



## Coding of the Social Institutions Variables

### *General Guidelines:*

- Each variable is based on two components: the existence of a specific social institution that impacts on gender equality and the proportion of the population that is affected by this social institution. However, the variables are not precisely weighted according to the percentage of the population that is affected. For countries in which no or only a minority of women are affected, the score is zero. At the other extreme, for countries in which all or a majority of women are affected, the score is one. All other cases are scored as 0.5. We specifically refrain from giving precise percentages that define a “minority” or “majority” of women as this will vary between countries and indicators, but minority means not representative for the whole country (e.g. below 15%) and majority means representative of the country (e.g. above 85%).
- Our indicators try to measure the actual situation of women: in some countries, this might mean to consider the legal situation; in others, traditions and customary practices might be much more important to consider as they override existing laws. Ideally, the application of either formal law or customary practice as a basis for coding should be consistent across countries within a specific indicator. However, some countries might be an exception to the norm (e.g. in Kenya, the legal right of women to inherit is systematically ignored, so a value of 0.5 might be more appropriate; while in other cases, only the legal status of inheritance is considered).
- If different sources for one indicator exist we chose the one which seemed the most reliable (or the one which was consistent with the other countries). In order to decide upon the best source, several aspects were considered including the time of data collection, the appropriateness of the applied methodology, the source of the data (is it a research institute or a political pressure group with possibly biased information?), size of the sample etc.
- In cases in which no or insufficient information exists, a country is given a “n/a”
- In cases in which a value might not correctly reflect the situation in a country, additional information is given in a note. If the coding could not be established according to these guidelines, a country is given “n/a”.

### *Individual indicators:*

- **Early marriage** is measured as the percentage of women married between 15-19 years of age (predominantly based on UN “World Fertility Report 2003”). If a percentage figure is not available, the prevalence is reported as “rare”, “frequent”, “common” etc. in the country notes.
- **Polygamy** is divided into four different parts, which are grouped into one indicator. These four parts include:

1. Acceptance of polygamy
    - 0 – Generally not accepted
    - 0.5 – Accepted by part of the population
    - 1 – Generally accepted
  2. Legality of polygamy
    - 0 – polygamy is not legal in a country
    - 0.5 – polygamy is only legal for some people, e.g. different social groups apply specific marriage laws; polygamy is legal, but can *de facto* not be exercised because of too many other restrictions (e.g. the case of Morocco)
    - 1 – polygamy is legal in a country
  3. Prevalence of polygamy (in % of women; if a percentage figure is not available, the prevalence is reported as “rare”, “frequent”, “common” etc. in the country notes)
  4. Prevalence of polygamy (in % of men; if a percentage figure is not available, the prevalence is reported as “rare”, “frequent”, “common” etc. in the country notes)
- **Parental Authority** is based on legal and customary practices regarding (1) legal guardianship of a child during a marriage and (2) custody rights over a child after divorce. Both indicators are scored as follows:
    - 0 – Equal rights for women and men
    - 0.5 – (Some) women have (some) rights, but less than men
    - 1 – Women have no rights
  - **Inheritance**: Inheritance is measured based on the legal code available and divided into two indicators: (i) inheritance rights of spouses and (ii) inheritance rights of daughters. The final scoring of this indicator can also be driven by the actual application of the law (or the lack thereof).
    - 0 – Women have equal rights of inheritance
    - 0.5 – (Some) women have (some) rights of inheritance, but less than men
    - 1 – Women have no rights of inheritance.
  - **Female genital mutilation** is measured as the percentage of women who have undergone female genital mutilation (if a percentage figure is not available, the prevalence is reported as “rare”, “frequent”, “common” etc. in the country notes)
  - **Violence against women**: This variable has three components:

1. The existing “legal” indicator based on an updated UNIFEM source:
    - 0 – There is a specific legislation in place
    - 0.25 – there is a legislation is in place but of general nature
    - 0.5 – A specific legislation is being planned, drafted or reviewed
    - 0.75 – This planned legislation is of general nature
    - 1 – There is no legislation concerning violence against women
  2. Percentage of women who are beaten by their partners (if a percentage figure is not available, the prevalence is reported as “rare”, “frequent”, “common” etc. in the country notes)
- **Missing Women:** The coding of countries regarding gender bias in mortality or ,missing women’ was coded by Stephan Klasen into following scale: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1, with 0 indicating that missing women is no problem at all and 1 indicating a severe incidence of excess female mortality or missing women. The coding was done based on the following information:
    1. Existing precise estimates of gender bias in mortality for a sample of countries (e.g. Klasen and Wink, 2003)
    2. Examination of the sex ratios of young people and adults; if these sex ratios were abnormally high given the state of overall mortality (i.e. differences could not be explained by biological and/or socioeconomic factors such as sex-biased international migration), the score reflects the excess masculinity in these two age groups.
  - **Freedom of movement** measures the freedom of women to move outside the home. Following elements were considered: freedom to travel; freedom to join a club or association; freedom to do grocery (and other types of) shopping without a male guardian; freedom to see one’s family and friends.
    - 0 – No restrictions of women’s movement outside the home
    - 0.5 – (Some) women can leave home sometimes, but with restrictions
    - 1 – Women can never leave home without restrictions (i.e. they need a male companion, etc.)
  - **Freedom of dress** measures women’s obligation to follow a certain dress code, e.g. to cover a part or the entire body when in public (i.e. voluntary use of a certain dress code is not considered):
    - 0 – Less than 50% of women are obliged to follow a certain dress code
    - 0.5 – More than 50% of women are obliged to follow a certain dress code
    - 1 – All women are obliged to follow a certain dress code, or it is punishable by law not to follow it



- **Access to land** considers women’s “access to agricultural land” and is scored as follows:
  - 0 – Women have the same rights and opportunities to land ownership as men
  - 0.5 – (Some) women have (some) rights and opportunities to land ownership, but less than men
  - 1 – Women have no/few rights or opportunities to land ownership
- **Access to credit** might sometimes be linked to “access to land” as land is an important prerequisite to obtain credit (mortgage). The variable is scored as follows:
  - 0 – Women have the same rights and opportunities as men to access credit
  - 0.5 – (Some) women can access credit, but with some restrictions (for example only through micro credit)
  - 1 – Women have no/few rights or opportunities to access credit.
- **Access to property other than land** primarily measures access to real property such as houses, but could also cover any other type of property.
  - 0 – Women have equal rights and opportunities to property
  - 0.5 – Women have some rights and opportunities to property, e.g. goods they received from their parents (i.e. inheritance or dowry);
  - 1 – Women have no/few rights or opportunities to property

**References:**

Klasen, Stephan and Claudia Wink (2003): Missing Women – Revisiting the Debate, in: Feminist Economics, 9: 263-300.

United Nations (2004: World Fertility Report 2003, New York: UN.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (2003): Not a Minute More –Ending Violence Against Women, New York: UNIFEM.