

Forum: Human Rights Council II

Issue: Ensuring gender parity in secondary school enrollment

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Introduction

In September 2000, the United Nations decided on eight Millennium Development Goals all member nations should achieve by 2015; one of them being gender equality. But originally, gender equality in both primary and secondary education was supposed to be achieved by 2005. The reason being that gender equality is the answer to the rest of the Millennium Development Goals; most importantly, it is the answer to world poverty and hunger. Gender discrimination almost always exists in every corner in the world; whether it is at workplaces, public events, and even schools, but more specifically secondary school enrollment. Many girls and boys are deprived of a secondary education due to gender disparity. In Article 26 in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to education..." Yet according to UNICEF, "there are just 96 girls out of 100 boys in primary school, with an even more acute disparity in secondary education." Although efforts have been made by different nations to solve this issue, there are more work that needs to be done by each and every nation before this issue can be completely eliminated in 2015.

Definition of Key Terms

Gender Parity

A phrase that compared between the female's and the male's access to education.

Secondary School

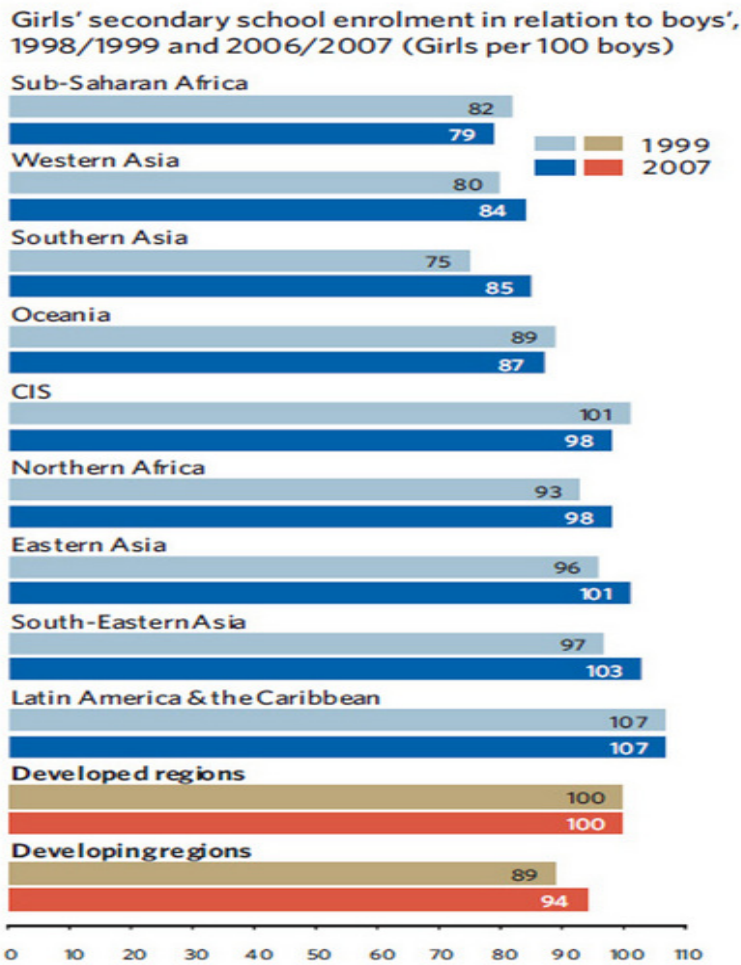
A term that describes an educational institution which follows after primary/elementary education; age often varies from country to country.

Enrollment

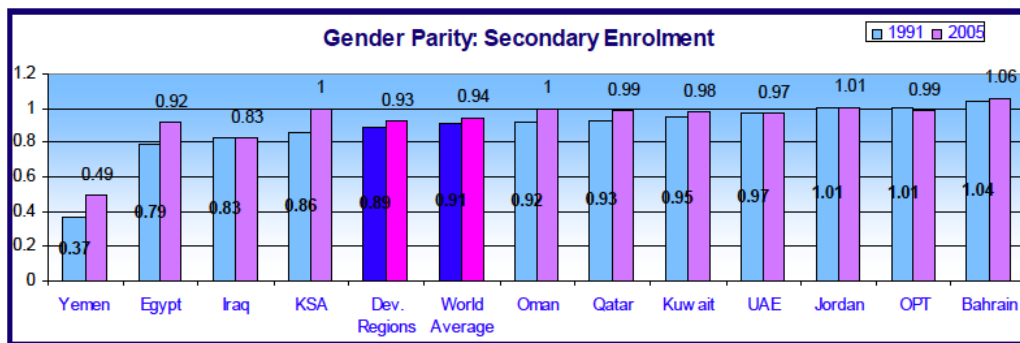
A group of students that are registered in a school.

General Overview

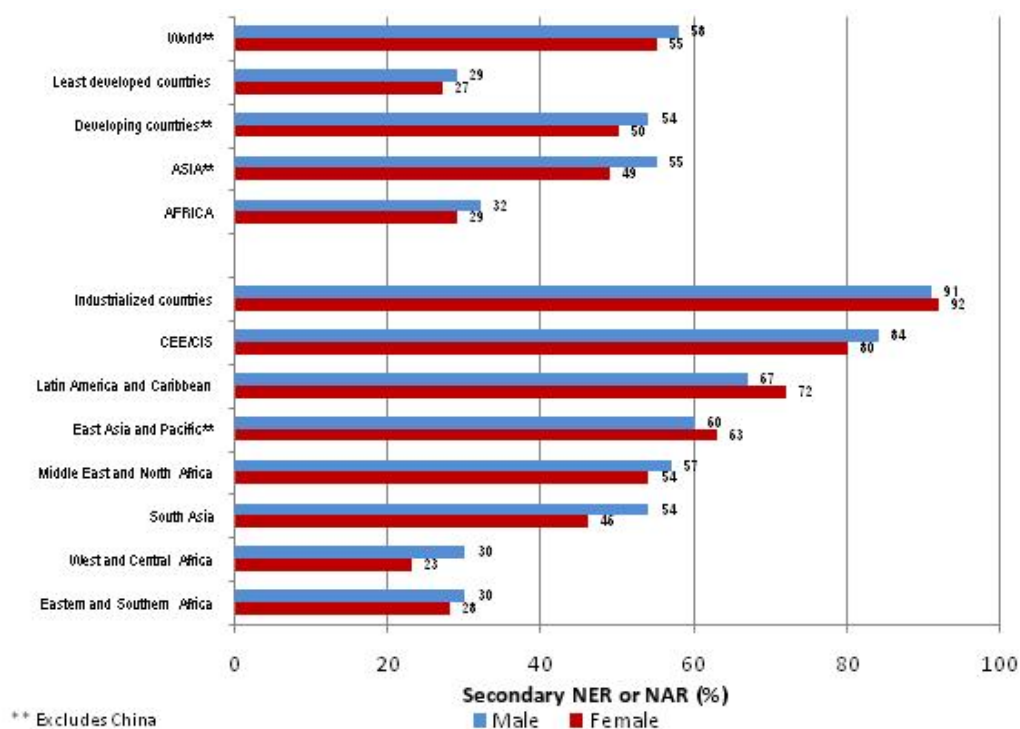
Charts for Gender Parity



Caption #1: Millennium Development Goals: Gender Parity in Basic Education 2007



Caption #2: United Nations Statistics Division- Gender Parity: Secondary Enrollment



Caption #3: Secondary school net enrolment rate or net attendance by region, 2003-2008

Gender Parity in Secondary Education in South Asia

Numerous countries in South Asia such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and many more are struggling to achieve gender parity in education. It was concluded by UNICEF at the 2005 and Beyond Accelerating Girls' Education in South Asia, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand from the 7th to the 9th of February in 2005 "South Asia will not reach gender parity by the end of 2005, and is unlikely to reach Universal Primary Education by 2015."

Achieving Education for All Will Achieve Gender Equality

By achieving one of the UN Millennium Goals, which is universal primary education for all will drastically make the eradication of poverty and gender inequality much easier. Education both girls and boys will have a greater chance of preventing diseases such as HIV/AIDS, empowering women, and ensuring each children deserve the rights they ought to deserve. By eliminating gender disparity, education will ensure girls a better future economically, socially, and academically. By educating both genders, it will guarantee the future generation to lead a more ethical lifestyle, as well as to boost their confidence socially.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1986	<i>Manual for Integrating the Gender Factor into Basic Education</i> (USAID)
1990	World Conference on Education for All, Jomiten
2006	“Strengthening Gender and Education Programming in the 21 st Century”
2006	Gender Equality in Education Framework introduced
2008	“Education from a Gender Equality Perspective”

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

There are numerous organizations within the United Nations, as well as Non-governmental organizations, that are currently working to eliminate gender disparity around the world. Some of the United Nations organizations include United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), United States Agency for International Development on education (USAID), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- Gender Equality Framework, May 2008
- Education For All Global Monitoring Report: The Leap to Equality 2003/2004
- UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan, 2008-2013
- Convention of the Rights of the Children, 1989

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