



Transport and Logistics as a tool for economic prosperity and women's empowerment

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Fundamental Precepts

- Transport of people and goods is a key element of development and economic prosperity in any civilised society.
- Maritime transport is especially essential for island nations.
- Good logistics is essential for business and trade, as well as being the single most important element in effective humanitarian aid and disaster response.
- Clearing and handling of goods at seaports is a vital element in the chain of global trade.

It is not only Economics...

“In addition to its major contribution to economic growth, transport plays a crucial role in socially sustainable development by broadening access to health and education services, employment, improving the exchange of information, and promoting social cohesion.”

UNECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe)

Empowering Women is a Key Element in Development

Gender equality is rightly seen as crucial to sustainable development, with its own UN Sustainable Development Goal (Goal 5).

Three reasons for integrating women's empowerment into sustainable development:

1. Gender equality is a moral imperative
2. Women are key managers of natural resources and powerful agents of change
3. in most societies and economies, women's unpaid work is not accounted for and therefore not valued properly in our economic, political or social systems.

Source: International Institute for Environment and Development

Means of Empowering Women

- **Educational**

Better educated women have healthier and better educated children

- a healthier and better educated nation

- **Economic**

Giving women more independent economic means leads to more spending on the family + greater investment with long term benefits

- **Political**

Giving women a voice at all levels of politics and management leads to better planning and more balanced strategic outcomes

Transport Empowering Women

Some Examples

- Improving farm-to-market roads leads to better quality produce arriving at the market → earning higher prices, while lower transport costs increase profitability
- Providing simple transport such as carts and bicycles can reduce the time and effort expended on tasks such as fetching water, allowing women to engage in other productive activities
- Road maintenance is a major employer of women in some countries (especially South Asia, e.g. Bangladesh, Bhutan)
- Good public transport improves women's access to employment of all kinds.

Photo: World Bank



Women's Role in Improving Transport

Where women are involved in owning or managing transport, there is in particular greater attention to:

- Safer transport for women (e.g. free from harassment on buses)
- Safer transport for all, from greater concern about driver and vehicle standards

Women are more dependent on public transport than are men, so should be consulted more (i.e. targeted) during the transport planning process, to identify their needs and take into account their proposals.

“Internationally, gender has begun to feature as a recognized issue in transport policy and planning while transport has begun to feature on the agenda of gender policy. [However] ‘Gender and transport’ is therefore a somewhat new professional field.” - UNECE

Women's Participation in the Transport Sector

Still very low; according to the ITF in 2015 women accounted for only:

- 17.5% of the workforce in EU urban public transport and less than 10% of the associated technical and operational jobs
- 15% of transport and related occupations in the USA

Additionally, women tend to be employed in lower ranked and lower paid jobs, and not just in the transport sector.

The issue of sexual harassment in the workplace cannot be ignored and needs to be addressed.

But smart managers around the world are beginning to address the gender imbalance.

Under-representation at the Highest Levels

Dearth of female entrepreneurs, company board members and senior managers needs to be addressed to improve the situation throughout industry.

The “best” countries still only achieve a minority of female CEOs, MDs and CFOs: Norway 35%, Finland 30%, Sweden 27%.

According to the Mauritius Institute of Directors (MID), in 2015, women comprised only 7% of directors of the Top 50 companies, while MID’s members are only 27% women.



One exception: Andra Rush, a Native American, built up a \$400 million trucking company

Women in Transport And Logistics – WiLAT

- Founded in 2010 by CILT women members in Nigeria
- Launched on the international stage in 2013 at the CILT International Meeting in Colombo
- Within two years, over 1,600 members in 16 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East; now 18 countries.
- Global campaign to increase female participation in decision making to at least 30%
- WiLAT's Global Advisor since 2015, Dr Dorothy Chan, became CILT's first woman International President
- Active WiLAT group in Mauritius coming up to its second anniversary