Gender Country Profile

Maldives

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General

Total female population over 15 (CIA, 2015): 131,732

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 60
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 24.59
Births attended by a skilled health professional (2011) (WHO, 2014b): 98.8%
Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.1%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.1%

Education


Graduates from tertiary education who are female: NA

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 72.5%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (World Economic Forum, 2013): 64%
Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (World Economic Forum, 2013): 58%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA
Women who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 7%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15: NA
Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 19.5%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 28.4%

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Gender Gaps

Health
Abortion is illegal in Maldives unless medically recommended or to save the girl’s/woman’s life.
The Maldives government reported in 2010 that “[o]nly 34.7 percent of married women were using contraceptives in 2009, a significant drop from 42 percent in 1999” (Department of National Planning, 2010, p. 11).

To date there have been no quantitative studies of unsafe abortions in Maldives. However, in an extensive 2011 report, the United Nations Population Fund in Maldives reviewed the available qualitative evidence and concluded: “The occurrence and prevalence of unsafe abortion due to pregnancy outside marriage among young women in the Maldives is . . . indisputable” (p. 17).

**Education**

The male-to-female ratio of persons with degree-level qualifications dropped from 4.2 in 1990 to 1.7 in 2006 (the most recent available data) (Department of National Planning, 2010, p. 39).

The Maldives Ministry of Education reported in 2011 that female enrolment rates were declining due to a rise in religious conservatism (Lubna, 2012).

**Economic**

According the Government of Maldives in its 2010 progress report on the Millennium Development Goals, “the female unemployment rate continues to be almost three times higher than that for males” (Department of National Planning, 2010, p. 9).

The same report indicates that “women’s participation [in the labour force] is heavily concentrated in education (72 percent of employment), health (68 percent), manufacturing (65 percent) and agriculture (64 percent), so that women are still seen in stereotype roles” (p. 46).

**Decision-Making**

Women’s participation in local councils is only 5.3%, according to the United Nations Development Programme Maldives (2015).

Maldives appointed its first two female judges in 2007, one to the family court and one to the civil court. In 2008, 52% of civil service employees were female employees but notably in positions of “diminished responsibilities” (Department of National Planning, 2010, p. 48).

**Human Rights**

Violence against women is a significant problem. The 2007 Maldives Study on Women’s Health and Life Experiences established that one in three women aged 15 to 49 report experiencing at least one form of physical and/or sexual violence; 39% reported “moderate” violence, while 61% reported “severe” forms “such as being hit, kicked, and choked or having a weapon used against them. More than one-third of these women reported having been injured at least once, often seriously, and a significant proportion reported being injured many times” (Department of National Planning, 2010, p. 47).

The same report indicates that 12% of women revealed they had been sexually abused before age 15.

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References


