

WIGSAT – Women, technology, society

Framework on Gender Equality and the Knowledge Society

www.wigsat.org

Knowledge society inputs: women’s potential for participation

Dimension	Indicator topic area	Comment
Health status	Female healthy life expectancy	Good health is a prerequisite for the development of educated, creative, skilled women participating in the knowledge society.
	Prevalence of rates of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (M/W)	A long life in and of itself does not necessarily mean a healthy life, particularly in developing countries with high rates of infectious diseases. This indicator measures women’s comparative rates of having these diseases.
	Physical integrity (FGM)	Health is also affected by cultural practices that may impair women’s ability to be equal members of society.
Social status	Equity/discrimination in social institutions	Measures equity in social institutions and cultural/traditional practices that impact women’s participation in social and economic development; includes family code and civil liberties (based on OECD GID database).
	Sex ratio at birth	Fewer females than males may signal female foeticide; this is an indicator of a society with deep underlying discrimination against women.
	Prevalence of violence against women	Qualitative indicator- to be based on surveys of women. An increasing number of countries now have some data on violence against women.
	Time use/workload	Includes women’s multiple productive, reproductive and community roles; data is becoming increasingly available on this indicator.
Economic status	Women as percentage of economically active population	Women are more likely to be active in the knowledge society if they are in the economically active population.
	Earned income ratios (M/W)	To identify disparities in income and economic discrimination.
	Females by category of workers (self-employed, salaried, family workers)	To capture women’s unpaid as well as paid economically productive labour.
	Shares of women in poorest quintile	To measure % of women with a decent standard of living.
Access to resources	Ownership rights to land, houses and other property	These two measures indicate whether women have the ability to own property and access credit which would enable their becoming entrepreneurs, taking advantage of opportunities and generally acting autonomously.
	Access to credit, loans, venture capital	
	Percent of women using Internet and cell phones.	Access to a cell phone or a computer, along with ICT literacy, is a basic prerequisite for women to enter the knowledge society.
	Use by women of railroads and other transportation infrastructure	Access to transport is key to women’s participation in the knowledge society.
	Access to electricity, including penetration and reliability in rural areas	National household surveys could provide this data.
Women’s Agency	Shares of women in lower houses of parliaments	These are the classic standard measures of women’s empowerment based on widely available data.
	Shares of women ministers and sub-ministers	

Dimension	Indicator topic area	Comment
	Women in senior positions in political parties and trade unions	To capture civil and political empowerment of women below national level.
	Contraceptive use	To capture women's abilities to control and make choices about their bodies and lives.
Opportunity and capability	Men's/women's adult literacy rates	These are the standard measures of gender equality in education used by the MDGs, UNDP and others.
	Primary, secondary and tertiary enrolments	
	Availability of on-the-job, staff, specialized training	This complements the standard educational indicators above with the addition of the variable of access to lifelong learning that is key to the knowledge society. This indicator is a proxy for women's access to technical and vocational training in the education system and workplace, lifelong learning, distance learning and adult education.
	Distance education enrollments	Measures women's access to adult education and lifelong learning.
Enabling Policy Environment	Inclusion of gender issues in the national knowledge society policies on science and technology, ICT, labour and education, industry, etc.	Consideration of gender issues will facilitate the use of women's knowledge and the flourishing of their innovation and entrepreneurship in these sectors.
	Institutionalization of gender mainstreaming across ministries and departments	An indicator on the extent of gender mainstreaming in national government; requires survey data collection.
	Country is signatory to CEDAW	Government compliance with international standards and conventions on women's rights and violence against women.
	Gender budgeting allocations to benefit women in knowledge society sectors	Gender budgets indicate existence of government programmes and or support for women; as well as a way to address gender-differentiated impacts in planning and implementation
	Science and engineering	Indicates support and encouragement of females in the S&T sector.

Knowledge society outcomes: indicators of women's participation in the knowledge society

Dimension	Indicator topic area	Comment
Women in knowledge society decision-making	Shares of women as legislators, senior officials and managers	Indicates women's empowerment in the knowledge society in terms of representation at high decision-making levels of key knowledge society sectors.
	Share of businesses with 35% or more women in decision-making positions	See above. An indicator pioneered by the European Union.
Women in knowledge economy	Shares of women in professional and technical positions	Documents women knowledge workers.
	Shares of women in administrative and managerial positions	Documents women knowledge workers.
	Employment by economic activity (occupation and status) in agriculture, industry and services in KS areas	Identifies key KS areas and levels where women are working.
	Women with high-level computer skills	A high level of computer skills correlates highly with knowledge work.
	Shares of women among information technology workers	Measures women's employment in the high tech

Dimension	Indicator topic area	Comment
		sector.
Women in S&T and Innovation Systems	Shares of women studying science and engineering at tertiary level	Given the leaky pipeline for women in science and technology studies, reaching tertiary-level studies is a KS outcome.
	Shares of women scientists and engineers	These indicators show women's utilization of and contribution to the development of knowledge at the highest levels.
	Shares of women researchers	
	Comparative rates and trends of publication in referred journals and "grey" literature	
	Gender trends in brain drain in highly skilled fields	Understanding national gender trends in this area can provide policy makers with information on which sectors of society may provide return on investments.
	Women's early stage entrepreneurial activity.	Young businesses are most likely to be in knowledge society areas; as women-led businesses, they also have the multiplier effect of likelihood of employing more women.
	Number of businesses with more than one employee run by women.	Chart's women's leadership in the medium and high technology sector.