

**GENDER EQUITY FOR ALL**  
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# **EDUCATIONAL INEQUITY DUE TO GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION**

*Project Empowerment Volume 1, Article 13*  
*September 18, 2022*

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# EDUCATIONAL INEQUITY DUE TO GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION

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Feminine individuals from the age of 5 - 18 spend around 6 - 8 hours a day in school, where they spend the majority of their time building the skills and qualities that will ensure their success in the future. However, the truth is that these girls who work so meticulously are not receiving the proper opportunities and their access to equitable education is, in many places, lacking.

The gender gap within education is dishearteningly immense, and its impacts seep into not only the present but this generation of feminine students' futures as well. Some may argue that women have made substantial progress in their fight for equality and the ability to receive education, and while that is true, disparities are still present and it is important to fight for the highest level of equity possible. While advancements have been made, the impacts of systemic gender discrimination deeply ingrained into history still affects women in every single country to this day. According to the Center for Global Development, “women are more educated today than at any point in history, but we are still not as educated as men.”

Gender discrimination can be found in even the most developed countries, including the U.S., which has a relatively higher level of gender equality in comparison to many less developed countries. Although the U.S. has shown immense progress, many feminine individuals still report injustice and discrimination within educational institutions. Many women continue to report sexual harassment as one of their most prominent barriers in education.

One individual recalled that after being sexually harassed, what “hurt almost even more than the actual act, though, was when people would accuse me of actually ‘liking it’ and ‘asking for it’ just because I couldn’t say anything.” Feminine individuals often have to live with the fear of entering school, somewhere that should be a safe and productive area for students to learn and work towards their success in the future. Instead, girls are harassed, taunted, objectified, and seen as merely flesh and skin, rather than the capable people they are.

In addition to the harassment feminine individuals face, a lack of equality between girls and boys within sports, clubs, classes, etc. is present as well. One individual states that “In [her] personal experience, [she has] not been able to access AP courses that [she has] wanted to take that are available at the boys' division of [her] school, and [she has] decided to self-study these for these APs without a course.”

Although the primary purpose of school is to facilitate learning, the disparity between male students and female students makes it much harder for feminine individuals to receive an education at the same level as male students. The reality is that feminine students often have to over-compensate due to the barriers that are present. Even in places like the United States, gender discrimination is still pervasively present in education institutions—often, it just takes on a less obvious form.

From the problematic disparities in learning disability diagnoses for women to sexist dress codes and sexual harassment, we have yet a long path ahead of us in the fight for gender equity in education.