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**TOPIC - CONCEPT OF GENDER PARITY**

## GENDER PARITY AND EQUALITY

Achieving gender parity is just one step towards gender equality in and through education. An education system with equal numbers of boys and girls participating, who may progress evenly through the system, may not, in fact, be based on gender equality. A consideration of gender equality in education therefore needs to be understood as the right *to* education [access and participation], as well as rights *within* education [gender-aware educational environments, processes, and outcomes], and rights *through* education [meaningful education outcomes that link education equality with wider processes of gender justice].

**Gender parity** goals [achieving equal participation of girls and boys in all forms of education based on their proportion in the relevant age-groups in the population].

**Gender equality** goals [ensuring educational equality between boys and girls].

In turn, these have been characterised as quantitative/numerical and qualitative goals respectively. In order to consider progress towards both types of goal, both, quantitative and qualitative assessments need to be made of the nature of progress towards gender equality.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS GENDER PARITY AND EQUALITY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (ALL CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS)

Between 2000-01 and 2013-14, substantial progress has been made towards gender parity in elementary and secondary education. Progress in regard to some of the key indicators of gender parity is indicated in the following sections :

**Girls enrolled as percentage of total enrolment in primary, upper primary and elementary education :** Between 2000-01 and 2013-14, the enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment registered substantial improvement at all levels of school education.

The enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in **primary education** (Classes I-V) increased from 43.8 per cent in 2000-01 to 48.4 per cent in 2012-13 and then marginally declined to 48.2 per cent in 2013-14. The overall increase in the enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in primary education was 4.4 percentage points during the period 2000-01 to 2013-14.

The improvement has been more pronounced at the **upper primary stage**. The enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in upper primary education (Classes VI-VIII) increased from 40.9 per cent in 2000-01 to 48.8 per cent in 2012-13 and then marginally declined to 48.6 per cent in 2013-14. The overall increase in the enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in upper primary education was 7.7 percentage points during the period 2000-01 to 2013-14.

The enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in **elementary education** (Classes VI-VIII) increased from 43 per cent in 2000-01 to 48.5 per cent in 2012-13 and then declined to 48.3 per cent in 2013-14. The overall increase in the enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in elementary education was 5.3 percentage points during the period 2000-01 to 2013-14.

**Girls enrolled as percentage of total enrolment in secondary and higher secondary education:** The enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in secondary and higher secondary education (Classes IX-XII) registered substantial improvement during the past few years. Between 2000-01 and 2013-14, the enrolment of girls as percentage of total enrolment in Classes IX-XII (secondary and higher secondary education) increased by 8.3 percentage points (from 38.8 per cent in 2000-01 to 47.1 per cent in 2013-14).

**Improvement in ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment in primary, upper primary and elementary education :** Between 2000-01 and 2013-14, the ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment registered substantial improvement at all levels of school education.

The ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment increased :

- from 0.78 to 0.93 in **primary education**,
- from 0.69 to 0.95 in **upper primary education**, and
- from 0.75 to 0.94 in **elementary education**.

During the period 2000-01 to 2013-14, the number of girls per 100 boys enrolled in primary education increased from 78 to 93, while the number of girls per 100 boys enrolled in upper primary education increased from 69 to 95. During the year 2013-14, there was only a marginal difference in the ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment in primary education (0.93), upper primary education (0.95) and elementary education (0.94).

**Improvement in ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment in secondary and higher secondary education :** Between 2000-01 and 2013-14, there has been considerable improvement in the ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment in secondary and higher secondary education. The number of girls per 100 boys enrolled in secondary education increased from 63 to 89 during this period. The ratio of girls' enrolment to boys' enrolment in higher secondary education also improved from 0.63 to 0.89 during the period 2000-01 to 2013-14.

## GENDER PARITY INDEX

The **Gender Parity Index (GPI)** is a socioeconomic index, usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females. In its simplest form, it is calculated as the quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education (primary, secondary, etc.).

**Gender Parity Index for GER in primary/upper primary and elementary education (All categories of students) :** The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for GER in primary, upper primary and elementary education has been improving steadily since 2000-01.

- The GPI for GER in primary education (Classes I-V) improved from 0.82 in 2000-01 to 1.03 in 2013-14.
- The GPI for GER in upper primary education (Classes I-V) improved from 0.75 to 1.08.
- While the GPI for GER in elementary education (Classes I-VIII) improved from 0.80 to 1.04 during this period.
- The GPI for GER in secondary education (Classes IX-X) improved from 0.79 in 2004-05 to 1.0 in 2013-14.
- While the GPI for GER in higher secondary education improved from 0.80 to 0.98 during this period.

**Gender parity in elementary and secondary education (SC students) :** The overall increase in the number of SC girls enrolled as percentage of total SC enrolment in elementary education was 6.6 percentage points during the period 2000-01 to 2013-14.

**Number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled :** During the period 2000-01 to 2013-14, the number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled in primary education increased from 75 to 93, while the number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled in upper primary education increased from 63 to 96 and the number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled in elementary education increased from 72 to 94 during this period.

**Gender parity in elementary and secondary education (ST students) :** The overall increase in the enrolment of ST girls as percentage of total ST enrolment in elementary education was 6.5 percentage points during the period 2000-01 to 2013-14, Number of ST girls per 100 ST boys enrolled in primary, upper primary and elementary education: During the period 2000-01 to 2013-14, the number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled in primary education increased from 75 to 93, while the number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled in upper primary education increased from 63 to 97, and the number of SC girls per 100 SC boys enrolled in elementary education increased from 72 to 94.