

CHAPTER VI: IPRI AND GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is often taken for granted in developed countries, while in many developing countries there are striking disparities in property rights between men and women. Women play a crucial role in the economic development of a country, but they are often denied rights to property either by law or by custom. These practices not only deny women a secure income, but they also ensure future generations will have to deal with a similar level of poverty.

This chapter highlights the importance of gender equality with respect to economic development. It presents a separate component that is aimed at accounting for varying degrees of gender equality in developing countries.

Concept of Study

Academics and policymakers point out that women's unequal access to property rights adds an additional layer of complexity to the understanding of property rights in many countries. Developed countries overwhelmingly have embraced gender equality in both law and practice with respect to property rights. By contrast, developing countries vary significantly in how much protection is afforded to women when it comes to issues of property. To account for gender equality, this chapter extends the standard IPRI measure to include a measure of gender equality (GE) concerning property rights. The IPRI formula was modified to incorporate gender equality:

$$\text{IPRI(GE)} = \text{IPRI} + 0.2 * \text{GE}$$

A weight of 0.2 for the gender equality measure is arbitrary. The authors have varied the weight from 0.1 to 0.5 but found scores and resulting rankings to be highly correlated under different weighting schemes. However, the reader is invited to change this weight according to his or her preference. The construction of the GE measure is based on the five indicators displayed in [Figure 21](#).

Figure 21: Structure of The Gender Equality Component (GE)

- Women's Access to Land
- Women's Access to Credit
- Women's Access to Property Other than Land
- Inheritance Practices
- Women's Social Rights*

*This indicator is a composite of four other variables combined to represent the social rights of women.

Variables

Women's Access to Land, Women's Access to Credit, and Women's Access to Property Other than Land

These three variables are included in the GE component because they indicate the quality of women's ownership rights with respect to three aspects: women's access to bank loans, their right to acquire and own land, and their right to own property other than land. The rating of these factors indicates the extent of restrictions or the size of the female population for which restrictions are relevant. However, some restrictions may only be relevant for women at a specific stage in life (e.g., marriage).

Source: *OECD Gender, Institutions, and Development Database 2009 (GID-DB)*

Inheritance Practices

This factor covers inheritance practices, ranking countries on the degree to which regulations show preference to male heirs. This variable measures the extent to which bequests are equally shared between male and female children.

Source: *OECD Gender, Institutions, and Development Database 2009 (GID-DB)*

Women's Social Rights

This variable covers broader aspects of women's equality. It is composed of several aspects of women's social rights that are crucial to their equal standing in society. These include parental authority, female genital mutilation, freedom of movement, and the ratio of female-to-male adult literacy. In past IPRI studies, this component also included a measure of repudiation. However, this aspect is no longer available in the updated data source. This omission is not expected to have a significant impact on the overall score because the women's social rights scores are essentially identical in previous years' data when one excludes repudiation.

Source: *OECD Gender, Institutions, and Development Database 2009 (GID-DB)*

Methodology

The methodology of the GE component is identical to the one used to construct the IPRI. The final GE score is also an index based on the average of equally weighted variables, which range on a scale from 0 to 10. Zero signifies complete discrimination against women, while a top score is given to countries with fully developed and equal rights for women. Given that all variables in the original data source are constructed as indicators, we normalize the data to a 0–10 scale.^{vi} Consequently, the result for the final IPRI(GE) ranking is on a 0–12 scale because of the 0.2 weighting for GE. For example, assume a country received perfect scores in both IPRI and GE measures. This means their IPRI(GE) score would be $10 + .2(10) = 12$.

Table 9: Ranking by IPRI (GE) Score

Rank	Country	IPRI(GE)	GE	Rank	Country	IPRI(GE)	GE
1	SINGAPORE	10.3	10.0		GUATEMALA	6.3	8.9
2	HONG KONG	9.8	10.0	44	BURKINA FASO	6.2	6.2
3	TAIWAN	8.9	9.0		TANZANIA	6.2	5.6
4	CHILE	8.4	8.7		DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6.2	8.0
	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8.4	5.8		SWAZILAND	6.2	5.0
6	MAURITIUS	8.3	10.0		ARMENIA	6.2	10.0
7	URUGUAY	8.1	10.0		ECUADOR	6.2	9.0
8	BAHRAIN	7.9	6.2	50	BENIN	6.1	4.2
	COSTA RICA	7.9	10.0		SYRIA	6.1	6.7
	OMAN	7.9	5.9		BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	6.1	10.0
11	TUNISIA	7.8	8.9		GEORGIA	6.1	10.0
	MALAYSIA	7.8	8.3	54	UKRAINE	6.0	10.0
13	SOUTH AFRICA	7.7	5.5		PARAGUAY	6.0	10.0
14	PANAMA	7.6	10.0		MADAGASCAR	6.0	8.3
15	KUWAIT	7.5	8.2	57	ALBANIA	5.9	7.7
	CHINA	7.5	10.0		SENEGAL	5.9	6.1
	BOTSWANA	7.5	5.8		MAURITANIA	5.9	6.5
18	SAUDI ARABIA	7.4	4.6		NICARAGUA	5.9	9.0
	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	7.4	9.0		MOLDOVA	5.9	10.0
20	BRAZIL	7.3	10.0		LEBANON	5.9	7.5
	CROATIA	7.3	10.0		BOLIVIA	5.9	9.9
	THAILAND	7.3	10.0	64	SERBIA	5.8	8.0
23	JAMAICA	7.0	8.0	65	MALI	5.7	4.7
24	COLOMBIA	6.9	9.0		ALGERIA	5.7	7.1
	VIETNAM	6.9	10.0	67	MOZAMBIQUE	5.6	4.3
	PERU	6.9	9.9	68	ZAMBIA	5.5	3.4
27	EGYPT	6.8	8.1		UGANDA	5.5	4.4
28	GHANA	6.7	5.6		NEPAL	5.5	5.3
	ARGENTINA	6.7	10.0	71	VENEZUELA	5.4	10.0
	EL SALVADOR	6.7	9.0	72	KENYA	5.3	4.4
	MOROCCO	6.7	6.8	73	IRAN	5.2	5.0
	INDONESIA	6.7	8.3	74	PAKISTAN	5.1	5.0
33	HONDURAS	6.6	9.7	75	CAMEROON	5.0	4.2
	INDIA	6.6	5.1		NIGERIA	5.0	5.6
	RUSSIA	6.6	10.0	77	BURUNDI	4.8	6.0
36	RWANDA	6.5	4.7	78	LIBYA	4.7	5.2
	PHILIPPINES	6.5	9.0		COTE D'IVOIRE	4.7	5.0
	MACEDONIA	6.5	9.0		ANGOLA	4.7	5.5
39	KAZAKHSTAN	6.4	10.0	81	BANGLADESH	4.6	5.2
40	AZERBAIJAN	6.3	9.7	82	CHAD	4.4	2.1
	SRI LANKA	6.3	6.7		ZIMBABWE	4.4	4.4
	MALAWI	6.3	5.6				

Table 10: Ranking by GE Score

Rank	Country	IPRI(GE)	GE	Rank	Country	IPRI(GE)	GE
1	URUGUAY	8.1	10.0		JAMAICA	7.0	8.0
	BRAZIL	7.3	10.0		SERBIA	5.8	8.0
	COSTA RICA	7.9	10.0	45	ALBANIA	5.9	7.7
	ARGENTINA	6.7	10.0	46	LEBANON	5.9	7.5
	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	6.1	10.0	47	ALGERIA	5.7	7.1
	GEORGIA	6.1	10.0	48	MOROCCO	6.7	6.8
	HONG KONG	9.8	10.0	49	SYRIA	6.1	6.7
	VIETNAM	6.9	10.0		SRI LANKA	6.3	6.7
	UKRAINE	6.0	10.0	51	MAURITANIA	5.9	6.5
	KAZAKHSTAN	6.4	10.0	52	BAHRAIN	7.9	6.2
	RUSSIA	6.6	10.0		BURKINA FASO	6.2	6.2
	ARMENIA	6.2	10.0	54	SENEGAL	5.9	6.1
	VENEZUELA	5.4	10.0	55	BURUNDI	4.8	6.0
	MOLDOVA	5.9	10.0	56	OMAN	7.9	5.9
	CROATIA	7.3	10.0	57	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8.4	5.8
	PARAGUAY	6.0	10.0		BOTSWANA	7.5	5.8
	THAILAND	7.3	10.0	59	TANZANIA	6.2	5.6
	SINGAPORE	10.3	10.0		MALAWI	6.3	5.6
	MAURITIUS	8.3	10.0		GHANA	6.7	5.6
	CHINA	7.5	10.0		NIGERIA	5.0	5.6
	PANAMA	7.6	10.0	63	ANGOLA	4.7	5.5
22	BOLIVIA	5.9	9.9		SOUTH AFRICA	7.7	5.5
	PERU	6.9	9.9	65	NEPAL	5.5	5.3
24	HONDURAS	6.6	9.7	66	LIBYA	4.7	5.2
	AZERBAIJAN	6.3	9.7		BANGLADESH	4.6	5.2
26	PHILIPPINES	6.5	9.0	68	INDIA	6.6	5.1
	COLOMBIA	6.9	9.0	69	COTE D'IVOIRE	4.7	5.0
	NICARAGUA	5.9	9.0		IRAN	5.2	5.0
	TAIWAN	8.9	9.0		SWAZILAND	6.2	5.0
	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	7.4	9.0		PAKISTAN	5.1	5.0
	MACEDONIA	6.5	9.0	73	MALI	5.7	4.7
	EL SALVADOR	6.7	9.0		RWANDA	6.5	4.7
	ECUADOR	6.2	9.0	75	SAUDI ARABIA	7.4	4.6
34	GUATEMALA	6.3	8.9	76	ZIMBABWE	4.4	4.4
	TUNISIA	7.8	8.9		KENYA	5.3	4.4
36	CHILE	8.4	8.7		UGANDA	5.5	4.4
37	MADAGASCAR	6.0	8.3	79	MOZAMBIQUE	5.6	4.3
	MALAYSIA	7.8	8.3	80	CAMEROON	5.0	4.2
	INDONESIA	6.7	8.3		BENIN	6.1	4.2
40	KUWAIT	7.5	8.2	82	ZAMBIA	5.5	3.4
41	EGYPT	6.8	8.1	83	CHAD	4.4	2.1
42	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6.2	8.0				

Results

Table 9 presents the results of the IPRI, integrating the gender equality (GE) variables. This year, 83 countries are scored and ranked for gender equality. This is primarily because updated data from the primary source of gender equality data are only available for non-OECD countries. However, OECD countries are overwhelmingly industrialized countries with full respect for gender equality. These countries are not expected to exhibit any change in the gender equality component over the years. Therefore, non-OECD countries present a much better sample, representing a wide range of low-income to middle-income countries with a much larger proportion of developing countries. We primarily focus on these countries because gender equality tends to be weaker.

Singapore tops the ranking for the IPRI(GE) with a score of 10.3. It is followed by Hong Kong with a score of 9.8 and Taiwan with a score of 8.9. The remaining countries in the top 10 are more geographically dispersed with countries from the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Zimbabwe and Chad tie for the lowest IPRI(GE) score at 4.4, though Zimbabwe has a lower GE score (3.5 versus Chad's GE score of 4.0). Bangladesh was third from the bottom, registering an IPRI(GE) score of 4.6.

Table 10 presents the rankings by GE score. Despite including only non-OECD countries, a similar pattern occurs as in previous reports with a heavy grouping of countries at the top with a score of 10.0 in the GE component. This is the result of the measuring method that the underlying data source employs, which does not allow for much variation in the scores. However, the final IPRI(GE) scores and rankings accurately reflect the relative strength of each country's protection of women's rights to property.

The IPRI(GE) presents a useful tool to understand the repercussions of gender inequality in property rights for economic development. The authors hope that in the future more data become available to allow a more nuanced understanding of women's rights. Nevertheless, the current IPRI(GE) is a good approximation of the situation with property rights in the developing world.