

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ECE Work Session on Gender Statistics
(Geneva, Switzerland, 23-25 September 2002)

Topic (ii) Gender equality indicators

Monitoring Gender equality in framework of Education for All

Submitted by UNESCO¹

Gender equality is one of the fundamental goals in human development highlighted at numerous global conferences. Governments decided to increase efforts to close the gap, and commitments were made to achieve gender equality in education by 2015.

Gender specific indicators will have to be identified to provide information to governments to set priorities, design strategies and follow up on progress made towards achieving gender equality in access to quality education. Current data gathered from regular school surveys and population censuses are essential for obtaining a general overview of gender differences in illiteracy and education. Such data allows UNESCO to calculate some quantitative gender indicators.

This contribution paper presents main indicators used to measure gender disparities in education both in literacy and school access and participation. It is also an opportunity to present up-to-date figures of gender disparities.

Various factors may hinder gender equality in education. They can be grouped into four main categories that affect both demand and supply: Socio-economic, Cultural, political/institutional and factors linked to the school. All these factors have some consequences on performances of education systems. Specific objectives and strategies to meet EFA goals will depend on the results of the situation analysis. Some examples of possible objectives and strategies are presented in the end of this paper.

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