

QUESTIONNAIRE

A. National policies in the field of culture.

1. Does your country have (or is in the process of elaborating) a cultural policy that includes a specific reference to gender equality/ or women's empowerment?

Yes. The following is the cultural policy of the Ministry of Culture and the Arts.

Vision:

Being a proud Sri Lankan nation blessed with national heritages to go forward with the other countries of the world as a country with unique culture that promotes development.

Mission:

To assist in building Sri Lanka as a proud nation with a unique Sri Lankan identity by facilitating the emergence of a culture that would develop all communities of the country while in the process of protecting and preserving Sri Lankan national heritages.

Objectives:

The objectives have been identified in the brief that the culture of a country is the primary mechanism that helps in accomplishing most productively all programmes being introduced for the well being of the people of that country.

1. To build a positive cultural environment that would help direct the people on their own in a manner that would successfully accomplish the general national development policy of the country.
2. To promote cultural diversity and thereby to prevent harm caused to positive cultural characteristics through various forces.
3. To pave the way to organize the cultural life of the people of the country through preservation, maintenance and utilization of cultural heritages.
4. To motivate the people to identify positive cultural characteristics and thereby to promote a culture with distinct Sri Lankan identity.
5. To help the people in identifying themselves the external and internal factors causing cultural downfall and exterminating these factors.
6. To pave the way to inculcate in the society the fact culture is and energetic, challenging and free force.

However, in the cultural filed there is no identification of significant gender imbalance or discrimination to women. Therefore in that policy there is no specific reference to gender equality/ or women's empowerment.

B. National implementation strategies of UNESCO Cultural Conventions

2. How has your country addressed gender issues in its work:

- Protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict –

Male soldiers had to be in the front, but after clearing those areas female soldiers were there to protect civilians and cultural properties as well.

- Fight the illicit trafficking of cultural property –

In January 2008 a Police unit was established under the Department of Archeology of the Ministry of National Heritage to conserve artifacts for future. This was done by the support of Police Department close to archeological areas to prevent destruction. This police unit is opened for 24 hours to make complaints regarding archeological destruction. Female Police Constables are attached to this unit to receive complaints on any kind of harm or destruction to sites.

- Safe guarding Intangible Cultural Heritage –

The Folk song Conservation Library was established in 2010 with the aim of collecting folk songs which are scattered throughout the country and conserve them using digital mode.

In addition to the above inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage programme is in the process of implementation with the cooperation of UNESCO. Two workshops have been done so far, regarding inventorying ICH elements with the local funds. In addition to this, a research has been started in Matale District to collect ICH elements. This is carried out by Cultural officers in the district. Approximately 60% of officers are females.

- Protect cultural and natural heritage –

Under the Ministry of Culture and the Arts, there are about 162 cultural centers island wide in 162 Divisional Secretariats to promote and to

protect culture. Many cultural activities in divisional and national level are being conducted in these centers. Mostly women are working as resource persons in teaching Dancing, Music, Drama, Languages, Handicrafts and many other programmes.

- Protect underwater cultural heritage –

We have maritime museum under the Ministry of National Heritage and Central Cultural Fund. It is important to protect artifacts in domestic water as much as those of land. There are many archeology experts who have been trained to discover underwater archeological artifacts.

- Promote cultural industries –

In Sri Lanka, we have many cultural industries. Some are Batik, Mask making, Handicrafts, Arts & crafts, lace making, wood carving, Mat Weaving and many more. Women engage in most of these industries.

The Ministry of Culture and the Arts provides infrastructure facilities through 162 cultural centers to teach these handicrafts for interested people. As well, the ministry provides opportunities in order to promote and market those handicrafts.

C. Access to decision – making

3. What measures exist in your country to promote and ensure the equal representation of women and men in decision – making processes in the field of culture?

In the field of Culture women participation is higher in the field of decision making. There are many measures to ensure that women can participate on an equal basis with men in taking decision about safe guarding and protection of heritage. To safeguard and to protect culture and heritage there are many organizations in Sri Lanka. Mostly the senior level posts in those organizations are held by women. So, they are working equally with men to protect cultural heritage.

D. Education, Capacity- Building and Training

4. How has your country addressed gender gaps in educational, capacity-building and management programmes in the field of heritage or creativity?

Here in Sri Lanka, female participation is higher than male participation in the government service. Nowadays, mostly females are moving in the path of higher education to fulfill their desires. As the female participation is higher in the above areas we don't have significant gaps.

E. Access to credit and financial resource allocation

5. What special policies, practice or other measures in your country exist to ensure that female cultural entrepreneurs can credit access?

We consider wood carving, Handicrafts, Arts & crafts, lace making, wood carving, Mat Weaving as cultural industries and mostly women engaged in these industries. State banks such as SANASA Development Bank, People's Bank, Bank of Ceylon and National Saving's Bank provide special credit facilities in order to protect and promote these industries.

6. Does the allocation of public financial resources in the fields of heritage and creativity take into account gender differences in cultural activities and practices?

As there is no gender gap in the field of culture, the allocation of public financial resources for gender difference does not arise.

F. Visibility and awareness – raising

7. Are there any actions in your country that aims to raise awareness of and give visibility to women's contribution to cultural life (e.g. heritage, creativity, the arts)?

Yes. We use media to promote both the males and females artistes to get their contribution to cultural life.

G. Statistics and indicators

8. Are there any gender indicators in your country related to culture (e.g. heritage and creativity)? Are cultural statistics in your country disaggregated by sex?

National level statistics or gender indicators for the cultural sector are not available.