



BHUTAN GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Bhutan on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains, minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Click the measures below to explore the [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#).

Compared to:	Base Year	Region
>10% Higher Value	↗	
Equal/No Change	→	
>10% Lower Value	↘	
No Data	---	

		Country Performance					Peer Comparison		
		Baseline			Latest		Latest		
		Value	Year		Value	Year	SAS	LMC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	NA	NA	---	6.34	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	6.08	2020	NA	NA	NA
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	38.7	2005	↗	57.1	2017	65.6	NA	83.3
	Male	65.0	2005	↗	75.0	2017	81.3	NA	90.1
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		2.30	2010	↘	1.93	2020	2.34	NA	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		36.0	2010	↘	16.3	2020	22.4	NA	41.0
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		247	2010	↘	183	2017	163	NA	211
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		77.3	2010	→	85.0	2015	49.3	NA	NA
Contraceptive prevalence, any modern method (% of married women 15-49)		65.4	2010	---	NA	NA	45.6	NA	53.6
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	18.2	2010	→	17.2	2019	19.6	NA	14.8
	Male	20.4	2010	→	19.6	2019	25.0	NA	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	63.4	2010	↘	51.6	2021	22.0	NA	46.3
	Male	72.3	2010	→	67.4	2021	71.8	NA	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	22.4	2010	↘	16.8	2019	25.7	NA	54.6
	Male	37.3	2010	→	35.4	2019	29.2	NA	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	65.9	2010	→	64.0	2019	56.9	NA	25.3
	Male	54.9	2010	→	50.2	2019	37.5	NA	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	45.4	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	14.1	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		57.0	2010	↘	45.1	2020	51.2	NA	54.6
Women who own land both alone and jointly (% of women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Men who own land alone (% of men)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	27.7	2014	63.7	51.7	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	39.0	2014	72.9	60.6	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	1.84	2014	5.37	6.81	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	4.32	2014	7.94	9.00	7.57
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		31.3	2009	↗	43.3	2015	18.4	NA	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	26.3	2015	11.0	NA	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		8.51	2010	↗	17.0	2021	19.0	NA	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		25.8	2010	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		68.4	2010	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Women participating in the three decisions (own health care, major household purchases, and visiting family, % of women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: The South Asia (SAS) region includes 8 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Bhutan is a lower middle income (LMC) country, which includes 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,046 to \$4,095 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#).

Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Bhutan performs relative to the region, income group, and the world. Lighter and darker shades represent values 10 percent above and below regional peer values, respectively.

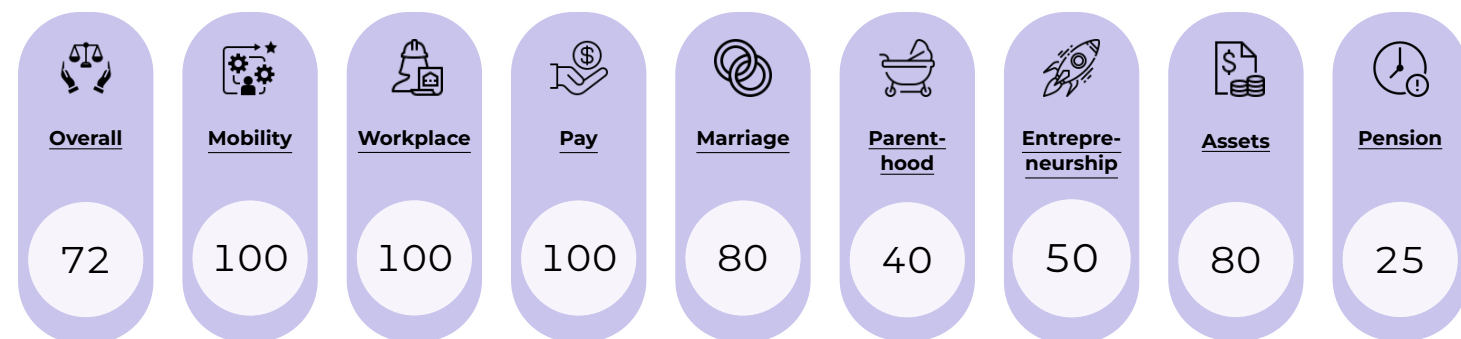




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Women, Business and the Law in Bhutan

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Bhutan scores 72 out of 100**, while the regional average across South Asia is 80.

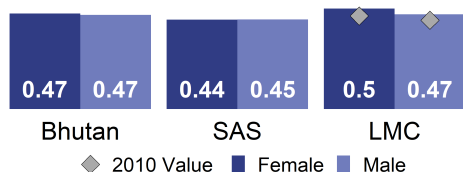


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Bhutan

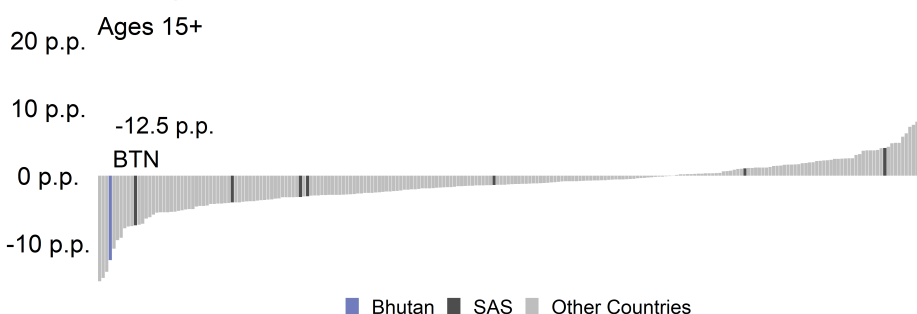
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)



Unpacking the Numbers in Bhutan

48 percent

A girl born today will be 48 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

16 points

Men and women have a 16 percentage point gap in labor force participation **(2021)**

4.9 times

Men hold 4.9 times as many seats in the national parliament as women **(2021)**

0.67 times

A man is 0.67 times as likely to have used the internet to pay bills or to buy something online in the past year **(2014)**

LEARN MORE

The World Bank in Gender: This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.

Women, Business and the Law: This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.

World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-FY23): This 2015 report outlines the World Bank Group's strategy to promote gender equality.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

SAS Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.

