

# Gender Equality and Sustainable Development in Africa

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## Gender Equality and Sustainable Development in Africa

Han Li

### Introduction

In much of Africa, men and women are treated unequally, with many women stuck at home taking care of children and keeping house. According to a 2009 report (UN, 2009), many women in Africa are not treated equally. The United Nations hopes to take a series of measures to help African women obtain equal treatment and achieve sustainable development.

The purpose of this article is to consider how women living in Africa can be treated equally with men. Equal education was proposed as a possible solution. Giving women equal education with men can improve women's status and make women get equal treatment with men. It has the potential to address the inequalities between men and women in Africa.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

The concept of sustainable development goals (SDGS) was put forward at the 1992 Earth Summit, aiming to ensure the current situation of people's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Taylor, 2021). In order to achieve the goal of sustainable development, the United Nations has set 17 sustainable development Goals, which cover human, environmental and human rights issues, and aims to achieve these goals over the next 15 years.

### SDG#5: Gender Equality

Achieving gender equality and giving women the same rights as men, which is the fifth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly aims to give women the same rights as men all over the world, which is very important for sustainable development because it is a fundamental human right (United Nations, n.d.). Empowering women can advance the world.

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## Findings and Discussion

Education is a great way to address gender equality as a sustainable development goal, because it not only empowers women with knowledge, broadens their minds and gives them confidence, but also teaches men the importance of gender equality, for better economic development (Cole, 2022). By changing the local traditional perception from both male and female aspects, we can better achieve the goal of sustainable development. Gender equality is very important.

Women should receive educational opportunities, which means women can work, and their social status will improve, because they will have time for themselves and stable income. When both men and women have income in a family, especially when women's income is higher than that of men, then women will get more equal treatment (World Bank, 2013). What's more, after women receive education, they will have better talent than men in some jobs, so the company will give priority to women rather than men in the recruitment, improving women's social status and giving women a certain social voice.

In Africa, not all women have access to education. If a woman without education wants to work, she loses her job because she does not meet the requirements of the company, so she has no stable economic source. She can only play the role of a housewife in the family, take care of the house and take care of the children. The only breadwinner in the family may be the male member of the family, so women are not treated relatively equally in the family.

By comparing educated women with uneducated women, it can be seen that there are great differences in their lives, and they are treated differently in some specific places, which shows that education can help women get equal treatment with men. Equal education can help

African people to realize SDG#5 gender equality. The government can adopt and support this approach to help African women obtain equal rights and treatment.

### **Conclusion**

People living in Africa still face many challenges, including women's access to gender equality, which is the focus of Sustainable Development Goal 5. The government can try to solve the problem of gender equality by giving women access to education. In other parts of the world, there are some areas that are facing the problem of gender equality. The regional government can also try to give women access to education to solve the problem, which is a promising solution to the problem.

With the development of the times, gender equality will be achieved in many places, but there will still be some areas that have not solved this problem. The government and educators should work together to help local women obtain equal rights and speed up the progress of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.

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