

Gender Discrimination and Urban Poverty; with Special Reference to Colombo West

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As the world becomes increasingly urban, poverty will assume an urban character. Urban poverty has a distinctive gendered dimension as urbanization process is itself shaped by gender role and relations. While women make a pivotal contribution to the development of the cities through their paid and unpaid labor, they remain at a disadvantage in terms of equitable access to work and living conditions, health and education, assets and representation in formal institutions and urban governance. Such circumstances continue to be a struggle many women have to face alone is because women's experiences or perspectives are frequently invisible to policymakers. At the same time that can be identified as a violation of civil rights based on their gender. Reduction of such conditions is essential for the development of a country. Therefore it's exceptional to identify the nature of discrimination and major forms of gender discrimination related to urban poverty in Sri Lanka. The research was both qualitative and quantitative. Colombo west underserved settlements were selected for the study area. 10% of housing units were selected as the sample. According to the findings it was revealed that there are several discrimination forms with more repressive impact on women remain in the urban context of Sri Lanka. Economic participation, unequal pay and sexual harassment can be identified as the major discrimination forms affect women. The prevalence of such conditions aggravate poverty. As women are woefully underrepresented in policymaking, proper policy actions should be taken to reduce or eliminate discrimination. Policies that do not apply a gender lens will not succeed in improving outcomes for women. To support women's participation in the workforce, it is important to understand the specific barriers and challenges they face. At the same time growing up the progress to gender equality is a must.

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