

Women and economic decision-making

- women occupy 25 per cent of top jobs in countries of Europe, versus 15 per cent in Sweden, 10 per cent in the Americas and 5 per cent in Asia, the Middle East and Arab States.

- In the United States, 25 per cent of CEOs in the Fortune 500 are women. Within OECD countries, 20 per cent of companies are headed by women.

- Over 46 per cent of women on the boards of public companies are women, less than 13 per cent in the Americas and 11 per cent in Europe. These figures indicate that women are under-represented in European Union countries, with only 10 per cent of key decision-makers.

- According to a 2014 survey of the world, women are perceived as having “less authority”. The survey also found that 70 per cent of countries, with the exception of the United States, will have less than 20 per cent of women in top jobs by 2020.

- In the United States, 25 per cent of the employees of the top 100 companies held 12.6 per cent of the top jobs. In the United States, 25 per cent of chief executive officers and 20 per cent of chief financial officers are women.

Finance

Women are under-represented as capital decision-makers in the United States.

Women entrepreneurs' access to financial services

- Women entrepreneurs in South Africa face major barriers in accessing finance: at the black economic empowerment investment fund of a major bank in the country, only 5 per cent of the investments were women after two years of operation.

- In India, women in rural areas have just 9 per cent of the available credit, compared to 27 per cent in urban areas.

- In the formal financial sector, 27 per cent of women-owned businesses are active in rural areas.

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