Since then, the NIH has improved women’s life quality.



ADVANCING WOMEN’S HEART HEALTH

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) is committed to reducing the impact of heart disease on women.

NHLBI’s Commitment to Inclusion

Women and men do not always share the same heart disease signs, symptoms, or disease progression, nor do they always respond to interventions in the same way. Since its establishment in 1948, the NHLBI has been a leader in improving inclusion of women in research. For example, NHLBI’s Framingham Heart Study, which was also launched in 1948, was one of the first epidemiological studies to address cardiovascular disease and was designed from the beginning to include an equal number of women and men.

Having women well represented in NHLBI-funded research studies, especially clinical trials, is critical for improving our understanding of how sex differences affect health and diseases and for development of safe and effective treatments and better health outcomes for everyone. As part of our continuing efforts to address cardiovascular disease (CVD) in women, the NHLBI monitors enrollment in the clinical research we fund. Women make up about 60 percent of participants in NHLBI-funded trials

on cardiovascular disease, including NHLBI’s landmark Women’s Health Initiative (WHI).

Strategically Addressing Women’s Health

NHLBI’s Strategic Vision, released in August 2016, sets the stage for supporting innovative approaches to addressing women’s health across our broad research portfolio.

Strategic Vision Objectives and Their Application in Women’s Health

- Understand normal biology—Effects of aging and reproductive biology on heart function across the lifespan.
- Investigate pathology—Mechanisms of myocardial infarction and poor outcomes in younger women; effects of sex hormones on blood clot formation.
- Individualize treatments (precision medicine)—Genomic and molecular data and their impact on CVD (NHLBI TOPMed Program and NIH All of Us Research Program).

Cardiovascular Disease by the Numbers

- Research supported by the NHLBI has helped reduce cardiovascular deaths by more than 70 percent over the past 40–50 years.
- Racial and geographic disparities for CVD persist.
- Despite these efforts, heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. In 2018, one in five American women died of heart disease.
- Deaths from heart disease are more prevalent among African American, Native American, and Hispanic women than white women—as are some of the factors that increase the risk of developing heart disease, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity.

nhlbi.nih.gov

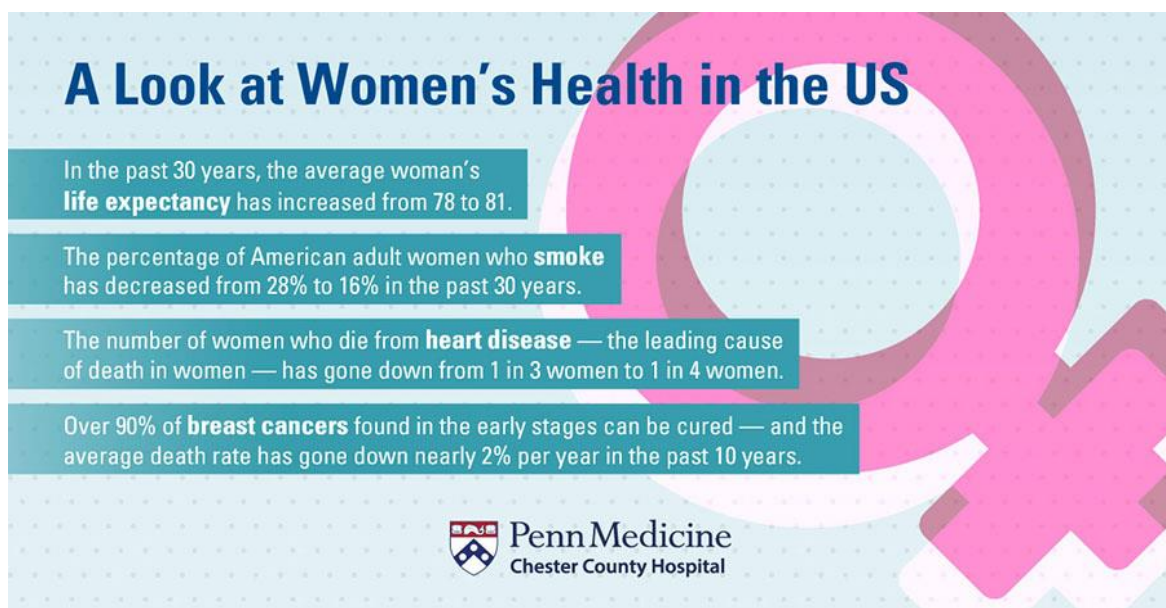
Taken from: *Advancing Women’s heart Health Fact Sheet*. (2019, 1 mayo). NHLBI, NIH.

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/resources/advancing-womens-heart-health-fact-sheet>



Current Situation

Over the decades, this matter has improved massively, multiple organizations like the WCH (Women's College Hospital), POWER (Project for an Ontario Women's health Evidence-based Report), NIH (National Institute for Health), and many more have been contributing to making extensive research and resources available. Along with that, an impressive amount of experts and professors around the world, all the way from organization and program directors to head of lab researchers and head of research groups are joining hands in order to improve women's life quality as much as they can.



Taken from: Penn Medicine. (2020, 25 marzo). *3 Advancements in women's health Worth celebrating during Women's History Month and every day*. Chester County Hospital. <https://www.chestercountyhospital.org/news/health-living-blog/2020/march/3-advancements-in-womens-health-worth-celebrating>

However, despite the advances, women still have a noticeable disadvantage in healthcare research, only around 10.8% of the NIH budget goes towards women's health research funding. This gap is especially noticeable in areas like reproductive health, autoimmune disorders, and mental health, where differences in symptoms, how often conditions appear, and how treatments work for different genders are very important to think about.

Relevant approaches

- Promote inclusion: Ensure that women are specifically included in all NIH-supported clinical research to make diagnosis and findings relevant to both genders.
- Allocate funding: Specify the financial support which will be directed towards the research of women's health issues.
- Raise awareness: Promote increased awareness and training among healthcare providers to better recognize and treat gender-specific health conditions.
- Support initiatives: Endorse initiatives that aim to close the gender health gap through comprehensive and inclusive health studies.

Block Positions

Blocks refer to the group of countries that share the same ideas or points of view regarding the topic. Let's look at the possible blocks that can be created throughout the debate.

Block of hesitant countries: This block consists of countries that might be unwilling to improve the healthcare research targeting women due to economic, cultural, or other circumstances that the countries keep in mind.

Block of immediate action countries: This block consists of the countries that look at this important matter as a priority and are willing to do everything in their power to try and increase women's healthcare research in order to break the gap.

Even though these blocks have a chance of happening, we strongly invite you to all join in one block and work as a team to create a solution for the matter being discussed in the debate.

QARMAS

- What are the main obstacles in your country that prevent good research on women's health issues?

- What existing policies in your countries promote gender equity in health research?
- How do cultural or religious perceptions in your country impact women's health research?
- Do economic issues affect the funding of fair health research towards women?
- What are the best strategies to address this topic in order to achieve gender equality in health research?

Useful links

- [Gender Equity in Health \(youtube.com\)](#)
- The women's. (2021, March 8). *Gender equity in health*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWacyLKASW4>
- <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/resources-training#card-1272>
- *ORWH Resource Library*. (2024, 5 noviembre). <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/resources-training#card-1272>
- [Closing the Gender Gap in Health > World Economic Forum Annual Meeting | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)
- World Economic Forum. (n.d.). *Closing the gender gap in health: World Economic Forum annual meeting*. World Economic Forum. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org>

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- Cleveland Clinic. (2024, 24 abril). *The Power of Research: The Need for Gender Equity* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1_X_xohbMg

- Demystifying Medicine McMaster. (2020, 26 octubre). *Closing the Gap: Addressing Gender Inequities in Healthcare* [Video]. YouTube. [Closing the Gap: Addressing Gender Inequities in Healthcare - YouTube](#)
- *Clinical Research and Trials*. (2024, 28 junio). <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/womens-health-equity-inclusion/clinical-research-and-trials>
- Penn Medicine. (2020, 25 marzo). *3 Advancements in women's health Worth celebrating during Women's History Month and every day*. Chester County Hospital. <https://www.chestercountyhospital.org/news/health-living-blog/2020/march/3-advancements-in-womens-health-worth-celebrating>
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- Redacción. (2023, 22 marzo). *Por qué el riesgo de infarto aumenta en las mujeres con la menopausia*. BBC News Mundo. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-64890634>