

Gender equality is the key to a sustainable world

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What makes this world sustainable? A lot of measures have been taken to conserve nature or to make this world peaceful but there are still many problems around the world. This fact suggests that there needs to be a radical change from a new perspective and that change, I think, is to make the position of women and men equal. There are many problems related to gender inequality. Education is a good example. In countries like Afghanistan, women have been denied the right to education because of religion and extreme ideas. Many girls and women are deprived of the opportunities of social participation and are forced to stay in their home in order to give birth so many times that no small number of them die during pregnancy. According to the maternal mortality ratio, the number of fatalities of pregnant women in Africa is greater than that of Europeans. Moreover they devote most of their lives to child rearing. They have few or no educational opportunities and are made to do all of these things against their will.

Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel peace prize recipient, is acting to give girls the chance to be educated because she knows how significant education is for the lives of women. She said that the wise saying, "The pen is mightier than sword" was true. She believes, and I believe, that education improves society and moves us closer to gender equality.

If gender equality is realized, this world will make progress from three aspects. First, the health condition of all of us will be much improved. If women have the right to select whether they get pregnant or not, many of them may choose less children. This leads to less risk of pregnancy and allows them to focus on their children more closely. Also, gender equality allows men to participate in child rearing thanks to the equal right to take paternity leave. Moreover education gives both men and women correct and useful information that is needed for their daily lives.

Second, poverty will be reduced. If gender equality is achieved, there won't be any bias or inequality of employment. Women will be able to work in society and live their lives as they want. In other words, poverty of both money and mind will be resolved.

The last aspect, which is the most important, is the control of population. Now, over-population is one of the issues that we have to tackle immediately. According to one study by the United Nations, the world's population will be ten billion by 2050 and this planet cannot offer enough food for such a great number of people. Also 85% of that population is from developing countries. On the other hand, the population of developed countries like Japan and Germany, where women are gaining equality, will decrease through a declining birth rate.

Diego Palacios, the India representative for the United Population Fund says that

policy only aimed at limiting family size without moving to educate girls is not the way forward for the country. We need to work more with education-educate men and women, make them realize that family planning should be a shared responsibility. I think he wants to tell us that education is the best way for family planning and it leads to the proper population and gender equality.

These indications mean that gender equality controls population and is the best answer to the problems. In order to achieve gender equality, it is important for each of us to respect others. Also for developed countries, what is needed is not to force developing countries to admit gender equality without considering their backgrounds, but encourage them to accept gender equality. By respecting each other, gender equality will be achieved and this world will be in harmony, and finally, a sustainable world will be realized.