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<h2 style="text-align: center;">Gendered Impacts of Economic Sanctions on Women’s Socioeconomic Rights in Iran</h2>	
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Article information	ABSTRACT
<p>Article History:</p> <p>Received: 2024-03-06</p> <p>Received in revised form: 2024-04-29</p> <p>Accepted: 2024-06-03</p> <p>Published Online: 2024-06-11</p> <p>Keywords:</p> <p>Economic Sanctions; Gender Inequity; Iranian Women; Feminist Political Economy; Socio-Economic Rights; Human Security.</p>	<p>This study examines the gendered influences of economic sanctions on womens socioeconomic rights in Iran. Depiction on feminist political economy and human security frameworks, the studies argues that sanctions are not gender-independent as a substitute, they intensify existing social and economic inequalities that disproportionately have an effect on women. The study explores how prolonged sanctions have recommended Iranian womens access to employment possibilities, profits protection, entrepreneurship, healthcare, schooling, and other vital social offerings. It further highlights the opinions of susceptible groups, along with horrific women, rural communities, and lady-headed households, who face multiple layers of marginalization underneath monetary guidelines. The findings monitor that sanctions have contributed to growing poverty, reduced womens participation in the labor marketplace, accelerated financial dependency, and restricted get admission to less expensive healthcare and education. In addition, the worsening monetary situations have strengthened traditional gender roles and slowed development towards gender equality and womens empowerment in Iran. By arranging womens lived reports, this study gives a deeper knowledge of the humanitarian results of sanctions and emphasizes the significance of adopting gender-touchy procedures in global economic and political regulations. The research concludes that sanctions no longer best create financial problem however additionally undermine womens socioeconomic rights and long-time period human protection.</p>



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Introduction

Economic sanctions are limits placed by one country or a group of countries on another country to pressure its government to change certain policies. Iran has faced heavy economic sanctions for many years, especially from the United States and its allies. These sanctions were mainly imposed on Iran's oil exports, banking system, and international trade. Although sanctions are aimed at governments, their real effects are mostly felt by ordinary people. Scholars argue that sanctions operate as a form of indirect warfare that causes widespread humanitarian suffering among civilian populations¹.

Importantly, males and females do not experience these results in the identical manner. Women, because of existing gender inequalities, regularly go through extra. This indicates that sanctions have gendered influences, meaning they affect men and women in a different way. In Iran, sanctions have severely affected women's socio-monetary rights, along with their access to jobs, healthcare, schooling, and primary residing situations².

Economic sanctions were a subject of study in international relations for a long term, serving as a strategic tool that states use to stress others into converting their political conduct without the use of navy force. Traditional research particularly assesses the effectiveness of sanctions through analyzing whether they succeed in changing country rules, weakening regimes, or ensuring compliance with international norms. Scholars like Johan Galtung view sanctions as a kind of indirect warfare, positing that while political elites regularly continue to be protected against their results, its mile's civilian populations who are

suffering the most from economic hardships. Much of this frame of work relies on macroeconomic indicators which include inflation rates, declines in GDP, unemployment figures, and exchange disruptions to evaluate impact. Although those studies offer essential insights into economic effects, they often neglect the social and human dimensions of sanctions³.

More current studies have shifted awareness to the humanitarian impacts of sanctions, losing light on how they disrupt everyday lifestyles, limit get right of entry to critical goods, and lessen living requirements. Investigations into countries like Iraq, Iran, and Venezuela monitor that sanctions get worse poverty, food lack of confidence, and healthcare shortages. Yet even at the same time as recognizing civilian suffering, plenty of this studies tends to deal with populations as monolithic organizations and fails to take into account inner social variations consisting of gender. Consequently, the distinct methods in which women and men revel in financial crises are regularly underexplored in mainstream literature on sanctions⁴.

Feminist scholars contest this gender-neutral perspective through highlighting that economic systems function within pre-present social hierarchies. The feminist political economy literature argues that girls face structural negative aspects because of lower participation quotes in the labor force, salary disparities, an attention in casual employment sectors, and an unequal burden of unpaid care paintings. During monetary downturns caused via sanctions, these inequalities become exacerbated. Research shows that women are more likely than men to lose jobs, see reductions in income, and bear increased domestic responsibilities when public services and welfare systems deteriorate. Rising prices and shortages of essentials like food and medicine

1 Johan Galtung, "On the Effects of International Economic Sanctions, with Examples from the Case of Rhodesia," *World Politics*

2 . Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual Economies* (London: Routledge, 2003)

3 United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), *Gendered Impacts of Economic Sanctions and Austerity Measures* (New York: United Nations, 2018).

4 Zahra Poursafar and Ali Maleki, "Economic Sanctions and Women's Employment in Iran," *Iranian Journal of Social Studies*

further heighten women's burdens since they are typically tasked with ensuring household survival and caregiving.⁵

In the case of Iran, current literature highlights the extreme monetary repercussions stemming from extended sanctions aimed at oil exports, banking structures, and global exchange. Scholars concur that such sanctions have resulted in inflationary pressures, forex devaluation, growing unemployment charges, and diminishing government sales. These economic pressures have dwindled basic living requirements and put a pressure on public services. Research centered on Iranian girls indicates that sanctions have significantly hindered their get admission to employment, especially within the formal zone, where employers regularly favor male people because of conventional breadwinner beliefs. Women-owned corporations have also been impacted through constrained get admission to banking offerings, uncooked materials, and global markets.

Socially, research show that sanctions have adversely affected women's get admission to healthcare and schooling in Iran. Shortages of imported drugs and clinical device have mainly harmed girls who want maternal, reproductive, or specialized healthcare. Economic pressure has also led to an increase in mental health issues among ladies. In lower income households, financial problems have precipitated households to deprioritize ladies' training, which perpetuates longterm gender inequality. Although a few researchers recognize those gendered effects, such discussions frequently take a backseat to broader economic or political analyses, ensuing in insufficient attention to women's lived studies

Research Question

How and what extent do economic sanctions on Iran, through the lens of feminist political economy and human security, differentially affect womens socioeconomic rights and excavate weaknesses among relegated female groups?

5 Haleh Esfandiari and Judy Twigg, "How Sanctions Hurt Iranian Women," *The Washington Quarterly*

Literature Review

Economic sanctions have prolonged been examined in worldwide circle of relative's participants as non-navy tools utilized by effective states to steer the political behavior of other international locations. Early scholarship particularly targeted on whether sanctions acquire political goals such as regime exchange, coverage compliance, or financial pressure on governments. Johan Galtung's foundational work argued that sanctions frequently feature as a shape of indirect battle due to the fact their harmful outcomes are in massive part transferred to civilian populations in choice to political elites. Later research on nations which includes Iraq, Cuba, and Iran demonstrated that sanctions contribute to inflation, unemployment, declining change, and shortages of essential objects. Scholars together with Hufbauer, Schott, and Elliott emphasized the economic dimensions of sanctions, specifically their effect on countrywide economies and country capability. However, conventional sanctions literature has been criticized for being use centric and for depending heavily on macroeconomic signs along with GDP decline and trade discount. Such approaches forget approximately the social results experienced by everyday citizens. Humanitarian researchers later highlighted that sanctions can get worse poverty, food insecurity, and healthcare crises amongst civilians.

Mostly scholarship has increasingly focused on the gendered impacts of economic sanctions, specifically through the lens of feminist political economic system. Feminist pupils argue that economic crises do now not have an effect on all people equally because gender inequalities form get right of entry to employment, resources, and social protection. According to V. Spike Peterson, economic systems are deeply embedded inside patriarchal energy members of the family that role ladies in more vulnerable social and monetary roles. Women are often focused in informal employment sectors, low-paid jobs, and unpaid domestic exertions, making them greater susceptible to economic shocks resulting from sanctions. Studies conducted on sanctioned

societies which include Iraq and Venezuela screen that women experience higher ranges of unemployment, income insecurity, and caregiving burdens in the course of intervals of economic disaster. Sanctions also boom womens unpaid labor due to the fact ladies are usually chargeable for keeping family survival below situations of shortage. Feminist literature further explains that discounts in welfare spending and public services disproportionately damage girls, in particular those depending on state healthcare and social assist structures. This frame of research demanding situations the assumption that sanctions are gender-impartial and as an alternative demonstrates that sanctions have interaction with pre-present inequalities to intensify womens socioeconomic vulnerability and limit development closer to gender equality.

Research mainly related to Iran highlights the intense economic and social consequences produced via extended international sanctions. Scholars which includes Jahangir Amuzegar argue that sanctions targeting Iran's oil exports, banking region, and international trade created widespread economic instability, which include inflation, unemployment, and forex devaluation. These conditions negatively affected residing necessities across Iranian society. However, studies focusing on girls display that the weight of sanctions has now not been similarly distributed. Haleh Esfandiari and Judy Twigg provide an explanation for that Iranian ladies confronted increasing difficulties in gaining access to employment opportunities, mainly within the formal difficult work marketplace in which employers frequently prioritize male personnel in the course of financial crises. Women marketers also encountered essential boundaries due to the fact sanctions restricted access to worldwide banking structures, imported raw substances, and international markets. Other researchers found that inflation and growing dwelling prices decreased womens financial independence and elevated their dependence on male family contributors. In addition, sanctions appreciably affected healthcare get proper of access to in Iran. Shortages of imported drugs and scientific system

created critical challenges for ladies requiring reproductive, maternal, or specialized healthcare services. Studies also mean that monetary stress contributed to growing stress, anxiety, and mental health issues among Iranian ladies, particularly the ones from lowearnings households.

The concept of human security has further expanded understanding of how sanctions affect civilian Populations beyond only monetary measures. Traditional security research mainly attention on navy threats and country survival, whereas human safety frameworks emphasize character nicelybeing, get admission to healthcare, meals safety, training, and personal dignity. J. Ann Tickner and different feminist pupils argue that ladies experience insecurity in another way due to the fact social structures vicinity them in economically and socially based positions. Within sanctioned states, women often bear the responsibility of coping with family survival no matter declining sources and weakening public services. Studies by means of the United Nations and humanitarian corporations display that sanctions intensify food insecurity, healthcare shortages, and academic barriers, all of which disproportionately have an effect on ladies and girls. Research also highlights the intersectional nature of sanctions, showing that poor women, rural girls, widows, and ladyheaded households experience the cruelest consequences because of overlapping types of social and economic marginalization. In Iran, those vulnerabilities had been irritated by means of susceptible welfare protections and traditional gender norms that limit women's financial participation. Overall, the literature demonstrates that sanctions aren't merely economic units however also social approaches that deepen structural inequalities and undermine girls's lengthyterm human security and socioeconomic rights.

Research Gap

Existing studies on monetary sanctions has largely concentrated on their political effectiveness and macroeconomic outcomes, including inflation, unemployment, exchange restrictions, and stress on kingdom policies. In the case of Iran, many

studies have examined how sanctions affected the country oil exports, banking machine, and financial stability. Humanitarian studies have also explored the broader social effects of sanctions, along with shortages of medication, growing poverty, and declining residing requirements amongst civilians. However, regardless of the growing frame of literature on sanctions, limited interest has been given to their gendered results, especially concerning women socioeconomic rights in Iran.

Most present research treat civilian populations as homogeneous businesses and fail to analyze how sanctions have interaction with pre-current gender inequalities. Women's stories are regularly discussed best briefly within broader monetary or political analyses, without offering a detailed inspection of how sanctions affect women employment opportunities, income security, healthcare get right of entry to, training, and unpaid care obligations. Furthermore, there may be a loss of research that combines Feminist Political Economy and Gendered Human Security frameworks to provide an explanation for how sanctions reinforce structural inequalities and disproportionately burden women. Intersectional troubles affecting prone groups which includes rural ladies, bad ladies, and female-headed households also continue to be underexplored. Therefore, this examine targets to fill this gap with the aid of presenting a comprehensive gender-based analysis of the socioeconomic effects of sanctions on Iranian women.

Theoretical Framework

This studies are based on Feminist Political Economy (FPE) and the Gendered Human Security framework, which collectively provide an intensive attitude for examining the gendered consequences of monetary sanctions. Conventional global family members and financial theories frequently view sanctions as gender-impartial coverage gadgets and determine their effectiveness the use of kingdom-centric metrics which includes regime alternate, GDP decline, or political compliance. However, these strategies fail to do not forget how financial guidelines Interact

with existing social hierarchies and disproportionately affect marginalized corporations, especially girls.

Feminist Political Economy evaluations mainstream monetary and international relations theories via highlighting that economic systems are located within social and gendered electricity structures and it posits that markets, exertions systems, and nation regulations are not unbiased but instead mirror and perpetuate gender inequalities. Women often occupy decrease-paid, insecure, or casual jobs and bear a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic duties.

Consequently, financial shocks inclusive of the ones due to sanctions tend to effect women more significantly than men.

Applying this framework to the Iraman context clarifies why girls confronted greater economic difficulties beneath sanctions. Limitations on change, banking, and oil exports weakened the financial system, main to inflation, unemployment, and decreased public spending. In this context, women became more vulnerable to process losses, income instability, and exclusion from formal monetary sports. Furthermore, discounts in welfare offerings and rising residing fees expanded women unpaid care responsibilities, further restricting their economic autonomy. Feminist political economic system hence lets in this take a look at to attach macro-stage sanction guidelines with micro level gendered outcomes.

The Gendered Human Security framework expands the perception of safety beyond army threats to embody financial, fitness, social, and personal well-being. ⁶ From this standpoint, safety is gauged by using people' potential to attain food, healthcare, education, employment, and a dignified satisfactory of life. This framework is especially pertinent for yapping the indirect and lengthy-time period consequences of monetary sanctions on civilian populations.

When examined via a gendered human security angle, sanctions seem as a form of structural violence that compromises womens each day protection. In Iran, sanctions limited access to

crucial medicines, heightened meals insecurity, and weakened healthcare systems situations that disproportionately impacted girls due to their roles as caregivers and their accelerated dependence on public services. Women's human protection changed into in addition jeopardized by means of escalating mental fitness pressure, dwindled instructional possibilities for ladies, and rising poverty among female-headed households. This framework enables the take a look at to view sanctions no longer just as monetary instruments however as policies with profound social and human repercussions.

Discussion and Finding

The discussion of this study highlights that financial sanctions on Iran cannot be understood exclusively as macroeconomic or political apparatuses, but must also be examined through their social and gendered consequences. The evidence suggests that sanctions function inside an already unequal social structure, and in such contexts, girls revel in deeper and greater sustained sorts of vulnerability. From a Feminist Political Economy attitude, these results are not unintentional but are the result of structural inequalities that function ladies in weaker economic roles even earlier than sanctions are imposed. When monetary stress will increase, these pre-current inequalities are intensified, leading to a disproportionate burden on women in terms of employment loss, income instability, and decreased economic autonomy.

The findings additionally show that sanctions have reshaped family dynamics and multiplied womens unpaid care responsibilities. As inflation rises and public services decline, womens are often required to make amends for the shortage of institutional help by means of managing household survival, caregiving, and useful resource allocation. This multiplied burden of unpaid hard work limits their potential to take part in formal employment and restricts their social mobility. Moreover, the deterioration of public healthcare and rising costs of critical offerings have created additional stress on ladies, especially in terms of maternal fitness, childcare,

and family well-being.

From a Human Security attitude, sanctions substantially undermine womens regular security by restricting get entry to fundamental wishes along with healthcare, meals, training, and economic stability. These conditions exhibit that protection isn't simplest about country survival but additionally about character dignity and well-being. In the Iranian case, womens human safety is compromised thru both direct financial constraints and indirect social consequences, consisting of mental pressure, decreased instructional opportunities for girls, and elevated dependence on male circle of family individuals.

Another important point of debate is the intersectional nature of sanctions' effect. The study famous that ladies are not a homogeneous institution; as an alternative, negative woman, rural women, and lady-headed households enjoy some distance more dangers compared to urban and economically strong girls. This highlights the importance of intersectionality in know-how how international economic guidelines have interaction with nearby social hierarchies the discussion confirms that monetary sanctions function as a shape of structural violence that enhances gender inequality in Iran.

Gendered Dimensions of Sanctions

The term gendered dimensions of sanctions refers to the idea that economic sanctions do not affect women and men equally. Instead, their impacts are shaped by existing gender roles, inequalities, and power relations within society. In many countries, including Iran, women already face structural disadvantages such as lower participation in the formal labor market, wage gaps, limited property ownership, and restricted access to political and economic decisionmaking. When sanctions weaken the overall economy, these pre-existing inequalities intensify rather than disappear.

Economic sanctions often lead to inflation, currency devaluation, unemployment, and cuts in public spending. Women are disproportionately affected by these outcomes because they are more likely to be employed in informal, insecure, or low-

paid sectors, such as small-scale trade, services, and home-based work.⁷ When businesses close or reduce their workforce due to economic pressure, women are usually the first to lose their jobs and the last to be rehired during periods of recovery. This increases female unemployment and financial dependence, reinforcing traditional gender hierarchies.

Rising prices of essential goods such as food, fuel, and medicine further deepen gendered impacts. Women, who are typically responsible for managing household consumption, face increased stress as they struggle to meet basic family needs with reduced resources. In contexts like Iran, where social norms place caregiving responsibilities primarily on women, sanctions significantly increase their unpaid labor. Women must devote more time to childcare, caring for elderly or sick family members, and finding alternative ways to secure food, healthcare, and other necessities.

Sanctions also affect women's access to healthcare and education. Shortages of medicines and medical equipment place a heavier burden on women as caregivers, while also directly harming women's reproductive and maternal health. Economic hardship may force families to prioritize boys' education over girls', limiting women's long-term opportunities and reinforcing cycles of inequality. Furthermore, reductions in government welfare programs and social services disproportionately harm women, who rely more on public support due to their lower incomes.⁸

In addition to economic and social pressures, sanctions can restrict women's agency and participation in public life. As households become more economically insecure, women may be pushed back into traditional domestic roles, reducing their visibility in the workforce and public sphere. This not only undermines gender equality but also weakens broader social resilience by excluding women from contributing fully to economic and social recovery.

The gendered dimensions of sanctions highlight that sanctions are not gender-neutral. By interacting with existing inequalities, sanctions

impose a heavier economic, social, and emotional burden on women than on men. Understanding these gendered effects is essential for assessing the true humanitarian cost of sanctions and for designing policies that mitigate their unequal impact on women.

Overview of Sanctions on Iran

Iran has been subjected to multiple rounds of international sanctions, mainly imposed by the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations. These sanctions were primarily linked to concerns over Iran's nuclear program, regional security policies, and political tensions with Western states.⁹ Over time, the sanctions became more comprehensive and targeted key sectors of the Iranian economy, including oil and gas exports, banking and financial institutions, foreign trade, shipping, and access to international markets.

The restriction on oil exports significantly reduced Iran's main source of government revenue, while financial sanctions limited the country's ability to conduct international transactions. As a result, Iran experienced severe economic challenges such as high inflation, currency devaluation, rising unemployment, and reduced public spending. These economic difficulties affected the entire population; however, their impact was not evenly distributed. Women, who already occupied a weaker position in the labor market and society due to structural and legal inequalities, experienced the effects of sanctions more intensely.¹⁰ Economic pressure interacted with existing gender discrimination, making women more vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion.

Impact on Women's Economic Rights

Sanctions severely undermined women's economic rights in Iran, particularly their right to work, earn income, and achieve financial independence. As economic conditions worsened, many businesses faced declining profits, shortages of raw materials, and limited access to banking services. To survive, companies often reduced their workforce, and women were frequently dismissed first. Employers tended to prioritize male workers based on the belief that men were

the primary breadwinners, while women's income was seen as secondary.¹¹

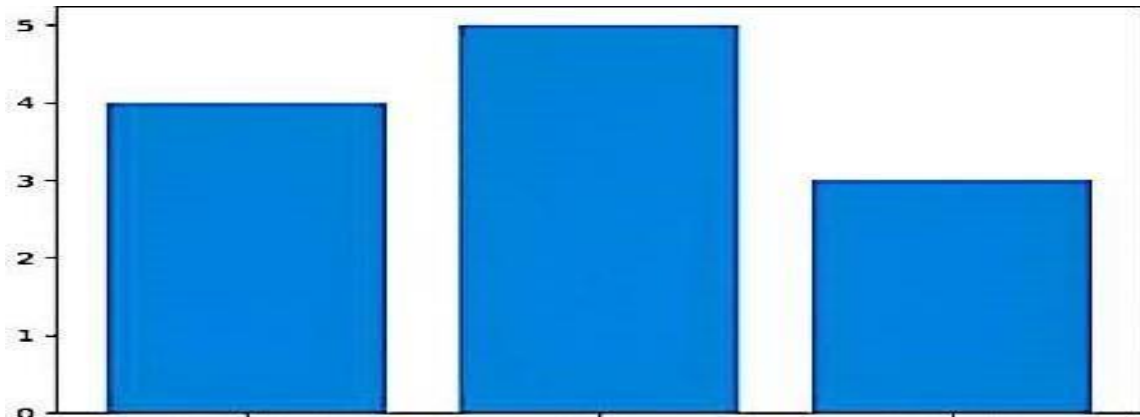
Women's participation in the labor market declined further as job opportunities became scarce. Women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises were especially affected, as sanctions restricted access to imported materials, foreign customers, and international financial systems.¹² Many women entrepreneurs were forced to close

their businesses, pushing them back into informal or unpaid work. Additionally, rising inflation and currency instability reduced women's purchasing power and savings, making it harder for them to maintain economic independence. Overall, sanctions weakened women's economic security and limited their ability to participate fully and equally in economic life.

Table: Summary of Key Points

Area	Effect	Outcome
Employment	Layoffs	Higher female unemployment
Income	Inflation	Reduced buying power
Entrepreneurship	Banking limits	Business closures

Economic Rights Bar Chart



Impact on Women's Social Rights

Beyond economic consequences, sanctions also harmed women's social rights, particularly access to healthcare, education, and basic living standards. Rapid inflation led to sharp increases in the prices of food, medicine, and household goods. Women, who are typically responsible for managing household consumption and care work, faced increased stress and pressure as they struggled to meet family needs with limited resources.

Access to healthcare became more difficult due to shortages of imported medicines and medical equipment.¹³ Women requiring maternal

healthcare, reproductive health services, or treatment for chronic illnesses were particularly affected. These shortages directly threatened women's physical well-being and increased health risks. In addition, the economic strain caused by sanctions contributed to rising levels of anxiety, depression, and psychological stress among women.

Education was also negatively impacted. In economically struggling families, girls' education was sometimes deprioritized, as households lacked the financial means to cover school-related expenses. This further reduced girls' future employment prospects and reinforced long-term

gender inequality. Thus, sanctions not only affected women's present living conditions but also undermined their future social and economic

opportunities.

Table: Summary of Key Points

Sector	Problem	Impact on Women
Healthcare	Medicine shortage	Maternal risk
Education	High costs	Girls dropout
Living	Inflation	Lower living standards

Social Rights Pie Chart Healthcare Education

Intersectional Impact: Greater Burden on Vulnerable Women

The effects of sanctions were not experienced equally by all women. Vulnerable groups such as poor women, rural women, single mothers, widows, and female-headed households faced much harsher consequences. These women often relied on informal, unstable, or low-paid jobs that were the first to disappear during economic downturns. Without job security or savings, they struggled to meet basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare.

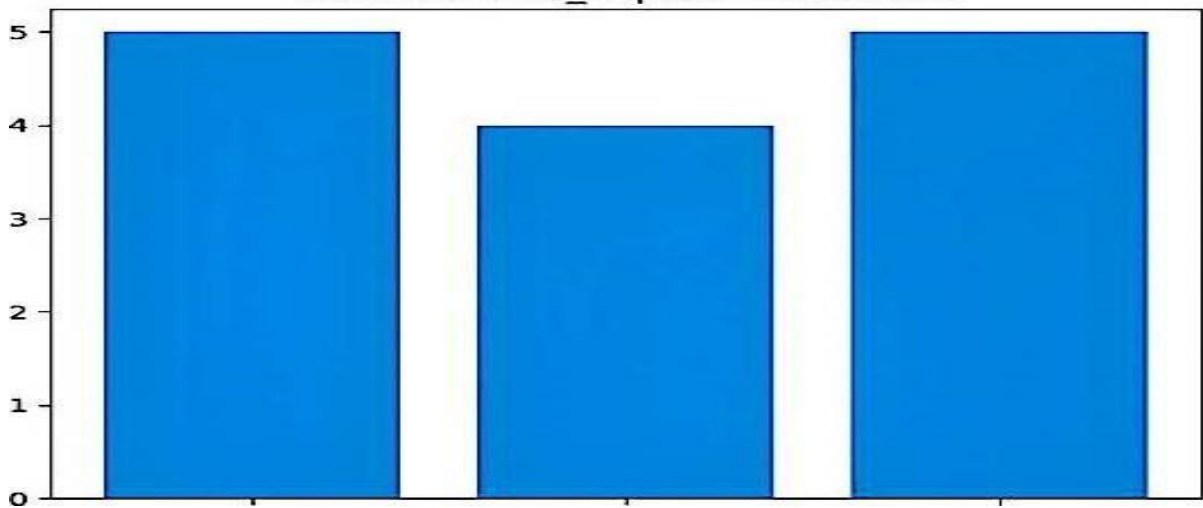
Rural women faced additional challenges due to

limited access to services and employment opportunities, while female-headed households had to manage both income generation and caregiving responsibilities alone. Weak social safety nets and limited government support further worsened their situation. As a result, sanctions created a double burden for vulnerable women economic hardship combined with existing gender-based discrimination and social marginalization.

Table: Summary of Key Points

Group	Challenge	Result
Rural women	No services	Extreme hardship
Poor women	Low income	Food insecurity
Female-headed HH	Single income	High vulnerability

Intersectional impact - Bar Chart



Government Response and Domestic Policies

The Iranian government attempted to reduce the impact of sanctions through various economic and social policies; however, these efforts were often insufficient and failed to address women's specific needs. Cuts in social welfare programs, health budgets, and subsidies reduced support for low-income households, disproportionately affecting women who relied more heavily on public services.

In some cases, government policies reinforced traditional gender roles by encouraging women to focus on domestic responsibilities rather than supporting their participation in the labor market. Instead of expanding employment opportunities for women or providing targeted assistance, these policies limited women's economic independence and resilience during the crisis. The lack of gender-sensitive policymaking meant that women were largely excluded from decision-making processes related to economic recovery and sanctions management.

Broader Consequences for Gender Equality

In the long term, sanctions significantly slowed progress toward gender equality in Iran. Women's labor force participation declined, economic dependence increased, and access to essential services became more limited. These conditions weakened women's empowerment and reinforced traditional gender hierarchies within both households and society. The prolonged

economic crisis caused by sanctions reduced opportunities for women to improve their social and economic status. Gains made in education, employment, and public participation were either stalled or reversed. As a result, sanctions not only created immediate hardship but also produced lasting negative effects on women's social development and gender equality in Iran.

Findings

The findings of this study clearly demonstrate that economic sanctions imposed on Iran have produced significant gendered consequences, disproportionately affecting women's socioeconomic rights across multiple dimensions. The analysis reveals that sanctions have weakened women's economic position by reducing their access to formal employment opportunities, increasing unemployment, and pushing many women into informal, low-paid, or unpaid forms of work. Due to existing gender biases in the labor market, women are often the first to be dismissed during economic downturns and the last to be rehired, which further deepens their economic insecurity.

Another key finding is that sanctions have severely undermined women's income stability and financial independence. Inflation, currency devaluation, and rising living costs have reduced

women's purchasing power and increased their dependence on male household members. Women entrepreneurs and small business

owners have also been negatively affected due to restricted access to banking systems, imported raw materials, and international markets, leading in many cases to business closure or significant financial losses.

The study also finds that sanctions have negatively impacted women's social rights, particularly in healthcare and education. Shortages of essential medicines and medical equipment have limited access to adequate healthcare services, especially for maternal and reproductive health needs. Similarly, rising economic pressure has contributed to reduced educational opportunities for girls, as financially constrained families sometimes prioritize boys' education. This trend reinforces long-term gender inequality and limits women's future socioeconomic mobility.

Furthermore, the findings highlight the increased burden on unpaid care work among women. As public services weaken, women take on additional responsibilities for household survival, childcare, and elder care. This reduces their ability to participate in paid employment and restricts their overall social and economic empowerment.

The study also identifies strong intersectional disparities, showing that poor women, rural women, widows, and female-headed households are the most severely affected groups. These women face compounded vulnerabilities due to limited resources, weak social protection, and restricted access to services.

Inclusive, the findings confirm that economic sanctions are not gender-neutral and systematically deepen existing inequalities, undermining women's socioeconomic rights and long-term development in Iran.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that economic sanctions imposed on Iran have had deeply gendered consequences, disproportionately affecting women's socio-economic rights and overall wellbeing. While sanctions are formally directed at states and governments, their real impact is experienced at the societal level, where existing inequalities shape how different groups are affected. In the Iranian context, structural gender inequalities such as women's weaker position in the labor market, lower income levels, and greater responsibility for unpaid care work have intensified the negative effects of prolonged economic pressure.

The analysis shows that sanctions have significantly undermined women's economic rights by reducing employment opportunities, limiting women's entrepreneurship, and weakening financial independence. At the same time, women's social rights have been eroded through reduced access to healthcare, rising living costs, increased mental health stress, and setbacks in girls' education. These impacts are especially severe for vulnerable groups of women, including those from low-income backgrounds, rural areas, and female-headed households, who face a compounded burden of poverty and gender discrimination.

Government responses to sanctions have largely failed to address these gendered challenges. Cuts in welfare and health spending, along with policies that reinforce traditional gender roles, have further restricted women's ability to cope with economic hardship. Instead of mitigating inequality, such measures have often deepened women's dependence and exclusion from economic and public life.

Overall, the findings confirm that economic sanctions are not gender-neutral tools. They interact with existing social structures to reinforce inequality and slow progress toward gender equality. From a feminist political economy and gendered human security perspective, sanctions can be understood as a form of structural violence that undermines women's rights, security, and

longterm development. This study highlights the need for policymakers and international actors to consider gendered impacts when designing and implementing sanctions. Incorporating gendersensitive approaches and humanitarian

safeguards is essential to reduce harm to women and to ensure that international economic measures do not come at the cost of social justice and human security.

Table: Overall Gendered Impact of Economic Sanctions on Iranian Women

Dimension	Type of Impact	Key Effects on Women
Economic	Employment & Income	Job losses, reduced wages, higher unemployment
Economic	Entrepreneurship	Business closures, banking restrictions
Social	Healthcare	Medicine shortages, maternal health risks
Social	Education	Girls' dropout, limited opportunities
Household	Care Burden	Increase in unpaid domestic work
Psychological	Mental Health	Stress, anxiety, insecurity

Figure: Gendered Effects of Economic Sanctions on Women's Socio-Economic Rights.

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