

Gender Respect Project

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For further information see:
<http://www.decsy.org.uk>
OR
<http://genderrespect2013.wordpress.com>

A Global Case Study: Girls' Education

Age group: KS2 and KS3

Format: lesson plan and resource sheet

Main curriculum / subject area: PSHE

Other curriculum links: Literacy

Objectives: To consider the challenges girls face to access an equal quality of education to boys.

Teacher Information Sheet

Name of countries: Nepal and Uganda

This resource is based on the film 'To Educate a Girl' and UNICEF lesson resources.

To Educate a Girl: Manisha's story

In this film, we meet Manisha, a teenager who works in the fields in Nepal and her parents, who are both labourers. Following some family difficulties, Manisha dropped out of school to help the family earn money. An organisation called Young Champions persuaded her parents to send her three sisters to school but they could not afford to send Manisha too. Manisha feels like a servant and wishes to go to school but is concerned that she would be teased because of her age. With the support of the Young Champions, Manisha enrolls in school again, starting in Class 3.

To Educate a Girl: Mercy's story

In Uganda, we meet Mercy, the six-year-old daughter of an impoverished single mother, who is about to embark on her first day of school. She is nervous because she thinks that the other children may beat her. Her mother had to drop out of school when she became pregnant with Mercy. We see the school campaigning to get parents to bring their children to school. Mercy is then enrolled in school and we watch her first day of school, finding out how she copes. She shares her feelings about it with her mother when she comes home.

Teacher Information Sheet (continued)

Why is there action for change?

31 million girls of primary school age and 32 million girls of lower secondary school age were out of school in 2013. Barriers to girls' education include school fees, additional expenses such as uniforms and books, the cultural value placed on marriage over education, the cultural priority of male over female children, violence against girls in and en route to schools, school pregnancy policies, poor school conditions, and unequal treatment of girls in the classroom.

Schools are leading campaigns to get more children in to school, singing songs and writing messages such as 'if you educate a girl, you are educating a whole nation'. In Manisha's film, we learn about the 500 Young Champions in Nepal, who go to parents to persuade them to send their children to school. The Young Champions are trained to take children to school and to monitor their attendance. In Mercy's story, we hear about GEM (Girls Education Movement), who play a similar role.

What can we learn from this example?

Educated girls are agents of change. The benefits of educating girls have a ripple effect, because they are less likely to marry early and against their will; less likely to die in childbirth; more likely to have healthy babies; more likely to send their own children to school; and better able to protect their children from malnutrition, HIV and AIDS, trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

Follow up work:

Find out more information about Nepal and Uganda.

Discussion about access to education and gender equality.

Compare their own experience of school with school in other countries.

Produce their own radio programme or film.

Find out more about the campaign 'Send my Friend to School'

<http://www.sendmyfriend.org/>

Further information and resources:

UNICEF detailed lesson plans, resources and follow up activities:

https://teachunicef.org/sites/default/files/documents/units-lesson-plans/to_educate_a_girl_middle_school_final.pdf

To Educate a Girl (trailer): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wwOaVV4rqq>

To Educate a Girl (Manisha's Story): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Gh3P194HAY>

To Educate a Girl (Mercy's Story): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciAggdsfy1U>

Resource Sheet: To Educate a Girl

Case Study: Nepal

Manisha is a teenager who works in the fields while her three younger sisters go to school. She would like to go to school but she is worried that she will be teased because of her age.

Young Champions are helping to get more children in school. Manisha now attends school instead of working.



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Barriers to girls' education

- School fees.
- Additional expenses such as uniforms and books.
- The cultural value placed on marriage over education.
- Violence against girls in and en route to schools.
- Poor school conditions.
- Unequal treatment of girls in the classroom.

Case Study: Uganda

Mercy comes from a poor family who can't afford to send Mercy to school. Mercy is nervous because she thinks that the other children may beat her.

The school hold a campaign to get more children into school. Mercy is enrolled and has her first day at school.



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Challenge

Discuss: Why do you think fewer girls go to school than boys?

Compare your school to the schools you see on the film.

Create a drama, film or radio programme to tell people about gender inequality and education.