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COURSE NAME:

**Gender Equality Globally**

Assignment Title:

**Achieve “Gender Equality” Globally by 2030.**

ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**July/2022**

**Introduction**

United Nations’ goal Number 5 is to achieve gender Equality and empower all women and girls by 2030. Gender equality is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities.

Gender equality is the state in which access to rights or opportunities are not affected by sexual orientation, this does not mean men or women, or trans-gender will have or need the same resources, but that their rights should not have to depend on their assigned gender at birth.

This is important to have a safer and healthier community. Gender equality is a human right that involves fairness, justice, peace, and security. This assignment looks at the progress so far in achieving gender equality and whether it is achievable.

**Body of Assignment**

Women are 52% of the World population. Gender inequality denies half the population of world the potentials to live their lives to the fullest politically, economically etc.

The United Nations Sustainable Goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030.The goal has the following nine targets:

* End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
* Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.
* Eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
* Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household.
* Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making.
* Ensure universal access to reproductive health and rights.
* Equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial resources.
* To promote the empowerment of women through technology.
* To adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation or gender equality.

(united nations, 2015).

In 2015, it was discovered that out of about 193 nations of the world, only 21 women are leaders showing. Some of the aspect of this goal were making progress until COVID -19 impacted on them. Target 1 has been affected adversely by the pandemic. Violence against women have increased. Child marriage that was declining in the previous years started increasing. Care work at home is also affecting women disproportionately. In addition to the foregoing, women played a critical role during the pandemic by being used mostly as front-line health workers, caregivers, managers and leaders at the response and recovery centres.

Women continue to be underrepresented in critical leadership positions, reports as at January 2021, shows data from 135 countries of a slow upward trend when the number of women in the lower parliament of government reached 25.6%. Discriminatory laws and legal gaps are still operative in preventing women from enjoying their human rights.

Some laws and policies still restrict women from working in certain jobs and industries, 2019 report shows 39 % of women in the global labour force out of which only 28.3% women are in managerial positions.

Reports based on survey (2000-2018) confirms one in three women have been subjected to physical or/ and sexual violence by a husband or an intimate partner. The practice of Child marriage however reduced significantly over the past decade by 15%. one in five young women being married as children. (United Nations, 2021)

Data from 31 countries shows about 200 million of women and girls have been subjected to genital mutilation while report from 90 countries (2001-2019) shows women spending 2.5 times as many hours as men in unpaid domestic and care work.

There is a need to rebuild systems, laws, policies, and institutions to advance gender equality. In addition, empowering more women with mobile phones has been shown to accelerate social and economic development.

Although no country is on track to achieving gender equality by 2030, it is however achievable by following the set down targets laid down by the United Nations.

* Stop all violence against women
* End child marriage and sexual harassment
* Educate women and girls
* Start placing values on the care given to family by women during pregnancy and childcare period.
* Let wages be transparent in the workplace
* Give equal house chores to boys and girls at home
* Support women in leadership positions
* Empower mothers in media and ICT

Study have shown that educating girls is the most effective policy, to raise awareness and help to promote gender equality. Mothers who have had some education, are more likely to send their children to school. Educated mothers will immunize their children more than the uneducated mothers. Girls with at least six years of education are more able to protect themselves from HIV /AIDS and other diseases. (UNICEF , 2010)

Therefore, to educate women at all cost is:

* to raise overall economic productivity
* lower infant and maternal mortality
* educate the next generation
* improve nutrition and promote health.

Empowering women in the use of ICT and media has also shown a positive effect on the economy. (UNICEF)

**Conclusion**

In my opinion, a lot goes into achieving gender equality. A nation with

gender equality will be stable, peaceful and happy. However, there is a lot to be considered in trying to achieve this goal. Girls have different hormones to boys; they are the ones that get pregnant and drop out of school while the boys continue with their education. They are more affected by infections due to rape and sexual harassments. In workplaces, pregnant women are rarely given employment or leadership roles because of absenteeism from work. (Adichie, 2021)

Women are the ones who sacrifice careers to take care of family while the fathers are not affected.

To be able to achieve this goal therefore, due consideration needs to be given to change policies, laws traditions and cultures that bring gender inequality.

In Africa, particularly my country Nigeria, the culture and religion have always placed men above the women in everything. Home, Workplace etc. They will rather educate the boy child than a girl in some families.

The government can start by paying wages for childcare and placing values on women and the girlchild.

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