

XII Modelo de las Naciones Unidas The Victoria School



UN Women

TOPICS:

Topic A: Inequality in the positions of politics in China.

Approaches:

How the role of women in the Chinese political power is reduced, and decreases even more in the top positions, due to the maintenance of certain traditional roles and social barriers that benefit men.

Topic B: Women of Iraq

Approaches:

Amid conflict and displacement, women in Iraq are in a particularly vulnerable position. In many cases widowed, alone in charge of their children, the struggle to get ahead is difficult and the future, uncertain.

Presidents: Daniela Corredor and Guest President.

Daniela Corredor: Don't hesitate to contact me for whatever you need.	dcorredorc@tvs.edu.co 3118786562
External President:	Special Guest

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Welcome to the committee:

Dear delegates, I am very pleased to be your president in this unique committee that is one of the most interesting commissions regarding human rights.

The committee will deal with two very important issues and we expect that you give your best to have a good debate and very rewarding results. Actionable wisdom, inspiration, and very valuable information would be some of the things that you can acquire in this committee. Women are the most important beings we have in this world, and without them, almost all of the things, for not saying all of them, couldn't be possible without them; let's keep this in mind always, no matter what. Also, stopped being strong because of what people think: "strong women are often misperceived as cold and mean simply because they refuse to be disrespected, mistreated, or taken for granted" -(n.d)

We hope everyone enjoys and learns a lot in this committee, and thanks for signing up for UN Women.

About the commission:

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports the UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes, and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities :

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Topic A

Inequality in the positions of politics in China.

How the role of women in the Chinese political power is reduced, and decreases even more in the top positions, due to the maintenance of certain traditional roles and social barriers that benefit men.

Ways in which the topic has been discussed within the committee



Working in China since 1998, UN Women provides technical and financial assistance to innovative programmes and strategies for gender equality and women's empowerment.

UN Women works in partnership with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, donors, communities and networks to advance gender equality.

Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the center of our work, UN Women China focuses on:

- Violence against Women This fundamental violation of women's rights remains widespread. Women need strong laws, backed by implementation and services for protection and prevention.

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- Leadership and Political Participation Whether in political bodies or corporate boardrooms, women have a limited say in the decisions that affect them. Measures are needed to open more space for women's participation and help women realize their full leadership potential.
 - Economic Empowerment Women lag far behind men in access to land, credit and decent jobs, even though a growing body of research shows that enhancing women's economic options boosts national economies.
 - National Planning and Budgeting Public planning often overlooks women's specific needs and priorities. Gender equality should be a stated objective of all plans, backed by specific actions for implementation and sufficient funding.

In these major focus areas, UN Women China has projects and programmes in the following areas

- Eliminating Violence Against Women
- Strengthening Women's Economic Rights
- Gendered Face of Climate Change and Environmental Effects
- Gender Responsive Governance and Women's Political Empowerment
- Gender and HIV-AIDS
- Using Media to Promote Gender Equality

UN Women China's programmes are guided by:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979
- The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), 1995
- The Millennium Declaration and Development Goals (MDGs), 2005
- The Paris Declaration, 2005

China ratified CEDAW in 1980 and is legally obliged to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and advance gender equality. UN Women assists China to meet its obligations to implement CEDAW by strengthening the capacity of national partners. The spirit of CEDAW and BPFA has been affirmed by the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.



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UN Women China is the Secretariat for the United Nations Theme Group on Gender (UNTGG). The objective of the UNTGG is to serve as a forum and a channel for experience sharing in an effort to develop an effective gender mainstreaming strategies and advocacy in the work of the UN system and the wider donor community.

The China Gender Facility (CGF) was established in 2004 by the UNTGG. Administered by UN Women, the objective of the CGF is to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in China.

The CGF provides grants of approximately \$50,000 to government, civil society, and academic institutions in China. These grants fund innovative proposals that support research on contemporary gender issues, as well as advocacy and dialogue leading to gender-responsive development plans, policies and programmes in China. So far the CGF has supported 44 projects addressing a wide range of gender issues, including domestic violence, gender and climate change, and women's equal access to employment, among other issues.

Funding for the CGF is provided by UN Agencies, bilateral donors and the private sector.

CGF in Action

As a result of the CGF Project with the Southeast University for Nationalities implemented in Liangshan, Sichuan, a Yi Minority Autonomous Region, a culturally sensitive intervention model on trafficking in women and children was established between indigenous mediators and the official judicial system to jointly resolve trafficking problems in Sichuan Province.

Through the CGF project implemented by Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Aid Center, the North China Pharmaceutical Company has established a corporate sexual harassment prevention mechanism and incorporated it into the company's policy system. The mechanism defines sexual harassment, lays out the obligations of employees and the company, and establishes an internal office for handling sexual harassment complaints.

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Historical context of the topic:

Since its foundation, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has promoted gender equality, at least at the level of official rhetoric. Despite some progress in their social and economic lives, women have not been able to make headway in Chinese politics. Many scholars have studied this topic, but due to the CCP's political sensitivity, systematic data are not available. Although most empirical studies of Chinese women in politics focus on the National People's Congress (NPC), this paper focuses on officials in the Party-State, on the grounds that they wield more power than members of the NPC. Female leaders of the Party-State are more likely to be drawn from non-party members and to occupy less prestigious positions than male leaders. However, there is no evidence, indicating that women and ethnic minority status are associated, or that women face more difficulties entering more powerful branches of the Party-State. The cross-regional analysis finds that political institutions, socioeconomic conditions, and culture have all played some role in promoting or hindering women's political careers.

One major goal of the socialist revolution in China was to liberate women. Social transformation and state socialism under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have raised women's overall status (Croll 1978; Davin 1976). But their advancement in politics is still in question.

Have women achieved the goal of holding up half the sky in Chinese politics? If not, how much progress have they made and what kind of biases do they face? How serious are those biases? What factors can explain the progress, or lack of thereof?

Actual Situation:

Many feminist scholars have analyzed the role of Chinese women in social, economic, and cultural life (Gilmartin, Hershatter, Rofel, and White 1994; Stacey 1983; Wesoky 2002). Existing research about women's involvement in politics is imprecise. Scholars lament the slow progress (and indeed the retrogression in the post-Mao era) in women's political

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participation and analyze women's frustration as a result of their rising social and economic status, but empirical evidence in their analyses is usually anecdotal. Statistics, whenever available, are not systematic. There are many interesting and plausible hypotheses that are not subject to rigorous testing. In a way, the relative lack of empirically grounded research is understandable. The Chinese state is well aware of the gap between its promise of gender equality and the reality in Chinese politics. The government has tried to control the amount of information available in this regard and has released more flattering statistics, such as women's representation in the National People's Congress (NPC).

Some scholars (Hsiung 2001; Judd 2002) have studied women politicians and provided rich biographical information. Their studies are very informative but limited in geographical coverage. Stanley Rosen (1995) has assembled an array of statistics regarding women's political participation in different institutions and at different levels of the state. While valuable, the statistics are highly aggregated. Recent developments in China, especially the rapid expansion of Internet use, have made new information concerning the demographics of political participation available to researchers. (...)

Protests

After her anti-child molestation campaign, feminist Ye Haiyan, also known as Liumang Yan, or "Hooligan Sparrow," has been detained by the Chinese police. Officials say the arrest and detainment were because Ye intentionally injured three women in a fight and insist the case has nothing to do with her protest, an explanation that Ye's supporters did not buy at all. While they argue that Ye's activism played a role in her detention, her gender may have also been a factor in her mistreatment.

A woman who takes part in a political demonstration plays a high-profile role in a civil movement, or participates in government in China is apt to face inconvenient truths. Within the political system, she must submit to one-party rule; on a cultural level, she must move within a long-standing patriarchal society.

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There have been some improvements in women's political participation since the establishment of the People's Republic of China. In 1949, China implemented one of its most basic laws, which states that "women shall enjoy equal rights with men in political, economic, cultural, educational and social life." (U. (n.d.). Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>)

During the 1950s, Chairman Mao's famous quote, "Women hold up half the sky," further promoted women's social status. A few years later, China had its first female Vice Premier, Wu Guixian, who held the position for one year during the Cultural Revolution. Nowadays, one can see female faces on television, in governmental bodies, and among the leadership in the Chinese Communist Party. To date, China has had six female Party Central Committee members, two female party secretaries at the provincial level, four provincial governors, and four female Vice Premiers, the latest being Liu Yandong, 67, who is responsible for the science, education, culture, and sports sectors. At more grassroots levels, Chinese women now account for almost half of the members in urban neighborhood committees, a unique form of self-governance among city dwellers in China. (...)

But parallel to the narrative of Chinese women's rising status exists another narrative: the rise of traditional patriarchal stereotyping of women, and a gendered division of labor, responsibilities, economic structures, institutional norms, and procedures. There is inadequate state intervention in a variety of sectors; women are on average less educated than men, and political culture and male-centered social practices have made it difficult for Chinese women to break through the glass ceiling.

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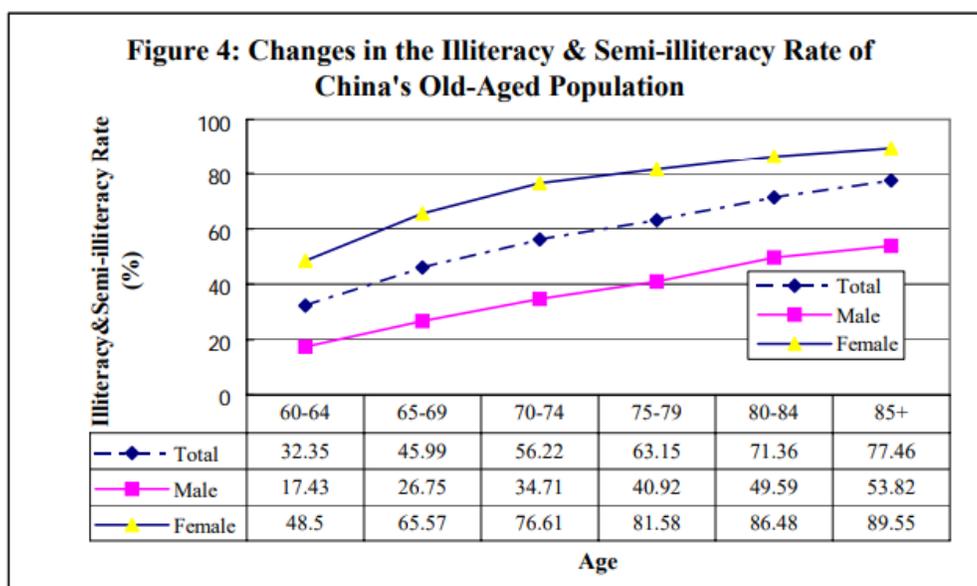


Table 4: Male and Female Adult Illiteracy Rates in Rural and Urban China (% , Selected Years)

Year	1982	1990	2000
National Total	34.49	22.21	8.80
Male Nationwide	20.78	12.98	4.66
Female Nationwide	48.88	31.93	13.11
Urban Total	17.75	11.97	5.22
Urban Male	9.47	6.08	2.38
Urban Female	26.96	18.36	8.17
Rural Total	39.42	26.23	11.19
Rural Male	24.23	15.74	6.18
Rural Female	55.09	37.11	16.43

Note: 'Urban' in the table refers to the total of city and urban town data.

Data sources: Calculated by using data obtained from 1982, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses.



Data sources: CD-Rom provided by NBS containing original data from sampling surveys on 0.95% population conducted during the 5th Population Census.

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Table 8: Average Years of Education for Population Aged 6 Years and Above in China (Selected Years)

	1982	1990	2000
National Total	5.20	6.25	7.6
National Male	6.14	7.02	8.12
National Female	4.22	5.44	7.05
City Total	7.22	8.02	9.38
City Male	7.86	8.6	9.78
City Female	6.53	7.39	8.96
Urban Town Total	6.98	7.95	8.36
Urban Town Male	7.62	8.55	8.86
Urban Town Female	6.24	7.28	7.84
Rural Total	4.69	5.6	6.76
Rural Male	5.69	6.43	7.33
Rural Female	3.65	4.74	6.15

Data sources: Calculated by using data taken from 1982, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEAPREGTOPGENDER/Resources/Gender-Gaps-Figures&Facts.pdf>

The fact is, as much as Chinese women are gradually gaining political rights, they are playing only peripheral roles, whereas men continue to dominate the top levels of leadership in the Chinese government. The Politburo Standing Committee, the highest body of the Party, has not had a female member since its establishment.

Despite Liu Yandong's success, she and her colleague Sun Chunlan are the only two females out of twenty-five members of the 18th Politburo of the Party. Coincidentally, the proportion of women in the Party's Central Committee has fallen over the years -- down to just 4.9 percent of the most recent Party Congress.

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Not only is gender inequality still a severe problem in China, but women in rural areas are even worse off than women in urban areas. Scholars have found that women's participation in rural governance remains seriously limited. Sexist attitudes that "women are of low quality" (di su zhi) are still prevalent in the Chinese countryside. Representation of women in local government bodies remains low, and women villagers' political aspirations and sense of empowerment are similarly limited; those who make their way into government bodies or villager's committees are often assigned marginal portfolios.

While half a century has passed since Chairman Mao's remark, women's proverbial "half of the sky" has not become substantially brighter. History has shown Chinese women that the patriarchal culture into which they are born will not fade away by itself and that political empowerment will come only with struggle. Perhaps this is why quite a few Chinese feminists and women's rights organizations have now extended their fights into the cyber community, just as Ye Haiyan has. There, through verbal abuse and sexist attitudes still exist, their voices can be heard by millions.

China's constitution guarantees women "equal rights with men in all spheres of life," and over the last several decades, women in China have enjoyed some notable gains. Life expectancy and literacy rates, for instance, have risen as China's economy has developed. This progress, however, has been outpaced by the rest of the world. China's ranking in the index fell sharply from 63rd out of 115 countries in 2006 to 100th out of 144 countries in 2017.

Nevertheless, everything starts with education, doesn't it? Here's a chart so we can analyze if the problem comes from way behind...

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Female to Male Ratio at Top Chinese Universities in 2018

World University Ranking	School	Female (%)	Male (%)
27	Peking University	47	53
30	Tsinghua University	32	68
116	Fudan University	51	49
169	Nanjing University	50	50
177	Zhejiang University	22	78
188	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	41	59

Source: Times Higher Education World University Rankings

Approach to the central problem:

There is inequality towards women when it comes to having a high position in politics.

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Research questions:

- Is there inequality towards women having high positions in politics in China? What are the reasons for this to happen?
- What are the positions that women are able to have in politics and what are the impossible positions women can't seem to acquire?
- What rights are being violated in this situation?
- What short-term and long-term solutions may there be for this issue?
- What is the state the delegate is representing position regarding women participating in politics?
- How may the nation represented by the delegate solve this issue?

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Topic A

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Topic B:

Women of Iraq

Approach to the central problem:

There is inequality towards women when it comes to having the same rights and opportunities as men.

Form in which the topic has been discussed within the committee:

In response to the appalling humanitarian crisis in Iraq, UN Women renews its commitment and stands ready to support Government of Iraq, CSOs, UN and other partners in Iraq on accelerating efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. (Countries: Iraq. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/countries/iraq>)

Here is also a video that shows what UN Women has done to succour women in Iraq and it explains also what's happening, it will explain you the context and provide a clear perspective of the UN towards this topic.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2aCRkMHmVg>

Historical context:

During the Iran-Iraq War, with so many men fighting in the military, women were required to study in fields and to work in positions normally filled by men. Many women joined the labor force as teachers, physicians, dentists, factory workers, and civil servants, with the majority performing unskilled labor. Women professionals, such as doctors, are normally pediatricians or obstetricians, so that they work with only women or children. Those drafted into the workforce during the Iran-Iraq War were also made to comply with about a one-third deduction from their salary to go toward the war effort. Also, women are the biggest victims of a lot of conflicts and crimes. In some places in Iraq, they are not even allowed to work or go outside their home without wearing a niqab or being accompanied by a male family member. Some are deprived of their basic rights, including the right to vote, study or love. Many have become dependent on men. Those who lost their husbands in the war against *Daesh* (Islamic State) are forced to look after the family. They will not have mastered any skills or received an education because they were not (and will never be) allowed to. (Iraq. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Iraq.html>)

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Current situation:

Earlier in the month of November in 2017, Iraq's parliament received amendments to its constitution that - if approved - will fundamentally change Iraqi women's legal rights. The amendments include sectarian religious laws - breaking with the current law based on Sunni and Shiite jurisprudence. The amendments apply to Iraq's personal status code, which is a legal framework addressing family law that gathers most of women's legal rights in matters of marriage, divorce, child custody, alimony or inheritance. If approved, the amendments will affect marriage inside the civil court that provides legal protection for women from polygamy and different forms of abuse. Iraqi women's rights and civil society activists consider this proposal to fundamentally question the basis of women's legal rights in Iraq along conservative and sectarian lines. Activists from different platforms, like the Iraqi Women Network, Iraqi Women Journalist's Forum and Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq, have pushed for progressive reforms of the personal status code rather than its questioning along regressive lines. In such an environment of generalized sectarian violence - and marked by the dominance of sectarian and religious conservative forces - the existing personal status code is inclusive, uniting Sunnis and Shiites under one legal framework and granting women essential rights, like the right to divorce in cases of domestic violence and abuse. In 2015, a protest movement began against the post-2003 political system, alleging corruption and nepotism by the country's new political elite. Demonstrators demanded a state treating its citizens equally, instead of a political system based on ethnic, religious and sectarian identity. More generally, women's rights and civil society activists have been at the forefront of mobilizations for a welfare system, advocating for functioning state institutions and services - like access to electricity, running water, housing and employment. For women's rights activists in Iraq, the proliferation of child marriage is a consequence of the generalized

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impovertishment, insecurity and the absence of functioning state's institutions. Since 2003, Iraqi women's rights activists have been caught between fighting to preserve their existing rights - under threat from conservative social forces -and for their essential rights to security and dignity - under siege from the violent social, political and ethno-sectarian crisis provoked by the invasion and occupation. That would break the legacy of the progressive political forces that established the personal status code - and above all - the legacy of the women's movement that fought for these rights for all Iraqis, regardless of religious “sect”. In this current situation, if we talk about education out of every 10 secondary school age children: 5 are in secondary school, 1 is in primary school, 4 have dropped out of school. The majority of children who drop out before reaching secondary school are girls. 3 out of 10 young women aged 15-24 are illiterate.

(Data given by UNICEF

https://www.unicef.org/iraq/MICS_highlights_ENGLISH_FINAL.pdf)

(Some of this information taken from https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/11/20/womens-rights-are-under-threat-in-iraq/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.45b717050d5b)

It is really important that you understand how the Sharia Law works.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odmySqc9Qa8>

Research questions:

- Is there inequality towards women having same rights and opportunities as men in Iraq? What are the “justified” reasons for this to happen?
- What are the opportunities that women are able to have in Iraq and what are the impossible achievements women can't seem to acquire?
- What rights are being violated in this situation?
- What short-term and long-term solutions may there be for this issue?
- What is your country's position regarding women participating in politics?
- How may your country help to solve this issue?

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References and useful sources:

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We wish for you delegates to give your best and we hope that you learn a lot within this committee. Thanks because without you, the world would just be hopeless.