



The Importance of Women's Education. Why Should We Educate Women?

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Abstract: Over the past decades, significant strides have been made in the field of education. Countries worldwide, whether developed or developing, are attempting to provide opportunities for individuals to access quality education, irrespective of social, economic, or religious backgrounds. However, gender inequality persists. According to UNICEF, around the world, 119 million girls are out of school, including 34 million of primary school age and 87 million of secondary school age (UNICEF, 2024) [1]. This article discusses the challenges and benefits of educating women.

"Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation."
– Napoleon Bonaparte.

Challenges

Economic Constraints. One core reason for inadequate education among girls is a lack of financial resources. Families struggling to meet basic needs may prioritize educating sons over daughters. This issue is most prevalent in developing countries. For instance, in Afghanistan and Sudan, there are only 70 girls enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys, with similarly large gaps in countries like Chad (77 girls per 100 boys), Yemen (84 girls), and Pakistan (85 girls) (UNESCO, 2024) [2].

Social Norms and Expectations. In some cultures, girls are often deprived of educational opportunities due to early marriage or gender-based violence, both in and out of the classroom. Girls are often seen as primarily responsible for household duties and childcare, resulting in their education being neglected.



Benefits of Educating Women

Personal Development. Women who receive a quality education are more likely to find employment and earn higher wages. Education equips women with essential life and work skills, such as problem-solving, decision-making, and time management. As a result, they gain confidence and improve their quality of life.

Healthy Families. Educated women are more likely to make informed health choices, benefiting not only themselves but also their families. According to the Global Partnership for Education, a child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of 5 and to be immunized (GPE, 2023) [3].

Economic Growth. Providing women access to education leads to financial freedom and economic growth. A single year of primary school increases women's wages later in life by 10% to 20%, while secondary education boosts it by 15% to 25%. Barriers to completing 12 years of education cost countries between \$15 trillion and \$30 trillion in lost lifetime productivity and earnings (World Bank, 2024) [4][5].

Educated Children. Educated mothers contribute significantly to their children's success. According to the Global Partnership for Education, a child whose mother can read is twice as likely to attend school (GPE, 2023) [6].

"You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation."
– Brigham Young.

Conclusion. Around the world, millions of girls are denied the chance to go to school due to poverty and social expectations. Reversing this condition can benefit not only individuals but also entire nations, fostering healthy families, economic growth, and future generations of educated individuals.



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