



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 and minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Click the links 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 School	Female	NA	NA	---	6.34	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	6.08	2020	NA	NA	NA
Literacy rate (% age 15+)	Female	38.7	2005	↗	57.1	2017	65.6	70.0	83.3
	Male	65.0	2005	↗	75.0	2017	81.3	82.9	90.1
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		2.30	2010	↘	1.93	2020	2.34	2.67	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)		36.0	2010	↘	16.3	2020	22.4	41.4	41.0
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women ages 15-49)		11.7	2010	---	NA	NA	13.8	14.6	NA
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		77.9	2010	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		247	2010	↘	183	2017	163	253	211
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	18.2	2010	→	17.2	2019	19.6	19.1	14.8
	Male	20.4	2010	→	19.6	2019	25.0	25.3	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% age 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	63.4	2010	↘	51.6	2021	22.0	33.6	46.3
	Male	72.3	2010	→	67.4	2021	71.8	72.0	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	22.4	2010	↘	16.8	2019	25.7	33.5	54.6
	Male	37.3	2010	→	35.4	2019	29.2	38.0	53.0
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	65.9	2010	→	64.0	2019	56.9	41.9	25.3
	Male	54.9	2010	→	50.2	2019	37.5	36.0	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	45.4	40.4	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	14.1	14.5	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		57.0	2010	↘	45.1	2020	51.2	55.9	54.6
Women who own land alone (% of women age 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Financial institution account (% age 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 (% age 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
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		31.3	2009	↗	43.3	2015	18.4	33.9	33.1
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	26.3	2015	11.0	20.0	17.8
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		8.51	2010	↗	17.0	2021	19.0	21.5	26.1
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 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 ages 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 age 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: Data retrieved from World Bank Gender Data Portal. 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 definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#). Country Baseline provides a reference value between 1990 and 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. Baseline comparisons are represented by an arrow icon that points to increases or decreases greater than 10 percent relative to the base year. Comparison to the regional average shows how Bhutan performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Darker and lighter shades represent values 10 percent or below or above its peers in the region, respectively.

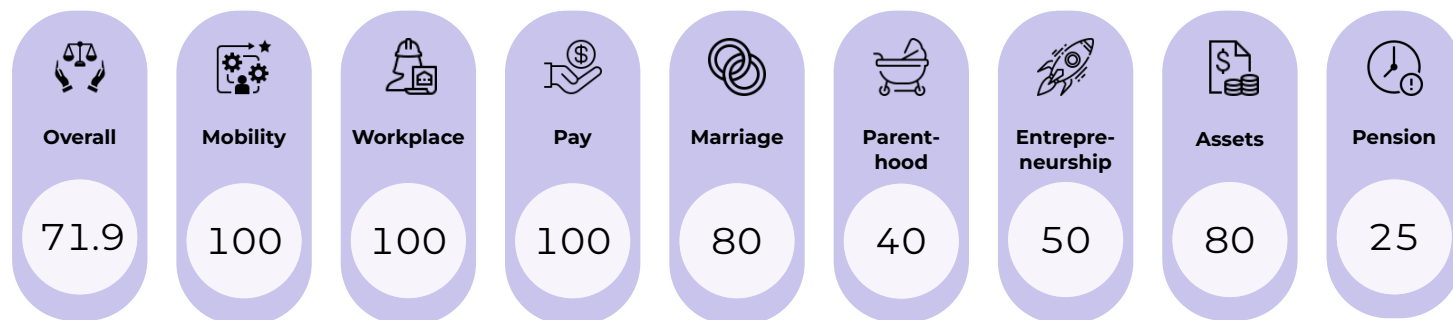




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Women, Business and the Law in Bhutan

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 71.9 out of 100**, while the regional average across South Asia is 80.4.

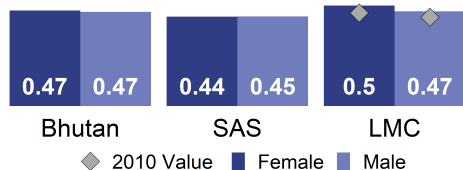


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Bhutan

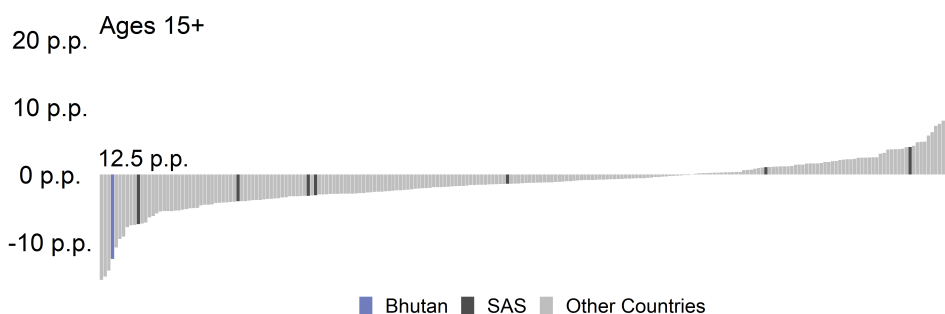
Despite some progress, gender gaps persist, gender-based violence and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls remain sticky, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic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

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2019 (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)

15.8 points

Men and women have a 15.8 percentage point gap in labor force participation (2021)

6 times

Men hold 6 times as many seats in the national parliament as women (2021)

0.7 times

A man is 0.7 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 page shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.
- **IFC Work in Gender:** This page provides an overview of the work by IFC to promote gender equality in its global partnerships.
- **South Asia Gender Innovation Lab:** This page features policy research by the GILs, identifies priority gender gaps and tests innovative solutions in the SAS region.

