

Girls and women worst hit by recession

22nd January, 2013



It is hardly surprising news, but a new report shows that girls and women are those hit hardest by the global recession. The study is from the organizations Plan

International, which is working to reduce child poverty, and the Overseas Development Institute - the UK's leading independent think tank on international development and humanitarian issues. They state that: "The world is failing girls and women." The report's author Nigel Chapman said: "Girls are the largest marginalised group in the world." Mr Chapman added: "Much of the problem lies with 'entrenched gender inequality'." Chapman found that a worsening economy results in females of all ages having to work harder and suffering more domestic abuse.

Mr Chapman's report highlights a tragic increase in mortality rates for female infants. He told the BBC: "The proportion of baby girls who died when the economy shrank rose five times faster than the proportion of baby boys who died....Hence, a 1% fall in economic output increases infant mortality by 7.4 deaths per 1,000 girls against 1.5 for boys." He paints an equally bleak picture for girls not being able to complete their education. He reports that the global recession saw a fall in primary school completion for girls of 29% compared to 22% for boys. "Girls get sucked into domestic chores," he said. "Once they stop going to school it's very hard to get back into the rhythm of things."

Sources: BBC / Plan International.org

Writing

Girls and women will never achieve equality with boys and men. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

surprising news / hit hardest / recession / humanitarian / marginalised / gender inequality / mortality rates / proportion / economic output / bleak picture / rhythm

True / False

- The article opened with some very surprising news. T / F
- Three different organisations compiled the report mentioned. T / F
- The author said women and girls are being let down by the world. T / F
- A deteriorating economy leads to more violence against women. T / F
- Five times more baby girls die than baby boys during a recession. T / F
- A 1% fall in economic output sees a 7.4% rise in female infant deaths. T / F
- Only 29% of girls worldwide finish their education in times of recession. T / F
- It's difficult for girls to return to school if they start doing housework. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. hardly | a. socially-concerned |
| 2. hit | b. death |
| 3. humanitarian | c. ratio |
| 4. failing | d. mistreatment |
| 5. abuse | e. affected |
| 6. mortality | f. depressing |
| 7. proportion | g. jobs |
| 8. infant | h. barely |
| 9. bleak | i. baby |
| 10. chores | j. letting down |

Discussion – Student A

- Why do you think countries allow this to happen?
- What countries do you know of that needs to work harder on equality?
- Do you think women should be allowed to do anything a man does?
- There are very few women in positions of power in the European Union. Why?
- How much is a country held back economically if it does not provide girls with an education?
- Should there be sanctions on countries that treat girls so badly?
- Where do you think we'll be with this issue in 50 years?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of Plan International?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. It is hardly | a. poverty |
| 2. those hit | b. shrank |
| 3. working to reduce child | c. group in the world |
| 4. humanitarian | d. hardest |
| 5. Girls are the largest marginalised | e. rhythm of things |
| 6. a tragic increase in mortality | f. chores |
| 7. when the economy | g. mortality |
| 8. infant | h. surprising news |
| 9. sucked into domestic | i. rates |
| 10. get back into the | j. issues |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How surprised are you about this news?
- In what ways are women and girls hit by recession?
- Have you been hit by the recession?
- Why do women and girls suffer more than men and boys?
- Do women have and get equal opportunities in your country?
- Is it better to be a man or a woman in this world?
- How can we change the world to be better for women and girls?

Spelling

- It is hardly psgniruisr
- edtpndnee think tank
- the largest mrengisidala (UK) / mdainelrigza (US) group
- entrenched gender tyeulaniq
- a rgwnseoin economy
- suffering more domestic sbuea
- otmyatlr rates
- the opropointr of baby boys
- neceh, a 1% fall
- an aluyelq bleak picture
- domestic rsecho
- into the rthmyh of things

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. j	5. d
6. b	7. c	8. i	9. f	10. g

Role Play

Girl - You are fed up with the way the world treats girls. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell your country's leader 3 things you want him (her) to change. You want girls and women to get the good schools, positions and jobs for the next ten years. Tell the boy he has a responsibility to help girls.

Boy - You think girls don't get too bad a deal in life. Tell the others three reasons why. Explain why being a boy is also tough. You think society is changing and soon girls and women will be equal. You think it would be very unfair for your country's leader to treat girls better.

Global expert - You are shocked by the inequality between men and women. Tell the others three reasons why. You think the fact that so many more baby girls than boys die is similar to state murder. Tell the country leader to change this situation immediately. He must listen to the girl and do what she says.

Country leader - You know your country is very backward and treats women very badly. You cannot change anything because that is how society is. You don't think men will be happy if women are more equal. Tell the girl she has to work harder. Tell the expert he (she) is wrong. Get the boy to support you.

Speaking - Gender

Who is best at doing these things – men or women? Share your answers with your partners. Change partners often.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • cooking | • running a business |
| • apologising | • making decisions |
| • being romantic | • passing exams |
| • reading a map | • designing things |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.