

## 10 Facts about Girls' Education in India

Girls in India face barriers to education that boys do not. But we know that educating girls can break cycles of poverty. These statistics provide insight into some of the barriers girls in India face today and demonstrate the urgent need to take action to create a better future for girls.

1. 74% youth literacy rate for females, compared to 88% for males (18-24 years old) (UNICEF)
2. 47% of girls are married before the legal age of 18 (UNGEI)
3. 49% secondary school net female attendance ratio. (UNICEF)
4. 55.7% of schools in India have usable toilets for girls (ASER Centre)
5. In Meghalaya, 16.8% of schools have usable toilets for girls (ASER Centre)
6. Nationally, for rural areas, 17.3% of girls (15-16 years old) are out of school. (ASER Centre)
7. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have more than a 20% point enrollment gap for secondary school between girls and boys. (FHI 360)
8. Although girls' participation in secondary education drops off (grades 9-10), this reduction increases sharply in higher secondary education (grades 11-12). (Searchlight, South Asia)
9. Concerns over school distance/safety is a critical barrier to sending girls to school especially in rural areas. (MacArthur Foundation)
10. Deep rooted gender norms prevent households from sending girls to school – belief that girl's earnings will only benefit her marital family discourages parents from investing in her education. (Save the Children)