

13
Gender issues throughout a lifetime

UNICEF's 2007 report on state of the world's children had an informative section on how women are discriminated against at various stages through life, summarized here:

Foeticide(killing of a fetus; especially illegal abortion)and infanticide

UNICEF notes that "Where there is a clear economic or cultural preference for sons, the misuse of [pregnancy diagnostic tools] can facilitate female foeticide."

The middle years

"A principal focus of the middle years of childhood and adolescence, is ensuring access to, and completion of, quality primary and secondary education. With a few exceptions, it is mostly girls who suffer from educational disadvantage."

Adolescence

"Among the greatest threats to adolescent development are abuse, exploitation and violence, and the lack of vital knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS." Specific areas that UNICEF highlighted were female genital mutilation/cutting; child marriage and premature parenthood; sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking; sexual and reproductive health; and HIV/AIDS.

Motherhood and old age

These are "two key periods in many women's lives when the harmful effects of both poverty and inequality can combine." "It is estimated that each year more than half a million women—roughly one woman every minute—die as a result of pregnancy complications and childbirth," 99% of which occur in developing countries. Yet "many of these women's lives could be saved if they had access to basic health care services." In addition, elderly women may face double discrimination on the basis of both gender and age. Many older women are plunged into poverty at a time of life when they are very vulnerable.

Gender issues throughout a woman's life

Phase	Type
Prenatal	Prenatal sex selection, battering during pregnancy, coerced pregnancy (rape during war)
Infancy	Female infanticide, emotional and physical abuse, differential access to food and medical care
Childhood	Genital cutting; ^{illegal sexual relation} incest and sexual abuse; differential access to food, medical care, and education; child prostitution
Adolescence	Dating and courtship violence, economically coerced sex, sexual abuse in the workplace, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution, drug and use of tobacco, dependency on parents, decisions related to education, sexual maturation and self identity

Phase	Type
Reproductive	Abuse of women by ^{dear, near} intimate partners, dowry abuse and murders, partner homicide, psychological abuse, sexual abuse in the workplace, sexual harassment, rape, abuse of women with disabilities, violence, issues related to health
Old Age	Abuse of widows, elder abuse (which affects mostly women), loneliness, psychological issues, illness or diseases