

Girls' Education

Hi, I'm Chloe and welcome to my blog 'Little Voices, Big Changes'. In this blog I want to explore the issues of inequality which impact the world around us. I am excited to explore some of these topics in more detail, and look at ways to add my voice to these causes, and have an impact. I also plan to bring in voices from people around me who have a view on these issues, and how to drive impact.

This is my first blog, and today I want to talk about girls' access to education. This is a topic which I am very passionate about and which I think a lot about at this point in time as I am about to return to school. Millions of girls aren't at school today. They are shut out of education because of discrimination, poverty, emergencies and culture. Girls have the same hopes and dreams as boys. They want to be able to learn, fulfil their potential, have jobs and careers they enjoy, and help their families and communities.

What are the reasons for unequal access to education for girls? Every year, an average of 130 million girls do not get to go to school due to lack of money, getting married at a very young age and many other reasons. This is why I want to make sure that all girls should have the right to a good education. In this blog I want to explore deeper into the reasons why girls cannot go to school and what **WE** can do to make sure that it changes.

Early marriage in some cultures and countries plays a big part in why girls can't attend school. Too often marriage is seen as a higher priority than education in countries like. Each year 12 million girls are married by the age of 18. That is 23 girls every minute. Nearly one every 3 seconds. There is also a huge lack of funding in schools for both girls and boys across the world. The low value attached to girls' schooling means few other options are available to them. Education for girls is often the lowest budget priority in many countries. While in some countries it is considered a must for boys to go to school it is also considered a burden for girls to go. As well as that, most girls have to stay at home to help look after their siblings or do housework. Some households are also exceedingly poor so their children will have to go out and work to help support their family financially instead of going to school.

Some other reasons that girls can't attend school is because of where they live. The long-term effects of growing up in a conflict zone are devastating and UNICEF estimates

that 48.5 million children worldwide are missing school because of wars and conflicts. Attacks on girls' schools also mean that parents are afraid to send their daughters to school. Other reasons that girls may not be able to go to school include a lack of female teachers in some Middle Eastern and African countries. The lack of female teachers in some countries can make school a daunting experience for girls. The presence of more women would provide a girl-friendly environment that would put young girls at ease. In the United States, about three-quarters of school teachers are female. But in African countries such as Liberia and the Central African Republic only about one in five primary teachers are women.

How can we stand up and make sure that all girls have access to a good education? Charities like the 'Malala Fund' and 'Plan International' work to make sure that girls have the right to a good education. We need to speak up; even just sharing this blog with a friend can make a difference.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples". Mother Theresa

Chloe



