

SOCIETAL STEREOTYPES

RATHER THAN ECONOMIC

FACTORS ARE THE BARRIERS

TO FEMALE EDUCATION

1. Introduction

“Societal stereotypes serves as the primary barriers to female education, while economic factors remain secondary influences that only reinforces pre-existing gender biases.”

2. Societal stereotypes regarding female education.

3. Societal stereotypes are primary barriers to female education:

3.1. Societal norms dictate that women belong in the home, not in schools.

“ Only 48% women are literate because because their families believe their role is to manage home.”

→ World Bank Report 2022.

3.2. Preference for sons leads to gender discrimination in education.

“ Case study of Bangladesh.”

3.3. Women are more suitable for reproductive roles rather productive roles.

“ 12 million girls per year marry before reaching 18 years of age.”

→ UNICEF, 2023.

3.4. Educated women are “too opinionated” and “less marriageable.”

“43% of rural parents in India
fear that education will make finding
husbands difficult”²⁰ → National Family
Health Survey
2022.

3.5. Religious misinterpretations are
used to justify female education
restrictions.

“case study of Afghanistan”²¹

3.6. Society's perception about women
driving and travel stops them
from accessing education.

“In Yemen, families refuse to
let daughters travel, limiting school
attendance”²² World Economic Forum

3.7. Women are not good with
technology and more logical
fields: A social stigma.

“Only 28% of women join STEM
fields”²³

4. Economic Factors are secondary to female education:

4.1. Even when education is free, cultural norms prevent female education.

"Low literacy rates of Saudi Arabia before 2019 reforms."

4.2. Gender stratification pushes women to drop out of schools.

"Worldwide 119 million girls are out of school."

4.3. Safety concerns are detrimental to women education.

"246 million girls suffer violence in or around school per year globally."

4.4. Financial aid problems have failed to solve the problem of low female literacy rates.

" Case study of Malala Fund in Nigeria "

4.5. Gender parity in primary schools enrollments globally.

" 90% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary schools enrollment " → UNESCO 2023

5. Way forward:

- i. Women empowerment by gender mainstreaming.
- ii. Re-define gender-roles by awareness campaigns and workshops.
- iii. Implementation of frameworks provided by CEDAW, CEVAW and CRPD.

6. Conclusion-