



Gender is one of the world's strongest markers for disadvantage. This is especially the case in South Asia. The large number of "missing women" in the region bears testimony to the scale of the problem. Disadvantage starts at birth. In India the death rate for children ages 1-5 is 50% higher for girls than for boys. Expressed differently, 130,000 young lives are lost each year because of the disadvantage associated with being born with two X chromosomes. In Pakistan gender parity in school attendance would give 2 million more girls the chance of an education.

— 2005 Human Development Report

Inequality matters.

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