

H. Girls' education – a lifeline of development

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women told the world that offering girls basic education is not a luxury. It is their basic right. Yet among children not attending school there are twice as many girls as boys, and among illiterate adults twice as many women as men.

Part 1

Read on and translate the highlighted sentences into Finnish.

That women might have the chance of a healthier and happier life should be reason enough for promoting girls' education. However, there are also important benefits for society as a whole.

5 (1) An educated woman has the skills, information and self-confidence that she needs to be a better parent, worker and citizen.

An educated woman is, for example, likely to marry at a later age and have fewer children.

10 Cross-country studies show that an extra year of schooling for girls reduces fertility rates by 5 or 10 per cent. And the children of an educated mother are more likely to survive. In India, for example, (2) the infant mortality rate of babies whose
15 mothers have received primary education is half of that of children whose mothers are illiterate.

An educated woman will also be more productive at work – and better paid. Indeed, the dividend for educational investment is often higher for
20 women than men. (3) Studies from a number of countries suggest that an extra year of schooling will increase a woman's future earnings by about 15 per cent, compared with 11 per cent for a man.

Part 2

Answer the questions after reading the text.

1. Mitä seurauksia naisten koulutuksella on perhe-elämän kannalta?
2. Entä työelämän?
3. Mitkä seikat helpottaisivat tyttöjen pääsyä koulutukseen?

What would it take to improve girls' access to
25 education? Experience in scores of countries shows the importance, among other things, of:

- Parental and community involvement: Family and communities must be important partners with schools in developing curriculum and managing children's education.
- Low-cost and flexible timetables: Basic education should be free or cost very little. Where possible, (4) there should be scholarships to compensate families for the loss of girls' household labour.
- Also, school hours should be flexible so children can help at home and still attend classes.
- Schools close to home: Many parents worry about girls travelling long distance on their own. (5) Many parents also prefer
40 to have daughters taught by women.
- Preparation for school: Girls do best when they receive early childhood care, which enhances their self-esteem and prepares them for school.
- Relevant curricula: Learning materials should
45 be relevant to the girl's background and be in the local language. They should also avoid reproducing gender stereotypes.

fertility hedelmällisyys
dividend osinko, palkkio
scores of lukuisat
enhance vahvistaa
curriculum, curricula opetusuunnitelma
gender sukupuoli -

F. Political parties

What are the following political parties in Finnish? Do you recognize their emblems? *Anna's myistä*

















1. The Centre Party of Finland
2. The Social Democratic Party of Finland
3. The National Coalition Party
4. The Left Alliance
5. The True Finns
6. The Green League
7. The Christian Democrats
8. The Swedish People's Party of Finland

Discuss in small groups.

- In your opinion, what differences are there between the political parties mentioned above?
- Why do we need political parties? Or do we?
- How do you feel about the work they do? Why?
- Can you name any MPs or ministers from your own area?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of a coalition or a one-party government?
- How can you take part in decision-making? Consider the possibilities at your school, in your neighbourhood or at the national level.
- What political parties or other groups are represented in your town council?
- What important issues are politicians dealing with now?