More boys are currently out of school than girls

132 million BOYS & 127 million GIRLS are out of school globally

Boys and education

In 130/140 countries boys are more likely than girls to repeat primary grades

In over 1/2 countries boys are less likely than girls to complete upper secondary grades

In 57 countries with data boys fare worse than girls in mastering reading skills

88 men for 100 women are enrolled at university globally

Key drivers

- Poverty
- Gender Norms
- Harsh Discipline
- Bullying

This matters because

1. Few programmes and policies address boys’ disengagement
2. Men’s job prospects, salaries and mental health are affected
3. Educated men are more likely to support gender equality

Supporting boys’ education is not a zero-sum game. It benefits girls and boys, and society at large.

UNESCO recommends to

1. Offer flexible learning programmes
2. Provide inclusive teaching and learning materials
3. Reinforce labour laws and abolish repetition policies
4. Address harmful gender norms
5. Invest in sex-disaggregated data to inform action

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