

International Women's Day in numbers

- Of the estimated 72 million children who are not in school, girls are the majority.
 - Of the 759 million adults who cannot read or write, the vast majority, close to 70 per cent, are women – a trend that has not improved during the last decade.
 - According to the 2010 Millennium Development Goals review there were 96 girls for every 100 boys enrolled in primary school, and 95 girls for every 100 boys enrolled in secondary school in 2008, a sizable increase compared to the 1999 ratios of 91 and 88 per 100 boys.
 - Women's educational attainment does not necessarily translate into improved employment opportunities. Among the 20-24 year-old population, women continue to lag behind men in labour force participation in all regions.
 - When girls are able to obtain a secondary education, a country's economy growth improves through women's increased labor force participation, productivity and earnings. It has been found that when an educated girl earns an income, she reinvests 90 per cent of it in her family, compared to boys who devote 35 per cent of their income to their families.
 - Every year, approximately 10 million teenage girls marry - the majority of them without completing secondary education. Adolescent girls aged 15-19 who give birth (approximately 16 million) to a child account for more than 10 per cent of all births worldwide annually. Adolescent mothers experience much higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity than older women. At least 2.5 million adolescent pregnancies each year lead to unsafe abortions.
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