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## **Gender-related Development Index (GDI):**

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**API/WPS 1007** 

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## **Conventional and Corrected Measures** of Gender-related Development Index (GDI):

What Happens to the Arab Countries Ranking?

#### Riadh Ben Jelili

#### Abstract

The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) developed by the United nations Development Program has been one of the first global instrument to demonstrate that the level of gender equality in a country is not solely dependent upon a country's economic performance. However, the GDI is still closely tied to a country's gross domestic product. Moreover, Population share of the genders enter the formulation of this indicator in such a way that it favors the better performing gender. In the present note, we implement the corrections proposed by Bardhan and Klasen (1999), Mishra and Nathan (2008) and Nathan (2008) to capture this anomaly.

تعديل المؤشر التقليدي للتنمية البشرية المرتبطة بالنوع الاجتماعيهاذا يحدث لترتيب الدول العربية؟

#### ملخص

في إطار مثابرته لقياس النعية بتعريفها الموسّع طوّر برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي مؤشراً لقياس النعية البشرية المرتبطة بالنوع الاجتماعي ليأخذ في الاعتبار النفاوت في الإنجاز التعوي بين الإناث والذكور (النساء والرجال) داخل مؤشر دليل التعية البشرية التقليدي. على الرغم من الاحتفاء بتطوير دليل التعية البشرية وتعديله ليغطي اعتبارات النوع الاجتماعي، إلا أن دليل التنعية البشرية المعدل للنوع الاجتماعي قد تعرض للاتقاد في الأدبيات المتخصصة وترتب على هذه الانتقادات المطالبة بتعد يلات إضافية لتعكس بطريقة أكثر انضباطاً الإنجازات التعوية التي تعكس القاوت فيما بين النوعين في مختلف وترتب على هذه الانتقادات المطالبة بتعد يلات إضافية لتعكس بطريقة أكثر انضباطاً الإنجازات التعوية التي تعكس القاوت فيما بين النوعين في مختلف الدول. وتشتمل هذه الأدبيات على باردان وكلاسن (1999) فيما يتعلق بدور الدخل المكسب وهيمنته على الدليل المركب؛ وناثان (2008) فيما يتعلق بدور انحراف نسبة الإناث للذكور عن النسبة التي تترتب على التوزيع الطبيعي للسكان على مستوى العالم؛ وميشرا وناثان (2008) فيما يتعلق التجميع المتبعة للوصول إلى الدليل المركب للتنمية البشرية المعد بعن الاعتبار النوع الاجتماعي أخذ على مؤسراً وعين في معتلف بدور انحراف نسبة الإناث الذكور عن النسبة التي تترتب على التوزيع الطبيعي للسكان على مستوى العالم؛ وميشرا وناثان ويما يتعلق بطريقة التجميع المتبعة للوصول إلى الدليل المركب للتنمية المعدل للأخذ بعين الاعتبار النوع الاجتماعي . تعتمد هذه الورقة على الأدبيات الذكورة لتعديل قيمة المؤشر لعينة من 122 دولة توفرت لها المعلومات المطلوبة من بينها 15 دولة عربية.

#### 1. Introduction

GDI is a gender-adjusted HDI measured in the equally weighted components, same as the HDI, but formulated in a way to take note of the gaps between men and women on each of these components. The three components are income at purchasing power parity, education, measured in terms of weighted average of adult literacy rate and enrolment ratio; and health in terms of life expectancy at birth.

For each component of GDI, there is an equally distributed equivalent (EDE) achievement (noted  $X_{E=E}$ ), which is defined as the level of achievement that, if attained equally by women and men, would be judged to be exactly as valuable socially as the actually observed achievement (Anand and Sen, 1995). When the achievements of men and women are different, higher the difference for a given mean, lower is the value of  $X_{E=E}$ .

For a pair of female and male achievements  $(X_{\Box}, X_{\Box})$ ;  $0 \le X_F, X_{\Box} \le 1$  and proportion of female and male population ( $\mathbf{p}_F, \mathbf{p}_M; \mathbf{p}_F + \Box_M = 1$ ), equally distributed equivalent index  $X_{E \Box E}$  is given by the general formula:

(1) 
$$X_{EDE} = \begin{cases} \left( p_F X_F^{1-\varepsilon} + p_M X_M^{1-\varepsilon} \right)^{1/_{1-\varepsilon}} \text{ where } \varepsilon \ge 0 \text{ and } \varepsilon \neq 1 \\ X_F^{p_F} X_M^{p_M} \text{ for } \varepsilon = 1 \end{cases}$$

Aversion to inequality can be controlled through  $\varepsilon$ , whose larger value implies a greater penalty for achievement gap by both genders. For moderate aversion to inequality  $\varepsilon$  is set at 2, which makes  $X_{EDE}$  harmonic mean of the male and female values.

Given  $(X_F, X_M)$ ,  $X_{EDE}$  varies between  $X_F$  to  $X_M$  as  $p_F$  and  $p_{\Box}$  vary. A rise in the population proportion of the gender with higher level of achievement results in higher  $X_{EDE}$ . All this is counter intuitive for a development indicator sensitive to gender.

The GDI measure has its own share of critiques. Bardhan and Klasen (1999), have highlighted the problem associated in earned income component of the GDI and how it dominates over the health and education dimensions. Morrisson and Jutting (2005) have identified GDI's failure to account the institutional framework which encompasses the influence of traditions, customs, and explicit and implicit laws regarding the role and positions of women. Despite these criticisms, the gender based measure of GDI is a good beginning and does reasonably well to represent indicator of women's overall status across countries and can provides insights into gender equality and directions for further improvements.

Bardhan and Klasen (1999) suggested increasing the aversion to inequality factor applied to the longevity and the education components in order to insure substantial penalties for any large gender gaps in these areas, with the option of increasing the penalty in the longevity component more than the education component. Indeed, relatively small gaps in life expectancy already have considerable consequences for gender differences in mortality, while similar gaps in earned income may have a smaller impact on overall well-being. More recently, Nathan (2008) points out that GDI needs to be corrected for skewed sex-ratio. Mishra and Nathan (2008) and Nathan, Mishra and Reddy (2008), while discussing HDI, suggest that attainment should be viewed as an inverse of failure where the latter is calculated as a distance from the ideal. In the present note, we incorporate these concerns to the measure of GDI. It is important to note that the second section is largely inspired by Nathan (2008). The author of the note has no contribution other than the implementation of the suggested corrections.

#### 2. GDI: The Measure and the Proposed Corrections

#### 2.1 Sex-Ratio Correction Factor

According to Nathan (2008), a measure of equally distributed equivalent achievement should satisfy the following properties with respect to sex ratio:

**Axiom of Monotonicity:** Given the achievement level of two genders, the equally distributed equivalent achievement, increases as population approaches to its ideal sex ratio<sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(1)</sup> The value of ideal sex ratio is under debate and may vary with regions and races. The sex ratio of a population depends on three factors: the sex ratio at birth, differential mortality rates between the sexes at different ages, and losses and gains through migration (Coale, 1991). In the absence of manipulation, the sex ratio at birth is remarkably consistent across human populations, at 1.05 to 1.07 (Coale, 1991, Campbell, 2001).

Mathematically, given  $(X_F, X_M), X_{EDE}$  increases as  $\binom{p_M}{p_F} \rightarrow \binom{p_M}{p_F}_{ideal}$ . The axiom of Monotonicity requires  $X_{EDE}$  to have a positive and negative slope for  $p_M < p_{M,ideal}$  and  $p_M > p_{M,ideal}$  respectively. Two corollaries of Monotonicity are axioms of Ideality and Extinction.

**Axiom of Ideality:** Given the achievement level of two genders, the equally distributed equivalent achievement maximizes at the ideal sex ratio.

Mathematically, given  $(X_F, X_M), X_{EDE} = X_{EDE,max}$  for  $\binom{p_M}{p_F} = \binom{p_M}{p_F}_{ideal}$ .

**Axiom of Extinction:** Irrespective of achievement levels of two genders, if any of the genders goes extinct, the equally distributed equivalent achievement reduces to minimum possible value i.e. 0.

Mathematically, for any  $(X_F, X_M), X_{EDE} = 0$  for

The genesis of the weakness of the conventional measure lies with the absence of penalty for deviating from ideal sex ratio. The construction of  $X_{EDE}$  is such that countries with unbalanced sex ratio get rewarded if sex ratio is biased in favor of the gender with a higher attainment.

Imposition of axiom of Monotonicity will make the measure sensitive to deviation from ideal sex ratio. Accordingly, a new measure of equally distributed equivalent achievement  $X_{EDE,src}$  is proposed:

(2) 
$$X_{EDE,src} = \begin{cases} {\binom{p}{p_{ideal}} \left( p_F X_F^{1-\varepsilon} + p_M X_M^{1-\varepsilon} \right)^{1/1-\varepsilon} \text{ where } \varepsilon \ge 0 \text{ and } \varepsilon \neq 1} \\ {\binom{p}{p_{ideal}} X_F^{p_F} X_M^{p_M} \text{ for } \varepsilon = 1} \end{cases}$$

where p and *Pideal* are the actual and ideal proportion of that gender whose actual population is less than or equal to the ideal.

**Proposition.** The equally distributed equivalent achievement has a convex-decrease for fall in proportion of higher performing gender from ideal and a concave-decrease for lower performing gender.

**Lemma 1.** For any given population-proportion between ideality and extinction, when higher performing gender has more (less) share than ideal share, the equally distributed equivalent achievement is higher (lower) than the condition of gender indistinguishability.

**Lemma 2.** For equal population-proportion of genders at ideal the equally distributed equivalent achievement decreases at a faster rate at ideal when population proportion falls for the higher performing gender than for the lower one. For condition of gender indistinguishability, the rate of decrease lies in between.

#### **2.2 Differentiated Aversion to Inequality Factor**

Bardhan and Klasen (1999) stress the fact that aversion to inequality factor applied to the longevity and the education components could be increased to insure substantial penalties for any large gender gaps in these areas, with the option of increasing the penalty in the longevity component more than the education component. This would be consistent with the suggestion that relatively small gaps in life expectancy already have considerable consequences for gender differences in mortality, while similar gaps in earned income may have a smaller impact on overall well-being. Thereby, instead of a uniform aversion to inequality factor of two, a differentiated  $\varepsilon$  could be used as follows:  $\varepsilon = 6$  for life expectancy gaps,  $\varepsilon = 3$  for education gaps and  $\varepsilon = 1.5$  for earned-income gaps.

#### 2.3 The Displaced Ideal Methods of Aggregation

The conventional method of aggregation indices of different components is linear averaging, which assumes perfect substitutability across the three dimensions of GDI. This assumption, means that a differential improvement (or increment) in one dimension at any value can be substituted or neutralized by an equal differential decline (or decrement) in another dimension at any other value.

Mishra and Nathan (2008) discuss this assumption in the context of HDI and shows that linear averaging does not penalize unbalanced development across dimensions. An alternative suggested is the displaced ideal (di), which is the inverse of the Euclidian distance from the ideal. Imposing this, one will have:

(3)

$$GDI_{src,di} = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{\left(1 - X_{EDE,src}^{H}\right)^{2} + \left(1 - X_{EDE,src}^{E}\right)^{2} + \left(1 - X_{EDE,src}^{I}\right)^{2}}}{\sqrt{3}}$$

where H, E and I denote dimensions of health, education and income respectively.

#### 3. Empirical results

The achievement data for males and females for the period 2000-2007 are taken from the Human Development Reports Statistical Update (UNDP, 1998-2009). The data for population sex ratio is obtained from International Labour Organization Database (ILO, Key Indicators of the Labour Market, KILM 6<sup>th</sup> Edition).

The calculation has been done in two stages. First the equally distributed indices corrected for sex ratio (src) and/or differentiated aversion to inequality factor (da),  $X_{EDE,src}$  or  $X_{EDE,src,da}$  for all dimensions of GDI are calculated and compared with the respective conventional values and ranks. Then linear averaging and displaced ideal methods of aggregation are separately applied to recalculate GDI for countries and these are used to arrive at ranks. For data availability considerations, the constructed database relates to 122 countries including 15 Arab countries.

In the following we will focus on the relative position of Arab countries. Tables 1-3 show the effect of sex ratio correction factor on GDI in 2007, 2003 and 2000 respectively. R1, R3, and R5 denote ranks of Arab countries among 122 countries in health, education, and income dimensions respectively. R2, R4, and R6 denote the ranks in the same three dimensions with the sex ratio correction factor introduced. The difference in ranks indicates that a negative (positive) value implies a worse (better) performance of the country with the correction factor when compared with the country's performance without the correction factor. The countries with skewed sex ratio lose ranks in each of the three dimensions.

The five gulf countries of United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman have very high skewed sex-ratio biased towards males. Tables 1-3 list the loss of ranks of these countries in different dimensions of GDI. In the dimensions of health and income, the gulf countries have male achievement higher than female. With a high proportion of males in the population these countries get unduly rewarded and enjoy a much higher rank as shown in R1 and R5 columns. With the introduction of correction factor, these countries loose heavily because of the penalty on account of the skewed sex ratio. In the dimension of education in 2007, excepting Oman and Saudi Arabia, for all other Gulf countries, female achievement is more than male, the countries do not get unduly rewarded in the dimension of education. Nevertheless, with the introduction of correction factor the ranks fall in the education dimension also but much less significantly than in the others two dimensions.

If Gulf countries are at one extreme of sex ratio, Lebanon and Morocco are at other extreme with a relatively higher proportion of female population. However, given that for the three dimensions of health, education and income male achievement is higher than females, with the introduction of correction factor there is hardly any significant loss in ranks.

Because of their adverse sex ratio the Gulf countries do badly in the overall measure of GDI. The top 10 losers in GDI, who have lost 10 or more ranks, are these countries. On the contrary the Arab countries with balanced sex ratio have improved their GDI rankings. This is simply because the correction factors for these countries are close to unity and hence the  $X_{EDE,src}$  does not fall much below  $X_{EDE}$ .

| <b>A A C</b>         | Sex   | Equal | ly distri | buted     | healt | n index | Equal | ly distril | buted ea | ducatio | on index | Equa  | lly distri | <b>buted</b> i | incom | e index |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|------------|----------|---------|----------|-------|------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| Countries            | ratio | Women | Men       | <b>R1</b> | R2    | R1 - R2 | Women | Men        | R3       | R4      | R3 - R4  | Women | Men        | R5             | R6    | R5 - R6 |
| Algeria              | 1.02  | 0.768 | 0.805     | 61        | 42    | 19      | 0.691 | 0.805      | 90       | 81      | 9        | 0.619 | 0.789      | 66             | 60    | 6       |
| Bahrain              | 1.35  | 0.832 | 0.862     | 37        | 78    | -41     | 0.894 | 0.889      | 50       | 84      | -34      | 0.883 | 0.996      | 22             | 44    | -22     |
| Comoros              | 1.01  | 0.662 | 0.672     | 91        | 84    | 7       | 0.606 | 0.703      | 102      | 100     | 2        | 0.355 | 0.446      | 114            | 113   | 1       |
| Jordan               | 1.06  | 0.780 | 0.803     | 58        | 34    | 24      | 0.846 | 0.893      | 62       | 27      | 35       | 0.457 | 0.733      | 85             | 76    | 9       |
| Kuwait               | 1.50  | 0.872 | 0.892     | 31        | 89    | -58     | 0.880 | 0.861      | 63       | 103     | -40      | 0.920 | 1.000      | 4              | 49    | -45     |
| Lebanon              | 0.96  | 0.777 | 0.788     | 65        | 63    | 2       | 0.841 | 0.875      | 65       | 66      | -1       | 0.618 | 0.851      | 63             | 63    | 0       |
| Mauritania           | 1.03  | 0.517 | 0.537     | 101       | 100   | 1       | 0.490 | 0.591      | 111      | 108     | 3        | 0.441 | 0.533      | 96             | 94    | 2       |
| Morocco              | 0.97  | 0.763 | 0.772     | 73        | 65    | 8       | 0.472 | 0.671      | 110      | 112     | -2       | 0.463 | 0.702      | 87             | 87    | 0       |
| Oman                 | 1.30  | 0.830 | 0.860     | 38        | 69    | -31     | 0.744 | 0.823      | 83       | 97      | -14      | 0.725 | 0.967      | 38             | 58    | -20     |
| Saudi Arabia         | 1.23  | 0.793 | 0.805     | 54        | 68    | -14     | 0.789 | 0.858      | 75       | 83      | -8       | 0.683 | 0.985      | 42             | 50    | -8      |
| Sudan                | 1.01  | 0.532 | 0.563     | 99        | 99    | 0       | 0.471 | 0.615      | 112      | 109     | 3        | 0.391 | 0.574      | 100            | 98    | 2       |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 1.02  | 0.808 | 0.828     | 45        | 33    | 12      | 0.723 | 0.823      | 86       | 77      | 9        | 0.453 | 0.720      | 86             | 84    | 2       |
| Tunisia              | 1.01  | 0.808 | 0.822     | 47        | 36    | 11      | 0.723 | 0.821      | 87       | 79      | 8        | 0.581 | 0.795      | 69             | 65    | 4       |
| United Arab Emirates | 2.10  | 0.853 | 0.902     | 29        | 106   | -77     | 0.872 | 0.815      | 73       | 116     | -43      | 0.870 | 1.000      | 6              | 88    | -82     |
| Yemen                | 1.02  | 0.610 | 0.640     | 94        | 91    | 3       | 0.411 | 0.733      | 113      | 110     | 3        | 0.371 | 0.603      | 101            | 99    | 2       |

Table 1: Performance of the Gulf Countries in the three components of GDI, 2007.

*Note:* R1, R3, and R5 denote ranks of 122 countries in health, education, and income dimension respectively. R2, R4, and R6 denote the ranks in the same dimension with the sex ratio correction factor introduced.

| Germanie             | Sex   | Equal | ly distri | buted     | health    | ı index | Equal | y distrib | uted ed   | ucatio | n index | Equal | ly distril | outed i | ncome     | index   |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|-------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Countries            | ratio | Women | Men       | <b>R1</b> | <b>R2</b> | R1 - R2 | Women | Men       | <b>R3</b> | R4     | R3 - R4 | Women | Men        | R5      | <b>R6</b> | R5 - R6 |
| Algeria              | 1.02  | 0.748 | 0.788     | 60        | 45        | 15      | 0.641 | 0.783     | 91        | 82     | 9       | 0.562 | 0.756      | 67      | 59        | 8       |
| Bahrain              | 1.35  | 0.807 | 0.843     | 37        | 76        | -39     | 0.837 | 0.873     | 60        | 84     | -24     | 0.725 | 0.921      | 32      | 53        | -21     |
| Comoros              | 1.01  | 0.632 | 0.643     | 88        | 83        | 5       | 0.467 | 0.593     | 106       | 105    | 1       | 0.417 | 0.516      | 101     | 99        | 2       |
| Jordan               | 1.06  | 0.757 | 0.790     | 57        | 37        | 20      | 0.828 | 0.891     | 58        | 35     | 23      | 0.500 | 0.696      | 82      | 69        | 13      |
| Kuwait               | 1.54  | 0.867 | 0.878     | 26        | 88        | -62     | 0.823 | 0.815     | 71        | 102    | -31     | 0.740 | 0.916      | 31      | 70        | -39     |
| Lebanon              | 0.96  | 0.778 | 0.788     | 54        | 53        | 1       | 0.807 | 0.873     | 65        | 68     | -3      | 0.533 | 0.727      | 75      | 74        | 1       |
| Mauritania           | 1.02  | 0.447 | 0.477     | 100       | 99        | 1       | 0.433 | 0.553     | 111       | 110    | 1       | 0.424 | 0.522      | 98      | 93        | 5       |
| Morocco              | 0.97  | 0.740 | 0.750     | 73        | 63        | 10      | 0.435 | 0.629     | 108       | 108    | 0       | 0.523 | 0.675      | 81      | 78        | 3       |
| Oman                 | 1.33  | 0.803 | 0.838     | 39        | 75        | -36     | 0.646 | 0.757     | 92        | 103    | -11     | 0.616 | 0.897      | 44      | 65        | -21     |
| Saudi Arabia         | 1.24  | 0.773 | 0.793     | 53        | 68        | -15     | 0.652 | 0.774     | 89        | 95     | -6      | 0.633 | 0.890      | 43      | 55        | -12     |
| Sudan                | 1.01  | 0.507 | 0.540     | 95        | 94        | 1       | 0.449 | 0.598     | 107       | 106    | 1       | 0.370 | 0.561      | 104     | 100       | 4       |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 1.02  | 0.793 | 0.818     | 44        | 30        | 14      | 0.695 | 0.823     | 83        | 75     | 8       | 0.461 | 0.670      | 86      | 82        | 4       |
| Tunisia              | 1.02  | 0.798 | 0.812     | 45        | 31        | 14      | 0.689 | 0.799     | 86        | 79     | 7       | 0.609 | 0.775      | 59      | 45        | 14      |
| United Arab Emirates | 2.13  | 0.877 | 0.888     | 23        | 101       | -78     | 0.860 | 0.834     | 64        | 116    | -52     | 0.715 | 0.957      | 25      | 103       | -78     |
| Yemen                | 1.03  | 0.573 | 0.613     | 93        | 89        | 4       | 0.327 | 0.693     | 114       | 112    | 2       | 0.237 | 0.434      | 120     | 119       | 1       |

Table 2: Performance of the Gulf Countries in the three components of GDI, 2003.

*Note:* R1, R3, and R5 denote ranks of 122 countries in health, education, and income dimension respectively. R2, R4, and R6 denote the ranks in the same dimension with the sex ratio correction factor introduced.

| Correctories.        | Sex   | Equal | ly distri | buted      | healt | h index | Equall | y distrib | uted ed   | ucatio | n index | Equal | ly distri | buted i | ncome     | e index |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|------------|-------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Countries            | ratio | Women | Men       | <b>R</b> 1 | R2    | R1 - R2 | Women  | Men       | <b>R3</b> | R4     | R3 - R4 | Women | Men       | R5      | <b>R6</b> | R5 - R6 |
| Algeria              | 1.02  | 0.725 | 0.760     | 66         | 53    | 13      | 0.611  | 0.758     | 92        | 84     | 8       | 0.530 | 0.734     | 66      | 60        | 6       |
| Bahrain              | 1.36  | 0.805 | 0.818     | 38         | 76    | -38     | 0.827  | 0.863     | 55        | 85     | -30     | 0.709 | 0.893     | 32      | 53        | -21     |
| Comoros              | 1.01  | 0.562 | 0.598     | 91         | 91    | 0       | 0.435  | 0.548     | 107       | 107    | 0       | 0.406 | 0.503     | 99      | 97        | 2       |
| Jordan               | 1.07  | 0.738 | 0.777     | 58         | 42    | 16      | 0.749  | 0.811     | 73        | 64     | 9       | 0.478 | 0.684     | 81      | 69        | 12      |
| Kuwait               | 1.55  | 0.852 | 0.867     | 24         | 85    | -61     | 0.735  | 0.750     | 82        | 104    | -22     | 0.707 | 0.902     | 30      | 70        | -40     |
| Lebanon              | 0.96  | 0.785 | 0.817     | 44         | 45    | -1      | 0.805  | 0.867     | 62        | 65     | -3      | 0.501 | 0.702     | 77      | 76        | 1       |
| Mauritania           | 1.02  | 0.427 | 0.457     | 103        | 101   | 2       | 0.324  | 0.485     | 112       | 111    | 1       | 0.416 | 0.512     | 95      | 92        | 3       |
| Morocco              | 0.98  | 0.700 | 0.722     | 78         | 68    | 10      | 0.394  | 0.605     | 109       | 108    | 1       | 0.502 | 0.655     | 80      | 78        | 2       |
| Oman                 | 1.38  | 0.752 | 0.787     | 54         | 84    | -30     | 0.597  | 0.731     | 93        | 102    | -9      | 0.607 | 0.899     | 36      | 67        | -31     |
| Saudi Arabia         | 1.24  | 0.758 | 0.800     | 50         | 70    | -20     | 0.646  | 0.761     | 88        | 93     | -5      | 0.592 | 0.869     | 47      | 57        | -10     |
| Sudan                | 1.01  | 0.498 | 0.535     | 96         | 94    | 2       | 0.412  | 0.583     | 108       | 105    | 3       | 0.357 | 0.552     | 103     | 100       | 3       |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 1.02  | 0.748 | 0.792     | 55         | 39    | 16      | 0.607  | 0.805     | 90        | 82     | 8       | 0.456 | 0.670     | 84      | 79        | 5       |
| Tunisia              | 1.02  | 0.732 | 0.775     | 62         | 46    | 16      | 0.644  | 0.793     | 87        | 79     | 8       | 0.586 | 0.757     | 61      | 46        | 15      |
| United Arab Emirates | 2.08  | 0.842 | 0.853     | 27         | 100   | -73     | 0.765  | 0.717     | 85        | 114    | -29     | 0.663 | 0.918     | 28      | 102       | -74     |
| Yemen                | 1.03  | 0.568 | 0.615     | 89         | 86    | 3       | 0.265  | 0.690     | 113       | 112    | 1       | 0.233 | 0.439     | 119     | 119       | 0       |

### Table 3: Performance of the Gulf Countries in the three components of GDI, 2000.

*Note:* R1, R3, and R5 denote ranks of 122 countries in health, education, and income dimension respectively. R2, R4, and R6 denote the ranks in the same dimension with the sex ratio correction factor introduced.

Displaced ideal has been applied to get the composite index of GDI from its components. The comparison between conventional GDI and <sup>GDI</sup>sr=.di has been done after incorporating the sex ratio correction factor and taking into account a differentiated aversion to inequality. The ranks for these across 122 countries are R7 and R9 respectively (Tables 4-6). The difference in ranks indicates that a negative (positive) value implies a worse (better) performance of the country with displaced ideal when compared with the country's performance under linear averaging. Those countries which have non uniform or skewed development across the three dimensions of health, education and income get penalized and countries with uniform or balanced development get rewarded. The spread of the constituting components of GDI, which is indicative of uniformity, is the difference between the maximum and minimum values across the three dimensions of health, education and income.

Tables 4-6 present the biggest losers and gainers respectively. In 2007, the former are those that have lost more than five ranks (United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman); similarly, the latter are those that have gained more than five ranks (Algeria, Tunisia and Syrian Arab Republic).

#### 4. Conclusion

This technical note has introduced and applied some new perspectives to Gender Development Index (GDI) measurement. First, it accounts for the fact that countries must get the signal from GDI that they must maintain their sex ratio. Accordingly, a correction factor has been introduced, on the basis of which any deviation of ideal sex ratio is penalized. The second correction is based on the notion that GDI must indicate non-uniformity in development across dimensions of health, education and income. Application of displaced ideal technique captures this anomaly and penalizes the countries where for non-uniform development across dimensions. The losers and gainers on account of this correction are discussed.

| Countries            | Health | Education | Income | GDI   | GDI <sub>src,di</sub> | <b>R7</b> | R9  | R7 - R9 | Spread |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------------------|-----------|-----|---------|--------|
| Algeria              | 0.786  | 0.744     | 0.695  | 0.742 | 0.729                 | 73        | 64  | 9       | 0.092  |
| Bahrain              | 0.849  | 0.891     | 0.945  | 0.895 | 0.778                 | 31        | 45  | -14     | 0.096  |
| Comoros              | 0.667  | 0.651     | 0.395  | 0.571 | 0.543                 | 96        | 96  | 0       | 0.271  |
| Jordan               | 0.792  | 0.870     | 0.566  | 0.743 | 0.714                 | 71        | 67  | 4       | 0.303  |
| Kuwait               | 0.884  | 0.868     | 1.000  | 0.922 | 0.752                 | 25        | 56  | -31     | 0.132  |
| Lebanon              | 0.782  | 0.857     | 0.714  | 0.785 | 0.746                 | 61        | 58  | 3       | 0.143  |
| Mauritania           | 0.527  | 0.537     | 0.483  | 0.516 | 0.509                 | 106       | 104 | 2       | 0.053  |
| Morocco              | 0.767  | 0.552     | 0.556  | 0.625 | 0.588                 | 91        | 92  | -1      | 0.215  |
| Oman                 | 0.847  | 0.787     | 0.844  | 0.826 | 0.735                 | 48        | 60  | -12     | 0.060  |
| Saudi Arabia         | 0.800  | 0.826     | 0.822  | 0.816 | 0.753                 | 52        | 55  | -3      | 0.026  |
| Sudan                | 0.547  | 0.534     | 0.466  | 0.515 | 0.505                 | 107       | 106 | 1       | 0.082  |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 0.818  | 0.770     | 0.557  | 0.715 | 0.687                 | 81        | 74  | 7       | 0.261  |
| Tunisia              | 0.815  | 0.769     | 0.672  | 0.752 | 0.734                 | 69        | 61  | 8       | 0.143  |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.885  | 0.832     | 1.000  | 0.908 | 0.598                 | 27        | 90  | -63     | 0.168  |
| Yemen                | 0.625  | 0.528     | 0.460  | 0.538 | 0.522                 | 101       | 97  | 4       | 0.164  |

 Table 4: Losers and Gainers in GDI under Displaced Ideal, 2007

| Countries            | Health | Education | Income | GDI   | GDI <sub>src,di</sub> | <b>R7</b> | <b>R9</b> | R7 - R9 | Spread |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Algeria              | 0.768  | 0.706     | 0.645  | 0.706 | 0.692                 | 76        | 67        | 9       | 0.123  |
| Bahrain              | 0.827  | 0.857     | 0.826  | 0.837 | 0.730                 | 38        | 51        | -13     | 0.032  |
| Comoros              | 0.637  | 0.523     | 0.462  | 0.541 | 0.523                 | 94        | 93        | 1       | 0.176  |
| Jordan               | 0.773  | 0.859     | 0.585  | 0.739 | 0.713                 | 69        | 60        | 9       | 0.274  |
| Kuwait               | 0.874  | 0.818     | 0.838  | 0.843 | 0.681                 | 36        | 69        | -33     | 0.056  |
| Lebanon              | 0.783  | 0.838     | 0.613  | 0.745 | 0.699                 | 64        | 63        | 1       | 0.225  |
| Mauritania           | 0.461  | 0.486     | 0.469  | 0.472 | 0.465                 | 107       | 103       | 4       | 0.025  |
| Morocco              | 0.745  | 0.513     | 0.588  | 0.615 | 0.580                 | 90        | 86        | 4       | 0.232  |
| Oman                 | 0.823  | 0.705     | 0.751  | 0.760 | 0.665                 | 57        | 73        | -16     | 0.118  |
| Saudi Arabia         | 0.784  | 0.714     | 0.753  | 0.751 | 0.687                 | 61        | 68        | -7      | 0.070  |
| Sudan                | 0.523  | 0.514     | 0.447  | 0.494 | 0.484                 | 102       | 99        | 3       | 0.076  |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 0.806  | 0.754     | 0.547  | 0.702 | 0.675                 | 77        | 70        | 7       | 0.259  |
| Tunisia              | 0.805  | 0.740     | 0.683  | 0.743 | 0.727                 | 65        | 53        | 12      | 0.122  |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.884  | 0.842     | 0.863  | 0.863 | 0.567                 | 28        | 89        | -61     | 0.042  |
| Yemen                | 0.593  | 0.446     | 0.308  | 0.449 | 0.426                 | 110       | 108       | 2       | 0.285  |

 Table 5: Losers and Gainers in GDI under Displaced Ideal, 2003

| Countries            | Health | Education | Income | GDI   | GDI <sub>src,di</sub> | <b>R7</b> | <b>R9</b> | R7 - R9 | Spread |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Algeria              | 0.742  | 0.677     | 0.616  | 0.679 | 0.665                 | 79        | 69        | 10      | 0.126  |
| Bahrain              | 0.813  | 0.847     | 0.805  | 0.821 | 0.715                 | 35        | 51        | -16     | 0.043  |
| Comoros              | 0.579  | 0.485     | 0.449  | 0.505 | 0.490                 | 99        | 96        | 3       | 0.130  |
| Jordan               | 0.758  | 0.780     | 0.566  | 0.701 | 0.681                 | 74        | 66        | 8       | 0.214  |
| Kuwait               | 0.861  | 0.744     | 0.814  | 0.806 | 0.646                 | 39        | 76        | -37     | 0.117  |
| Lebanon              | 0.800  | 0.835     | 0.583  | 0.739 | 0.690                 | 60        | 64        | -4      | 0.252  |
| Mauritania           | 0.441  | 0.389     | 0.460  | 0.430 | 0.420                 | 110       | 108       | 2       | 0.071  |
| Morocco              | 0.711  | 0.476     | 0.567  | 0.585 | 0.551                 | 90        | 88        | 2       | 0.234  |
| Oman                 | 0.772  | 0.668     | 0.748  | 0.729 | 0.627                 | 65        | 79        | -14     | 0.104  |
| Saudi Arabia         | 0.781  | 0.705     | 0.719  | 0.735 | 0.672                 | 62        | 67        | -5      | 0.076  |
| Sudan                | 0.516  | 0.483     | 0.434  | 0.478 | 0.468                 | 101       | 99        | 2       | 0.082  |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 0.770  | 0.693     | 0.544  | 0.669 | 0.646                 | 81        | 75        | 6       | 0.226  |
| Tunisia              | 0.753  | 0.711     | 0.661  | 0.709 | 0.695                 | 71        | 60        | 11      | 0.092  |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.850  | 0.732     | 0.816  | 0.799 | 0.532                 | 41        | 91        | -50     | 0.118  |
| Yemen                | 0.591  | 0.385     | 0.306  | 0.427 | 0.401                 | 111       | 113       | -2      | 0.285  |

 Table 6: Losers and Gainers in GDI under Displaced Ideal, 2000

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