



Human Rights- Grade 7- 11

Girls and Education in India

Learning Objective

Identify realities that prevent or challenge children's education in India.

Identify reasons for why girls' face more challenges to their education than boys.

Gain a deeper understanding of challenges to human rights for girls around the world.

Materials

- Handout: article, 'Why girls in India are still missing out on the education they need.'
- Handout: questions on article
- Art supplies
- Internet access

Time 3.5 hours

Part 1: Girls in India

Teacher's note: Can be done in groups or individually. Some possible answers to handout questions are listed here.

Read the article, '*Why girls in India are still missing out on the education they need*'

Answer the handout questions:

1. Name 5 factors that prevent or challenge children's school attendance & school completion in India.
 - a. *Harassment for girls*
 - b. *Too many students in the class*
 - c. *Teachers absent from class*
 - d. *Poor facilities (toilets & drinking water)*
 - e. *Cost of tuition*
 - f. *No support for kids with learning disabilities*
 - g. *Parents with low education levels*
2. Choose 3 of these factors and explain in a few sentences why these make education a challenge for Indian kids. Look up some additional resources online to support your argument. Make sure you cite the source of where you found the additional information.
 - a. *Girls getting harassed is a big problem because often the blame of sexual assault or harassment is placed on girls. So it may not be safe for girls to go to school because in Indian culture girls are supposed to be 'protected.' Parents fear girls being raped or harassed because it could ruin their 'honour.'* ...
 - b. *A lot of students in the class makes it harder for students to concentrate. Space is an issue too and being uncomfortable and without a place to write harms the study environment...*
 - c. *Low pay and bad learning conditions makes teachers less motivated to teach...*
 - d. *Many schools in rural areas of India have very poor learning facilities. According to xxx, classrooms in these areas have few desks and chairs, terrible bathrooms...*



- e. *Families in India earn an average of only 1 dollar a day according to XXX... people spend most of their earnings on food. The cost of tuition is ... % of their salaries. This presents a big challenge for parents.*
 - f. *There are very few resources for kids with learning disabilities according to*
 - g. *According to XXXXX parents in rural areas have an average education level of XXXXX. Parents who cannot help their kids at school probably won't encourage them to study...*
 - h. *Not learning enough so they 'disengage'*
3. According to the World Bank, is India a poor country?
 - a. *No it was upgraded to a middle-income country 4 years ago.*
 4. Why did the UK decide to end aid to India by 2015? Explain in your own words with examples from the article.
 - a. *The UK decided end aid to India because there are many people there who have lots of money. There are almost 50 billionaires, a space programme and it has its own aid programme. It also has an Act passed through government that says all children should be going to school.*
 5. What is the difference between school attendance and quality of education?
 - a. *School attendance means kids show up at school, but it doesn't speak to how much they learn...*
 6. What are some big challenges to providing quality education listed in this article?
 - a. *There are not enough teachers in the country*
 - b. *One fifth of the teachers who are there may not have been professionally trained*
 - c. *The school infrastructure (facilities, resources) are not good enough*
 - d. *Too many students inside each classroom*
 - e. *There is not enough budget given to the issue by the government- lack of political will*
 7. What was the reading level found in the Annual Status of Education Report?
 - a. *More than half of children at around 10 years old (Grade 5) where unable to read at a Grade 2 level*
 8. What's the difference between 'enrolment' and 'attendance' in this article?
 - a. *Those who enroll at the beginning of the year do not necessarily attend*
 9. Which groups of students are most often left behind when it comes to finishing the school year?
 - a. *Girls*
 - b. *Very poor students*
 - c. *Disabled students*
 - d. *Marginalized groups such as lower caste, tribal groups, Muslim communities*
 10. Why do girls quit school earlier than boys?
 - a. *They often bear the responsibility of helping with house work, or they get married earlier*
 11. Name two problems identified with 'low-budget' private schools.
 - a. *They are unregulated*
 - b. *Lack trained teachers*
 - c. *Lack proper infrastructure*

Part 2: Personal reactions

Class Discussion

Identify one part of this article that really affected you personally.

How did you react and why?

Is there an issue here you really care about?

Can you imagine a possible solution for the situation?

Express your reaction:

- **Draw** a picture
- **Write** a poem, song or story
- **Find** a poem, picture song or story that you think really relates to this issue and **explain why** in a written paragraph
- In a small group, **dramatize** the situation through a short skit

Present your work to the class.

Part 3: A deeper study

Find a written article, a movie, documentary or TV show that directly relates to one of the issues you've identified in this article. It should relate directly to the same issue but in a different context. It could be in Canada or another country).

Compare and contrast the situation, answering the following:

- Give a brief summary of the situation
- Which problems are the same as in India?
- Which are different?
- Who is talking about the problem in the India article? In the article/movie/doc/TV show you found?
- What solutions were presented in each? Are they similar or different, and how?
- Summarize your overall reaction to this new article. How does it make you feel? Discuss.

Students **present** to the class.