

SDGs and elimination of gender disparities in tertiary education

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Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals targets and indicators. Specifically, five SDGs set targets that relate to the reduction inequalities nationally and worldwide. These targets are poverty reduction, health and wellbeing for all, equitable education, gender equality, and reduction of inequalities within and between countries [1].

Elimination of gender disparities in education

The value of education is well-recognized, both as a primary human right and as a key driver of progress [2]. The international community recognized educational attainment as a key development priority in the Sustainable Development Goals, with a wider scope that emphasized reducing inequalities [2].

Furthermore, gender equity has been a central focus of the SDG targets. The motto “Leave No One Behind” is a central commitment of SDGs to promote social, economic and environmental development [3] and to include marginalised people to be involved in and benefited by progress [4].

So, one of the SDGs indicators is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030 [4].

Specifically, SDG 5 calls for gender equity broadly, target 4.5 calls for the elimination of all gender disparities in education, while target 4.3 calls for equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. Therefore, it seems that great strides have been made in reversing educational disparities for women globally [2].

Conclusions

Educational inequalities exist in many different forms and especially in terms of gender inequality in education. However, it is important to provide women with full and equal access to education and, in particular, higher education, in order to improve their position and well-being at every level of social and economic status.

References

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