

# The Relevance of Girl-Child Education in the Modern World

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## ABSTRACT

The study adopted explanatory research design, the research strategy used was cross-sectional survey, the research approach used was qualitative research approach, the population of the study was 7 authors, the sampling design were survey of the papers published by journals and papers published at the various websites, the source of data collection was primary source and the method of data collection was research, the problem statement of the study was "The relevance of girl-child education in the modern world", the background of the study was brief introduction of girl-child education and the objectives of the study were achieved through research. The study found out the reasons why girls do not attend school, the risk of not educating girls, the ancient mindset towards girl-child education, the significance of girl-child education ; the history female education in Africa, record about girls drop out of school, the history of female education in Africa and the progress of female education in the United States. The study concluded that girl-child education was significantly important to the development of the modern world. The study recommended that parents should work hard to give their female children quality education, government ought to give free education to females children right from primary school through Senior High School and pastors must teach their congregation to know and understand the need to give quality education to their female children.

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Relevance, Girl-child, Drop out, Risk, History, Mindset, Ancient, Record, Pre-colonial, School, Progress

## BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

### Introduction

Girls' education goes beyond sending girls to school but it involves girls' learning, feeling comfortable in school, the chance to finish all level of education, acquiring knowledge and skills to face the challenges in life, learn socio-emotional and life skills to become adapted to the modern world. Also it comprises of the capacity to take decision in life and to contribute to the communities and the world. Countries affected by conflict the percentage of girls being dropped out of school is

higher than the countries who are enjoying peace. A lot of countries girls who are in primary schools only a few of them are able to complete Secondary School (the world bank,n.d). Millions of girls are not attending school due to poverty and culture. These girls have the same vision as boys and want to learn, fulfill their vision, work and assist their families and communities. They are regarded as second class and lookdown upon by other people (their world)

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

To find out the reasons why girls do not attend school.

To find out the risk of not educating girls.

To find out the ancient mindset towards girls education.

To find out the importance of girls education

To find out the history of female education in Africa

To find out record about girls drop out of school

### **THE REASONS WHY GIRLS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL**

**Early marriage:** The society often values marriage more than education. Girls' education is not much regarded because there are other things that favored them in life. It is estimated that every year 15 million girls marry while they have not reached 18 years. After marriage, they stop going to school. Child marriage is happening in all over the world including Europe and North America. The high percentages of child marriage are found in the following countries: Niger-76 percent, Central African Republic and Chad - 68 percent.

**Pregnancy:** It is accepted that girls Who are pregnant will be dropped out of school. A lot of them do not continue their education after giving birth. Due to rules, stigma, fees and rigid school programs. Every year 16 million girls who are 15-19 years give birth. And 1 million girls who are under 15 years give birth every year. This is occurring in low and middle- income countries according world health organization.

**Violence:** This is one of the causes for girls to be dropped out of school. About 18 million girls under 15-19 years are usually found to be victims of sexual violence which leads to school drop out and compels girls to marry early.

**Lack of funding:** Most countries do not include girls' education in the nation's budget. Girls' education is not regarded more as boys and boys are giving the opportunity to go to school.

**Child labor:** Girls are allowed to take care of their younger siblings and focus on household activities. Boys' education is considered as good investment. Sometimes girls' education is seen as a waste of time and resources. Because of this, a lot of girls begin to work early at the age of 5 years.

They engage in agriculture or work as a domestic servants. Child labor creates sexual violence, trafficking, force labor and health problems. About 168 million child laborers and 11 percent are working instead of learning. There are more girls working in industries than boys.

**Dangerous journey:** When there is violent conflict, girls are the target of armed groups and government forces. Through this, they face problems such as sexual violence, intimidation and harassment. A study conducted in India proves that half of the girls in India were sexually harassed on the way to school in 2016.

**Poor Sanitation:** Throughout the world, it is not common for someone to wash his or her hands after attending the nature's call. Adolescents girls who are menstruating do not go to school because of lack of privacy, sanitary disposal facilities and water shortages. In sub-Saharan Africa and other regions girls refuse to go school due to lack of access to water and hygiene facilities; no separate toilet for girls.

**Female teachers:** Many countries lack female teachers which discourages girls from attending school. The presence of more female teachers promotes girl-friendly environment that enables to feel comfortable at school. In the United States three-quarters of school teachers are females. African countries like Liberia and the Central African Republic only 1 in five primary schools are women.

**War zones:** According UNICEF about 485 million Children are dropped out of school because of wars. About 90 percent of girls are living in countries affected by war and they do not go to school.

**Disabilities:** Girls who are not able feel being discriminated and belittled themselves. According to World Health Survey from 2002-2004 shows that 41.7 percent of girls with disabilities finish primary school.

**THESIS STATEMENT:** The problem statement of the study was "The relevance of girl-child education in the modern world. The study found out the reasons why girls do not go to school, the risk of not educating girls, the ancient mindset towards towards girl-child education, the importance of girls education, record about girls drop out of school, the progress of female education in the United States; the history of female education in Africa.

### **THE RISK OF NOT EDUCATING GIRLS**

- On 11th July 2018 according to World Bank report lack of opportunity for girls' education and inability to finish school have cost U.S between 15 pounds trillion and 30 pounds trillion which cost lost of lifetime productivity and earning.
- It promotes child marriage which results in hardship and poverty.
- Not two-thirds of girls in low income countries finish primary education except one out of three girls complete lower secondary education.

- About 250 million girls will marry and procreate children by 2030
- People who lose their lives every year is due to inability to provide quality education by 2050 will be equal to the number of lives lost through HIVI, Malaria and the top infectious diseases.
- More than 1 out of 4 people staying at low income countries could be living in extreme poverty by 2050.
- The economic output per person in low income countries would be 70 percent lower by 2050 than it would happen if all children were in school.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many writers have express their views on girl-child education which stirs up the minds of people to send their female children to school but the study investigated into the relevance of girl-child education in the modern world. Due to this , the study found out what other writers had written concerning the relevance of girl-child education in the modern world. In reference to (unicef,n.d) an article entitled "Girls' education" says that when we invest in girls' education, it changes communities, countries and the world. Educated women never rush into marriage and lead healthy life. They receive high monthly incomes, involve in decision making and build better future life. Girls' education contribute to economic growth and reduces inequality. It is 49 percent of countries that have attained gender parity in primary education. At the Secondary level the difference is 42 percent of countries which have reached gender parity in lower secondary education and 24 percent attained upper secondary education. In 23rd January, 2020 Divya Amladi wrote an article entitled "Creating a model for girls' education in Ghana". In her article said that providing for girls' needs in Northern Ghana are eradicating the hindrances and motiving girls to be independent thinkers and encourage them to attain high level in education. In Ghana a girl receives four years education but early marriage, pregnancy, poverty and sexual harassment force girls to be dropped out of school before the end of Junior High. Educating girls is a step to improve upon their lives and every year in primary school increases girls' future wages by 10-20 percent. With respect to the point of views of the above mentioned authors, the study investigated into the ancient mindset towards girls'education, the risk of not educating girls, the reasons why girls do not attend school, the significance of girl-child education, record about girls drop out of school, the progress female education in the United States and the history of female education in Africa.

## **THE ANCIENT MINDSET TOWARDS GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION**

During the olden days when a man married the woman was regarded as a property and not a co-partner. In this case the man expect her to produce children and manage home. He did not regard his children's education as investment. Basic education was valued as a chance and not a right (medium,2020). Tradition and the teachings of the Holy Quran support that a girl is born in her father's house and next step is to move to her husband's house. Families that believe this concept never allow their female children to go to school but advice them to marry early. In Northern part of

Nigeria sending a girl child to school is not part of their culture. Because of this, many girls are not encouraged to go to school. They believe the best place for girls is their husbands' house. Some cultural beliefs make girls to marry at the age of 8 years especially the northerners. Other parents think that a girl child will marry and use the knowledge and skills she has acquired from school to help her husband forgetting her own biological parents. Some parents believe that it is better to educate a male child than to educate a female child. Because male child have chances to become a medical doctor, an engineer, a pilot and a banker (vanguard,2012).

## **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION**

**Poverty:** Girls education reduces high rate of poverty. Girls who have acquired high qualifications in education get better jobs to do and received good salary. Through this, they are able to help their younger siblings to rise up in life.

**Justice:** Educated girl know her left from right so she will not allow herself to be deceived.

**Honor and dignity:** Many men under esteem women due to illerateacy. An educated woman is highly respected as educated man. An educated woman serves as a source of inspiration for the young girls which develop their interest in education.

**Economic empowerment:** Girls who are not educated depend much on men and fail to develop their potential. Economic independence and empowerment are achieved through education.

**Economic development:** A nation's progress is dependent on the hard work of it's citizens. Through education, girls can contribute towards the progress of a nation.

**Life :** Education is the key to portray identity and educating a girl will to improve upon her life and she would be able to read and learn about her rights and duties.

**Health:** Uneducated people are not aware of the importance of health and hygiene. Educating girls help them to lead healthy life.

**Choice:** Educating girls assist them to make decisions and choose to do the right thing in life. If a girl's education is good, she will aim high.

**Future generation:** Educating girls is the means to develop future generation of healthy, scholars; empowering girls. Women who are scholars will become future leaders and build the society.

## **RECORD ABOUT GIRLS DROP OUT OF SCHOOL**

According UNESCO 132 million girls are attending school, 34.3 million of pupils at primary school are dropped out of school, 30 million of students in lower secondary school dropped out and 67.4 million of students in upper-secondary secondary school are dropped out. Countries where menstrual taboos are valued 1out of 10 girls are dropped out of school in Africa. In sierra Leone more than

1 out of 5 girls are dropped out of school, in Nepal and Afghanistan 3 out of 10 girls are dropped out of school (weforum, 2015). According to EMS of the ministry of education show that 7,575 girls in Basic and Senior High Schools are dropped out of school due to unwanted pregnancy. In 2016/2017 academic year proves that 1,444 girls in primary school are dropped out of school, 5,254, 877 girls in Junior High Schools and Senior High Schools are dropped out of school because of pregnancy (ghanaweb, 2019). In 2019 UNESCO reported that 52 million girls were not attending school in Africa and 4 million never stepped into a classroom. Africa is leading in the drop out of school children and adolescents. In India over 30 percent of girls drop out of school before they go to class IX and the percentage rises to 57 percent in class XI. Report shows that by the time the students enrolled in class I and get to class VI, 15 percent of them stop going to school but 74 percent enrolled in class VIII. It is only 43 percent enrolled in High Secondary School (timesofindia). In China about 7 percent of girls from poor families in Northwest China drop out of school.

## **THE HISTORY OF FEMALE EDUCATION IN AFRICA**

Christian missionaries established modern educational methods in the 19th century and they concentrated on boys. After it had been successful, they developed the idea of educating girls. In South Africa male Scottish missionaries perceived that basic education was good to prepare native women to establish Christianity in the home. Because of this, they hindered the female teachers from working in the Scottish missions and delayed the establishment of girls' development at Lovedale institution. The new leadership had a broader vision of helping the native women in order to promote Christianity and Western gender codes. However, the Indian Muslims instituted educational policy which did not favor girls' education in East Africa during the 19th century. Since 2015, Sitienei has been attending elementary school in Kenya at the age of 92 years. According to Guinness World Record she will be the oldest student in the elementary school (Wikipedia, n.d).

## **PRE-COLONIAL**

Before the colonial era, women's education in Africa was structured informally and formally. At that time preparatory schools influenced women's education and were called bush schools. The bush schools were proud of 100 percent graduation and completed courses but were established by women, had structured curricula including learning of skills such as fishing, cooking, weaving etc. Bundu schools in Sierra Leone gave scholarships to the women and conducted research on bush schools. The women acquired knowledge in reproduction such as birth control techniques, child training skills. The Bundu schools' women acquired knowledge in medicinal herbs and home medicinal skills. The above-mentioned schools imparted cultural values and became the center of female power. The schools educated women to play central economic, corporate and family roles in their communities (Wikipedia, n.d).

## **THE PROGRESS OF FEMALE EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

During the colonial era, higher education was designed for men in the United States. In 1800 women's positions and chances in education had advanced. From 1970-1980 women had been leading men in area of acquiring academic degrees such as B.A, M.A and at present women are still leading based on percentages. From 2005 women had attained Doctorate degrees more than men. According to U.S education office women's enrollment in higher education in 1930 was 480,802. In the same year (1930) U.S Department of Commerce and Bureau of the census conducted Preliminary estimates and the women were leading in education but the number was 481,000 enrolled. In 1950 women who had Bachelor degrees was 23.9 percent and Doctorate degrees was 9.7 percent. Around 1960 35 percent of women had Bachelor degrees and 10.5 percent of women had Doctorate degrees. In 1970 41.5 percent of women had Bachelor degrees and 13.5 had Doctorate degrees. In 1980 women who had Bachelor degrees was 49 percent and 30.3 percent had Doctorate degrees. From 2010-2011 67.7 percent of women had Associate Degrees, women who had Bachelor degrees was 57.2 percent, 60.1 percent of women had Masters degrees and 51.4 percent of women had Doctorate degrees. From 2020-3021 women who had Associate Degrees was 61.1 percent, Bachelor degrees 57.7 percent of women, women attained Masters degrees 60.7 percent; 54.1 percent of women had Doctorate degrees.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter covers research design, research strategy, research approach, the population of the study, sampling design, the source of collecting data and the method of data collection. The study adopted explanatory research design because the study give detail account of how the objectives of the study were achieved. The research strategy used was cross-sectional survey. Through this, the study considered authors who had written something about the subject under study. The research approach used was qualitative research approach. With qualitative research approach, the study was able to find the significance of girls' education in the modern world. The population of the study, the sampling design, the source and the method of data collection were treated thoroughly.

## **SAMPLING DESIGN**

Academic papers published by journals and academic papers published at various websites were thoroughly studied.

## **POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

The population of the study were 7 authors.

## **THE SOURCE AND THE METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

The source of collecting data for the study was primary source and the method of collecting data for the study was research.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The study found out the reasons why girls do not attend school, the ancient mindset towards girls' education, the significance of girls' education, the history of female education in Africa, the risk of not educating girls, the progress of female education in the United States and record about girls drop out of school.

### **CONCLUSION**

The study investigated into the risk of not educating girls and the significance of girls' education. Due to the above mentioned factors, the study generalized that girls' education was significantly important to the development of the modern world.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Education**

Governments should create platform to educate the public to understand the importance of girl-child education. They should give free education to girls in their countries. The free education ought to start from primary school through Senior High School.

#### **Films**

Governments must support film Actors and Actresses to act films which will enable the public to value the essence of girls' education.

#### **Parents**

Parents ought to work hard to give their female children quality education. They should respect girls' education as important to the development of their families.

#### **Churches**

The Pastors of the various churches in the world must educate their congregation to know and understand the need to send their girl child to school.

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