

Subregional Conference



Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in South Asia: Reflections and Way Forward for ADB

ADB

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ADB

Persisting Gender Inequality Issues Faced by Women and Persons with Diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics

Topic: Persisting gender inequalities and intersecting inequalities

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Commitment to gender equality

✓ National Action Plan

International Commitments

- ✓ CEDAW
- ✓ SDG-5
- ✓ Beijing

Declaration

and the Platform for Action

- ✓ International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

Nodal Agency

- ✓ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Policy

- ✓ Women's Economic Empowerment
- ✓ Women's Political Empowerment
- ✓ Girls' Education
- ✓ Women's Sexual and reproductive rights
- ✓ End Violence against women

✓ Institutionalization of Gender mainstreaming



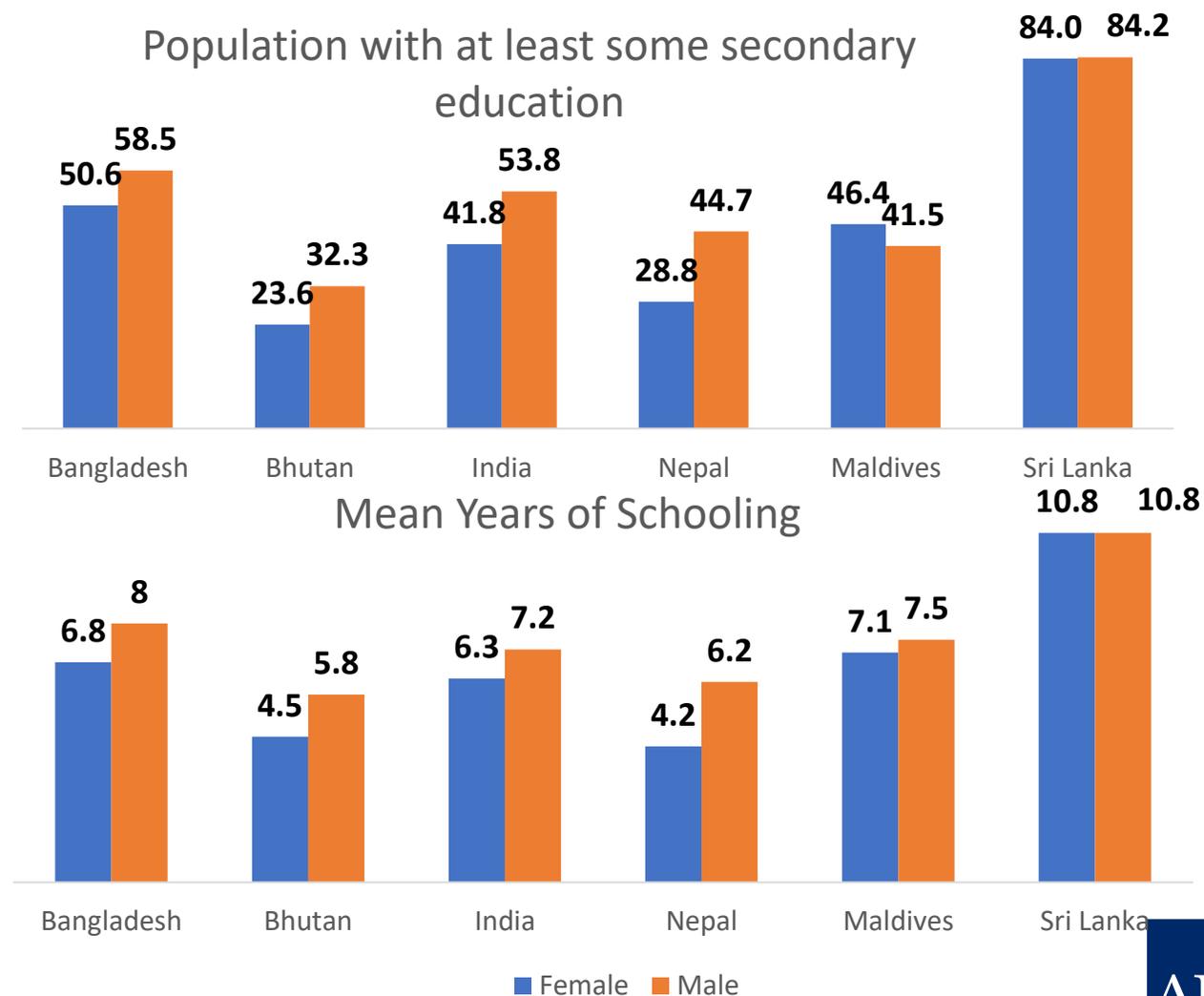
Facts and Figures - Education-related indicators for women

Key Observations

Inequality in terms of educational attainment persists in all DMCs

- In all DMCs (except Maldives), there is a gap between men and women w.r.t. population with at least some secondary education
- Mean years of schooling for females are lower in all, except in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Child/under-age marriage and restrictions on girls' mobility continue to be factors limiting women's access to safe and inclusive education.



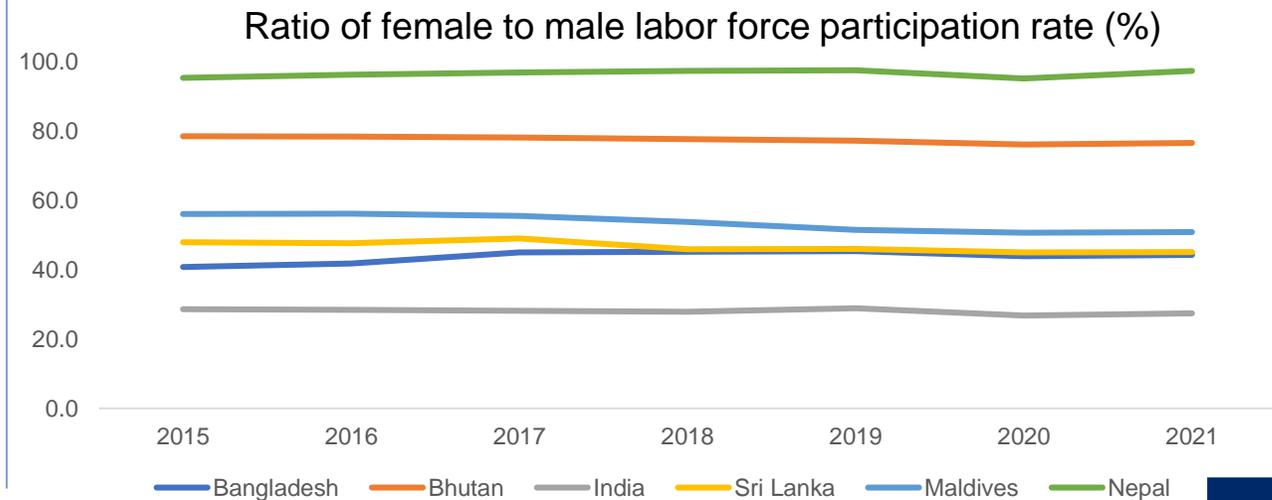
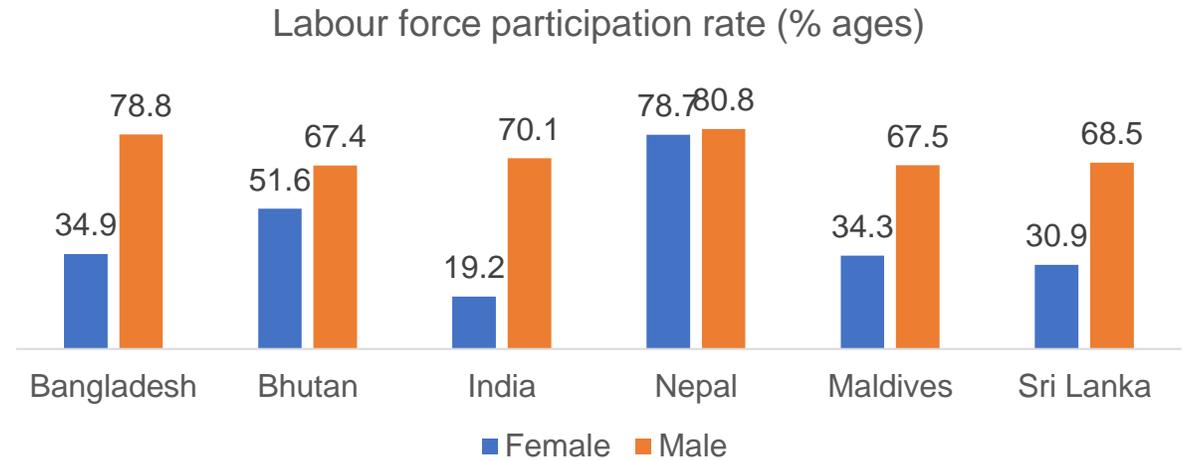
Source: World Development Indicators

Facts and Figures - Employment and Income indicators for women

Key Observations

- Female labor force participation rates are lower than the world average in all DMCs except Bhutan and Nepal
- Gaps in labor force participation rates between men and women have remained more or less constant in all the 6 DMCs

High unpaid care burden on girls, and restrictions on mobility, continue to be the key concerns for limiting women's participation in the labor force



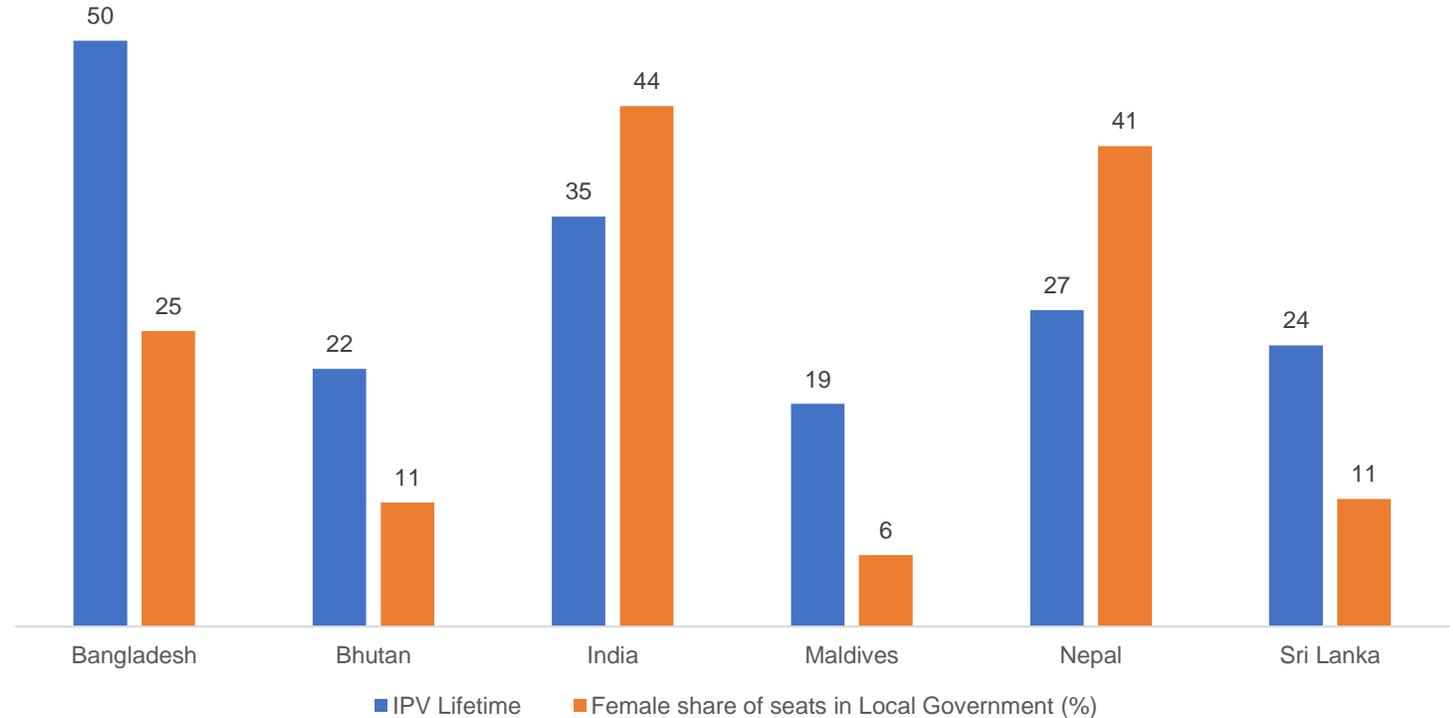
Source: World Development Indicators

Facts and Figures - Participation & Decision-making indicators

Key Observations

- The low representation of women in local government has been linked with low political awareness as well as prioritization of women's agenda and concerns in policies
- IPV over a life-time continue to be high in case of 50% of the DMCs

Structural barriers, negative gendered and societal norms continue to be concerns for women and girls to experience discrimination and violence in different spheres



Source: UNDP. 2020. [Human Development Report 2020: The Next Frontier Human Development and the Anthropocene](#). New York



Facts and Figures - Intersectionality

Key Observations

- Women in rural areas face more barriers than women in urban areas due to the lack of service providers in rural areas, women lack access to basic health care facilities and other social services;
- Incidences of sexual exploitation of women with disabilities were highlighted in the consultations in the six DMCs
- Older women are likely to be more vulnerable than older men as they have a lower probability of having access to pensions and/or savings

Barriers to accessing social and economic resources and decision-making power for women in the six DMCs are compounded by overlapping vulnerabilities like geographic isolation, disability, old age, and disadvantaged social identities



Experiences of Women with Disabilities in Nepal

“Primarily, girls who are menstruating and have some disability (such as need to use a wheelchair) are especially excluded from attending schools. This is because there are no disability-friendly washrooms, and these girls do not have personal assistance that they need. Also, these girls are vulnerable to sexual abuse.

Menstruation health is a problem for women who have mental disability and can be a source of health concern and various infections. Additionally, there are no facilities for people with disability to participate in sports or physical fitness”

Source: ADB SARD. 2022. Discussion with CSO Representative from Nepal