

# Why women's education is the best investment?

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## *Abstract*

*In this chapter the main focus is on women's education and its interconnection with different social and economic parameters. The first section begins with a brief discussion about the importance of the role of education and how gender-equality in education is a concern. In the second section, importance of women's education is impressed upon. The chapter concludes with listing of interventions that can serve as a guide for framing of policies focussing on girl's education.*

## **1. Introduction**

Education has been acknowledged as a human right and a right which enables individuals to realise their full potential. It is a form of learning which involves the inter-generational transfer of knowledge, skills, values, ideas and opinions. It is a vital investment for human and economic development. Education, as an important social institution, plays a crucial role in facilitating cross-cultural dialogue and cultivating respect for cultural, religious and linguistic multiplicity, which are vital for achieving the targets of social justice and unity (UNESCO 2016). Education is the key to a better life for every child, and it lays a sturdy foundation of every society. For realising the development goals set by a country, it is essential to ensure that every child must be in school. Data and research studies reveal that gender equality in education and economic development have a significant positive relationship, thus, making it a vital part of the development equation. Education can empower people to make decisions for themselves, which is why the opportunity to be educated is a pre-requisite for furthering human development.

Dakar Declaration on Education for All (UNESCO, 2000) and the Millennium Development Goals brought concentrated attention on education, particularly on education of women. However, MDGs couldn't achieve the goals by the 2015 deadline. After the MDGs ended in 2015, Sustainable Development Goals were developed to succeed the MDGs for "transforming our world". Incheon Declaration 2015 framed the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" for achieving the goals of sustainable

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