Global Women's Progress Report
NEWSWEEK's rankings reveal where women are winning-and where the gains are slow to come.by Jesse Ellison | September 18, 2011

Just over a decade into the 21st century, women's progress can be seen-and celebrated-across a range of fields. They hold the highest political offices from Thailand to Brazil, Costa Rica to Australia. A woman holds the top spot at the International Monetary Fund; another won the Nobel Prize in economics. Self-made billionaires in Beijing, tech innovators in Silicon Valley, pioneering justices in Ghana-in these and countless other areas, women are leaving their mark.

But hold the applause. In Pakistan, a thousand women die in honor killings every year. And in Somalia, 95 percent of women are subjected to genital mutilation. In the developed world, women lag behind men in pay and political power. The poverty rate among women in the U.S. rose to 14.5 percent last year, the highest in 17 years.

To measure the state of women's progress, Newsweek ranked 165 countries, looking at five areas that affect women's lives: treatment under the law, workforce participation, political power, and access to education and health care. Poring over data from the United Nations and the World Economic Forum, among others, and consulting with experts and academics, we measured 28 factors to come up with our rankings.

Countries with the highest scores tend to be clustered in the West, where gender discrimination is against the law, and equal rights are constitutionally enshrined. But there were some surprises. Some otherwise high-ranking countries had relatively low scores for political representation and workplace clout. Canada ranked third overall but 26th in power, behind countries such as Cuba and Burundi. Does this suggest that a woman in a nation's top office translates to better lives for women in general? Not exactly. "Trying to quantify or measure the impact of women in politics is hard because in very few countries have there been enough women in politics to make a difference," says Anne-Marie Goetz, peace and security adviser for U.N. Women.

Of course, no index can account for everything. Declaring that one country is better than another in the way that it treats more than half its citizens means relying on broad strokes and generalities. Some things simply can't be measured. (Is child care better or worse when provided by grandparents, or subsidized and mandated by government?)
Certain conclusions are nonetheless clear. For one thing, our index backs up a simple but profound statement made by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last week at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, as she declared a tipping point for women. "When we liberate the economic potential of women, we elevate the economic performance of communities, nations, and the world,"

*Questions 1. According to the journalist,* ***how is the situation of women in the world  today?****(80 words, ± 10%)*

*Answer the question in your own words. 2. “*“**Women’s chains have been forged by men, not by anatomy**.” *. (180 words, ± 10%)*

*1)The article at the outset highlights the fact that there has been progress in women's living conditions but that to know to what extent their plight has improved remains a sensitive subject.Indeed, the situation is not homogeneous as most of the improvements -thanks to anti-gender discrimination laws- are clustered in the western countries even if women’s political empowerment is still wanting.. However, the access to responsible jobs for some women doesn’t entail that all women benefit from it. , There are cultural and social facts as to women's rights that cannot be measured. 88 words*

***Women’s chains have been forged by men, not by anatomy****.*

*Key question :* ***gender inequalities stem from a cultural cause not a natural one.***

***Contextualisation : Women have been inequally treated regarded as weaker than men***

***.theso called natural gender division tenet : Women physically weaker/ Women in charge of children***

***. We are cultural beings not natural ones : The phallic order/ codes and functions/***

***. This order must be questioned by men and women as well. Women could sometimesdefend this order ( stereotypes, thirst of power..)***