

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH 2024  
THEME: WE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY  
(POLITICAL ECONOMIST VIEWS ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY)

"WE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY" is a strong call to action that outlines a compelling future in which every person can realize their full potential. Gender equality guarantees that an individual's privileges and possibilities are not influenced by their gender. It entails tearing down systems that support prejudice and guaranteeing that everyone, regardless of gender identity, has equal access to economic, healthcare, and opportunities for learning.

The ideal of an inclusive society is to provide every citizen, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, with an equal chance for success and a platform to express themselves. An inclusive society reinforces this idea by adopting diversity in all of its forms and fostering an environment where everyone is valued and respected.

In his seminal book, *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith (1776), a classical political economist, championed the idea of individual liberty, the concept of gender equality. Smith emphasized individual liberty and the importance of allowing people to pursue their economic self-interest. In theory, this could align with gender equality, as it would suggest removing restrictions that prevent women and other spectrum of gender from full participation in the economy. His political economic views posit that there will be focus on efficiency if an inclusive society that utilizes everyone's talents. Restricting the rights of women and other spectrum of gender can be hindered in the economy's growth, reduced innovation, increasing case of social injustices and it may turn to social anarchism.

One of the roles of the state is to protect every member of society from injustice and oppression (Smith, 1776). Gender inequality is a form of injustice, and there will be existing oppression without an inclusive society. The Philippine government was known for women's empowerment and protecting human rights because of the laws that had been passed for protection. Many benefited and shined in their own fields, like politics, sports, media, and the business world, for this privilege.

The road to a truly equal and inclusive society will not be easy. There will be challenges and setbacks. However, the power of the collective "WE" is undeniable. When we work together, women and men, people of all backgrounds and beliefs, we can create a world where everyone has the chance to thrive. Let's embrace the power of "WE" and build a future where equality and inclusion are not just ideals, but the lived experience for all.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Smith, Adam (1776). *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. Vol. 1. London: W. Strahan. ISBN 978-1537480787