

The Beijing Declaration

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The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 is a program meant for the enfranchisement for the women. The main agenda of the program that has persisted even to date remains to be an extensive strategy internationally that spring motivations and the avocation for equality across genders. In addition, the program outlines the rights and plights for young adults who are female. The program, basically an action plan, was developed in Beijing in 1995 in the fourth world conference, a platform where the matters affecting the women were discussed. The plan was basically meant to address 12 basic areas surrounding the women and the environment as well as their involvement in power. Other matters that were discussed include the girl child, how women are integrated in the economy and how they are affected by poverty, and violence against women¹. Other areas regarding women that were considered in the action plan include health, media, advancements, and armed conflict as well. Ideally, the action plan, by addressing the 12 concerns, advocated for an environment where women, young and adult, can comfortably execute their plans and aspirations, practice liberties accorded to them, get decent education, take part in the decision making processes, and secure employment opportunities where they are paid equally as they male counterparts. This essay will address the extent and how the action plan was implemented by member countries in regard to the 12 concerns between 1995 and 2015.

Assessment of Implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action

Among other concerns, the program was meant to address how poverty affected women and how the issue could be resolved. In the conference, it was established that income limitation and developmental assists highly contributed to poverty prevalence in women. Moreover,

¹ *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Fifty-fourth Session (13 March and 14 October 2009 and 1-12 March 2010)*. 2010. United Nations Pubns.

women were more restricted to acquiring adequate education as compared to their male counterparts as well as being subjected to social inclusivity and denial to better diets. In the period between 1990 and 2010, people in the third-world countries were subjected to ration specially in the base of more than \$1.25 daily in term of the capacity to purchase while the international and agreed upon weighing standards dropped by more than half (from 47% to 22%). In terms of income, studies showed that in more than 29 nations in the developing regions, females who were between the age of 49 and 15 years did not have ideal sources of income as compared to their male counterparts in the same age brackets. To ensure that there is ideal gender responsiveness and multidimensional evaluations of deficiency and key strategies which could facilitate proper earnings and time distributions in many families.

In terms of the primary level education, the developing areas had managed to attain gender parities before 2012. A substantial number of women had already acquired education and instruction. The parity increased from 0.86 to 0.97. Even though there has been some challenges in developing countries, a large number of girls have managed to acquire secondary education. Despite such developments in empowering girls in the education sector, it should be noted that the early childhood education is the basis from where the issue of gender inequality should be addressed. For women who are unable to afford care services, they plights were well catered for the program. Form the period between 1999 and 2000, the pre-primary schooling has been on the rise. According to a report by the UN regarding the issue, the gross enrolment index globally to pre-primary has developed to 50 percent from 33 percent². In regard to the international effects of the program and the focus on empowering the girl child, there is a step-by-step

² United Nations, UN. 2014. *Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly: Report of the secretary-General E/cn.6/2015/3*. New York: United Nations Economic and Social Council.

identification of the essence and criticality of education at the early childhood as well as the later levels of care for young females in developing countries.

In the Beijing conference, women and health was one of the key issues that were discussed in attempt to better the standard of living for women in developing countries especially in regard to physical and emotional health. The action plan takes into consideration the female health is accoutered for by factors such as social, economic, and political issues that affects their lives and biological wellness. The percentage of developing countries where the increase of birthrate was boosted by qualified practitioners increased in a recommendable percentage (56% to 68% between 1990 and 2012). Even so, a very high percentage of birthrates in the developing countries were not attended to by qualified and very professional healthcare practitioners. More than 40 million deliveries could not be performed by qualified healthcare practitioners in the developing countries. Reports also indicate that more than 32 million of such deliveries occurred in countries sides which paints a picture of the need for more healthcare improvements in such countries. Ideal coordination and development methods, effective councils of health, and facilities provision could be ideal methods of endorsing responsibilities and insights that could be critical in improving healthcare for women in the developing countries.

The Platform for Action identified the ferocity against women as one of the major concern that has to be addressed. The ferocities are expressed through violation liberties and rights that are considered basic human rights. Thus, women have not been deeded to prevent tranquility, equality, and progress as well. More than 35% of women around the world have at one point suffered from bodily harm and sexual harassment³. Nonetheless, it is key to note that

³ UN Women. 2015. *Summary report: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action turns 20*.

there are no sufficient tendencies and insights in the international scale that oppose the violation of women's rights and liberties. Despite the implementation of the program, there is the need for exigent concentration for the issue as nations show efforts to use accurate data that can draw the lines of how different forms of violation can be dealt with.

The program also sought to address the issues of women and armed clashes. In regard to the issue, the necessity to include women in the decision making procedures still persist as well as ways through which they can be included in clashes determination. The action plan, upon implementation saw an increase in elongated tranquility for women. In 2013 alone, more than 51 million people in different regions were displaced as they sought to stay safe from clashes as ferocity that would harm their lives. A high number of the population was constituted by females. The problem that proved to be persistent was the undermining of women and inadequate distribution of assets as well as women endorsement in safety agenda and policy development and execution.

Women have the ability to contribute positively to the economic sector. They can carefully enjoin their contribution with the health sector and manage to execute control while reserving their position in the society. Amid the implementation of the program, the number of women who contributed financial to their families' needs increased by 5% before 2012 (from 60% to 65% from 1995). Even so, the number of female workers globally reduced from 33% as in 1995 to a mere 24% in 2012⁴. When it comes to salaries, women remain underpaid as compared to their male counterparts. In Bauer's report, a global report concluded that women salaries was between 70% and 90% the salaries of males. As such, there is need to address the issues at the

⁴ Bauer, Gretchen, and Josephine Dawuni. 2015. *Gender and the Judiciary in Africa From Obscurity to Parity?* Taylor and Francis.

international stage to ensure that women get paid equally so that they can manage to cater for various expense and prevent poverty.

The Platform for Action program advocated for active involvement of women in the decision making process as taking part in development and execution of policies. The representation of women the political realms such as constituting a sustentation number in the national assembly could give them the opportunity to take part in lawmaking. They involvement could prove advantageous because more intelligence will be added to the process. In early 2014, female's accounted for a mere 23% of the workforce in the formal sector such as the national assembly which was a decent increase from only 12% in 1995 when the execution of the program commenced. Only 14.8% of women constituted the parliamentary ranks in the year 2014. The percentage was a slight increase from 10.5% which was recorded in 1995⁵. Increased insights and value as well as advocacy for women positions are necessary to empower women when it comes to decision-making processes.

In conclusion, there is sufficient data to confirm that indeed, there was improvement that took place between 1995 and 2015 when the implementation of The Platform for Action program commenced. Since the data can be obtained from credible reviews in different countries in the developing nations, it can be easy to track the progress of the program and determine the areas where improvement is necessary. People have developed positive perception on women. The level of abuse and discrimination has gone low and a positive future can be anticipated. Discrimination and bias in places of work has also gone down remarkably. Lastly, similar programs should be developed and implemented to ensure that the fights for women empowerment carries on.

⁵ Asian Development Bank. 2015. *Armenia Country Gender Assessment*. Asian Development Bank.

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