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# WORLD ATLAS of Gender Equality in Education



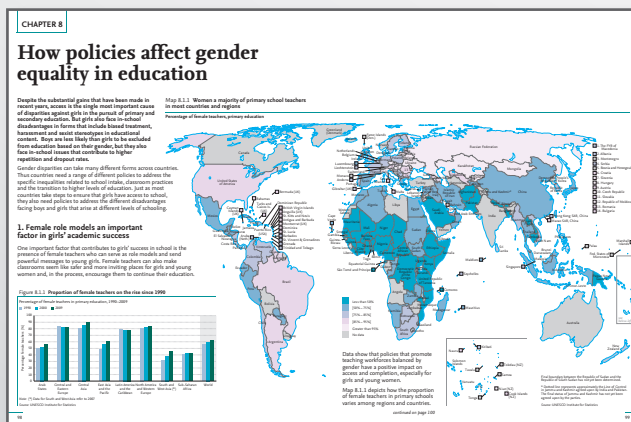
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“This Atlas is a map of the world; it is also a call to action, to concentrate ever more on promoting gender equality in education as a human right and a development multiplier.”

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO



The *World Atlas of Gender Equality in Education* comprises over 120 maps, charts and tables featuring a wide range of sex-disaggregated

indicators produced by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. It allows readers to visualize the educational pathways of girls and boys and observe changes in gender disparities over time.

Although access to education remains a challenge in many countries, girls enrolled in primary school tend to outperform boys. Dropout rates are higher for boys than girls in 63% of countries with available data.

Only 39% of countries have equal proportions of boys and girls enrolled in secondary education.

Disparities against girls tend to be more extreme and persistent than those against boys. For example, more than 60% of adolescent girls are out of school in countries such as the United Republic of Tanzania, Guinea, Eritrea, Pakistan, Djibouti, Central African Republic, while in Senegal and Niger, the rate exceeds 70%.

Countries with high proportions of girls enrolled in secondary education have more women teaching primary education than men.

Women account for the majority of tertiary students in two-thirds of countries with available data. However, men continue to dominate the highest levels of study, accounting for 56% of PhD graduates and 71% of researchers.

The Arab States, South and West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa have made the greatest progress in improving female adult literacy rates. Yet globally, the share of illiterate women has remained virtually the same at 63% to 64% since 1990.