

CHINA RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

A new series from East View that highlights Chinese research and resources on key topics.

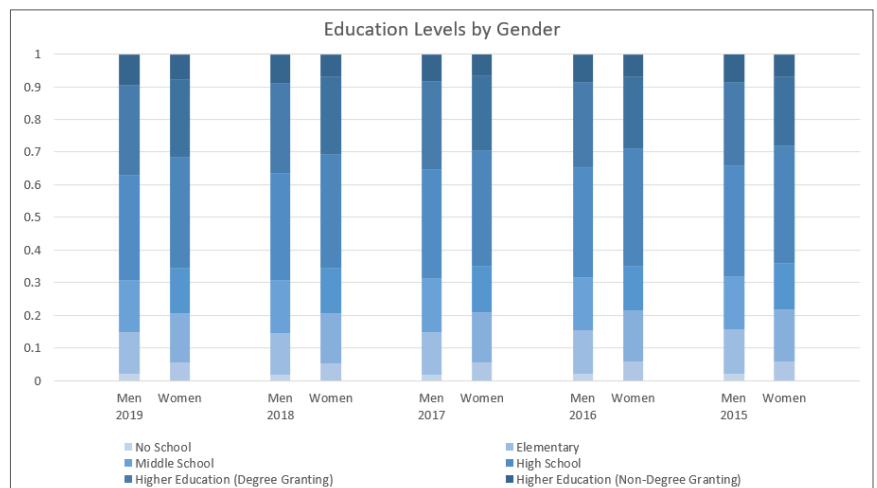
Gender Equity in China

In July 2020 the 4th Survey on the Status of Chinese Women commenced. While past surveys have marked improvement in areas of women's health and education, they have also shown that the gender wage gap in China has widened and women's labor force participation has declined since China's market reforms in 1978. Women also face challenges in China not captured by the survey. For example, in 2015 five feminist activists were arrested the day before International Women's Day for planning a protest of sexual harassment on public transportation. Access to information about gender in China, including trending movements for sex offender and domestic violence registries and equitable divorce laws, is crucial to studying Chinese society and the global status of women.

Gauging Gender Equity through CNKI

Information from the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) gives researchers the tools to present a comprehensive picture of gender dynamics in China. Through CNKI's various content types, scholars can bolster their research with both quantitative and qualitative information. **CNKI's coverage includes medical publications relevant to women's health (China Hospitals Knowledgebase), monographic serials about prominent female characters in literature (China Monographic Serials), regulations about gender discrimination in the workplace (China Government Gazettes), and legal interpretations relevant to women's rights (China Legal Knowledge).**

China Statistical Yearbooks (CSYD) provides insights into China's gender demographics. In 2019 men made up 51.1% of China's overall population, a legacy of China's one-child policy. By contrast, the World Bank estimates that men make up 50.4% of the global population. The high proportion of men in China is not restricted to locals; according to data in CSYD, in 2017 and 2018 men made up over 60% of foreign visitors to China.



Numerous useful statistics about gender are discoverable and downloadable through CSYD. The graph on the previous page uses information from China Statistical Yearbooks to track educational attainment differences between men and women between 2015 and 2019. Note that a larger proportion of women received no schooling, while a greater proportion of men received non-degree granting higher education.

A search of China Conference Proceedings (CPCD) reveals that China has hosted several influential conferences on gender equity. **From 2008 to 2010, the Chinese Sociological Association's annual conferences were all themed around gender equity.** Popular proceedings from the 2009 conference covered women's collective action through fandoms, the social status and experience of Tibetan and Uyghur women, causes of drug use among women, and domestic violence. In July 2020 the Shanghai Law Society hosted a conference on the protection of women's family and marriage rights as reflected in China's civil code. Conference proceedings discussed divorce law, regulation of infidelity, and custody disputes.

A search of China Academic Journals (CAJ) demonstrates that the Journal of Chinese Women's Studies is the most cited journal on gender equity. **"Executive Report of the 3rd Survey on the Status of Chinese Women," which was published in 2011 by the Journal of Chinese Women's Studies, has been cited over 600 times.** The Journal of Chinese Women's Studies, which is accessible through CAJ, reported on the 4th Survey on the Status of Chinese Women, which began in 2020. Articles in the journal discussed the research design of the 4th survey, development of its questions, and training of its investigators.

Across disciplines and research methods, CNKI's resources provide colorful and crucial details about China's gender demographics and equity.

See the below links for further reading on gender equity in China.

- **China's Judicial Authorities Strengthen Protection of Women, Children – All-China Women's Federation**
<https://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/2203/3830-1.htm>
- **Equality, Development, and Sharing: The Development and Progress of Women's Causes in New China over 70 Years - State Council Information Office** <http://www.scio.gov.cn/ztk/dtzt/39912/41772/index.htm>
- **Five ways China's women are closing the gender gap - World Economic Forum**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/11/chinese-women-are-closing-the-gender-gap-heres-how/>
- **Pretty Lady Cadres - ChinaFile** <https://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/features/pretty-lady-cadres-china>
- **Gender discrimination at work is dragging China's growth - Peterson Institute for International Economics**
<https://www.piie.com/blogs/china-economic-watch/gender-discrimination-work-dragging-chinas-growth>