

Educate Women and Girls to Meet SDG

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Educating women has direct contribution to meeting SDGs indicators. In Ethiopia, there are promising improvements in educating women and girls. The percentage of girls and women with no education decreased from 77% in 2000 to 43% in 2019.¹ Despite improvements however,

How does this affect development?

Women denied of education have slimmer chance to become entrepreneurs and to join the skilled workforce. As compared to men, women entrepreneurs and women skilled workers constitute the minority. Moreover, the proportion of women that works as high-skilled workers decreases as the tasks become more skill-intensive. For example, **women in textile & garment sectors constitute 35% while in chemical and pharmaceutical industries they constitute 15%**³. Hence, a significant number of Ethiopian women are either at home engaged in UCW or are engaged in low paid works forcing them to live in poverty.

Studies show that women's empowerment has a positive effect on children's survival, on school retention and better child care and nutrition⁴. On the other hand, when women are not educated means infant mortality would be higher and school dropout increases or would not improve. These together would force poverty at family level and hence delaying development at country level.

What is deterring Women and Girls from pursuing education?

Women disproportionately shouldering unpaid care works (UCW) and violence against women and girls (VAWGs) are among the primary contributors forcing women and girls not to pursue their education.



Primary school is the highest level of schooling attended or completed among most of the girls, (43% of females age 6 or older have completed some primary schooling, and 4% have completed primary education. Only 1% of women have completed secondary school.²



How to Address the Problem?

- Support women and girls in education (material and tutorial support)
- Campaign on the value of educating women and girls
- Facilitate safe school environment (support school clubs to fight VAWGs, expand the access to separate latrines for girls and boys, expand training on the human rights of women and girls, engage male students in the fight against VAWG, link schools with legal aid and psychosocial services)
- Conduct community dialogue to realize the redistribution of UCW among family members
- Implement programs that reduces the burden of UCW on women (ease access to potable water, supply alternative energy sources to rural households)