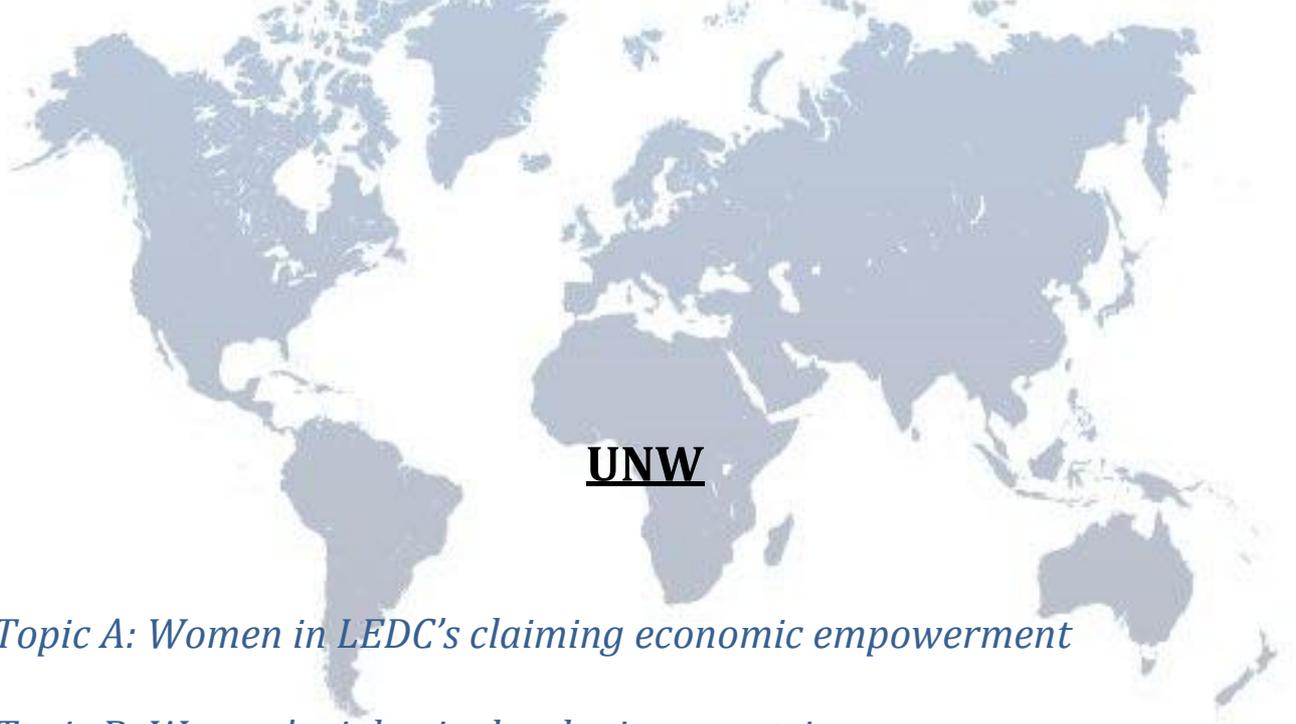


EKIN COLLEGE

JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 2019

**“REACH FOR JUSTICE”**



**UNW**

*Topic A: Women in LEDC's claiming economic empowerment*

*Topic B: Women's rights in developing countries*

## RESEARCH REPORT

CHAIR: GÜRKAN TEKİN

Co-CHAIR: ZEYNEP İLASLAN



EKINJMUN CONFERENCE JANUARY 2019

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### Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

It is with my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 3rd annual session of EKIN Junior Model United Nations. My name is Isabella Yazici and I will be serving as your Secretary General. Our conference will take place in Izmir, Turkey between the 11th and the 13th of January, 2019. In alliance with our annual slogan imagine, innovate, inspire we are aiming for younger generations to comprehend that they have the capability of changing the world.

As Albert Einstein once said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” This year in EKIN JMUN we will simulate 12 extraordinary committees. In light of these words, these committees will focus on finding the spark of light within all of the darkness and try to solve the crises both our world and the conference presents. I fully believe that every participant will do their best to make the world a better place. Both the academic and organizational team have worked many hours to bring you the best version of EKIN JMUN and an overall inspiring, unforgettable experience that will stay with you your whole life.

To come to a conclusion, on behalf of our academic and organizational team I would like to invite you to the third annual session of the biggest JMUN organization in the region. I cannot wait to meet you in January.

Sincerely,

Isabella Yazici

EKINJMUN 2019 SG

# RESEARCH REPORT

## Introduction

### A: Introduction to the committee:

UN WOMEN is an organ of United Nations so as to develop gender equality and authorization of women. UN WOMEN's ideal is addressing their needs. UN WOMEN works to make actual Sustainable Development Goals for women and supports the attendance of women in all areas. UN WOMEN concentrates on women's leadership, providing women's security, making contribution to building peace and prevention of disasters. UNW promotes UN states and collaborates with governments to design the most suitable laws, policies and programmes for women and girls rights worldwide.

### Introduction to topic B: Women's rights in developing countries

Every individual is born with a set of rights. Although they might vary depending on the country they live in, the basics are the same. As mentioned in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights every person has the right:

- to sufficient food,
- to proper healthcare,
- to a free education,
- and to proper housing.

Although people hold these rights, it is not possible to say that they are cherished globally. The reality is that most people face challenges while trying to reach them. In today's world the problems men and women are facing are quite different due to gender inequality. Every day thousands of women are victims of violence, trafficking and forced marriage. These problems are result of inadequate implementations of governments. Implementations are insufficient for society and securing the justice.

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### Definition of Key Terms

**Developing country :** A country with a poor agricultural and industrial base and a low Human Development Index (HDI) that is aiming to make progress economically and socially.

**Right:** a legal enablement to do something.

**Gender equality:** The state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities unaffected by gender, including economic participation and decision-making; and the state of valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender, sexual equality.

**Justice:** Just treatment, fairness in the way people are dealt with

**Dowry:** an amount of money that a woman's parents give to the man she marries.

### General Overview

#### 1. WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In developing countries generally women are more affected than men in the question of human rights, violence, accessing education, lack of jobs and HIV/AIDS. In developing countries women remain subjugated and they are stripped of any human rights. Honour killing is also an issue among Muslim countries. According to the UNIFEM report in Pakistan the reason of killing more than over thousand women is dishonoring their families. Mistreated women tend to accept the inferior position and to indigenise the traditional worth of servility.

Violence is not the solely type of subjugation against women. In some African countries widow women have risk to lose their land because their enablement to the land is wounded on the marriage. According to the customary law the access of gaining right to have land is through marriage but the property rights are not counted.

Dowry system is a big issue in bride kidnapping. The reason for the dowry system is women's less role in agriculture.

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### 2. EDUCATION RIGHTS

In developing countries, gender equality in education is an ongoing issue. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate of girls out of primary school. Secondary attendance is less encouraged compared to primary. Fortunately the rates have increased since the 1990s.

Gender inequalities in secondary level education is a result of gender discrimination in society. Secondary schooling is more expensive than primary and households are pushed to ration resources among children. Early marriage can be seen as an obstacle to secondary school. To decrease the education gap in developing countries, the obstacles which can be listed as poverty, ethnicity and/or geography the governments should work actively to pass new bills and make sure the bills are monitored . When solutions which need to be supported financially, demand-side interferences can help to get education girls from poor families. More education the more girls can protect themselves from sexual violence, forced and early marriage, being mother at a very young age.

### 3. HEALTH RIGHTS

Women's health in developing countries continues to worsen. As long as poverty remains as a wide factor among women, the percentage of epidemics and demises increase.

Women in developing countries face lack of healthcare and life-threatening health problems. Such as maternal mortality, female genital cutting, child marriage and bride kidnapping, HIV/AIDS.

Maternal mortality is generally happen because of gender-based economic, political, cultural disregard of women's right to access to medical services. Most of these deaths are result of hemorrhages, sepsis, hypertensive disorders. And the lack of education is the strongest factor that can make these deaths unpreventable although they can be preventable.

The other specific sign for gender inequality is the indifference about HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS issue cannot be attributed to only society. Also governments generally do not take into consideration HIV/AIDS commensurately.

In the developing world it is risky to deliver a baby at a very young age. According to WHO reports in low and middle developed countries, complications during the pregnancy and childbirth are the main leaders of death in women aged between 15 and 19.

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From the point of view to health care, overconsumption doesn't ensure the best quality. A lot of health problems are results of overconsumption or extreme care interferences. However under consumption leads to deaths. Bearing in mind childbirth under the circumstances of inadequate health care in very low conditions or extreme access to technology and very high conditioned hospitals can have the same negative effects on women's health.

### 3. ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Having their own individual independence is important for women but the importance of economic rights are not limited to that. Having economic rights is also a key for gaining skills and knowledge about life. Public perception generally accepts women as careers and men as the source of financial income but the time women spend working (cooking, cleaning fetching etc.)

#### Timeline of Events

There are many rights given to women in developing countries up to the present. Noting with regret women obtain political and civil rights afterwards men obtain them. Right to vote is one of those rights women obtain much later than men.

Time	The Country Gives the Right to Vote
1893	New Zealand
1902	Australia
1906	Finland
1918	Russian Federation
1918	Germany
1918	United Kingdom
1931	Spain
1934	Turkey
1971	Switzerland

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In 2000s

2006	United Arab Emirates
2011	Saudi Arabia

It is obvious that generally developed countries are given the rights and provides gender equality prior. There should not be any kind of discrimination for both women and men. The rights should be equal for a developed world.

In addition to that there are significant events in the global level for women's rights.

Date	Important Event for Women's Rights
1792	Mary Wollstonecraft penned A Vindication of the Right of Women and supported the idea that women are not inferior than man but lack educated.
April 28,1915	International Congress of Women gathered in for the first time.
December 10,1948	United Nations Declaration of Human Rights was the first international document to mention for the equal rights of men and women.
June 19-July 2, 1975	UN First World Conference on Women gather in Mexico City. The conference resulted in a forward looking to advance women rights for the next decade.
January 21, 2017	Women's March on Washington was the largest international demonstration in support of women's rights.

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### Introduction

#### **A: Introduction to the committee:**

Established in 2010 after merging the mandates of four previously distinct entities, UN Women is mandated to support inter-governmental bodies in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms; to help Member States in implementing these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society; and to lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress. UN Women, among other issues, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

#### **Introduction to topic A: Women in LEDC's claiming economic empowerment**

Women's economic empowerment is critical to achieving gender equality and sustainable development. Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home.

But they also remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. Gender discrimination means women often end up in insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. It curtails access to economic assets such as land and loans. It limits participation in shaping economic and social policies. And, because women perform the bulk of household work, they often have little time left to pursue economic opportunities.

Therefore UNWOMEN's first topic "Women in LEDC's claiming economic empowerment" is a major issue and all the participants shall consider all the problems that are stated in this guide.

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### Definition of Key Terms

- **Economic Empowerment:** Economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth.
- **LEDC:** LEDC is an abbreviation for Less Economically Developed Country or we may know it as a developing country. Countries that are claimed to LEDCs are relatively poor countries. Some criteria such as birth rate, death rate, infant mortality etc. are used to designate these countries.
- **Economic Growth:** Economic growth is an increase in the production of goods and services over a specific period. To be most accurate, the measurement must remove the effects of inflation. It creates more profit for businesses. As a result, stock prices rise. That gives companies capital to invest and hire more employees. As more jobs are created, incomes rise. Consumers have more money to buy additional products and services. Purchases drive higher economic growth. For this reason, all countries want positive economic growth. This makes economic growth the most watched economic indicator.
- **Gender Discrimination:** Discrimination based on gender is a common civil rights violation that takes many forms, including sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and unequal pay for women who do the same jobs as men.
- **Employee Exploitation:** It refers to the act of treating one's workers unfairly for one's own benefit, and when it comes to women, it is a bigger issue all around the world.

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### General Overview

Around 2 billion poor people around the world – particularly women – are financially excluded and women and girls make up the majority of the poorest people in the world today. Women continue to earn on average only 60 to 75% of what men earn. Laws in many countries restrict women's economic opportunities, dictating the types of jobs that women can do, or giving husbands the right to prevent their wives from accepting jobs. Women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work: women devote 1 to 3 hours more a day to housework than men; 2 to 10 times the amount of time a day to care (for children, elderly, and the sick), and 1 to 4 hours less a day to market activities.

The disadvantages and discrimination faced by women and girls severely limits women's and girls' ability to lift themselves out of poverty. As a result, women are more likely to work in informal, low-wage jobs with exploitative and unequal working conditions, and have restricted access to affordable, quality financial products and services, like a savings account or small loan. Only 37% of women in poor countries have access to basic financial services.

Before finding the most effective solutions, the main problems faced by women that set a barrier to their economic empowerment should be known. These main problems can be listed as:

- Unpaid Care Work
- Work and Livelihoods Opportunities
- Non-Gender-Responsive Economic Policy Making
- Pay Gap
- Education Problem

#### Unpaid Care Work:

One of the significant structural barriers to women's economic empowerment is women's disproportionate burden of unpaid work at home that restricts women from taking up paid jobs, undertaking advanced education and skills training, and most importantly—participation in public life. The household chores have economic value but is not counted in traditional measures of GDP. It is estimated

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that unpaid work being undertaken by women today “amounts to as much as \$10 trillion of output per year, roughly equivalent to 13 percent of global GDP”

Countries should address the unequal distribution of unpaid care work between men and women through a variety of initiatives, from improving infrastructure to ensure access to water, sanitation, roads and healthcare to making investments in family care services, maternity and paternity leave policies, and flexible work arrangements.

### **Work and Livelihoods Opportunities:**

Many more women than men are in poorly paid and protected jobs, with inadequate or unequal income and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers’ fundamental rights. And despite women’s increasing levels of education, discriminatory attitudes often prevent women from entering the workforce or being promoted to senior levels.

### **Non-Gender-Responsive Economic Policy Making:**

To design economic policies and strategies that take into consideration the differentiated needs and contributions of women and men and address gender-based disparities in access to services and resources would eliminate a big part of women's economic empowerment problem.

### **Pay Gap:**

Women around the world continue to face a wage gap. In fact, women on average will need to work more than 70 additional days each year just to catch up to the earnings of men. Researches shows that even after taking into account prior experience, time since degree, job level, industry, and global region, women MBA graduates were paid \$4,600 less than men in their first job after graduation. And this situation puts a great barrier between woman and their economic empowerment.

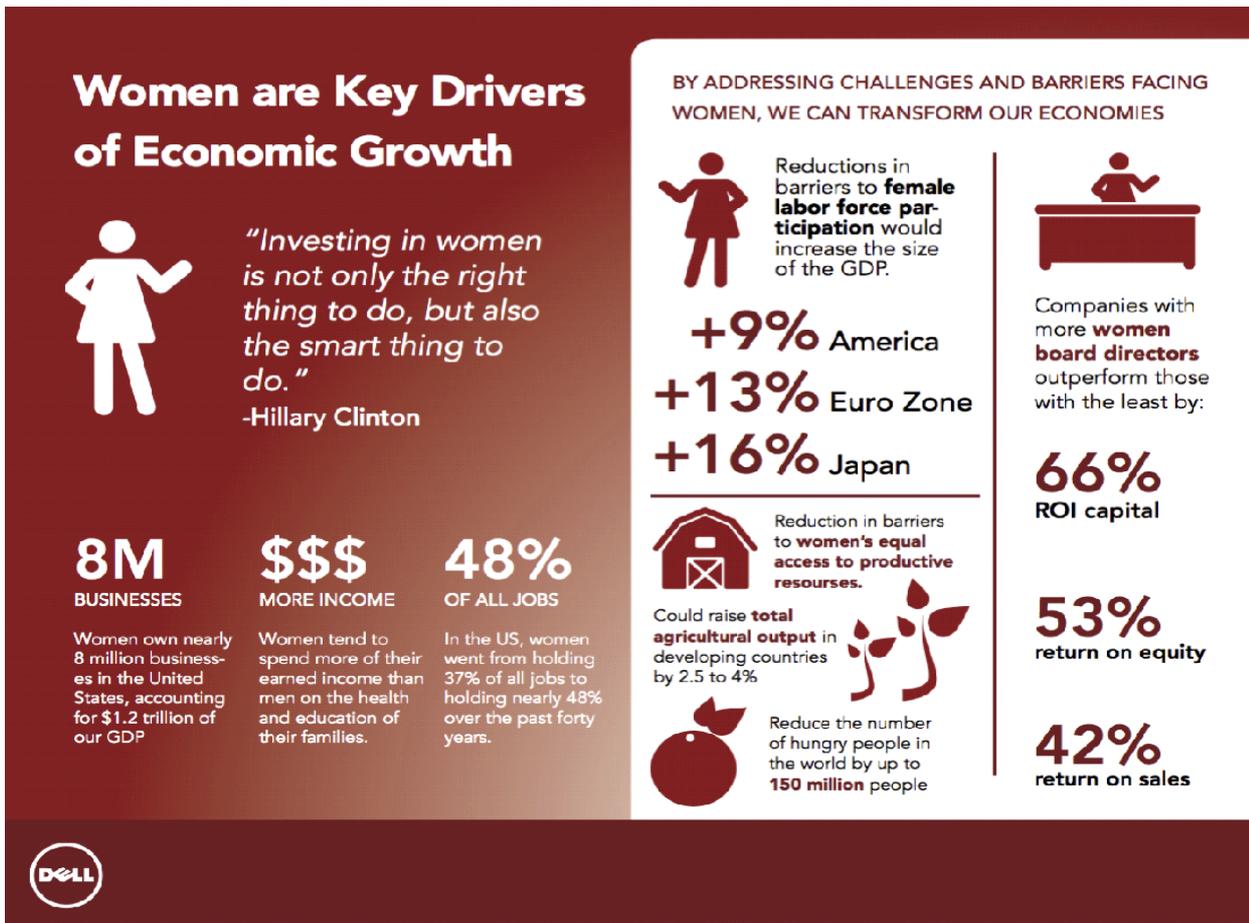
### **Education Problem:**

Since it is a major fact that there is still lack on girls’ education, the uneducated women have a more narrow scale about finding a job compared to men. Also lots of women don’t know their right of employment.

And what is the importance of all these? Greater women empowerment boosts economic growth and leads to better development outcomes. It

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contributes to reducing income inequality and boosting economic diversification and, in turn, supports economic resilience.



## Timeline of Events

- Ahead of her time, prominent women's rights activist and Russian philanthropist Anna Filosofova believed it was better to educate and train the poor rather than provide cash benefits. In 1860, she co-founded a society to provide support to the poor, including not only affordable housing but also decent work for women.

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Poverty is one of the greatest challenges of our time, disproportionately affecting women and girls; their health, employment and safety. Today, 836 million people still live in extreme poverty.

- A functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is established as the first global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Instrumental in monitoring the status of women's rights worldwide and shaping global standards on gender equality, the Commission brings together Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities to assess gaps and evaluate progress on an annual basis. In the Commission, Member States agree on actions to accelerate the achievement of women's rights and empowerment.
- The International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994 becomes a landmark moment in history when the global community reaffirms that realizing women's and girls' rights is a key driver of sustainable development. Specifically, the Conference's forward-looking outcome document, also known as the 20-year ICPD Programme of Action or Cairo Consensus, articulates a new vision for population, development and well-being. It positions women's empowerment at the centre of development, and places the right of women and couples to control their own fertility at the heart of population policies and programmes.
- A staunch environmentalist, Vandana Shiva formed Navdanya in India during the early 1990s to conserve unique strains of seed crops and to educate farmers on eco-diversity. Under Navdanya, she also created a programme on biodiversity, food and water, which empowers women in protecting the livelihoods of their communities. Sustainable development is a key driver to women's economic empowerment.

Yet, today, less than 20 per cent of landholders are women. Gender differences in access to land and credit can limit economic opportunities for women farmers.

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