

## Supporting Girls through Encouragement of Sports to Respond to Gender Inequality: United Nations Population Fund

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The problem of gender equality has persisted for centuries together in different societies across various nations around the world [1]. In fact, the available global estimates clearly indicate that women are more prone to be poor, illiterate, and have limited access to education or vocational opportunities, when compared with men [1,2]. In addition, they are very rarely given property ownership and are extremely prone to domestic violence or workplace harassment at the hands of different stakeholders [1,2]. It won't be wrong to say that the position of women in society is not at all same as men, and they have to face multiple obstacles, if they wish to develop their identity in the society [1].

Similar sorts of findings have even been observed in Azerbaijan, as the nation has quite a high rank among the recently released report of the gender inequality index [3]. Moreover, the findings of a survey in the nation at the start of the current decade revealed that even 30% of women were pretty much okay with beating by their husbands and that it is not socially or ethically a wrong practice [3]. Further, such kinds of inequality have even been observed in the arena of sports, as only 5-10% of girls are only involved, and the remaining entire field is dominated by men alone [3]. As a matter of fact, boys have been given more freedom by their families, while girls face all types of restrictions to pursue their dreams [2,3].

In order to respond to the problem, the United Nations Population Fund is working with the national Youth and Sports Ministry and other stakeholders for augmenting awareness about gender discrimination in different areas of life, including sports [3]. In fact, different girls have joined this initiative under the youth for a better future campaign

initiative and are working in different ways like the development of a video, to motivate young people to stand together for gender equality [2,3]. At the same time, the organization is assisting girls to pursue their sport of liking and be independent in the same [3].

In addition, the plan is to orient the youth population groups about different goals proposed under the Sustainable Development Goals, so that they can play their part in the transformation of the world by the end of 2030 [3]. Also, better performing girls have been considered as a role model and a source of inspiration for other people from different age-categories [3]. These girls have been motivated to share their experiences with other peers and motivate them to work hard to attain their dreams regardless of the presence of barriers and thus indirectly work towards gender equality [3].

To conclude, the problem of gender inequality has disturbed the equilibrium of the society and it is high time that all stakeholders should work together to respond to the problem in a coordinated manner and through different innovative ways.

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