So far, no country in the world has achieved gender equality. According to the UN, no country will be able to meet the gender equality targets to end discrimination and violence against women by 2030, although as many as 193 nations promised to work on it. A few governments and organisations claim to be doubling their efforts, yet 1.4 million women and girls fall prey to discrimination, violence and sexism. Women are hungrier, more discriminated and poorer than men, according to the UN.

Women’s Health

Experts at the 11th International Conference on ‘Holistic Health of Women: Issues and Challenges’ at Punjabi University said women’s health was a chronic global problem that needed to be re-diagnosed and tackled with a long-term sustainable approach. An aggressive approach needed to be taken at social, economic, legal and political levels to deal with clinical precision and improve the health conditions of women in India, said Vice-Chancellor Professor BS Ghuman.

Gender Pay Gap

Hardly Shrinking in Data Science

Tech diversity and inclusion have been long-standing issues. According to Lumien Research, the gender pay gap in data science in the US has narrowed from 9.4% to 8.4% over the past year. While at the entrance and mid-levels there is some improvement, there is more room for improvement for the executive level. While more women than men are graduating in STEM subjects, the relationship between female and male professionals across data and analytics professions has slightly dropped in the past year, the report found. In total, women hold just 23% of the positions in data and analytics.

Gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive human rights abuses, impacting roughly 35% of all women. Many countries have national policies and frameworks to end it, but there is often a gap between normative commitments and the experiences of women and girls. UNDP shared four promising answers at the SVRI Forum, the world’s premiere conference on ending violence against women and girls. (i) Scale up what works (ii) Transform local institutions (iii) Bring on broad new and diverse partners (iv) Work across sectors & levels of government

India News Corner

Feminism in India Can’t Survive Without Empowering Lower Castes

The feminist movement in India has for a long time been responsible for raising awareness about the real, grassroots issues facing women from property and inheritance rights to alcoholism and harassment. These fundamental questions asked by the feminist movement over the past 50 years have often precipitated into social change through legal action and welfare provision by the government. Yet its success is not without fault and its role in raising awareness about pertinent issues has recently been contested by Indian women. According to the International Dalit Solidarity Network, nearly 47% of Dalit women in India have experienced sexual harassment and 43% domestic violence. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, rape against Dalit women has doubled between 2007 and 2017. When Dalit women, making up nearly 20% of the female population in India, are unrepresented by the feminist movement, the feminist movement loses the credibility and strength that it needs.

Where Are Women in the Labour Force?

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released its Quarterly Bulletin for the January-March 2019 period, presenting estimates of labour force indicators, for urban areas. The data showed that unemployment rate in urban areas among males was estimated at 8.7% during January-March 2019, compared to 9% during April-June 2018. For women, the UR was at 11.6% during the reported period as against 12.8% during April-June 2018. The LFPFR for men was estimated to be 56.2 per cent, while for women it was at 15% in the urban areas during the January-March 2019 period. Just one out of five persons in the 15-30 years age bracket entering the labour force is expected to be a woman in the five years ending 2023, when India’s labour market demography is projected to peak.

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