Evolution of womens rights in developing countries

Norway in 1814, developing countries in 2014

How we’re seeing ( nor not?) the same progression of gender equality in economically developing countries today as we saw in western nations in the 18 hundreds

Ibsen <- Et dukkehjem, verdig eksempel. Eksempler på forfattere med samme agenda i utviklende land?

<http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_372_en.pdf>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22579098>

[www.globalissues.org/article/166/womens-rights](http://www.globalissues.org/article/166/womens-rights)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Women%27s_rights_in_Africa>

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/05/womens-rights-still-denied-in-latin-america/>

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2012/Resources/7778105-1299699968583/7786210-1315936222006/Complete-Report.pdf>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_rights_in_Brazil> <- økonomisk utvikling siste åra, relevant!

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Women%27s_rights_in_the_Middle_East>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism_in_Norway#1840s:_First_wave_of_feminism> <- Norge

<http://www.kampdager.no/>

Asia: Kvinner i arbeid. Som i Norge, 1800 tallet.

Hippiemovement

History of norwegian women’s rights parallel with current events.

According to a survey committed by the european commision, 9 out of 10 citizens within the European Union claims that gender equality improves ”the way societies function”.

Clearly, the industrialized western nations support the idea of gender equality.

Ibsen dokumentaren?

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Kosmetikkindustrien?

Is the cosmetics industry propelling our evolution towards a unisexual society?

Kan også skrive om effekten av globalisering på kvinners rettigheter.

Introduksjon. Norge, europa, amerika, lenge siden vi oppnådde relativt like rettigheter (som stemmerett, utdanning etc.)

**(Guiding the) Evolution of Gender Equality in Developing Countries**

Nine out of ten Europeans believe that gender equality improves the functionality of societies, according to a survey published by the European Commission(4). At the same time, an estimate of 12 million females in sub-Saharan Africa will never enrol school, compared to 7 million males, reports nonpartisan organisation “One”(5) (ANNET EKSEMPEL?). This (text / article) summarises the main factors contributing to the hitherto progress towards gender equality in Europe and the United States, in an attempt to highlight what path, political and economical, which would yield greatest results in terms of gender equality in current developing countries.

Prior to engaging in the history of gender equality, we(?) must elaborate on why sex equality is of importance. Gender equality is, according to the 2012 world development report (1), of significance not only in its own right, however also essential for healthy economic development. Said report, published by the World Bank, claims the following: “(…) removing barriers that prevent women from having the same access as men to education, economic opportunities, and productive inputs can generate broad productivity gains—gains all the more important in a more competitive and globalized world.” –World Development Report 2012 – Page 29

Statistics published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that equalization of access to productive resources, such as fertilizer, between men and women could increase agricultural production capacity in specific developing countries by a remarkable 11 to 16 percent(6). The numbers published by FAO back up the claim issued by the World Bank; that equal opportunities regardless of gender is of critical importance for economically developing countries. (bedre eksempel!)

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| **Definition of Gender Equality** |
| “Gender refers to the social, behavioral, and cultural attributes,  expectations, and norms associated with being a woman or a man.  Gender equality refers to how these aspects determine how women  and men relate to each other and to the resulting differences in  power between them.”  –World Development Report 2012, World Bank |

**Evolution of gender equality in industrialized Europe (and America?)**



Suffragettes in 1935. Image is labeled for reuse.

The key to understanding and improving the present is to understand the past. Although progress towards gender equality is being made at a quick pace in certain developing nations, much can still be learnt from the history of the struggle for women’s rights in Europe and America.

One cannot analyse the history of gender equality without mentioning the impact of the industrial revolution. As a consequence of the swiftly increasing industrialization of the United States and Western Europe in the early nineteenth century, there was an urgent need for an expansion of the workforce. Females were for the first time recruited into industrial labour on a large scale, which in theory, unlocked doors to economic independency. (9)

Unfortunately, theory doesn’t necessarily translate to reality. Few women benefitted from the economic growth that was boosted by the significant increase of the workforce. Wages were shockingly low; according to some testimonies, the average pay for females in the mill industry in the United States was typically $3 to $3.5 a week(9), which was close to impossible to live on, even by 19’th century standards. Demanding physical work, malnutrition and other factors left little or no room for education, which further facilitated the disempowerment of the women in industrial labour.

It was this new, modern, disempowerment of females that gave birth to the mainstream battle for women’s rights and gender equality. Labour unions such as the General Union of Trades were formed not only for females, however also for immigrants and male workers alike. The vast majority of trade unions fought against employers and governments for better standards of labour regardless of sex, race or other external factors. The struggle for equal rights regardless of gender lead to social activism, which inspired a wave of political reforms supporting women’s rights and gender equality.

Often referred to as “the father of modern realism”, the nineteenth century playwright Henrik Ibsen is a reflection of the initial interest for sexual equality in Norway, and in surrounding European nations. Although not the first author to rally for women’s rights, he was unarguably the most popular of his time. Plays such as “The pillars of society” and “A Dolls House” grew to be immensely popular and are renowned for their critique of the contemporary dominance of men evident in European societies.

Despite of the early interest in gender equality showcased in the works of authors such as Ibsen, the struggle for women’s rights was long in the west. In Norway, women were only provided full economic rights in 1888, 73 years after the original constitution of Norwegian independence, and universal suffrage rights only came to be in 1913, four decades after the premiere of “A Dolls House”. The “Law of equalization between genders” was passed as late as 1979(7).

The story was similar in surrounding European nations. It was not until 1851 that the Matrimonial Causes Act was passed by the British government, which allowed women to inherit property and go to court on own behalf. Universal suffrage was longer in coming; 1928 was the year that the Representation of the People Act was passed, which allowed women to vote on the same premises as men.

Overseas the progress was even slower. In the United States, a constitutional amendment allowing female suffrage was introduced in 1920, after being voted down 33 years earlier. Yet, discrimination within labour and other domains persisted; until the passing of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, married women could only obtain a loan with the authorization of their husbands. Martial rape was legal, and females could legally be skipped over for promotions. Female flight attendants could get fired if they got married, and were obliged to be single when they were hired.(1)

Naturally, gender equality cannot be measured merely in laws, acts and public rights. In a globalized and competitive world, one has to take into account factors such as equalization of gender in the workforce and level of education.

Significant progress in mentioned areas has been made. According to Statistics Norway (SSB), the percentage of women in Norway with no higher education than primary education has decreased from around 49 percent in 1985, to 28 percent in 2012, a result of economic stability and political investment in education.(8) Although Norwegian males still have an estimate of 13% higher income than females(10), the gap is dwarfed by the statistics from the not too distant past.

**Economic growth isn’t necessarily synonym to gender equality! Despite economic prosperity, some aspects of gender equality(…)**

**Bilde av Ibsen statuen**

POSITIVE EFFEKTER AV KVINNERS RETTIGHETER. KONSUMERE ETC.

**Evolution of gender equality in current developing nations**

The progression towards gender equality in specific developing countries has been rapid. Unlike nineteenth and twentieth century Europe, economically developing nations are now emerging into a globalized world with a high conscience on sex equality. International institutions and conventions, such as the mentioned CEDAW convention, combined with stabile economic growth, is propelling development at a significantly higher pace than was seen during the early western movement for women’s rights.

<hva tok USA 100 har tatt…>

The Colombian economy has tripled over the course of 34 years. Parallel with the economic growth, the educational gap between females and males has been reversed. Today, women have a higher completion rate in not only primary and secondary education, however also tertiary education, the latter especially impressive taking into consideration the fact that twice as many men relative to women had a college education in 1984. (1)

The story is similar in Iran.

Hva skiller landende det går bra med fra de det går dårlig med?

Det vi kan lære fra industrialiseringstia. Økonomisk utvikling er ikke nok, og er det ikke regulert kan vi se en negative utvkling. Se på Saudi Arabia.

Hv

SOUTH AMERICA

Africa

Asia

Female school enrolment developing nations

Ikke bare økonomisk vekst som skal til.

Kvinner I utdanning

Stemmerett

Eksempel på land hvor vi ser samme utvikling

Eksempler på land hvor det går feil vei

Sør Amerika! Økonomisk vekst

**The present in the context of history**

I dag ser vi samme utvikling… Økonomisk vekst

Økonomisk vekst er ikke nok, som vi så I GB. Landene må bevege seg mot en politisk retning.

Hvilke grep må tas, polistisk og økonomisk, hva kan læres fra fortiden?

Hva må gjøres bedre, hva gjøres bedre?

(1) <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2012/Resources/7778105-1299699968583/7786210-1315936222006/Complete-Report.pdf>

(2) <http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2007/11/02/a-dolls-house-ibsens-once-banned-play-births-femininism-for-modern-stage/>

(3) <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/register/full-list-of-registered-heritage/registered-heritage-page-4/henrik-ibsen-a-dolls-house/>.

(7) <http://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2013-06-21-59> and

<http://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likestillingsloven>

(8) <http://www.ssb.no/utniv/>

(9) <http://www.womeninworldhistory.com/lesson7.html> and <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/jackson-lincoln/essays/women-and-early-industrial-revolution-united-states>

(10) <http://www.ssb.no/arbeid-og-lonn/statistikker/lonnansatt/aar/2013-03-20>

<http://introbokmal.cappelendamm.no/c26372/artikkel/vis.html?tid=26477>

Summary / critique of the World Bank 2012 Development report

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B42004CCC77/%28httpInfoFiles%29/E90770090127BDFDC12579250058F520/$file/Extended%20Commentary%20WDR%202012.pdf>

<http://www.one.org/c/international/hottopic/3812/>

Hva kan dagens utviklingsland lære fra vestens utvikling mot kjønnslikhet I fortiden?