



Nature Club Council

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MATTERS OF FACT

Women's Lives. On average, women in the least developed countries live **27 years** less than women in the industrialised world. Women in France and Japan live 83 years on average; the **life expectancy** of a woman in Sierra Leone is 35 years. The average age at **marriage** for a woman in Mali or Niger is 16; in Japan, New Zealand and Singapore, it's 27. In Senegal, women spend about 17.5 hours a week collecting water. In Peru, women spend about 2.5 hours a day gathering **wood for fuel**. In nearly every country, women work more hours than men - when paid and unpaid **labour** is taken into account. The global **average wage** for women is about three-fourths of the male wage- ranging 92% of the male wage in Tanzania to 75% in Belgium, Germany and the US, to 42% in Bangladesh. In many African countries, women contribute up to 80% of the total **food production**, yet receive less than 10% of the credit to small farmers. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 85% of women can read and write; the female **literacy rate** in South Asia is 34%; in the Arab States, 41%. Every year, about one million children, mostly girls in Asia, are forced into **prostitution**. Of the 1.3 billion people living in **extreme poverty**, about 70% are women. Although women constitute half the electorate, they hold only 13% of the seats in the world's **parliaments**.

Extracted
from UNDP'S
CHOICES
The Human
Development
Magazine
Oct. 1997.

The discussion on women's bill and variety of women issues are to be understood well. So are the above facts. Activism is not shouting slogans but understanding and taking stands and speaking out.

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