Why does a woman inherit half of what man inherits in Islam?

In the pre-Islamic era, women were deprived of inheritance. When Islam came, they were not only included in inheritance but they were also granted more or equal shares to those of men, and in some cases a woman is entitled to inheritance while man is not. In other cases, men get higher shares than women depending on the degree of kinship and consanguinity, and this is the case mentioned in the Noble Qur'an:

{Allah instructs you concerning [the inheritance of] your children: the share of a male is equal to that of two females...} [210] Surat an-Nisā': 11.

A Muslim lady once said that she had not understood this point until the death of her father-in-law when her husband inherited double the amount that was inherited by his sister. He used the money to buy the missing essentials including a house for his family and a car, whereas his sister used her money to buy jewelry and saved the rest in a bank, as it is her husband's responsibility to provide the habitation and other essential needs. Only then she understood the wisdom behind this ruling and praised Allah.

Even if the woman works hard in many societies to provide for her family, this does not indicate a deficiency in the inheritance ruling. For example, if a mobile phone starts to malfunction because its user did not follow the usage instructions, this does not indicate the deficiency of such instructions.

Questions and Answers about Islam
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