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Country: Ethiopia

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Topic: Violence Against Women and Women’s Rights

In Ethiopia, it is known that women are exposed to inhumane and unjust acts of oppression and are affected by harmful traditional practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation. Gender studies in Ethiopia were mainly concerned with development issues and the equalization of women’s rights on a political and social level. Here is a passage from an article on -www.american.edu that roughly states “Most Ethiopian men don’t respect women, and are unsure if a woman can think, and work and serve equally with a man.” With all this inequality and friction between the two genders.

Although many women have stood up against oppression, the fact remains that unlawful discrimination and violent behavior towards women is still prevalent today, whether it be in a workspace or at home. Activist Malala Yousafzai made a powerful statement when she said, “We cannot succeed when half of us are held back”. She was oppressed and many tried to keep her silent, but she would not sit quietly, instead she raised her voice, but as she said. “I raise up my voice – not so I can shout, but so those without a voice can be heard.” Ethiopia believes that to end violence against women, nations must look into empowering women in all aspects of society and protect them against oppressors. The government has been working to increase the number of Ethiopian women representatives in parliament. This increase in elected women has strengthened their ability to influence decision-making and the passing of policies to advance gender equality. The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) adopted in 1994, Establishes the equal rights of Women and men across economic, social, and political spheres, including education, employment, and access to and management of resources. However, despite various measures, women continue to be amongst the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in all aspects compared to men.

In 2023, more than one-third (37%) of Ethiopian women experienced gender-based violence. (Dovepress.com) These facts are indicative of how women’s rights are a secondary concern to the state. In order to improve gender equality in Ethiopia or any other country around the world, societal norms need to be reformed and integrated into the educational system in order to correct the mindset of future generations in order to facilitate change. Additionally, corrective measures and the legal system should be stricter on the implementation of the laws regarding gender equality.

*“Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world” is an inspirational quote by Hillary Clinton, emphasizing the power and importance that women hold.*

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