Gender equality in Finland in the light of the Gender Equality Barometer 2017

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Gender Equality Barometer 2017

• The report was published in 2018 (in March 2019 in English)
• The survey sample: 3,000 people aged 15–74 who were resident in Finland.
• The response rate was 56% (1,682 persons).
Gender Equality Barometer – what for?

• To provide information on opinions, attitudes and experiences related to gender equality in various areas of life.

• To enable monitoring the development of gender equality in different sectors of Finnish society.
Topics of the Gender Equality Barometer

• Attitudes regarding gender equality
• Sexual harassment and gender-related hate speech
• Gender equality in schools
• Gender equality in the workplace
• Reconciliation of work and family life
• Achievement of gender equality in division of family responsibilities and decision-making within the family
Gender Equality Barometer 2017 project

• The report was commissioned from Statistics Finland by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

• The project was coordinated by the Centre for Gender Equality Information at the National Institute of Health and Welfare.

• The steering group provided expertise in support of the preparation of the barometer.
Revisions in the Gender Equality Barometer 2017

• The questions have been revised occasionally to reflect topical issues and issues where additional data were required

• The Gender Equality Barometer 2017 underwent a more profound revision than before to cater better for considerations such as
  • the diversity of gender, relationships and families
  • the experiences of students and the inactive population
  • gender-related condescending and dismissive treatment and harassment online
New topics

• Experiences of gender-related hate speech
• Belonging to a minority group
• The sharing of household expenses between spouses
• The fairness of conscription only applying to men
• Whether men are treated as fully empowered parents in public services, such as child health clinics or day care
Attitudes regarding gender equality
Views on position of women and men today in Finland in 1998-2017 (%)

Men are in a considerably more privileged position
- 2017: 46%
- 2012: 55%
- 2008: 55%
- 2004: 52%
- 2001: 58%
- 1998: 55%

Men are in a slightly more privileged position
- 2017: 45%
- 2012: 36%
- 2008: 36%
- 2004: 34%
- 2001: 31%
- 1998: 30%

Men and women are equal
- 2017: 5%
- 2012: 4%
- 2008: 3%
- 2004: 5%
- 2001: 3%
- 1998: 3%

Women are in a considerably or slightly more privileged position
- 2017: 15%
- 2012: 14%
- 2008: 16%
- 2004: 21%
- 2001: 21%
- 1998: 22%

Don't know
- 2017: 3%
- 2012: 3%
- 2008: 5%
- 2004: 3%
- 2001: 4%
- 1998: 10%
Attitudes regarding gender equality

- 2/3 of the respondents considered men to be in a more privileged position in society than women.
- As earlier, men and younger age groups were more likely than others to consider that gender equality had already been achieved.
- When comparing rural and urban residents, there appears to be little difference between the opinions of men and women.
- Roughly half of both women and men believed that gender equality would increase in the future.
- Nine in ten women and men believed that men would also benefit from greater equality.
Sexual harassment and gender-related hate speech
Respondents who have experienced various kinds of sexual harassment in the past two years (%)

Has anyone done any of the following:

- told lewd jokes or made crude comments in a way that you perceived to be offensive?
  - Women: 8
  - Men: 2
- made inappropriate comments about your body or sexuality?
  - Women: 8
  - Men: 2
- made unwanted advances towards you?
  - Women: 6
  - Men: 3
- proposed sexual relations to you in an inappropriate context?
  - Women: 5
  - Men: 2
- harassed you on social media or elsewhere on the internet in any of the ways described above?
  - Women: 7
  - Men: 2
- exposed themselves to you or stalked you?
  - Women: 5
  - Men: 2
- Those who have experienced sexual harassment, total
  - Women: 17
  - Men: 12

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40
Women Men
Experiences of gender-related hate speech and other inappropriate conduct*

- At least one incidence of gender-related hate speech was reported by 15% of women and 8% of men.
  - Fear of hate speech as well as fear of violence changes the way people act.
- Half of women had experienced dismissive or condescending treatment because of their gender, as had nearly 1/3 of men.
  - Women were most likely to face this kind of treatment in the workplace and in their leisure time when among relatives.
  - For men, the most common occurrences were in the workplace and when among friends.

* Sexual harassment, gender-related hate speech and condescending or dismissive treatment.
Reconciliation of work and family life
Reconciliation of work and family life

• The estimations of taking family leave have largely become more positive since 2001, with the proportions of those considering it easy for men to take parental leave and childcare leave increasing the most.
• Taking family leave was still considered easier for women than for men in the workplace (particularly wage and salary earners in the private sector).
• Women estimated taking long family leave to be easy more frequently than men.
• The majority of respondents considered that it would not be difficult to take time off from work to care for a sick child.
Achievement of gender equality in division of family responsibilities and decision-making within the family

- Responsibility for household work continues to be divided along traditional lines in two-spouse families:
  - Women are more frequently responsible for household work and men for various kinds of repairs and maintenance.
- Women reported being most often responsible for communication with the school or day care, caring for a sick child, child care and making sure children do their homework.
- More frequently than men, women felt they shouldered too much of the housework (1/10 often, almost 1/4 sometimes)
- Men tended to report of shared responsibility in those housework activities in which women felt they were alone responsible.
Conclusions

• The conflict between positive views regarding the gender equality situation on the one hand and the personal experiences demonstrating gender equality failures on the other is an interesting feature that unites the Gender Equality Barometers of all years.

• Barometers’ results show that gender equality is not some automatically progressing process but one that requires active measures.

• The fact that people still encounter discrimination based on their gender in various spheres of their lives proves that there is still plenty of work to be done.
More information:
https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161485

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