

Current Experience on Eliminating Gender Disparity in Enrollment

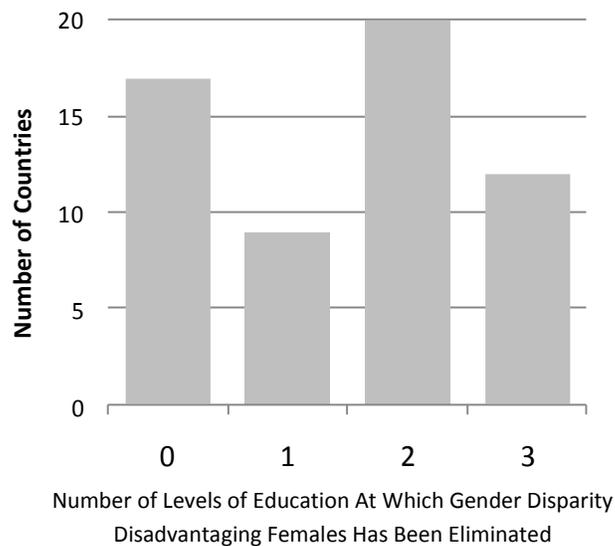
There are 58 developing countries which have current data available for “Ratio of Female to Male Enrollment Rates” for primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education. “Current data” is defined as the most recent year available, so long as that year is no earlier than 2006.

The majority of countries (32) have eliminated the disparity disadvantaging females in at least two of the educational levels, according to their latest data. “Eliminated” is defined as a ratio of females to males of at least 99.5 – which rounds off to a ratio of 100. Twelve of the countries have eliminated it for all three levels.

Less than one-third of the countries (17) have not eliminated it at any of the three levels, although several in that group are falling short by very modest amounts at the primary levels. In general, however, the seventeen countries in this group with persistent gender disparity at all three levels are much further from success than those countries with one or more levels at parity. For example, the average “gap” among the seventeen countries with all levels showing disparity is 25 percentage points in each level. Among the twenty countries with disparity eliminated in two levels, the average “gap” remaining to close the third level is only 2 percentage points.

The distribution of country experience can be summed up this way: The majority of countries have either eliminated or are very close to eliminating gender disparity at all levels of education, but a significant number (about one quarter) have chronic and large disparities at all levels.

Country Experience Eliminating Gender Disparity in Education Data Based on Most Recent Year Available for 58 Countries



Source: EADS calculations based on World Development Indicators (World Bank)