

Race and Ethnicity Equality Fact Sheet

International human rights laws make it clear that all people have the same human rights, regardless of their ethnic or racial identity. However, ethnic inequality – the disadvantages felt by racial minority groups – persists across the globe.

Less developed countries

Across the world there is a link between ethnicity and occupation, with certain jobs not only viewed as low status, but also lower paid and with fewer rewards. The Indian caste system is an example. While the caste system has clearly changed over the past few decades – with the practice of extreme segregation associated with untouchability banned in 1950 – Dalits are still much more likely to clean toilets than other groups and very unlikely to cook for an upper caste Hindu.

In India, while poverty in general is declining, poverty rates are generally higher for certain groups, namely Adivasis (or 'tribal' people, 45% of whom live in poverty in rural areas and 27% in urban areas), Dalits (former untouchables, 34% of whom live in rural poverty and 22% in urban poverty) and Muslims (27% rural, 23% urban). The poverty rates among upper caste Hindus for 2011/12 were just 16% in rural areas and 8% in urban areas.

More developed countries

The economic and political problems caused by ethnic inequality are also apparent in other countries. In most European countries, new migrants often work in insecure or even exploitative conditions, and in low-paid jobs that the native-born population may deem too lowly to perform.

We do know that in the UK there is a 12% employment gap between white British and ethnic minority people. This amounts to around 500,000 "missing" workers in the UK labour market. Figures from the Department for Work and Pensions show a jobless rate of 45% in 2013 for young black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers, with a figure of 19% for white people. Other European countries are experiencing similar challenges, whether in terms of low wages and discrimination towards new migrants, or the continuing effects of this discrimination on second and now even third-generation European-born ethnic minorities.

Source: Guardian website

<http://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2015/jan/20/ethnic-inequality-widespread-global-economy>

Ability Equality Fact Sheet

There are an estimated one billion disabled people worldwide, 80% of whom live in developing countries. International human rights laws make it clear that all people have the same human rights, regardless of ability or disability. However disabled people are commonly the poorest of the poor in society, experiencing social exclusion and discrimination at all levels.

People with disabilities represent 15% of the world's population.

In education

Disabled children and young people are some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society worldwide. They are often excluded from participation in social life and highly vulnerable to neglect and abuse. Disabled girl children are further marginalised within their families and communities and can face a double discrimination due to traditional gendered roles and responsibilities.

In work

Like all of us, people with disabilities need employment to earn a living, contribute to supporting their families and improve their self-esteem. Yet less than 20% of disabled people are currently employed.

In society

Inclusive education and inclusion through work are not enough by themselves to fully integrate people with disabilities into their communities. Access to information, leisure, buildings, and infrastructures are also important.

People with disabilities should be able to enter and move through their home, and also in public spaces and public buildings (libraries, polling stations, schools, sports ground, health centres, etc). An accessible environment is also beneficial to people with reduced mobility such as children and elderly people.

Source: Handicap International

http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/what_we_do

Age Equality Fact Sheet

Ageism is discrimination or unfair treatment based on a person's age. It can impact on someone's confidence, job prospects, financial situation and quality of life.

It can also include the way that older people are represented in the media, which can have a wider impact on the public's attitudes.

Older people may experience...

- Losing a job because of their age.
- Being refused interest-free credit, a new credit card, car insurance or travel insurance because of their age.
- Receiving a lower quality of service in a shop or restaurant because of the organisation's attitude to older people.
- Not being eligible for financial help due to age limits.
- Being refused a referral from a doctor to a consultant because you are 'too old.'
- Being refused membership to a club or trade association because of your age.

All of these situations are examples of ageism. You are protected against some of these situations by law, but not all of them.

Source: Age UK

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/work-and-learning/discrimination-and-rights/what-is-ageism/>

All children have the right to quality education, without any form of discrimination. However, in reality girls do not have equal access to education gender gaps in access to education have narrowed, but disparities remain among regions in all levels of education, particularly for the most excluded and marginalized. There has been major progress across all developing regions in primary school attendance. However, girls continue to face barriers to schooling, particularly in Northern Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. Although more girls are now in school in sub-Saharan Africa, only 93 girls are enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys.

Access to secondary and university-level education remains highly unequal. Substantial gains have been made in Western and Southern Asia, though girls continue to be at a disadvantage in those regions. Disparities are greatest at the university level. In Southern Asia, only 77 girls per 100 boys are enrolled in tertiary education. The situation is most extreme in sub-Saharan Africa, where the gender gap in enrolment has actually widened from 66 girls per 100 boys in 2000 to 61 girls per 100 boys enrolled in 2011.

Jobs

Women's share of paid employment outside the agricultural sector has increased slowly from 35 to 40% between 1990 and 2010, though it remains under 20% in Western Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia.

Women still enter the labour market on an unequal basis to men, even after accounting for educational background and skills. They are often relegated to vulnerable forms of employment, with little or no financial security or social benefits, particularly in Western Asia and Northern Africa, where paid opportunities for women are limited.

Globally, women occupy only 25% of senior management positions.

Source: United Nations

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_3_fs.pdf

Equal Access to Green Spaces Fact Sheet

People exposed to poor quality environments are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes than people who enjoy good quality environments.

There are lower rates of mortality across all groups with greater exposure to green space.

More generally, open space provides a platform for community activities, social interaction, physical activity and recreation, as well as reducing social isolation, improving community cohesion and positively affecting the wider determinants of health. For example, there is evidence of an association between social capital – such as volunteering, community trust and local safety – and health, including protective factors against dementia and cognitive decline in over-65s linked to social participation and community empowerment.

Evidence on the health benefits associated with use of green spaces is wide-ranging including positive associations with general health, health benefits associated with higher levels of physical activity, improved mental health and wellbeing as well as positive physiological effects of better quality environments.

Green space helps contribute to a healthier living environment overall, which is likely to have a positive impact on health. Research indicates that green space can improve the environmental quality of an area with consequential health benefits: improved air and water quality, and noise absorption are some of the environmental benefits that green spaces can provide. Additionally, green spaces can improve absorption of excessive rainwater, as vegetation intercepts rainfall leading to more evapotranspiration, reducing surface run-off and thereby the likelihood of flooding and sewage overflow, while protecting biodiversity and enhancing ecosystems.

Source: UCL Institute of Health Equity

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/improving-access-to-green-spaces>