

Forum: The Citizen forum on inequalities

Theme: How to reduce inequalities at different scales?

Name of citizen: Ahmed Mohamed

Marital status:	Level of education
<input type="radio"/> Married/in a relationship	<input type="radio"/> Primary
<input type="radio"/> Single	<input type="radio"/> Secondary
<input type="radio"/> With children, if so, how many:	<input type="radio"/> University

1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

My name is Ahmed, I am 22 years old, and I work with my father and 2 brothers on our small plot of land in the Nile Delta. Farming is not just my work—it is my family's culture and our only way of survival. But today, farming does not give us the life it once did. Inequalities, both economic and social, shape my everyday struggles and limit my chances for a better future.

The first inequality I face is economic. Land ownership in the Delta is extremely unequally divided. Large landowners and agribusinesses control wide areas of the best land, while my family owns less than one acre. This means we cannot produce enough to make a good living. We are forced to sell our crops at low prices to resellers who make far more profit than we ever get. Rising prices of seeds, fertilizers, and fuel make it even harder. When I look at the money we spend and the money we earn, farming feels like a trap, not a good business.

A second inequality is access to water. The Nile is our lifeline, but water is not shared equally. Big landowners and those with political connections often secure better dividends, while small farmers like us struggle with shortages. Climate change makes this worse: warmer summers and unpredictable rains damage our crops, but we receive no support to adapt. Government programs rarely reach farmers like us, and if they do, the process is complicated, full of bureaucracy, and corrupt.

Another inequality I live with is social. Young people in the villages of the Nile Delta have very few chances outside farming. Education is poor, and even if I wanted to leave farming, finding a stable job is nearly impossible. Many of my friends dream of leaving the country, working abroad in the USA or Europe, but most of us don't get the chance. Those of us who stay are seen as less successful, even though we are the ones feeding Egypt .

Inequalities also show in health and living standards. In the city, young men my age can access better hospitals, better internet, and better infrastructure. In my village, clinics are underfunded, the roads are bad, and public services are weak. When politicians speak about “development,” they often mean Cairo or Alexandria, not the Delta villages where millions of us live.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

I believe change is possible. Small farmers should receive fairer access to water and government support, including subsidies for seeds and fertilizers. The government must also invest in education and healthcare, so that young people like me have a real chance for a proper life. Finally, we need fair markets that cut out the middlemen and allow farmers to sell directly at market prices.