financial & private sector development

Gender and the Business Environment: New World Bank Group Datasets

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Overview

- Doing Business Gender Law Library
 - What is it?
 - What type of information does it contain?
 - The web interface
 - Some early insights on legal clusters
- Enterprise Surveys
 - What are they?
 - Gender and the enterprise surveys
- Research potential





Gender Law Library

- The Gender Law Library:
 - Identifies national laws that affect women's economic status
 - Facilitates comparative analysis of legislation
 - Highlights potential areas for reform to enhance opportunities for women
 - Potential to serve as a basis for developing gender indicators





Information Contained in the Gender Law Library

Topics include:

- Property Rights
- Enforcing Contracts
- Inheritance Provisions
- Work Hour Limits
- Non-Discrimination
- International Treaties

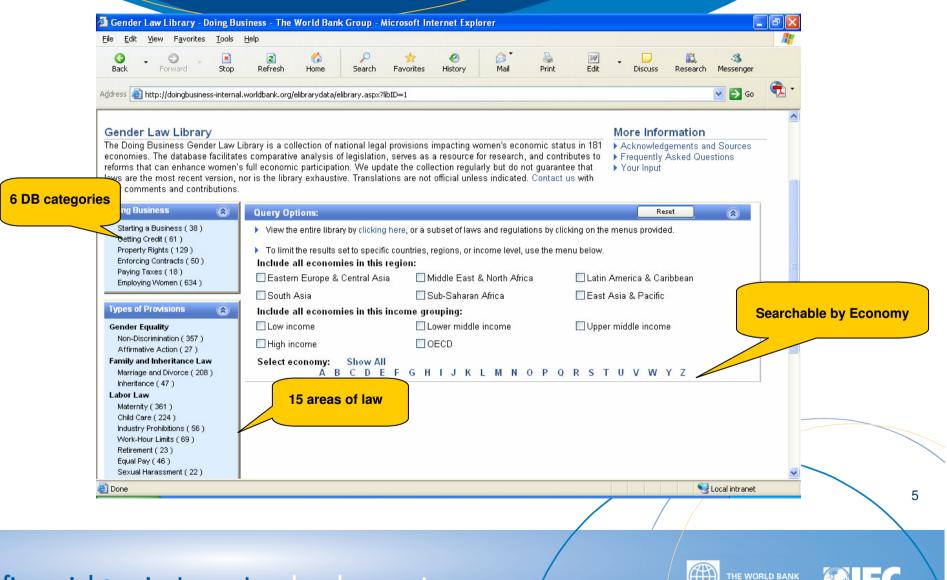
Sources of Information

- Legal databases
- Doing Business contributors
- Academic libraries
- Government sources
- World Bank networks
- Private Law Firms





www.doingbusiness.org/genderlawlibrary







Regional "Hot Topics" (emerging clusters)

Sub-Saharan Africa

- The majority of African countries embody the principle of equality between the sexes through their Constitutions or through their accession to International Treaties
- However, Marriage, Family, or Civil Codes in several African countries explicitly set out the Husband as the head of the family unit
- This distinction can potentially lead to differential treatment for married women in arenas such as taxation, employment, and property rights



Emerging Legal Clusters (cont.)

- Middle East and North Africa
 - Several countries in the region have been identified as having laws that state the husband must provide the cost of maintaining his wife.
 - The same countries also have laws stating that the Wife can deal freely with her personal property
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 - Many countries in the region have some form of work hour restrictions for women in certain circumstances
 - This is particularly the case with night work restrictions on pregnant women or women working in heavy industry and construction
 - Differential retirement ages are also common in the region







Enterprise Surveys

- Firm-level data based on surveys covering almost 85,000 firms in 106 countries
- Standardized surveys introduced in 2005, facilitating cross-country and (in time) time series analysis
- In addition to use for research, enterprise surveys have served as a key input to World Bank policy dialogue, through Investment Climate Assessments
 - Findings on "key constraints" faced by businesses form a useful complement to objective indicators like *Doing Business*





Gender and the Enterprise Surveys

- Enterprise Surveys collect data on:
 - Female participation in firm ownership
 - Number of full-time workers who are female
 - Number of women in senior positions
- Used to generate gender indicators:
 - http://www.enterprisesurveys.org/ExploreTopics/?topicid=6
- Data can also be used to:
 - Identify constraints that pose greater obstacles for female entrepreneurs
 - Examine how regulatory reforms might differentially affect
 - women-owned businesses
 - sectors where women more likely to be employed.







Now we have the data, what might we ask?

- Cross country analysis, using the enterprise surveys
 - Are perceptions of obstacles different for male and female owned enterprises?
 - Does complying with regulations take longer for female entrepreneurs or in sectors where female employment is concentrated?
 - Do woman-owned businesses disproportionately rely on intermediaries to access markets?
 - Are women business owners more likely to use proxies to deal with government authorities?
 - Are there differences in how female entrepreneurs use working and investment capital?
 - Does access to finance constrain female entrepreneurs to smaller firms or less capital intensive sectors?





Working across the enterprise surveys, the law library and DB...

- How and when do regulatory reforms have differential impacts on women and men?
 - Because a reform that looks "gender blind" tackles barriers particularly binding for women entrepreneurs, or because a reform that looks "gender blind" has less impact on women given other barriers
 - Ripe for analysis: reforms in obtaining credit, registering property, starting a business and employment in Eastern Europe (DB data on reforms available annually; enterprise survey gender data collected in 2005 and 2008)
- At the country level, what is the impact of sub-national customary law (holding constant statutory law) on women entrepreneurs?
 - Ripe for analysis: Nigeria





For More Information

- Gender Law Library
 - www.doingbusiness.org/genderlawlibrary
 - Contact: Sarah Iqbal siqbal4@worldbank.org
- Enterprise surveys
 - www.enterprisesurveys.org
 - Contact: Jorge Rodriguez Meza <u>jrodriguezmeza@worldbank.org</u>
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