



Time	45–60 minutes
Level	intermediate
Skills	speaking, reading, listening
Knowledge goal	raising awareness of gender differences in education in the world
Materials	Ss' worksheet: p. S1 – one for each student

1 Lead-in

- Give the Ss the Worksheet and have them answer the Quiz questions in pairs (Ex. 1). Encourage Ss to discuss and guess the answers. Don't tell them the correct answers yet.
- Read the following paragraph aloud. Ask Ss to fill in the gaps with the numerical expressions they hear. The answers to the gaps and the questions can then be discussed.

*Educating girls is considered to be one of the most effective steps a country can take to fight poverty, but the barriers that prevent girls from attending school are **numerous**. We must overcome these challenges in order to ensure that **every** girl enjoys her fundamental right to an education. Today, over **60** million girls are not in school, accounting for more than **half** of all unschooled children worldwide. The situation is worst in Sub-Saharan Africa, where **24** million girls were out of school in 2002. **85** % of all girls out of school live in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. There are **1 billion** illiterate adults in the world, and more than **65** % of them are women.*

2 Discussion

- Put a row of chairs (or marks on the blackboard) that indicate the range of agreement and disagreement. When the teacher reads each of the five statements, the Ss stand up and move to the point which represents their view on the matter. If there are too many Ss, involve groups for each statement.
 1. *In my country, there is no discrimination in education. Boys and girls have the same opportunities.*
 2. *In poor countries, if women work in the fields or only look after their children, they don't need any education.*
 3. *Today there are so many possible ways of getting information about the world that you don't have to know how to read or write to get it.*
 4. *If families are poor, they prefer sending daughters to schools, not the sons.*
 5. *People who are illiterate can get ill more easily than people who are not.*
- Ask Ss in pairs to make a list of causes of girls' illiteracy: *Why do you think there are so many girls not at school?*

- Discuss the Ss' ideas as a class.
- Ss read the text "What prevents girls from attending school?" (Ex. 3) and find five reasons. Then in pairs, they compare the ones they discussed with the reasons mentioned in the text.

3 Reading – prediction activity

- Ask Ss to discuss this question:
Do you think that educating girls fight poverty? If yes, how?
Ss brainstorm ideas in pairs or small groups. Each pair or group should present at least one idea to the rest of the class.
- Ss read the text in Ex. 4 and find the answers.
- Ss summarise what they have learnt. Make notes on the board.

4 Follow up – writing a letter to a decision maker

- Ask Ss:
*What can be done about this issues?
How can we help?*
Discuss it as a class.
- Suggest that writing a letter to "a decision maker" (e.g. local politician) is one way of improving the situation of girls in developing countries. Discuss the democratic principle of writing a letter to a politician. What do the Ss think?
- Ss work in pairs and complete the letter with suitable words. After they have finished, tell them to compare their answers with another pair. Check answers in open class.
- Discuss who the "decision maker" could be – to whom they could send the letter. Each pair (or group of 4) chooses one "decision maker" and sends him or her the letter. They inform the rest of the class during the next lesson.
- Tell Ss about the existence of Millennium Development Goal 3.

In 2000, 189 heads of state and governments signed the Millennium Declaration which promises to make a better world for all by 2015. Eight Millennium Development Goals were adopted.

MDG 3

Target: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education at all levels by 2015.

Two-thirds of the 880 million illiterate adults in the world are women. Women are less likely to be employed than men, and only 15 % of parliamentary seats and 6 % of Cabinet posts are held by women. Gender inequality starts early and keeps women at a disadvantage throughout their lives. Girls are more likely to drop out of school and to receive less education than boys because of gender discrimination.

More information on: <http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/mdgs>

Sources:

<http://www.netaid.org>

http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index_bigpicture.html

KEY

Ex. 1

1A, 2C, 3C

Ex. 3

1. school fees, 2. lack of female teachers, 3. lack of bathroom facilities, 4. tolerance to sexual harassment, 5. safety

Ex. 5 – suggested answers:

a. right, b. especially, c. committed, d. account, e. granted, f. achieve, g. participate, h. make, i. options, j. currently, k. need



**1 Choose the correct answers****1. Worldwide, how many girls are not in school?**

- a) over 60 million
- b) over 30 million
- c) less than 10 million

2. What region has the largest number of girls not in school?

- a) Latin America
- b) Middle East
- c) Sub-Saharan Africa

3. There are one billion illiterate adults in the world. What percentage of them are women?

- a) less than 20%
- b) more than 45%
- c) more than 65%

2 Fill in the gaps as you listen to this text.

Educating girls is considered to be one of the most effective steps a country can take to fight poverty, but the barriers that prevent girls from attending school are _____.

We must overcome these challenges in order to ensure that _____ girl enjoys her fundamental right to an education. Today, over _____ million girls are not in school, accounting for more than _____ of all unschooled children worldwide. The situation is worst in Sub-Saharan Africa, where _____ million girls were out of school in 2002. _____ of all girls out of school live in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. There are _____ illiterate adults in the world, and more than _____ of them are women.

3 Read the text and find five reasons why girls stay out of school**What prevents girls from attending school?**

Today, more than 90 million children do not have the opportunity to attend school. There are many factors that keep children out of school, but girls in particular face significant barriers. School fees and the related cost of books or uniforms prevent many poor families from sending their children to school. When money is a problem, parents tend to place greater value on educating their sons, who are considered to be the future breadwinners of the family.

Poverty isn't the only problem that closes off education to girls – many schools are not sensitive to gender issues. Lack of female teachers, lack of bathroom facilities and tolerance of sexual harassment in schools prevents many parents from sending their daughters to school. Concerns about safety also keep girls at home, especially in rural areas, where they may have to walk up to 10 miles just to reach their classrooms. In regions with political instability, it can be especially unsafe for children to walk to school alone.

4 Read the text**How can educating girls fight poverty?**

Educating girls is seen as an essential part of winning the fight against global poverty. On average, an educated girl increases the income of her family and her community. She typically has fewer children which tend to be healthier. And educated women are less likely to contract HIV/AIDS.

The benefits of girls' education extend beyond the local community. Studies show that increasing the number of educated girls in a country fosters economic growth, promotes political stability and reduces health care costs.

5 Complete the letter with suitable words

Dear _____ (decision maker),

All girls have the a) _____ to an education.

Please help girls everywhere, b) _____ in the poorest countries, fulfill their right to an education. By doing so, you join a worldwide community of citizens and leaders who are c) _____ to achieving universal education.

Girls, who d) _____ for more than half of all children not in school, should be e) _____ access to education. Ensuring that girls f) _____ a complete primary education can help end poverty and give women a range of opportunities: to g) _____ in society more fully, earn an increased income, h) _____ informed decisions about their health and their family's health, and have better i) _____ for their livelihoods.

Please help 60 million girls j) _____ not in school get there! Education is not only an investment in a girl; it is an investment in a country in desperate k) _____ of help.

