

Throughout history Finnish women have had the responsibility to care for the home and raise the children. To complete these tasks, women in developing countries have to look for water and fuel for cooking food. Women around the world bear the responsibility for their children and homes and lack access to basic sanitation. This lack of proper sanitation aggravates health problems and creates environmental and social problems. This is a particular problem of women in developing countries who live in rural areas.

Poor women in developing countries, living in rural areas, don't have access to the resources that women in urban areas have. Rural women often have to travel long distances to get water for their home; often this water is contaminated. These same women also produce a negative impact on the environment when cutting trees for cooking fuel which produce a significant imbalance in the water cycle of their region. Without fuel alternatives for cooking and lighting they are forced to deplete the natural surroundings. Women living in these conditions are also socially marginalized due to social mores that hinder their efforts to study and open businesses that could help improve their family's circumstances.

Adding to these factors we have a chronic lack of sanitation and insufficient access to health services that could help them avoid preventable diseases. Asking women in such a difficult situation to take care of the environment, not pollute and degrade natural resources, is pointless and even cruel. An environment needs to be created where the fulfilment of a woman's personal and family needs are met in concordance with the main objective of not degrading the environment, providing food for their families and personal growth.

Therefore, Finland proposes that in order to achieve these goals we need to formulate a plan that takes into consideration food supply, law, health, education and the development of entrepreneurial conditions that permit women to look after their families in an ecofriendly manner, permitting them to earn a living and develop a healthy self-worth as an empowered woman.

These objective need the direct involvement of national government and international institutions .These organisations need to understand that disregarding the plight for survival of women and their families in the short term will create natural disasters that affect all the country as a whole at an unbearable cost.

On the subject of food supply, land reform should be enacted for the families to produce marketable crops and food self sustainability with the technical assistance from the government. With the help

from government, commercialisation barriers should be eliminated. A national basic food supply program should be enacted that provides basic nutrition for children, following the positive initiative of distributing the food supplement Plumpy Nut—is a nutrient-rich paste made from peanuts, milk powder, sugar, vegetable oils, and a mixture of vitamins and minerals. It needs no preparation and has a low cost— used in children has shown great success in reducing malnourishment in poor rural and disaster prone areas.

In order for all of this to work, we all need a legal system. Without a legal system that protect the rights of women to live an independent life, the chances of poor women in developing countries to get out of poverty are diminished. In many developing countries women are not allowed to enter commerce or professions that will help them earn a good living standard. Women must have access to a means to provide for themselves and their families. Women should be actively protected from abuse, slavery and traditions that culturally exclude them.

Proper health facilities must be made available, not only to women, but to the entire rural populations in developing countries to avoid preventable diseases. In countries like Guatemala, Panama, Madagascar and Tanzania to name a few, programs have been created where paramedics and properly trained midwives help provide basic health services to isolated communities. Through the use of technology these basic health outposts are connected to a regional hospital where diagnostics and test can be evaluated without the need for a specialist to be on site.

The keystone to bringing women out of the serfdom and poverty, that causes them to devastate the environment, is education. Education should not be a privilege of urban dwellers or men only. Through an aggressive literacy program women can get out of the marginalised social and economic situation in which they live. A small part of the national budget should be appointed to the literacy program, which could easily be accomplished with the help of community sponsors or volunteer college students. It has been demonstrated that in Central America after such program were enacted the participation of women increases in the economic sector, as well as in political activity; helping achieve greater prosperity for their communities.

Women have a natural instinct for entrepreneurship. But this instincts needs the right conditions to flourish, especially in rural or isolated areas where overburdened women are struggling with daily life. Entrepreneurship goes hand in hand with education, training and social stability. Without these conditions a strong entrepreneurial community can't prosper.

We recommend for governments to help these impoverished women by developing training programs in their communities that allow them to better take care of their families, to be more productive with soil use and to connect with other groups of women experiencing the same situation. The problems of sustainability and its impact in the life of rural or even urban poor women is very complex. It will require the goodwill of the government to break barriers, the goodwill of society to look at

women as equal to men, in order to create a society that can live in harmony with the environment and humans.

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Equality between women and men is an important part of the Finnish welfare state model. The goal is that women and men should have equal rights, commitments and opportunities in all fields of life. It is extensively known that a society can progress in a more positive and democratic way when the competence, knowledge, experience and values of both women and men are allowed to influence and enrich the development.

In order to eliminate gender gap, Finland has created The Act on Equality between Women and Men which has been in order since 1987. It has three major goals: the prevention of sex discrimination, the promotion of equality between women and men and the improvement of women's status, especially in working life. The Act places a role for sponsoring equality eagerly and systematically on all authorities and employers as well as in education, teaching and research.

Social and governmental levels of gender violence are necessarily included in the area of equality. Equality matters fall within the field of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Finland. Those responsible for the practical implementation of equality are The Ombudsman for Equality, who works as an independent authority looking up at compliance with the Act on Equality of Women and Men, specially in the prohibition on discrimination and discriminatory job advertising, and The Equality Unit, which prepares the government's gender equality policy.

Even though Finland knows how to manage gender gap in the field of work and equal rights, there is a lack of authority in the area of gender based violence; women's equal rights are protected in the public sphere but not in the private sphere. The rate of domestic violence in Finland is almost twice the European average, at 43.5%, according to Naisten Linja, a hotline for victims of family violence. Twenty percent of all homicides in Finland are associated to a woman's death at the hands of a current or former partner, according to the National Research Institute of Legal Policy. There is too much violence against women because of the way the punishment is approached. The "punishment" Finland gives to sex offenders is mediation, rather than the judicial system, is still considered the best means of coping with domestic violence. This approach has been harshly criticised by Amnesty International in its most recent report about rape in Nordic countries.

Mediation is not the fitting method of dealing with crimes of violence against women, as such processes do not offer protection equal to the criminal law and frequently lead to repeated re-victimization of women at risk. The dependence on mediation may be one reason why the number of reported rapes in Finland is far lower than its Nordic neighbours, according to many studies. In Finland, only 2-10 percent of rapes are reported, compared to 25% in Denmark.

There is a long path to follow in order to change minds and solve the problems of gender based violence, but there is a way to start. It all starts with education; "Voices against Violence" is a co-educational program made for various age groups ranging from 5 to 25 years. It provides young people with tools and ability to understand the main causes of violence in their communities, to educate and involve their friends and communities to prevent such violence, and to learn about where to access support if violence is experienced. If all countries follow the path of education we could get to a better world.

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Education has harsh effects on people's position in the labor market, wages and other areas of life. Finland's gender equality policy goal has long been the reduction of gender segregation in matters such as educational choices.

Finland's education segregation consists in the difference and imbalance between the genders, which is shown in matters such as study choices, learning results, student evaluation, and the composition of the school and teaching staff. Therefore, schools' practical operations and operating environments still comprise practices and cultures based on gender-based division of duties.

In Finnish society, the gap between male and female in schools has been a topic of discussion for decades. In the past, Finnish boys did better than girls on math tests. The latest PISA results from 2012 show that, for the first time, the gender difference in math skills favors girls. Regarding literacy, the difference in favor of girls was the largest in the OECD countries. Girls have consistently outperformed boys in terms of literacy, and this gap has widened ever since 2000. Girls and boys performed equally well in natural sciences. A drop has been seen in both girls' and boys' proficiency in natural sciences since 2006. However, it is important to note that the majority of girls and boys fare equally well in Finnish schools.

Gender-based segregation in working life is particularly strong in Finland in international comparison. Segregation is considered to affect Finnish society in a variety of ways. It restricts individual choices, gives the labor market less flexibility and may prevent the efficient use and function of skills.

In Finland, the average woman earns 83 percent of the wage of her male counterpart for the same work. Some part of the pay gap can be explained by the fact that women and men work in different fields and jobs. Studies have shown that when we look at women and men from the same age group with similar educational backgrounds working in the same fields and jobs, women earn some ten

percent less than their male counterparts. The pay gap is based on several factors. The existing pay gap cannot be explained by individual differences between women and men such as ones related to education, age, career interruptions due to family obligations or career length. Women's careers are, on average, only a year shorter than men's, and women are more highly educated. On the other hand, men's regular weekly working hours in full-time employment are slightly longer than women's.

Women account for approximately one-third of Finland's entrepreneurs, which is a relatively high share in comparison with other EU countries. Female entrepreneurs more frequently operate as individual entrepreneurs or on a part-time business basis. They often operate in fields providing personal services such as exercise and fitness, hairdressing and the beauty industry, entertainment and culture, business services, and social welfare and healthcare services.

As we all know education is the foundation for everything done in life, that is why Finland has put it as its main priority. What we want to apply to all countries is the Finnish method of education. The plan consists in educating all teachers with the best material available and to motivate them to give the best they can. Teachers are the main source of encouragement and motivation to students. Students also must spend more time in recreation and finding out what they like to do, rather than doing homework and stressing out for grades, standardised tests do not exist and there is no fight to see who is the best. This is why Finland is so successful in the area of education, because of this reduction in stress. This method should be applied everywhere.

In conclusion, the principal objective of the Finnish gender equality policy in reducing gender segregation is to create equal opportunities for women and men to fulfil themselves in family and working life as well as society, while also ensuring equal opportunities for achieving and realising these goals. The dismantling of gender-based division of labour is expected to contribute to better employment for men and women, the elimination of gender-based discrimination, and advancements in pay equity.

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