Equality and Inequality or Inclusion and Exclusion

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How does inequality manifested?
In millions of ways

- Experienced differently (and in a way in the same way) in different parts of the world: migrant, Muslim, women, working class---ethnic group in Kenya or Darfur---

- Numbers are not everything as they hide faces of men and women—but they are still very telling!

- Actual number of people living under poverty increased by 100 million, while world income increased by an average 2.5 percent annually,

- Women still earn 17% less than men for the same job,

- 1.2 billion people live under poverty line (earn less than $1 a day)

- 2 billion people live under two dollars a day—this is close to 45 percent of the population
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- Women are still outnumbered 4 in 1 in government,
- Women in sub-Saharan Africa spends 40 billion hours a year to collect water- equivalent of a year’s worth of labour by the entire workforce in France
- Maternal mortality rate is declining by 0.4% instead of the 5.5% needed to achieve MDG goal
- 57% of the children out of school are girls,
- Funding for women’s needs on PCNAs is only 8%
- Of 300 peace agreements, only 18 mentions sexual violence, 2 mentions SV as violation of peace accord---
And what does this mean for women and men, for societies

- From value and justice perspective it simply means that women and men does not have the opportunities to fulfil their full potentials, to exercise their economic, social, cultural and political rights,

- From economic perspective, this means that societies are unable to tap into their most important capital—human capital---
  - It means poverty, high fragmentation, unemployment, social unrest---unhealthy population,
But even more importantly, the inequality says a lot about policies—the reproduction of inequalities by social, economic, and political institutions.

It says a lot about who decides what women and men will access to—and how this decision is made.

It talks volume about the domination of commercial and financial interests of few in policy making within and among nations and absence of the interests of many—women and men.
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- It talks volumes about the state and the role government play or shy away from playing-

- Among the states, it most probably indicates the misguided, misconceived advises that does not take into consideration the sequencing and pacing that is very important for sound economic and social policies--- (poor countries being pushed to eliminate trade barriers while rich countries keep barriers; poor countries asked to open markets, while rich countries apply quotas, they are ask to remove subsidy, while agriculture is subsidised--- the product of developing countries are paid less then what they pay for their import etc. they are asked to keep budget austerity hence cut in social services
It talks volume about the disconnect between the internationally agreed obligations of states and their policies and actions---

Obligations would require every state to become a welfare state-----

The playing field is not level for all- and states need to correct this imperfection through their policies and action, within and among states---

The international and national actions needs to be reconsidered- more importantly accountability frameworks need to be reconsidered--
And Equality ---

- A simple and Basic quest for equal treatment, fair treatment---
- A quest for equal opportunities---
- Maybe not all ready to do what it takes to achieve this--but again governments can do a lot for creating this readiness