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Innovation and Technological Change and Education in the Digital Age for Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls

“Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world” – Hillory Clinton

Social security and empowerment of all women and girls has been a requirement in our society since the beginning. The UN has taken several steps in order to ensure equality in society for all. A prime example would be the Beijing Declaration- its objective is to advance the goals of equality, development, and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women known as CEDAW has also been adopted by the UN.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is not too far behind and has started making strides in the right direction. The 1972 constitution asserted that "women hold equal social status and rights with men." Similarly, the 1990 constitution stipulates that the state creates various conditions for the advancement of women in society. In principle, North Korean law supports sexual equality. Globally too, some progress on women’s rights has been achieved. In the DPRK, 91.7% of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality under the SDG indicator, with a special focus on violence against women, are already in place. North Korea is a deeply patriarchal society, and women have traditionally been defined by two words: mother and wife. However, when the famine hit the country in the 1990s and the public food distribution system disintegrated, it was left to women to try to earn money to feed their families. In recent decades, there’s been a huge shift in the role of North Korean women and the choices they are able to make. North Korea has enacted laws such as the [Law on Sex Equality](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_on_Sex_Equality&action=edit&redlink=1), the [Labor Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Labor_law_(North_Korea)&action=edit&redlink=1), and the [Law on Nationalization of Essential Industries](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_on_Nationalization_of_Essential_Industries&action=edit&redlink=1). Although these social systems have not entirely been successful, they have been integrated into daily life to help women. The reforms implemented provided [women's rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_rights) at work, rights of [inheriting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inheriting) and sharing of properties, and rights of free [marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage) and [divorce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divorce).  Today, women in North Korea participate in a variety of labor forces, and there is a considerable number of women who are in high positions. Also, there are many facilities for women including sanatoria, rest homes, and maternity hospitals.

A prevailing issue in the country has been insufficient opportunities for women in higher position jobs and within the state departments; thus, an increase in job prospects for women where they are responsible for bringing the change required for their kind is highly desirable. The change has to be promoted at the grass-root level: women should receive professional training to hold positions of responsibility. These initiatives should also be inclusive – allowing women from different social strata to benefit equally. Using social media platforms to promote and support this initiative will definitely prove beneficial and have a larger outreach.

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