

Girls' Education

By: Sasha

Introduction

You might be wondering, is girls' education a major problem in this world? Well, it might not seem like it, but it is actually is. Not only because it is tough for a woman to get a job when she wasn't educated as a girl, there's more to it. Girl's education affects many people, even boys and families. For example, if a girl was educated when she gets older it is more likely she will have a healthier and more successful family and send her kids to better schools (boys and girls).

Imagine a girl sweeping the floors of her house; her brothers have just left to go to school leaving her with her little sister. They clean the house all day until their brothers arrive home from school. The boys do their homework while they prepare dinner with their mother. This girl wants to go to school, but her parents think it's a waste of time and they only have a limited amount of money and do not want to use it on "such a thing". This girl feels unimportant. She wonders, "why do my brothers get to go to school, are they more important than me?". I will discuss why parents like this should send their girls to school and why it is important for our future.

EXPLAIN THE ISSUE

Even though girl's access to education is getting better it still remains a big issue in this world. It is a problem because when a girl is not educated time stands still and make poverty worse because the girl can't help produce an income. For example, if a girl wasn't educated it is more likely she will have a less successful family and she will live in more poverty. This is a cycle that will continue over and over. This is because if a girl's mom went to school it is more likely that that girl will go to school and be in a better school. Did you know that out of the estimated 880 million illiterate adults 2/3 of them are women? If we educate these girls they could help strengthen their families by contributing more to them and their society.

This issue affects many people both locally and globally, but it is a bigger problem in some countries such as Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Yemen. One of the things that stops girls' education to expand is deep cultural beliefs, like the thought that girls aren't as valuable as boys. Sometimes people think this because in certain countries when a girl marries a boy the girl moves in with her husband and hardly see their original family. So, some people think there is no need to send their girls to school, as their primary role should be to take care of a home and family. But, this is not the case.

Girls' education is a problem for many people around the globe. For instance, around 100 million girls worldwide that start primary school do not finish. The numbers get even larger as they go to secondary school. Girls usually go to school for less than a year in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Yemen. This means the majority of these girls will need to depend on someone in their life. As a result, they may be subject to abuse and poor treatment.

However there are some girls who are trying to fight this, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, from Afghanistan, Kabul, still went to school after the Taliban banned girls from getting an education. She dressed as a boy and went to a secret school hiding her books in grocery bags and going different routes everyday to avoid suspicion. They kept the school a secret, "The school was in a house, more than 100 of us packed into one living room... We all knew we were risking our lives — the students, the parents, the teachers." Shabana tells us. She is very brave and I think it is amazing how she risked her life for an education.

In the US some children still don't go to school, even though it is against the law. It is also the law that you cannot discriminate against girls. But, that doesn't mean it doesn't happen. However, because of these laws it is less of a problem here. So, I think that this law should be enforced in countries. Imagine how much more poverty,

discrimination and opinions against girls would get worse if the laws didn't force girls to go to school. Imagine how many girls could go to school if more laws were created and strictly enforced.

People exploit girls' education by making their girls do chores like, cook and clean while their boys get to go to school and do things that girls possibly want to do. Then, once they reach the age around 13 (it can sometimes be much younger than that), sometimes they make their kids get married at a young age and have kids, which is also a big problem. These girls are then forced to take care of their own kids at a young age and will not have access to other rights and privileges like an education.

CURRENT EVENTS

Do you know the world famous Malala Yousafzai? If you don't, she is a brave young girl. Malala is from Pakistan. The Taliban shot her on her way back from school on a bus that had many other girls on it. But, now she has recovered and makes speeches about girls' education and she even won a Noble Peace Prize because she used her words to show the world that girls deserve the same respect that boys get!

People are reacting to this current event about Malala and are starting to realize that girls' education is a big problem.

More people are starting to take a stand and the speeches Malala gives are inspiring a lot of people. She is trying to get more people to understand that all girls should be sent to school.

Another person who took a stand is Oprah Winfrey. Because she is famous she helped create an organization called Girls Inc. She has made the donations from sales of Teavana, Oprah Chai Tea, supports Girls Inc. so they can gain more money to make it a bigger organization.

METHODS OF CHANGE

There are many organizations helping girls' education both locally and globally. For example, there is Girls Inc. all over the U.S. This organization has schools that have an all-girl environment where they won't be treated differently because they are girls. They get to bond with other girls and make life-long friendships where they aren't afraid to take part of activities and participate. If they are struggling at home from any problems they can find the nearest Girls Inc. and they have trained mentoring professionals and people to help the girls with homework and any work they need help with.

Also, The Malala Fund helps girls all around the world, especially in developing countries. They go into small communities and help them get the resources to go to

school. If you donate they also use the money to invest in other organizations. Malala started this organization so you should help and donate to support her from all that she has gone through.

I think if people help and donate to these organizations we can make a change quickly, and start a new tradition of girls going to school regularly.

There are a lot of organizations owned by grown ups. But I think it is important for kids to realize problems around the world at a young age and start to help. Like, you can do a bake sale or a lemonade stand and the money you get can be donated to organizations like the Malala Fund. Or, you can even start your own organization. You can collect money and use it to make posters or even a website to spread awareness. It might be a cool idea to send in a letter to someone important who can make it a law to send girls to school. I am making this executive report; maybe you can do something similar and also send it to important people. Hopefully many people will join in and everyone can support these girls to help them go to school.

CALL FOR ACTION

Are you interested in taking part to start sending all girls to school? Well, you can donate to these specific organizations. If you are not interested in helping any of them you can consider starting your own organization.

The Malala Fund	Donate or join the movement.	info@malafund.org
Girls Inc.	Donate. Sign up for the email list.	120 Wall Street New York, NY 10005-3902 tel: (212) 509-2000 fax: (212) 509-8708 email: communications@girlsinc.org
Girl Rising	Host a screening or buy the movie to help them raise money and to spread awareness.	Phone 212.456.5857 Fax 212.456.5874 Girl Rising in NYC 125 West End Avenue New York, NY 10023 Girl Rising in LA 606 N. Larchmont Blvd, #302 Los Angeles, CA 90004
Women Thrive	Spread the word on social media. Donate. Stay informed; sign up for the email list.	1726 M St. NW Suite 1075 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 999-4500
rights4girls	Spread the word on social media. Donate.	1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington DC 20005

I want to help remediate this issue by raising money to donate to issues like the ones above. Or I can start my own organization or website to help spread the word to get more people to donate money. I want to send out this report so people can realize how girls' education can affect

people. I can also read Malala's book to support and help her while she is trying to make a change

CONCLUSION

This report pays close attention to a girls need for an education and how it can help change communities and lift countries out of poverty. This can happen if parents let go of the strong cultural beliefs and decide to make a change by sending their girls to school. Hopefully more people will start to consider this as a big problem in this world and help make a change and educate people about this problem so that we can solve this issue before it becomes worse.

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