



High Council for Human
Rights of the
Islamic Republic of Iran

The Status of Women's Development in Islamic Countries: A Comparative Study

**The High Council for Human Rights
December 2022**

In the Name of GOD

**The Status of Women's Development in
Islamic Countries:
A Comparative Study¹**

**The High Council for Human Rights
December 2022**

1. Researcher: Qodrat Taheri

1) Introduction

One of the essential strategies of human development is paying attention to the position of women in society, which is considered one of the critical goals of an efficient economy. Empirical evidence shows a positive and significant relationship between attention to women as half of the population and economic development. A fairer distribution of positions and resources between men and women causes economic growth and greater productivity, and countries that invest in girls' education have higher economic growth rates.

Not paying attention to women as a significant part of the human force and not paying attention to their education disrupts the economic performance of countries, reduces their ability to benefit from capacities and slows down economic growth and productivity. Today, investment costs in the education sector are higher than in other sectors of the economy in all countries. What has been said is seen more clearly in developing countries, because these countries have problems in other sectors. Considering the problems and challenges faced by the Islamic Republic of Iran due to the cruel sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has put education, as one of the vital progress factors, on the agenda. According to the official reports of the Statistical Centre of Iran, the population's literacy level has made significant progress based on the latest census compared to the pre-Islamic Revolution era.

Given that literacy makes people capable and helps them get better job opportunities and have a better life, the growth of higher education in Iran and the admittance of students (especially girls) thereto is significant. On the other hand, in spite of the imposed economic restrictions, the increase in social indicators is substantial. In this present report, what is said in relation to the issue of indicators, especially for women, is presented based on the figures released by international¹ and national² statistical authorities. The

1. <https://hdr.undp.org/>

2. www.amar.org.ir

study, first, does a brief literature review. Considering that the gender development index is based on the human development index, the analysis started with the human development index. Then, the situation of some leading countries has been compared from the perspective of the gender development index. The most common index for evaluating the gender gap at the international level is the gender inequality index, which forms the basis of the analysis in the rest of the study. The report ends with a summary and conclusion.

2) Organization of Islamic Cooperation

The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people across the globe. The Organization was formerly known as the Organization of the Islamic Conference when it was founded in 1969. On 28 June 2011 and during the 38th Council of Foreign Ministers meeting (CFM) in Astana, Kazakhstan, the Organization changed its' name from the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The OIC is one of the largest international organizations with 57 Member States spread over four continents. Except for Albania which is a European country, and Turkey which considers itself as a European state, and Suriname, which is an American member of the Organization, other OIC Member States are located either in Asia or Africa.

OIC Member States

57 Asian, Arab and African countries are members of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. They include: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan, Jordan, Afghanistan, Albania, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Uganda, Pakistan, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina-Faso,

Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Suriname, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Palestine, Comoros, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Malaysia, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria and Yemen.

It deserves a mention that Albania, as the only European country, and Suriname, from the Americas, joined the OIC in 1993 and 1996, respectively.

OIC Objectives

Objectives set out by the OIC are as follows:

- Promote solidarity amongst member states;
- Take necessary measures to support peace and international security based upon justice; and
- Support cooperation among Member States in economic, social, cultural and scientific areas, and facilitate consultations therebetween in international organizations.

3) Position of Women in Islamic Republic of Iran

Since educational indicators are one of the most critical factors determining the position of women and men in society, on this basis, one can pay attention to the growth rate of women's literacy in the Islamic Republic of Iran based on the official reports of the Statistical Centre of Iran.

Table (1): Number of Literates & Literacy Rate Among People Aged Six or Above Based on Gender & Age (Per 1,000 People – Percent)³

Gender & Age Group	October 1966			October 2016		
	Population	Literates	Literacy Rate	Population	Literates	Literacy Rate
Men & Women	19372	5556	28.7	71506	62667	87.6
Men	10023	3928	39.2	36168	32913	91
Women	9348	1628	17.4	35339	29754	84.2

Source: Statistical Yearbook 2019 – Statistical Center of Iran

According to Table No. 1, the literacy rate of women has increased from 17.4% in 1966 to 84.2% in 2016. As can be seen, the growth rate of women’s literacy in the Islamic Republic of Iran shows more attention being paid to women and their social status. In addition, in terms of higher education indicators, women are equal to and in some cases, have surpassed men. In the 2020-2021 academic year, 484,755 students signed up for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in government higher education centers. Of this number, 50.3% were women (girls). In other words, the share of girls in the 2020-2021 academic year who entered higher education centers was more than that of boys.

In the aforesaid academic year, a total of 1,836,292 people studied B.A., B.S., or above in public universities, of which 52.7% were women.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, 55,425 faculty members were working at state universities, of which 28.1% were women. The increase in the number of women faculty members has been very significant over the last years: of 39,294 faculty members in the 2001-2002 academic year, only 7,181 were women. The

3. It should be noted that the general population and housing census in the Islamic Republic of Iran is conducted every 10 years, the last of which was carried out back in 2016.

number of women faculty members has reached 15,575 (more than double) in the 2020-2021 academic year (2019 Statistical Yearbook).

Over recent years, other social indicators of women have increased similarly. The increase in the mentioned indicators is due to the progress made by women in scientific-educational indicators. The promotion of the status of women is well reflected in international reports. Had there been no obstacles to the advancement of economic indicators at the same time as the improvement of social indicators, women in the Islamic Republic of Iran would have a much higher position in the region and the world. Even though the Islamic Republic of Iran currently enjoys a high level of human and gender development indicators, the level of the said indicators would have been very high had there been no economic impediments. Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been supported in terms of development programs. One of the prominent examples of the support accorded to women is the consideration thereof in the Constitution and the Law on the Sixth Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan, explicitly Article 101 of the said Law.

In light of the foregoing, all the executive bodies – by organizing and strengthening the organizational position of women and family affairs in the system – are obliged to fulfill the goals stated in Articles 10, 20 and 21 of the Constitution, objectives specified by the 20-Year Vision Plan, the general policies of the Sixth Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan and those of the family aimed at “strengthening the family institution and the position of women therein, fulfilling the religious and legal rights thereof in all fields and paying special attention to constructive role thereof” in order for the society to benefit from the human capital of women in the process of sustainable and balanced development, apply the approach of gender justice based upon Islamic principles in their policies, programs and plans and evaluate the results and decisions based on the indicators announced by the National

Headquarters for Woman and Family Affairs of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution.

4) Indicators Under Review (For Women)

1. Gender Development Index;
2. Human Development Index;
3. Life expectancy at birth;
4. Expected years of schooling;
5. Mean years of schooling;
6. Gross national income per capita (constant 2017 international \$);
7. Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
8. Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament;
9. Education attainment, at least completed upper secondary, population 25+ (2015-2019);
10. Labor force participation rate (percentage of ages 15 and older);
11. Suicide rate (per 100,000 people);
12. Female mortality rate; and
13. Female mortality rate caused by non-communicable diseases.

5) Composite Indicators of Progress for Women

Since several effective indicators have been used to show and determine the position of women in the OIC Member States – based on which a composite index has been created using a scientific method called TOPSIS⁴ – according to the average and standard deviation of the composite indicators, and as per the resulting index, countries are classified into four development groups with very high, high, medium and low levels of development, as discussed hereinunder.

Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution ε

Table (2): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Human Development Index (2019)

.No	Country	HDI	Ranking
1	Qatar	0.866	1
2	The United Arab Emirates	0.842	2
3	Brunei	0.830	3
4	Kazakhstan	0.807	4
5	Bahrain	0.806	5
6	Malaysia	0.797	6
7	Kuwait	0.793	7
8	Saudi Arabia	0.791	8
9	Turkey	0.784	9
10	Albania	0.780	10
11	Oman	0.768	11
12	Azerbaijan	0.730	12
13	Suriname	0.729	13
14	Libya	0.713	14
15	The Islamic Republic of Iran	0.709	15
16	Maldives	0.698	16
17	Uzbekistan	0.695	17
18	Indonesia	0.694	18
19	Lebanon	0.691	19
20	Tunisia	0.689	20
21	Kyrgyzstan	0.677	21
22	Algeria	0.671	22
23	Gabon	0.670	23
24	Jordan	0.664	24
25	Guyana	0.662	25
26	Egypt	0.652	26
27	Palestine	0.638	27

28	Morocco	0.612	28
29	Bangladesh	0.596	29
30	Tajikistan	0.586	30
31	Iraq	0.566	31
32	Cameron	0.521	32
33	Comoros	0.519	33
34	Nigeria	0.504	34
35	Uganda	0.503	35
36	Benin	0.502	36
37	Mauritania	0.500	37
38	Syria	0.492	38
39	Ivory Coast	0.476	39
40	Senegal	0.475	40
41	Sudan	0.466	41
42	Togo	0.464	42
43	Pakistan	0.456	43
44	The Gambia	0.448	44
45	Mozambique	0.435	45
46	Guinea	0.428	46
47	Sierra Leone	0.423	47
48	Burkina Faso	0.418	48
49	Afghanistan	0.391	49
50	Mali	0.388	50
51	Chad	0.342	51
52	Niger	0.321	52
53	Yemen	0.270	53
54	Turkmenistan		54
55	Djibouti		55
56	Guinea-Bissau		56

Source: 2019 Human Development Index Report & Researcher's Calculations

The indices, based upon which the composite indicators of women's progress are calculated, are used to rank the OIC Member States. The human development index of women – which is calculated based on indicators of per capita income, education and life expectancy for women – has the lowest value of 0.270 and the highest value of 0.866 with an average of 0.602 in the OIC Member States. The value of this index in the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at 0.709. Ranked 15, the Islamic Republic of Iran is closer to the maximum human development index than the average of OIC Member States.

Table (3): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Life Expectancy at Birth Index (2019)

.No	Country	Life Expectancy at Birth	Ranking
1	Qatar	82.0	1
2	Lebanon	80.9	2
3	Maldives	80.8	3
4	Turkey	80.6	4
5	Oman	80.3	5
6	Albania	80.2	6
7	The United Arab Emirates	79.3	7
8	Tunisia	78.7	8
9	Bahrain	78.4	9
10	Malaysia	78.3	10
11	Algeria	78.1	11
12	Syria	78.1	12
13	Morocco	77.9	13
14	The Islamic Republic of Iran	77.9	14
15	Kazakhstan	77.7	15
16	Brunei	77.1	16

17	Saudi Arabia	76.8	17
18	Kuwait	76.6	18
19	Jordan	76.3	19
20	Libya	76.0	20
21	Palestine	75.8	21
22	Kyrgyzstan	75.6	22
23	Azerbaijan	75.5	23
24	Suriname	75.1	24
25	Bangladesh	74.6	25
26	Egypt	74.4	26
27	Indonesia	74.0	27
28	Uzbekistan	73.8	28
29	Tajikistan	73.4	29
30	Guyana	73.1	30
31	Iraq	72.7	31
32	Turkmenistan	71.7	32
33	Senegal	69.9	33
34	Djibouti	69.4	34
35	Gabon	68.7	35
36	Pakistan	68.3	36
37	Yemen	67.8	37
38	Sudan	67.2	38
39	Mauritania	66.5	39
40	Afghanistan	66.4	40
41	Comoros	66.1	41
42	Uganda	65.6	42
43	Mozambique	63.7	43
44	Niger	63.6	44
45	The Gambia	63.5	45
46	Benin	63.3	46
47	Burkina Faso	62.3	47

48	Guinea	62.1	48
49	Togo	61.9	49
50	Cameron	60.6	50
51	Guinea-Bissau	60.2	51
52	Mali	60.1	52
53	Ivory Coast	59.1	53
54	Chad	55.7	54
55	Nigeria	55.6	55
56	Sierra Leone	55.5	56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

Life expectancy is one of the composite indicators of women's progress. The life expectancy rate at birth in the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at 77.9 years, the average index among countries stands at 71.2 years, and the lowest and highest rates are 55.5 and 82 years, respectively.

The index of life expectancy has been studied as one of the dimensions of education, the average thereof among Islamic countries is 11.6 years, and the lowest and the highest rates are reported as 5.7 and 16.7 years, respectively. The said index in the Islamic Republic of Iran is 14.6 years, which is higher than the average of other countries. According to this index, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ranked 12 among Islamic countries.

Table (4): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Expected Years of Schooling Index (2019)

.No	Country	Expected Years of Schooling	Ranking
1	Bahrain	16.7	1
2	Turkey	16.0	2
3	Saudi Arabia	16.0	3
4	Tunisia	15.8	4
5	Kazakhstan	15.8	5
6	Albania	15.5	6
7	Kuwait	15.2	7
8	Oman	15.0	8
9	Algeria	14.8	9
10	The United Arab Emirates	14.8	10
11	Brunei	14.8	11
12	The Islamic Republic of Iran	14.6	12
13	Palestine	14.3	13
14	Qatar	14.1	14
15	Malaysia	14.0	15
16	Suriname	13.8	16
17	Indonesia	13.7	17
18	Egypt	13.3	18
19	Morocco	13.3	19
20	Kyrgyzstan	13.2	20
21	Libya	13.1	21
22	Azerbaijan	13.0	22
23	Gabon	12.6	23
24	Maldives	12.3	24
25	Bangladesh	12.0	25
26	Uzbekistan	11.9	26

27	Jordan	11.6	27
28	Guyana	11.6	28
29	Togo	11.5	29
30	Benin	11.4	30
31	Cameron	11.3	31
32	Lebanon	11.1	32
33	Comoros	11.1	33
34	Turkmenistan	10.9	34
35	Tajikistan	10.7	35
36	Uganda	10.6	36
37	Iraq	10.4	37
38	The Gambia	10.0	38
39	Sierra Leon	9.7	39
40	Mozambique	9.5	40
41	Nigeria	9.4	41
42	Burkina Faso	9.1	42
43	Ivory Coast	9.0	43
44	Senegal	8.9	44
45	Syria	8.9	45
46	Mauritania	8.7	46
47	Guinea	8.0	47
48	Sudan	7.7	48
49	Afghanistan	7.7	49
50	Pakistan	7.6	50
51	Yemen	7.4	51
52	Mali	6.8	52
53	Djibouti	6.7	53
54	Chad	5.9	54
55	Niger	5.7	55
56	Guinea-Bissau		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

The index of expected years of schooling has been studied as one of the dimensions of education, the average thereof among Islamic countries is 11.6 years, and the lowest and the highest rates are reported as 5.7 and 16.7 years, respectively. The said index in the Islamic Republic of Iran is 14.6 years, which is higher than the average of other countries. According to this index, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ranked 12 among Islamic countries.

Table (5): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Mean Years of Schooling Index (2019)

.No	Country	Mean Years of Schooling	Ranking
1	The United Arab Emirates	11.7	1
2	Uzbekistan	11.6	2
3	Qatar	11.3	3
4	Kyrgyzstan	11.2	4
5	Kazakhstan	10.9	5
6	Oman	10.6	6
7	Jordan	10.3	7
8	The Islamic Republic of Iran	10.3	8
9	Malaysia	10.3	9
10	Azerbaijan	10.2	10
11	Tajikistan	10.2	11
12	Saudi Arabia	9.8	12
13	Albania	9.7	13
14	Suriname	9.4	14
15	Brunei	9.1	15
16	Bahrain	9.1	16

17	Palestine	8.9	17
18	Guyana	8.9	18
19	Lebanon	8.5	19
20	Libya	8.5	20
21	Kuwait	8.0	21
22	Gabon	7.8	22
23	Indonesia	7.8	23
24	Algeria	7.7	24
25	Turkey	7.3	25
26	Maldives	7.0	26
27	Egypt	6.8	27
28	Tunisia	6.5	28
29	Iraq	6.0	29
30	Bangladesh	5.7	30
31	Nigeria	5.7	31
32	Uganda	4.9	32
33	Cameron	4.7	33
34	Morocco	4.7	34
35	Syria	4.6	35
36	Ivory Coast	4.2	36
37	Comoros	4.0	37
38	Pakistan	3.8	38
39	Mauritania	3.8	39
40	Togo	3.5	40
41	Sudan	3.3	41
42	The Gambia	3.3	42
43	Sierra Leon	2.9	43
44	Yemen	2.9	44
45	Mozambique	2.7	45
46	Benin	2.4	46
47	Afghanistan	1.9	47

48	Senegal	1.9	48
49	Mali	1.7	49
50	Guinea	1.5	50
51	Niger	1.4	51
52	Chad	1.3	52
53	Burkina Faso	1.1	53
54	Turkistan		54
55	Djibouti		55
56	Guinea-Bissau		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

The average rate of mean years of schooling for women is one of the indicators used in calculating women's progress index. The lowest and highest values of the said index in Islamic countries are 1 and 11.7 years, respectively. The average of this index is calculated as 6.47, the rate thereof in the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at 10.3 years. Iran is ranked eighth among the Islamic countries.

Table (6): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Gross National Income Per Capita (Constant 2017 International \$) Index (2019)

.No	Country	Gross National Income Per Capita (Constant 2017 (\$ International	Ranking
1	Brunei	54386	1
2	Qatar	45338	2
3	Kuwait	31698	3
4	The United Arab Emirates	28578	4
5	Malaysia	20825	5
6	Bahrain	19059	6

7	Turkey	17854	7
8	Kazakhstan	16791	8
9	Saudi Arabia	16512	9
10	Albania	11004	10
11	Turkmenistan	10493	11
12	Gabon	9925	12
13	Suriname	9504	13
14	Libya	9249	14
15	Azerbaijan	8919	15
16	Oman	7959	16
17	Maldives	7908	17
18	Indonesia	7902	18
19	Lebanon	6078	19
20	Guyana	5359	20
21	Uzbekistan	5064	21
22	Egypt	4753	22
23	Tunisia	4587	23
24	Djibouti	4151	24
25	Nigeria	4107	25
26	The Islamic Republic of Iran	4084	26
27	Jordan	3324	27
28	Algeria	3296	28
29	Morocco	2975	29
30	Cameron	2973	30
31	Kyrgyzstan	2971	31
32	Bangladesh	2873	32
33	Benin	2837	33
34	Mauritania	2782	34
35	Ivory Coast	2561	35
36	Iraq	2427	36

37	Comoros	2300	37
38	Senegal	2271	38
39	Guinea	2266	39
40	Palestine	2045	40
41	Sudan	1981	41
42	Guinea-Bissau	1647	42
43	Uganda	1591	43
44	Burkina Faso	1541	44
45	Mali	1516	45
46	Sierra Leone	1470	46
47	Tajikistan	1440	47
48	Pakistan	1393	48
49	Chad	1244	49
50	Togo	1220	50
51	The Gambia	1145	51
52	Mozambique	1131	52
53	Syria	989	53
54	Afghanistan	819	54
55	Niger	536	55
56	Yemen	186	56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

Gross national per capita income is one of the major economic indicators used to calculate various indices, including the women's progress index. The average gross per capita income of women in Islamic countries stands at 7675.7 dollars and the rate of the Islamic Republic of Iran index is 4084 dollars. The lowest and highest rates of this index among countries are 186 and 54386 dollars, respectively.

Table (7): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Maternal Mortality Ratio (Per 100,000 Live Births) Index (2019)

.No	Country	Maternal Mortality Ratio ((Per 100,000 Live Births)	Ranking
1	The United Arab Emirates	3	1
2	Turkmenistan	7	2
3	Qatar	9	3
4	Kazakhstan	10	4
5	Kuwait	12	5
6	Bahrain	14	6
7	Albania	15	7
8	The Islamic Republic of Iran	16	8
9	Saudi Arabia	17	9
10	Turkey	17	10
11	Tajikistan	17	11
12	Oman	19	12
13	Azerbaijan	26	13
14	Palestine	27	14
15	Malaysia	29	15
16	Lebanon	29	16
17	Uzbekistan	29	17
18	Brunei	31	18
19	Syria	31	19
20	Egypt	37	20
21	Tunisia	43	21
22	Jordan	46	22
23	Maldives	53	23
24	Kyrgyzstan	60	24
25	Morocco	70	25
26	Libya	72	26

27	Iraq	79	27
28	Algeria	112	28
29	Suriname	120	29
30	Pakistan	140	30
31	Yemen	164	31
32	Guyana	169	32
33	Bangladesh	173	33
34	Indonesia	177	34
35	Djibouti	248	35
36	Gabon	252	36
37	Comoros	273	37
38	Mozambique	289	38
39	Sudan	295	39
40	Senegal	315	40
41	Burkina Faso	320	41
42	Uganda	375	42
43	Togo	396	43
44	Benin	397	44
45	Niger	509	45
46	Cameron	529	46
47	Mali	562	47
48	Guinea	576	48
49	The Gambia	597	49
50	Ivory Coast	617	50
51	Afghanistan	638	51
52	Guinea-Bissau	667	52
53	Mauritania	766	53
54	Nigeria	917	54
55	Sierra Leon	1120	55
56	Chad	1140	56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

Another studied indicator is the ratio of female deaths per hundred thousand births. The value of this index for the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at 16. Iran is ranked eighth. The average of this index is 244.1 and its lowest and highest values are 3 and 1140, respectively. Comparing the value of the index in the Islamic Republic of Iran with the average and maximum thereof in Islamic countries shows the favorable situation of the said index in the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, in order to reduce the death rate among women, all the health indicators of a society should be in a favorable condition. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the value of the aforesaid index is ideal, despite the cruel sanctions that have made many health services exorbitant.

Table (8): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Proportion of Seats Held by Women in Parliament Index (2019)

.No	Country	Proportion of Seats Held by Women in Parliament	Ranking
1	The United Arab Emirates	50	1
2	Senegal	42	2
3	Mozambique	41	3
4	Uganda	35	4
5	Guyana	32	5
6	Suriname	31	6
7	Albania	30	7
8	Cameron	29	8
9	Sudan	28	9
10	Afghanistan	27	10
11	Djibouti	26	11
12	Iraq	25	12
13	Turkmenistan	25	13
14	Guinea	23	14

15	Tunisia	23	15
16	Kazakhstan	22	16
17	Algeria	22	17
18	Bangladesh	21	18
19	Mauritania	20	19
20	Tajikistan	20	20
21	Pakistan	20	21
22	Saudi Arabia	20	22
23	Kyrgyzstan	19	23
24	Bahrain	19	24
25	Morocco	18	25
26	Gabon	18	26
27	Turkey	17	27
28	Indonesia	17	28
29	Niger	17	29
30	Azerbaijan	17	30
31	Togo	16	31
32	Uzbekistan	16	32
33	Libya	16	33
34	Malaysia	16	34
35	Jordan	15	35
36	Egypt	15	36
37	Chad	15	37
38	Guinea-Bissau	14	38
39	Burkina Faso	13	39
40	Ivory Coast	13	40
41	Syria	13	41
42	Sierra Leone	12	42
43	The Gambia	10	43
44	Oman	10	44
45	Qatar	10	45

46	Mali	10	46
47	Brunei	9	47
48	Benin	7	48
49	Comoros	6	49
50	The Islamic Republic of Iran	6	50
51	Lebanon	5	51
52	Kuwait	5	52
53	Maldives	5	53
54	Nigeria	4	54
55	Yemen	1	55
56	Palestine		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

The share of seats held by women in the Parliament indicates women's participation in legislation and decision-making. The value of the index in the Islamic Republic of Iran is equal to 6 percent, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is ranked 50th among Islamic countries. The average index among Islamic countries is 18.5% and the highest and lowest value thereof was 50 and less than 1%, respectively.

Table (9): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Education Attainment, at Least Completed Upper Secondary, Index (2019)

.No	Country	Education Attainment At Least Completed) (Upper Secondary)	Ranking
1	Uzbekistan	99.9	1
2	Kazakhstan	99.3	2
3	Kyrgyzstan	99.1	3
4	Azerbaijan	93.9	4
5	Albania	93.7	5
6	Tajikistan	93.3	6

7	Jordan	82.2	7
8	Qatar	76.1	8
9	The United Arab Emirates	76.0	9
10	Egypt	73.5	10
11	Oman	73.4	11
12	Malaysia	72.2	12
13	Guyana	70.9	13
14	Libya	70.5	14
15	Brunei	69.5	15
16	Bahrain	68.1	16
17	The Islamic Republic of Iran	67.4	17
18	Gabon	66.2	18
19	Saudi Arabia	64.8	19
20	Palestine	63.5	20
21	Suriname	61.5	21
22	Kuwait	56.6	22
23	Lebanon	54.3	23
24	Turkey	50.2	24
25	Indonesia	46.8	25
26	Maldives	45.4	26
27	Tunisia	42.4	27
28	Bangladesh	39.8	28
29	Iraq	39.5	29
30	Algeria	39.1	30
31	Syria	37.1	31
32	Cameron	32.7	32
33	The Gambia	31.5	33
34	Morocco	29.1	34
35	Togo	27.6	35
36	Pakistan	27.6	36

37	Uganda	27.5	37
38	Sierra Leone	20.1	38
39	Yemen	19.9	39
40	Benin	18.3	40
41	Ivory Coast	17.9	41
42	Sudan	15.4	42
43	Mozambique	14.0	43
44	Afghanistan	13.2	44
45	Mauritania	12.7	45
46	Senegal	10.3	46
47	Mali	7.3	47
48	Burkina Faso	6.1	48
49	Niger	4.7	49
50	Chad	1.7	50
51	Turkmenistan		51
52	Comoros		52
53	Nigeria		53
54	Djibouti		54
55	Guinea-Bissau		55
56	Guinea		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

The fact that women aged 25 and over who had at least completed secondary education is an indicator used in calculating the women's progress index. The average index among Islamic countries stands at 48.5%, and the lowest and highest values are 1.7% and 99.9%, respectively. The value and rank of the aforesaid index in the Islamic Republic of Iran stood at 67.4 and 17, respectively. Comparing the value of the index of the Islamic Republic with the average of the Islamic countries is indicative of the fact that the value of the index has a significant distance from the average of the countries and is higher.

Table (10): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Labor Force Participation Rate Index (2019)

.No	Country	Labor Force Participation Rate	Ranking
1	Mozambique	77.3	1
2	Togo	76.3	2
3	Cameron	71.1	3
4	Benin	68.8	4
5	Uganda	67.0	5
6	Guinea-Bissau	65.8	6
7	Chad	63.9	7
8	Azerbaijan	63.4	8
9	Guinea	62.7	9
10	Kazakhstan	62.7	10
11	Mali	61.2	11
12	Niger	60.6	12
13	Burkina Faso	58.3	13
14	Brunei	57.8	14
15	Sierra Leone	57.3	15
16	Qatar	56.8	16
17	Indonesia	53.1	17
18	The United Arab Emirates	52.4	18
19	Uzbekistan	52.4	19
20	Turkmenistan	51.4	20
21	The Gambia	51.2	21
22	Malaysia	50.7	22
23	Djibouti	50.7	23
24	Kuwait	49.7	24
25	Ivory Coast	48.2	25
26	Nigeria	47.9	26

27	Albania	46.7	27
28	Bahrain	45.0	28
29	Kyrgyzstan	44.8	29
30	Guyana	43.9	30
31	Gabon	43.5	31
32	Maldives	41.6	32
33	Suriname	38.8	33
34	Comoros	36.6	34
35	Bangladesh	36.3	35
36	Senegal	35.0	36
37	Turkey	34.0	37
38	Libya	33.9	38
39	Tajikistan	31.3	39
40	Oman	31.0	40
41	Sudan	29.1	41
42	Mauritania	28.9	42
43	Tunisia	23.8	43
44	Lebanon	22.9	44
45	Saudi Arabia	22.1	45
46	Egypt	21.9	46
47	Pakistan	21.9	47
48	Afghanistan	21.6	48
49	Morocco	21.5	49
50	Palestine	17.7	50
51	The Islamic Republic of Iran	17.5	51
52	Algeria	14.6	52
53	Syria	14.4	53
54	Jordan	14.4	54
55	Iraq	11.6	55
56	Yemen	5.8	56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

Another indicator used is the labor force participation rate. The average index in Islamic countries stands at 42.7%, the lowest and highest values are 5.8% and 77.3%, respectively; and, the index value in the Islamic Republic of Iran is 17.5%.

Table (11): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Suicide Rate Index (2019)

.No	Country	Suicide Rate (Per 100,000 People)	Ranking
1	The United Arab Emirates	0.8	1
2	Oman	0.9	2
3	Azerbaijan	1.0	3
4	Qatar	1.1	4
5	Syria	1.1	5
6	Maldives	1.6	6
7	Saudi Arabia	1.7	7
8	Kuwait	1.7	8
9	Egypt	1.7	9
10	Tajikistan	1.7	10
11	Algeria	1.8	11
12	Bahrain	2.1	12
13	Afghanistan	2.1	13
14	Lebanon	2.2	14
15	Tunisia	2.2	15
16	Indonesia	2.2	16
17	Libya	2.3	17
18	Jordan	2.7	18
19	Brunei	2.8	19
20	The Islamic Republic of Iran	3.1	20

21	Pakistan	3.1	21
22	Turkey	3.2	22
23	Iraq	3.4	23
24	Malaysia	3.6	24
25	Morocco	3.6	25
26	Mauritania	3.6	26
27	Turkmenistan	3.7	27
28	Kyrgyzstan	3.7	28
29	Mozambique	4.1	29
30	Albania	4.3	30
31	Gabon	4.3	31
32	Uzbekistan	4.6	32
33	Sudan	4.6	33
34	Mali	4.7	34
35	Senegal	5.2	35
36	Djibouti	5.3	36
37	Comoros	5.4	37
38	Guinea-Bissau	6.1	38
39	Yemen	6.2	39
40	Bangladesh	6.7	40
41	Niger	6.7	41
42	The Gambia	7.3	42
43	Kazakhstan	7.7	43
44	Guinea	8.4	44
45	Burkina Faso	9.1	45
46	Benin	9.6	46
47	Suriname	10.9	47
48	Togo	10.9	48
49	Cameron	12.5	49
50	Ivory Coast	13.0	50
51	Chad	13.8	51

52	Guyana	14.2	52
53	Sierra Leone	14.2	53
54	Nigeria	17.1	54
55	Uganda	18.7	55
56	Palestine		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

Suicide rate per 100,000 people was one of the other studied indicators in the present study. The average of this index for Islamic countries stands at 55, the lowest and highest values were 0.8 and 18.7, respectively. The value of the aforementioned index in the Islamic Republic of Iran was 1/3; it is ranked 20th among Islamic countries.

Table (12): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Female Mortality Rate Index (2019)

.No	Country	Female Mortality Rate	Ranking
1	Qatar	32	1
2	Kuwait	41	2
3	Tunisia	42	3
4	The United Arab Emirates	45	4
5	Bahrain	56	5
6	Iraq	62	6
7	Turkey	62	7
8	Oman	63	8
9	Pakistan	73	9
10	The Islamic Republic of Iran	74	10
11	Saudi Arabia	76	11
12	Gabon	76	12
13	Lebanon	81	13
14	Turkmenistan	81	14

15	Malaysia	84	15
16	Egypt	92	16
17	Guyana	94	17
18	Kazakhstan	94	18
19	Algeria	96	19
20	Azerbaijan	97	20
21	Brunei	99	21
22	Uzbekistan	99	22
23	Jordan	104	23
24	Albania	109	24
25	Libya	121	25
26	Cameron	125	26
27	Suriname	125	27
28	Tajikistan	129	28
29	Comoros	138	29
30	Indonesia	138	30
31	Sudan	145	31
32	Bangladesh	147	32
33	Burkina Faso	175	33
34	Afghanistan	178	34
35	Togo	182	35
36	Kyrgyzstan	182	36
37	Guinea-Bissau	185	37
38	Mauritania	188	38
39	The Gambia	193	39
40	Djibouti	193	40
41	Benin	194	41
42	Sierra Leone	202	42
43	Nigeria	211	43
44	Guinea	225	44
45	Mozambique	233	45

46	Ivory Coast	233	46
47	Chad	245	47
48	Palestine	249	48
49	Mali	268	49
50	Niger	301	50
51	Yemen	301	51
52	Syria	338	52
53	Senegal	419	53
54	Maldives		54
55	Morocco		55
56	Uganda		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

The female mortality rate is one of the indicators used in forming the composite index of women's progress. The average of this index among Islamic countries stands at 144.4, its highest and lowest values are 419.4 and 31.9, respectively. The value of this index in the Islamic Republic of Iran was 74 and the Country is ranked 10th. Comparing the value of the index in the Islamic Republic of Iran with other Islamic countries proves the very favorable status of the aforementioned index in Iran.

Table (13): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Female Mortality Rate Caused by Non-Communicable Diseases Index (2019)

.No	Country	Female Mortality Rate Caused by Non-Communicable Diseases	Ranking
1	Gabon	320	1
2	The Islamic Republic of Iran	337	2
3	Jordan	395	3
4	Tunisia	404	4

5	Oman	405	5
6	Turkmenistan	412	6
7	Turkey	414	7
8	Azerbaijan	422	8
9	Qatar	426	9
10	Bahrain	430	10
11	Lebanon	431	11
12	Malaysia	446	12
13	Indonesia	456	13
14	The United Arab Emirates	460	14
15	Iraq	484	15
16	Kyrgyzstan	484	16
17	Libya	485	17
18	Brunei	497	18
19	Mali	503	19
20	Saudi Arabia	509	20
21	Djibouti	519	21
22	Albania	519	22
23	Guinea-Bissau	523	23
24	Bangladesh	525	24
25	Niger	541	25
26	Suriname	541	26
27	Kuwait	541	27
28	Afghanistan	566	28
29	Uzbekistan	568	29
30	Guinea	575	30
31	Palestine	580	31
32	Syria	581	32
33	Sudan	583	33
34	Ivory Coast	587	34

35	Pakistan	595	35
36	Togo	595	36
37	Sierra Leone	595	37
38	Tajikistan	605	38
39	Guyana	610	39
40	Nigeria	618	40
41	Algeria	619	41
42	Mauritania	620	42
43	Kazakhstan	626	43
44	Benin	628	44
45	Cameron	633	45
46	Yemen	669	46
47	Comoros	681	47
48	Senegal	737	48
49	Mozambique	762	49
50	The Gambia	805	50
51	Chad	817	51
52	Burkina Faso	820	52
53	Maldives		53
54	Egypt		54
55	Morocco		55
56	Uganda		56

Source: 2019 HDI Report & Calculations Conducted by Researcher

One of the indicators that shows the health status of the society and has been used to make a composite index of women's progress, is the death rate caused by non-communicable diseases among women. The average index among Islamic countries stands at 1.548, the highest and lowest values are 819.7 and 319.6, respectively. The value of the aforementioned index in the Islamic Republic of Iran is 337 and Iran ranks second among Islamic countries. Examining the status of health indicators of the Islamic Republic of Iran among Islamic countries is emblematic of

the progress made by the Country in relation to health indicators. All these advancements have been achieved despite the cruel, unlawful and unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It proves how much attention is being paid to promoting and safeguarding the society's public health and well-being.

Table (14): OIC Member States Ranking Based on Progress Index (2019)

.No	Country	Rate
1	Brunei	100.00
2	Qatar	98.79
3	The United Arab Emirates	87.67
4	Kuwait	84.27
5	Malaysia	76.53
6	Bahrain	75.58
7	Kazakhstan	73.17
8	Saudi Arabia	72.00
9	Turkey	71.63
10	Albania	69.56
11	Azerbaijan	67.91
12	Oman	66.95
13	Libya	66.05
14	Uzbekistan	65.16
15	Turkmenistan	63.51
16	Tunisia	62.97
17	Lebanon	62.90
18	Kyrgyzstan	62.72
19	Indonesia	62.20
20	Jordan	61.73
21	The Islamic Republic of Iran	61.71
22	Maldives	61.29
23	Tajikistan	61.04

24	Suriname	60.74
25	Egypt	60.72
26	Algeria	60.39
27	Morocco	59.66
28	Gabon	59.54
29	Iraq	56.49
30	Guyana	55.95
31	Syria	55.67
32	Pakistan	55.52
33	Djibouti	54.64
34	Bangladesh	53.52
35	Palestine	52.29
36	Sudan	50.76
37	Comoros	50.40
38	Mozambique	49.87
39	Senegal	48.09
40	Yemen	48.03
41	Uganda	47.65
42	Togo	47.43
43	Benin	46.94
44	Burkina Faso	45.65
45	Cameron	45.35
46	Afghanistan	44.04
47	The Gambia	42.73
48	Mauritania	41.81
49	Guinea-Bissau	40.96
50	Guinea	39.69
51	Mali	39.50
52	Niger	38.26
53	Ivory Coast	35.94
54	Nigeria	29.63

55	Sierra Leone	28.53
56	Chad	24.73

Source: Calculations Conducted by Researcher

As shown in Table No. (14), the OIC Member States have been placed in four groups with very high, high, medium and low development based on the combined index of women's progress, so there are seven countries in the first group (very high development). Women in the aforementioned Member States have a higher per capita income than any other indicator. The index in question has been very effective in placing countries in the mentioned group. There are 21 countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the second group (women with high progress). Twenty-one countries also have a composite index for women at an average level, and seven countries have a low composite index for women.

6) Gender Development Index

The introduction of gender issues in human development began in 1995 with the introduction of the Gender Development Index, which led to international attention to reducing the gender gap in all aspects of life. The GDI was not a measure of gender inequality, but a gender-adjusted Human Development Index and could not be analyzed independently of the HDI. In other words, the HDI index shows the average access and the GDI index adjusts it according to the inequality between women and men. The GDI index shows how human development achievements are distributed between the two sexes. This index measures the ratio of women to men: the closer the result is to 1, the more balanced the situation, thus indicating that there is not much variation in HDI results for both sexes. On the other hand, the closer it is to zero, the more

unbalanced the HDI results are between men and women. Since no country has complete gender equality, the HDI thereof is reduced given gender inequality.

Table 15: Ranking of OIC Member States according to Gender Development Index, 2019

No	State	Gender Development Index	Ranking
1.	Qatar	1/030	1
2.	Suriname	0/985	2
3.	Kuwait	0/983	3
4.	Brunei Darussalam	0/981	4
5.	Kazakhstan	0/980	5
6.	Libya	0/976	6
7.	Malaysia	0/972	7
8.	Albania	0/967	8
9.	Guyana	0/961	9
10.	Kyrgyzstan	0/957	10
11.	Azerbaijan	0/943	11
12.	Indonesia	0/940	12
13.	Uzbekistan	0/939	13
14.	Oman	0/936	14
15.	United Arab Emirates	0/931	15
16.	Turkey	0/924	16
17.	Bahrain	0/922	17
18.	Gabon	0/916	18
19.	Mozambique	0/912	19
20.	Bangladesh	0/904	20
21.	Tunisia	0/900	21
22.	Saudi Arabia	0/896	22
23.	Lebanon	0/892	23
24.	Comoros	0/891	24
25.	Sierra Leone	0/884	25
26.	Egypt	0/882	26
27.	Nigeria	0/881	27
28.	Jordan	0/875	28
29.	State of Palestine	0/870	29
30.	Senegal	0/870	30
31.	Burkina Faso	0/867	31
32.	Islamic Republic of Iran	0/866	32
33.	Cameron	0/864	33

34.	Mauritania	0/864	34
35.	Uganda	0/863	35
36.	Sudan	0/860	36
37.	Algeria	0/858	37
38.	Benin	0/855	38
39.	Gambia	0/846	39
40.	South Sudan	0/842	40
41.	Morocco	0/835	41
42.	Syrian Arab Republic	0/829	42
43.	Tajikistan	0/823	43
44.	Togo	0/822	44
45.	Sierra Leone	0/821	45
46.	Guinea	0/817	46
47.	Côte d'Ivoire	0/811	47
48.	Iraq	0/774	48
49.	Chad	0/764	49
50.	Pakistan	0/745	50
51.	Niger	0/724	51
52.	Afghanistan	0/659	52
53.	Yemen	0/488	53
54.	Turkmenistan	54
55.	Djibouti	55
56.	Guinea-Bissau	56

Source: Human Development Report 2019 and researcher calculations

Table No. (16): Distribution of Women's Development Index Among OIC Member States (2019)

Description	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Very High	11	19.3	19.3
High	16	28.1	47.4
Average	10	17.5	64.9
Low	20	35.1	100
Total	57	100	

Source: Calculations Conducted by Researcher

The components of the women's development index are as follows: life expectancy at birth (men and women), expected years of schooling (men and women), mean years of schooling (men and women) and per capita income (men and women). Table No. 16 shows that women's development in 11 OIC Member States is very high. This is while in 16 Member States, the said level is high. Women's development level stands at average in 10 Member States and there is a low level of such development in 20 Member States. In general, 47.7% of these countries have had a high and very high level of women's development. In other words, more than half of the aforementioned countries had a medium and low level of development.

7) Conclusion

The index of women's development in the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at 0.866, which indicates high gender development. It should be remembered that the index of women's development in the Islamic Republic of Iran is not much different compared to countries with a very high development rate. The life expectancy of women in the aforesaid countries is higher than that of men. In relation to other components of the women's development index, in 26 countries the average expected years of women are more than men; and; in 8 countries, the average years of education of women are more than men. The per capita income of men has been higher than that of women in all OIC Member States. Had there been no economic restrictions caused by cruel sanctions for the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the economic dimension of the women's development index could grow significantly, the value of the women's development index of the Country would have become higher than the current value.

Comparing the components of the HDI with the GDI between the countries of the region shows that the most significant gender difference between men and women is related to years of schooling and especially per capita income. With regards to the average life expectancy, women generally have a higher life expectancy than men.

Among the OIC Member States, according to the combined index of women's progress, the Islamic Republic of Iran has a high level and as per the index of women's development, the Country enjoys a high level of women's progress. It deserves a mention that if the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys the freedom to conduct economic activities and there is no such thing as cruel sanctions as the main obstacle to the advancement of women, then the Country can freely participate in international trade; and, not only will it find a favorable situation in the aforementioned indicators, but the level of the women's development index will also become very high.

The page features a decorative background with wavy, layered blue shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light to dark, creating a sense of movement and depth. The text is centered within a light blue gradient area.

References:

- The Sixth Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and
- The 2019 Human Development Report.

