

MADMUN XV



SOCHUM

SOCIAL, CULTURAL &
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Topic 1: Solving gender stigmas

The National Institute of Health defines a gender stigma as a “Stigma against sexual and gender minorities.” The stigmas against genders constitute a significant driver of health disparities, according to a UN report in 2020. Around 90% of the world's population has stigmas against women. A report in 2016 showed that 1 in 4 LGBTQ members have experienced stigma/biases. According to the UN Development program, more than 40% of people in the world cannot believe “Men can make better business executives than women.” The rate of gender bias has not changed for more than a decade. However, the rate of people who carry biases has declined. But at such a small rate.

History

Gender-based stigmas have been part of our world's history. The stigmas have defined roles and expectations of an individual based solely on their gender; more often, these defined stigmas lead to inequality and discrimination. Some evidence suggests that gender inequality was present in the Middle East by the second century B.C.E. But, we know that philosopher Aristotle described the female body as an inverse of the male body in the third century. But they were medically defined as faulty, defective, or deficient. However, women possessed organs with the highest biological and social values.

Meanwhile, gender roles are thought to originate in the Victorian era. The invisible tears of genders have been on full display as even in the modern age, Gender segregation and misogyny are believed to have existed since the bronze age. In the late 19th century, the Industrial Revolution and the rise of socialism influenced the emergence of the “New Women” era. Karl Marx’s writings, which fully support equality, influenced women to challenge the gender roles they were assigned. For the past 50 years, there has been some improvement in gender inequality when both genders covered each other's “roles” in society.

Actions taken by the UN

The UN has taken numerous amount of actions to help fight gender stigmas across the world. In 1948, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was Adopted. The declaration states that everyone is born equal and free in dignity and rights. Also, there should not be any discrimination based on gender. UNITE 2030 was a campaign launched in 2008; it ran parallel to 16 Days of Activism. In July 2010, UN Women was formed as part of the UN reform agenda, combining mandates from the previous four UN sections focused on gender equality. UN women would launch the Unstereotype Alliance, which started as a thought and turned into an action to eradicate harmful stereotypes in the media and advertising.

Employment biases based on gender stigmas

Gender biases are a leading factor in job insecurity among women.

According to the World Bank's Women, Business, and Law report in 2022, 2.4 billion women of age don't get the same economic opportunities as men. In 178 countries, legal barriers are put in place to avoid equal economic opportunities. Performance evaluation processes reflect the stereotypes of masculinity. These performances are meant to challenge women. Research by McKinsey and Company has confirmed that invisible barriers are holding women back, rather than sexism alone. Men are more likely to get a promotion at their jobs than women. On average, in the workplace, Women are less likely to get the same salary as men. Men worldwide are more likely to be put in more demanding and daunting tasks than women.

Guiding Questions

- What are the potential origins of gender-based stigmas in your country?
- What are specific actions that your country has taken to promote gender equality?
- What measures are being taken to support LGBTQ rights in your country?
- What role has your government played in promoting women's participation in the workforce and leadership positions?

Topic 2: Addressing illegal drug trafficking around the world

Introduction & Overview

Drug trafficking is the unauthorized trade which includes producing, synthesizing, and distributing narcotics. In a recent study conducted by the UNODC, it was found approximately 430-450 tons of heroin were being produced into the global heroin market per year. Around 100 tons is seized by law enforcement, leaving the remaining narcotics to circle the globe through illegal drug trading. Afghanistan generates nearly 380 tons of this supply due to the large amount of opium grown in this area. Myanmar and Laos produce around 50 tons each year. From these countries, heroin is trafficked on two main routes. The Balkan route passes through countries such as Bulgaria and Iran to reach Western Europe. Heroine sold on this route generates approximately \$20 billion dollars annually. The Northern route moves from countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Russia. This market generates nearly \$13 billion dollars per year.

In the years of 2007-2008, roughly 17 million people were reported to have frequent use of cocaine globally. The continent of North America was found to consume 40% of the world's cocaine, equalling to nearly 470 tons. This leaves Europe ranked second in cocaine intake globally, amounting to 25% or 294 tons. Together, these regions contributed over 80% of the financial value of the global cocaine market, equalling around \$88 billion dollars. In the North American market, the stimulants are typically transported by sea from Colombia to Mexico, then through land by the United States or Canada. Colombia remains as the top supplier of cocaine to both the European market and North American Market.

Actions taken by the UN:

Through many treaties and conventions, the UNODC has been working to combat drug trafficking. For example, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs took place in 1961. This convention worked to develop a treaty which would assist in limiting the production and distribution of narcotics to strictly medical facilities. The Convention on Psychotropic Substances attempted to prohibit synthetic and psychotropic substances in 1971.

Although there are many laws banning drug trade, law enforcement is unable to prevent and reinforce these regulations. By striving to enhance law enforcement, criminal justice, and border control, the UN supports countries in eradicating narcotics.

The Issue Today

According to the United Nations, cocaine production surged in 2020-2021. Global cultivation increased by 35%, making it the largest increase since 2016. With a large supply, demand experiences growth. Due to the upsurge, the market notably expanded into Asia and Africa. As a result of this expansion, law enforcement has seized over 2000 tons of cocaine and other stimulants in 2021 alone. Seizures are now at record breaking numbers.

As the illegal narcotic market broadens, new trafficking hubs begin to arise. Traffickers diversify their routes in hopes of evading authorities. Central and West Africa along with Southeastern Europe began being used as a main transit zone. This promotes discrete exchanges of cocaine and heroin, as well as narcotic users to heighten. Due to this increase in assets, 296 million people experimented with opioids throughout 2021. An estimated 40 million people lived with drug disorders. In 2021, from opioids alone over 600,000 deaths were attributed to drug use. With market expansion, drug use is steadily on the rise.

Vocabulary:

Narcotics: a drug (such as opium or morphine) that in moderate doses dulls the senses, relieves pain, and induces profound sleep but in excessive doses causes stupor, coma, or convulsions (Merriam Webster).

Stimulant: an agent (such as a drug) that produces a temporary increase of the functional activity or efficiency of an organism or any of its parts (Merriam Webster).

Opioid: a natural, semisynthetic, or synthetic substance that typically binds to the same cell receptors as opium and produces similar narcotic effects (such as sedation, pain relief, slowed breathing, and euphoria) (Merriam Webster).

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Questions to Consider:

1. What has your country done to eradicate drug trafficking?
2. What role does your country play in drug routes or trafficking?
3. How could your country work with others to limit trafficking?
4. How could your country cooperate with others in lowering the amount of overdoses?
5. What could your country do to make sure addicts have reliable access to health centers?

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