

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

- A. "Education is one of the most important means of **empowering** women with the knowledge, skills and self-**confidence** necessary to **participate** fully in the development process."
- B. Education is important for everyone, but it is especially **significant** for girls and women. This is true not only because education is an entry point to other opportunities, but also because the educational achievements of women can have **ripple effects** within the family and across generations. Investing in girls' education is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty. Investments in secondary school education for girls is particularly beneficial in the long term.
- C. Girls who have been educated are likely to marry later and to have smaller and healthier families. Educated women can recognize the importance of health care and know how to seek it for themselves and their children. Education helps girls and women to know their rights and to gain **confidence** to claim them. However, women's literacy rates are **significantly** lower than men's in most developing countries.
- D. The education of parents is linked to their children's educational attainment, and the mother's education is usually more **influential** than the father's. An educated mother's greater **influence** in household negotiations may allow her to secure more resources for her children.
- E. Educated mothers are more likely to be in the labour force, allowing them to pay some of the costs of schooling, and may be more aware of returns to schooling. And educated mothers, averaging fewer children, can concentrate more attention on each child.
- F. Closing the **gender gap** in education is a development **priority**. The 1994 Cairo **Consensus** recognized education, especially for women, as a force for social and economic development. Universal completion of primary education was set as a 20-year goal, as was wider access to secondary and higher education among girls and women. Closing the **gender gap** in education by 2015 is also one of the **benchmarks** for the Millennium Development Goals.

Match words/phrases to their meanings

Match these words or phrases to their definitions.

1. Benchmark	A. Something that is important or major, and is therefore important to consider.
2. Confidence	B. A feeling of self-assurance arising from an appreciation of one's own abilities or qualities.
3. Consensus	C. The difference between males and females in something; e.g. the difference in pay, or exam results.
4. Empowerment	D. To take part in something (e.g. to take part in the national day celebrations on December 2 nd).
5. "Gender gap"	E. Something or someone that is important and should be dealt with or served first.
6. Influential	F. When there is a general agreement about something.
7. Participate	G. To give someone, or a group of people more power and rights to do something.
8. Priority	H. The continuing and spreading results of an event or action
9. "Ripple effects"	I. Something that has great power or control on someone or something.
10. Significant	J. A standard or point of reference against which things may be compared.

1. = _____ 6. = _____
2. = _____ 7. = _____
3. = _____ 8. = _____
4. = _____ 9. = _____
5. = _____ 10. = _____