

## Gender and Education; A Case study of Cameroon

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### Abstract

Education is essential for personal and national development, yet gender disparities persist in many countries, including Cameroon. Despite policies promoting gender equality, girls in Cameroon face significant barriers to education due to cultural norms, economic challenges, and inadequate school infrastructure. This study aims to examine gender differences in educational access and attainment in Cameroon, identify key obstacles limiting girls' education, and suggest practical solutions. A mixed-methods approach was used, combining analysis of national education statistics with interviews and focus groups involving students, parents, teachers, and policymakers from urban and rural areas. Results reveal a persistent gender gap, with girls less likely to enroll, stay in school, and complete their education, especially in rural regions. Factors such as early marriage, poverty, gender stereotypes, and lack of female-friendly facilities contribute to this imbalance. Conversely, urban areas show improvements due to increased awareness and targeted programs. The study concludes that while progress has been made, significant challenges remain that impede gender equality in education. The implications are profound: limiting girls' education restricts their future opportunities and slows national development. Enforce laws against early marriage, expand scholarships for girls, improving school infrastructure (especially sanitation), conducting community awareness campaigns to challenge stereotypes, and training teachers on gender sensitivity. Collaborative efforts involving government, communities, and NGOs are essential to create an inclusive educational environment. Addressing these issues will empower girls, promote equality, and contribute to Cameroon's social and economic growth.

**Keywords:** gender, education, development