



Women's Progress in Today's International Society

*AAUW -CA international Advocacy
Presentation*

Host: Indrani Chatterjee



AAUW-CA International Advocacy

Opening Statement:

In September 2015, the member countries of the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be implemented over the next 15 years.

The fifth goal of the SDGs is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” Equality means having power, self-determination, access to information, and equal opportunities. Gender equality demands that women have a seat at the table and are also valued for their skills and contributions.

Today’s panel discussion will be focusing in gender equality, empowerment and challenges to achieve them.

AAUW CA International Advocacy (Continue)

Opening statement was concluded with the quotes from powerful women and a Nobel Laureate:

“Do one thing every day that scares you.” **Eleanor Roosevelt** (First Lady of The **United States**, 1933 -1945)

“Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory”
Indira Gandhi (Third Prime Minister of **India**, 1917 - 1984)

“I am woman phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, that’s me.” **Maya Angelou** (Author, Poet, Civil Rights Activist, 1928 - 2014)

“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.” **Rabindranath Tagore**
(1913 Received Nobel Prize in Literature, **West Bengal, India**, 1861-1943)

Women's Progress in Today's International Society- 1



Panel Speaker 1- Jane Roberts

Discussion Topic

Sustainable Development Goal 5 Gender Equality

- While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.
- Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.
- Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.



Women's Progress in Today's International Society- 2



Panel Speaker 2: Dr. Lenore Gallin

Discussion Topic

*Women in Cuba
Before and After Revolution*

Women in Cuba

WHY I KEEP GOING
BACK TO CUBA

INSPIRED BY
REVOLUTION

Admire bravery and
sacrifices of its leaders
who were sympathetic to
plight of peasants



AS AN EDUCATOR

The revolutionary dream of a highly educated society has been fulfilled. What does it look like?



AS A FEMINIST

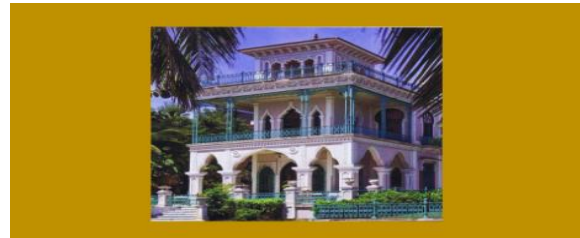
What is next for Cuban women

PRE-REVOLUTIONARY CUBA



How It Was

**Life in Cuba dominated by a minority of wealthy people
Sugar &, Tobacco Barons,
Corrupt politicians backed by US corporations and the Mafia
Playground of the Rich And famous**



Prostitution, gambling, casinos...

In contrast, majority of the Cubans very poor, especially in the countryside.



**Illiteracy and illness
unemployment was rampant**

Malnutrition and hunger were widespread.



Housing without electricity or water



**When women worked, it was mostly as
servants for the rich.**



Many women were forced into prostitution in order to survive & feed their families.



Contraception was generally unavailable; abortion was illegal.



General lack of medical care meant that 80 percent of all babies were not born in hospitals. Many died at an early age.

But these terrible

THE REVOLUTION

.....

--

TRIUMPH OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION



January 1959



Women played a part in the Revolution...



TRIUMPHS OF THE REVOLUTION



ILLITERACY

One of first obstacles for the new government to tackle was the fact that more than half of Cubans, disproportionately women, were illiterate.



Literacy brigades, in which women played leading roles, created the most literate society in the Western hemisphere

SOCIAL CHANGE



Involvement of women outside the home facilitated positive change for women.

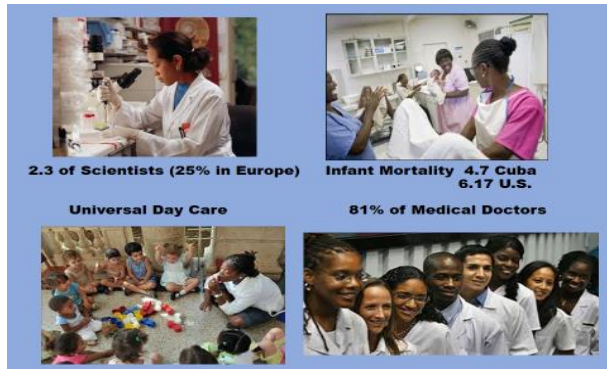
CUBAN FEDERATION OF WOMEN 1961

FAMILY CODE
MILITANT MOTHERS FOR EDUCATION
WOMEN IN WORK FORCE
EMPLOYMENT
HEALTH CARE
DAY CARE



FIDEL CASTRO:

Women's entry into the workforce necessary not only for reasons of "elemental justice," but because the male workforce was not enough.



2.3 of Scientists (25% in Europe)

**Infant Mortality 4.7 Cuba
6.17 U.S.**

Universal Day Care

81% of Medical Doctors

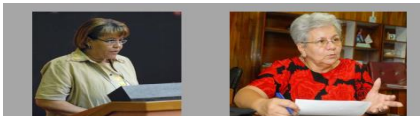
WOMEN CONSTITUTE 49% OF PARLIMENT



THE SECOND SHIFT



THE GLASS CEILING

Seven government bodies, including the supreme court and the central bank, have filled between 50 percent and 70 percent of their top and essential positions with women.

Did the Revolution radically transform attitudes about women's roles in Cuban society? Have the following obstacles disappeared?

sexist attitudes, job discrimination, burdens of childbearing & housework for women

CUBA AFTER DÉTENTE
THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION
OF CUBAN WOMEN





Women's Progress in Today's International Society-3



Panel Speaker: Dr. Sipra Sengupta

Discussion Topic

*Women's Progress and Challenges
in South Asia*

SOUTH ASIA MAP



Over view of the situation of Women in South Asia

- 1. Economic Empowerment of Women**
- 2. Health and Education**
- 3. Political Empowerment of Women**
- 4. Violence against Women**
- 5. Disaster Preparedness and Management**

Labour Force

Table W1: Sectoral Distribution of Labourforce in South Asia

Country	Percentage Labour Force in			Percentage of Female Workers
	Agriculture	Industry	Services	
India	62	11	27	32
Pakistan	47	20	33	27
Bangladesh	59	13	28	42
Nepal	93	1	6	40
Sri Lanka	49	21	30	36
Bhutan	92	3	5	32
Maldives	25	32	43	22

Source: HDSA, 1997, 2000.



HEALTH & EDUCATION

▣ HEALTH

Table 2: Statistical Indicators: Demographic and Health Indicators

Country	Total Fertility Rate (2007)	Maternal Mortality Ratio	Percent of Births Attended by Skilled Personnel	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)		Mean Age at Marriage		Minimum Legal Age for Marriage		Percent of Married Women 15-49 using Contraception		Women's Share of Adults (15+) With HIV 2005(%)
				Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Any Method	Modern Methods	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Afghanistan	7.11	1600	14	47.2	47.7	25.3	17.8	–	–	5	4	–
Bangladesh	2.98	230	13	63.7	65.6	25.5	18	21	18	58	47	13
Bhutan	3.89	255	24	63.5	66	–	–	18	18	19	19	–
India	2.79	301	43	63	66.5	23.4	18.7	21	18	48	43	29
Maldives	3.81	160	70	68.5	68.1	23.2	19.1	–	–	42	33	–
Nepal	3.32	415	11	62.8	63.9	21.5	17.9	20	20	39	35	22
Pakistan	3.77	500	23	64.4	64.7	26.5	21.7	18	16	28	20	17
Sri Lanka	1.87	59.6	97	72.4	77.7	27.9	24.4	18	18	70	50	–

Major Development

1990-2013 in maternal mortality ratio (MMR) among SAR countries,

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2013	% of change in MMR between 1990-2013	Average annual change in MMR between 1990-2013
Afghanistan	1200	1200	1000	730	400	-67	-4.7
Bangladesh	550	440	340	260	170	-70	-5.0
Bhutan	900	610	390	240	120	-87	-8.4
India	560	460	370	280	190	-65	-4.5
Maldives	430	210	110	57	31	-93	-10.8
Nepal	790	580	430	310	190	-76	-6.0
Pakistan	400	330	280	230	170	-57	-3.6
Sri Lanka	49	71	55	41	29	-40	-2.2

Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013 - WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the World Bank estimates, 2014

Education

Education as a 'Public Good'



The Benefits of Educating Girls

- **Higher Wages**
- **Faster Economic Growth**
- **Smaller, Healthier, and Better Educated Families**
- **Women's Own Wellbeing**
- **Female Empowerment**
- **Female Education as an Investment.**

There is a growing sense of momentum around Education in South Asia. A greater awareness of gender disparity, but a long way to go.

Political Empowerment of Women

Participation and Leadership:
Politics, Policies, and the
Media



WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Table 1: Women in Formal Governance Institutions

Country	National Parliament			
	Nature of Decentralisation	Quotas for Women at the Local Level	Quotas for Women at National Level	Percent of Women in Parliament (Single or Lower Chamber)*
Afghanistan				27
Bangladesh	Three tier structure (District, Sub-District and Union Council). Union is divided into wards and each ward is composed of villages. There is no formal representative body below the Union Council.	Article 9 stipulates representation of women at the local level. 1993 direct election (Union Parishad) provided by the Parliament. Pourshava and City Corporation Ordinance reserves 1/3 of total seats for women.	Reserves 15 percent seats for women in Parliament	15
Bhutan	Two-tier government consisting of districts and blocks of villages.	No quota for women.	No quota for women	3
India	A three-tier system of panchayats: district panchayats, panchayat samitis and gram panchayats.	33 percent of seats in local bodies are reserved for women	No quota for women	8
Maldives	N.A	No quota for women	No quota for women	12
Nepal	A two tier system, consisting of district, at the highest level and municipality and village panchayats at the local level.	Local Self Governance Act reserves 20 percent of seats for women in local bodies	Reserves 5 percent in the lower house and 3 seats in the Upper house	17
Pakistan	A three tiered structure at zila (district), tehsil (town) and village (union)councils.	Devolution of power plan, devolves 33 percent of reserved seats to women	33 percent of seats reserved for women; (National Assembly) – 36 out of 342 seats, (Senate) – 17 out of 100 seats.	21
Sri Lanka	Three-tier government, consisting of municipal councils, urban councils and pradeshiya sabhas	No quota	No quota for women	5

*(Source: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/tab6a.htm>)

Violence against South Asian and Women



21–55% of South Asian women report experiencing intimate physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.

Violence Against Women

KEY VAWC STATISTICS:

- 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience violence in her in lifetime.**
- 1 in 5 women worldwide will survive rape or attempted rape.**
- As much as 30 percent of women are forced into their first sexual experience.**
- In some places, as much as 30 percent of children are sexually abused.**
- Nearly 50 percent of all sexual assaults are against girls aged 15 or younger.**

The Key Findings by The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** on Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level
Paris, 23-24 May 2012

- **ECONOMICS, SOCIAL NORMS and EMBEDDING GENDER EQUALITY POLICY**

Increased education accounts for about half the economic growth in OECD countries in the past 50 years.

Economic growth in the future.

- **EDUCATION**

Enrolment in primary education is near universal in many countries.

In many low-income countries, young women are more likely to be neither engaged in paid work nor in education or training than young men.

- **EMPLOYMENT**

Female employment participation has generally increased, and gender gaps in labor force participation have narrowed



Women's Progress in Today's International Society

Q&A Session

What role AAUW CA can play to support Global Women Issues?

Answer: Awareness is required at the branch/ grassroots level. A few recommendations are:

- ❖ Celebrating International Women's Day every year on March 8th to honor and discuss global women issue
- ❖ Connect with UNA-USA local chapter
- ❖ Follow AAUW National's Global Connection
- ❖ Partner with organizations like AWIU or Graduate Women International (GWI) to host an event to discuss any specific global women issue



Women's Progress in Today's International Society

Q & A Discussion





Women's Progress in Today's International Society

Members Feed Back

- ❖ Great passionate speakers
- ❖ Relevant and Inspiring
- ❖ Great topic to keep us aware of global landscape
- ❖ It was so interesting; I wish each speaker could have spoken longer
- ❖ Liked comparison graphs and charts for Southeast Asia



Women's Progress in Today's International Society

Acknowledgement

Thank you **AAUW CA Program Committee** to include International Advocacy workshop in the Convention schedule. I am very passionate about the cause and will continue to share with the members in future.

Special thanks to **Lynn Batchelor** , Director AAUW CA and Program Committee Chair to support and attend the event.



Indrani Chatterjee

International Advocacy- AAUW CA Program Committee
Member of Fund Raising Committee- AAUW National



Women's Progress in Today's International Society

Special Appreciation

Speakers:

Jane Robert

Dr. Lenore Gallin

Dr. Sipra Sengupta

Moderator:

Sharon Westafer

Member Audiences

Support and participation