



Lesson Plan: Girls' Education

Standards

Established Goals:

This lesson presents an overview of where, why, how and in what conditions girls are denied access to primary education. Many obstacles such as the daily realities of poverty, political instability, regional conflict, geography, cultural and traditional values stand between girls and their prospects for education. Students will learn that educating girls is essential to the development and prosperity of nations and peoples. This lesson examines the obstacles faced by young girls in developing countries as it pertains to education and what international documents protect this basic human right.

National Council for Social Studies Transferable Concepts/Links: Standards:

II. Time, Continuity, and Change

III. Peoples, Places and Environments

IV. Individual Development and Identity

V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

VI. Power, Authority, and Governance

IX. Global Connections

X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Human Rights, Education, Culture and Civilization, Status of Women and Children, Developing World, Poverty, Survival, Religious, Social and Political forms of Prosecution, Social Reform, Gender Roles, Public Health, International Cooperation, Collaboration, Civil Society, Humanitarian Agencies, NGOs (non-governmental organizations).

Course Connections:

Global Studies

Current Events

Geography

Economics

History
Social Studies

Understandings:

In some parts of the world, political, religious and social barriers stand in the way of girls and education.

There are many ways that education for girls can help individuals, families and communities build a better future.

Some gender roles have existed in cultures for thousands of years.

Primary education is considered a human right that should be granted to everyone.

Students will know:

Human rights vocabulary

What is being done about this global problem?

International documents and the issues they address

The names of international organizations and non-governmental organizations that are working to help girls receive adequate primary education

How to get involved

Essential Questions:

Identify the many circumstances that perpetuate gender inequality in educational environments.

Discuss the importance of educational opportunities for females in developing nations.

Examine the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Millennium Development Goals and the role of the United Nations in promoting educational opportunities for all.

Explain the work of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance the awareness of girls' education as an important global issue.

Build knowledge about geography, different cultures and living conditions for children in the least developed countries.

Assess the impact of international efforts to promote gender equality in education.

Enable students to synthesize the knowledge they have gained.

Students will be able to:

Respect others through exposure to another way of life different from their own

Comprehend the potential benefits that can result from educating girls

Understand strategies that encourage and barriers that discourage girls' education

Differentiate between things that they want and things that they need

Equipment and Materials:

Television

Computer with access to the Internet

'What's Going On? Girls' Education in India. Sonia Braga travels to India to explore how girls are typically educated in this country that is home to one billion people.

Convention on the Rights of the Child <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>

Learn More

The UN Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Agriculture and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://ddp-ext.worldbank.org/ext/GMIS/home.do?siteId=2>

Websites

UNICEF - Basic education and gender equality

<http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.php>

UNESCO: Celebrating women and girl's education

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=46095&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative <http://www.ungei.org/>

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

The UN Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Girls' Education: World Bank

<http://web.worldbank.org/WEBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTEDUCATION/0,,contentMDK:20298916~menuPK:617572~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:282386,00.html>

Education: Basic & Girls' Education: Care

<http://www.care.org/careswork/whatwedo/education/basic.asp>

Girls Learn International <http://www.girlslearninternational.org/>

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) <http://www.crin.org/about/index.asp>

Girls' Education Monitoring System (GEMS) <http://www.educategirls.com/>

Academy for Educational Development
<http://www.aed.org/Education/International/girls.cfm>

World Learning for International Development
http://www.worldlearning.org/wlid/education/projects_cage.html

The Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) <http://www.camfed.org>

Net Aid http://www.netaid.org/global_poverty/girls-education/

Radio

Attacks on Schools Imperil Afghan Girls' Education
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5258520>
Putting girls back in school after the fall of the Taliban was a top priority for the international community. But five years after the initial boost in numbers of girls in school, attendance has plummeted, as attacks increase dramatically on schools for young women.

The Missed Education of African Girls
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5627794>
Girls remain woefully outnumbered in African schools. They make up nearly 60 percent of the children who should be in school but in fact don't attend. Part of the problem is economic, but much of the reason remains rooted in societies that undervalue girls and, in some cases, abuse them. These problems are prevalent in Malawi, but there's some progress as well.

Girls Return to School in Afghanistan
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1573463>
Children in Afghanistan are returning to school, especially girls who were forbidden to attend during the rule of the Taliban. Nishat Kurwa of Youth Radio reports that education is reaching young women in Kabul.

IMF, World Bank Pledge Focus on Women's Education
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1851370>
The 184-nation International Monetary Fund and World Bank wrap up their spring meetings with a pledge to focus on the need to support and enhance education, especially for women, in the developing world.

Easing Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5634432>

Afghan Women
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1130779>
As it swept through Afghanistan, the Taliban instituted its interpretation of strict Islamic law, which included a ban on women working or going to school. Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, had been one of the country's most liberal cities where many women were professionals-lawyers, doctors, teachers-and did not wear a veil. Today, it is only in the five percent of the country controlled by the opposition that women are still free to work and study.

The Long Road to Recovery in Southern Sudan

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5162351>

Southern Sudan is at peace for the first time in more than two decades. During Sudan's bloody, 21-year civil war, a group of American women working with war victims promised to build a girl's school in Akon, a remote village in Southern Sudan. Now, they're fighting to deliver on that promise.

Yemeni Women

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1035493>

NPR's Anne Garrels reports on women's right in Yemen. After the unification of the country in 1990, the country adopted a new constitution which feminists consider a model for the Muslim world. But even though they have more formal rights than many other women in Islamic countries, more women in Yemen live in poverty and without education than in neighboring countries.

UN Special Conference on Women

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1075029>

NPR's Kathleen Schalch reports on this week's United Nations Special Conference on Women. New research by the World Bank concludes that one of the best ways to fight world hunger and encourage global economic growth is to educate girls and women.

Books

Daughters of the Tharu: Gender, Ethnicity, Religion and the Education of Nepali Girls

This book explores the complex relationships that govern girls' educational participation in Nepal. The first part is a case study focusing exclusively on one village's experiences in Nepal and is considered a point of entry into the educational decision-making process. The second part approaches the problems of girls' education in South Asia from the documentary, statistical and archival angle. Here the scope of the study is broadened beyond Nepal to include the South Asia Region.

What Works In Girls' Education? Evidence And Policies From The Developing World

The persistent problem of the tens of millions of children across the developing world who grow up without receiving the most basic education has attracted increased public attention in recent years. This crisis is acute in rural and poor areas of sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. More than 180 governments have committed to addressing this crisis by pledging that every boy and girl will receive a quality basic education by 2015. This target is now firmly established and endorsed as one of the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

How Schools Shortchange Girls: The Aauw Report : A Study of Major Findings on Girls and Education

Parents, teachers and policymakers receive a study, which presents major findings on girls and education, documenting exactly how and why schools shortchange girls in the educational process. Research is specific and reaches beyond generalities to document exactly how girls and boys learn and what the differences are in their classroom experiences.

Repositioning Feminism & Education: Perspectives on Educating for Social Change

Girls and Exclusion

Girls and Young Women in Education: A European Perspective

Teta, Mother, and Me: Three Generations of Arab Women

Growing Up in Kenya: Rural Schooling and Girls

The State of the World's Children, 2004: Girls, Education And Development

What Works in Girls' Education By Barbara Herz

<http://www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=6947>

Articles

Free school for one-girl families

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4272286.stm

The Indian government says it will reward girls from single child families with free education and other benefits.

Girls missing out on education

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/4328911.stm

Girls in the developing world are still missing out on school, says the Save the Children charity.

Speaking Up for Girls' Education

<http://www.usaid.gov/gn/education/news/girls/>

Girls' Education Campaign in Turkey (article from: UN Chronicle)

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000ALT8KM/sr=8-42/qid=1156265945/ref=sr_1_42/102-7197679-9674501?ie=UTF8

South Asian conference on education stresses rights of every girl and boy (article from: One Country)

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00082E3VC/ref=sr_11_1/102-7197679-9674501?ie=UTF8

Global Lesson on Girls' Education Promises to Break World Record

<http://www.netaid.org/press/releases/2003/page.jsp?itemID=27003430>

UN launches new programme for girls' education in West and Central Africa

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18157&Cr=MDGs&Cr1=#>

Global Education of Girls Is Key to Development

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/663/context/archive>

Films

Daughters of Afghanistan

http://www.choices.web.aplus.net/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=CV&Product_Code=CH7021DVD&Attributes=Yes&Quantity=1

Don't Ask Why

A videotape by Sabiha Sumar; Pakistan/Germany, 1999, 58 minutes, Color, VHS,
Subtitled

<http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c539.shtml>

5 Girls

A film by Kartemquin Educational Films; 2001, 113 minutes, Color, VHS

Girls Still Dream, Ahlam El Banat

A videotape by Ateyyat El Abnoudy; Egypt, 1995

<http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c400.shtml>

Anwara from Bonbari: A Village in Bangladesh

Anwara is lucky to be able to go school. She is the only girl in her school; the other girls have to stay at home to help their families. Typical rural activities such as farming, weaving, cooking, women's study groups, friendships and the arrival of a new pump for the village are shown.

Country: Bangladesh; 1990, English

Girls' Education: Benefits and Constraints

From Malaysia to Pakistan, from Mali to the Dominican Republic numerous obstacles hamper the development of women, from family planning to the availability of work. Basic education reduces the inequalities facing these girls, and enables them to join in the socio-economic development of their country.

Producer: Creative Associates USA

1990, English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Where To?

Although a descendant of Queens Hatchepsut, Nefertiti and Cleopatra, an Egyptian country girl is likely to grow up without the benefit of education. This video, made up of interviews of villagers, relates how women are perceived mainly in the context of child rearing and family caring. High drop-out and early marriage perpetuate the situation. 77 percent of rural women in Egypt are still illiterate.

Country: Egypt, Producer: UNICEF 1990

Invisible Voices: Girls' Education in the Gambia

In 1993 the World Bank sent a multidisciplinary team to Kachaba in The Gambia to study girls' education and find out why more girls do not attend school or continue past primary level. This film shows how a PRA (Participatory Rule and Appraisal) study was conducted within the community, the willingness of the villagers to participate, and the results.

Producer: The World Bank; 1993, English

Womanhood and Media Education

The Women in Media Project in Papua New Guinea. The film begins with a short history of the domination of women in the country. Despite having adopted an educational policy based on that of Australia after independence in 1975 little has yet been achieved in raising quality of life for women. Now several women's groups run media education workshops whose conclusions stress the lack of dissemination of information, lack of communication among PNG women, limited opportunities for them in decision and policy making, lack of relevant information and guidelines on portrayal of women in the media, need for training, training materials, and equal participation leading to integral human development so as to yield a better quality of life for women.

Producer: PNG Women in Media; 1993 English