

Editorial

Gender inequity in health: why it exists and how we can change it

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The task of the WGEKN was to synthesize knowledge and to develop recommendations about the mechanisms, processes, and actions that can be taken to reduce gender-based inequities in health. The recommendations of the WGEKN are included in this issue of the journal as an Appendix. The Final Report of the WGEKN (Sen et al. 2007) was submitted to the CSDH in September 2007.

Background

Gender inequality damages the health of millions of girls and women across the globe. It can also be harmful to men's health, despite the many tangible benefits it gives men through resources, power, authority, and control. These benefits to men do not come without a cost to their own emotional and psychological health, often translated into risky and unhealthy behaviours and reduced longevity.

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