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Data Brief—Why Education is a Feminist Issue

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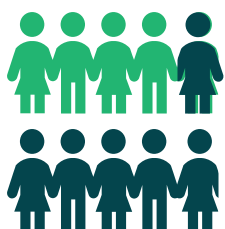
Girls Deliver

PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS
KIGALI, RWANDA • 16 JULY 2023

ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

WHY EDUCATION IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

Despite reaching global parity in enrollment, **gender and wealth disparities in education continue to undermine girls' learning and opportunities in low- & middle- income countries.**



Less than half

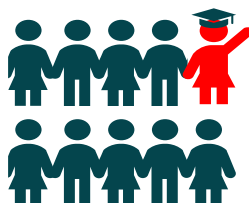
of poor girls and boys complete **primary school** in 54% of low- and middle-income countries.
(EGER, 2022)

192 Million
Girls are out of school
worldwide

(UNICEF, 2023)

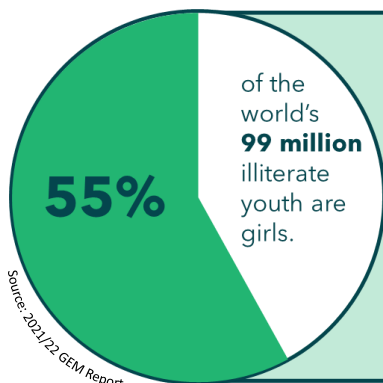
Just 1 out of 10

poor girls complete **lower secondary** school in 41% of low- and middle-income countries.
(EGER, 2022)



Poor, young men are more likely to be literate than poor young women in 78% of low- and middle-income countries.

(EGER, 2022)



Less than half of poor young women (aged 20-24) can read in 73% of LMICs.

(EGER, 2022)

Illiterate women (aged 15-24) are



more likely to hold attitudes accepting of violence against women by intimate partners than their literate peers in 32 low- and middle-income countries for which data were available.

(EGER, 2022)

Education is a right, and it is a critical tool for a feminist future



Through gender-transformative curricula & teaching practices, education can reduce harmful gender stereotypes and biases.



Foundational literacy and numeracy are essential for academic success, effective communication, employment opportunities, and lifelong learning



Educating girls and young women can lead to improved health outcomes for themselves and their families.



Education empowers girls and young women to engage in policy discussions, advocate for their rights, and drive social change.



Education can empower individuals and foster girls' agency.



Education is a powerful tool in combatting child marriage.



Equal access to education & relevant skills training enables individuals of all genders to access better economic opportunities and pursue fulfilling livelihoods.



Quality education can provide girls and women with the necessary skills and qualifications for leadership positions and decision-making roles.



Schools and educational institutions can implement policies and programs that foster safe and inclusive environments, where all students are respected and protected, and where harassment and violence are not tolerated.



Education as a feminist issue recognizes the importance of intersectionality, understanding that gender intersects with other forms of identity and oppression, such as race, class, sexuality, and disability.

The transformative power of secondary education

Studies consistently demonstrate that investing in girls' secondary education yields numerous social, health, and economic benefits. By providing girls and women with quality education, societies can unlock their potential as agents of change, contributing to poverty reduction, improved health, and increased wellbeing for all.

2x

Women with secondary education may expect to make almost twice as much as those who completed primary education alone.
(Wodon et al., 2018)

↓75%

Attending some secondary school (vs. completing primary) reduces girls' odds of child marriage by 75% in West & Central Africa.
(EGER, 2022)

↓71%

Attending some secondary school (vs. completing primary) reduces girls' chances of childbearing before age 18 by 71% in West & Central Africa.
(EGER, 2022)

\$15-30

Trillion USD

The estimated global loss in human capital wealth due to the lack of universal secondary education.
(Wodon et al., 2018)

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This data brief was created by the Population Council's GIRL Center and the Evidence for Gender and Education Resource (EGER) in collaboration with the Girls First Fund to inform the thematic roundtable discussion on *Why Education is a Feminist Issue* at the Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls held in Kigali, Rwanda ahead of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference.

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