

# Gender Discrimination in Education Systems Around the World — Taking China & UK as Examples

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**Abstract.** This myth has not been abolished, nor has it been improved upon through the years, despite the fact that the outdated and deeply established modern belief that boys are superior to girls has been there for a very long time. Instead, the majority of its characteristics have not changed at all. The fundamental goal of this study is to investigate the various issues of gender discrimination in education in China and the UK, and to expose the inequities in education systems across the world by comparing and contrasting similarities and differences, so that more women can be respected and receive the resources and fair treatment that is rightfully theirs. According to the results of the research, gender bias is significantly more widespread in the educational system of China than it is in the educational system of the United Kingdom. This is mostly the result of notions that have been carried down from a patriarchal civilization that existed thousands of years ago. These ideas are extremely limited in scope and have a very restricted focus. In contrast, people in the United Kingdom have a more accepting mentality, and females are not subjected to antagonism or discrimination in the vast majority of households.

**Keywords:** Gender; education; working place; preferences; females.

## 1. Introduction

The beliefs and behaviors of all of humanity, including the division of social status and rights, have been shaped by patriarchal styles for thousands of years. This includes the distribution of power. This cultural belief and the resulting social rules have helped to maintain male dominance, and in most countries have created social barriers to prevent women from gaining positions of power within the family and society, as well as being denied access to personal resources such as economic and educational opportunities and means that contribute to social advancement. Moreover, these cultural beliefs and the resulting social rules have contributed to the maintenance of male dominance [1]. There are many different reasons why girls' enrolment is low, such as older girls needing to stay at home to look after siblings and parents, or parents thinking that girls should only work at home or do some knitting and then marry to look after their husbands. Moreover, in many countries, women are not allowed to receive an education, enter the work environment, or participate in public events without a male escort [2].

Educated moms can have a substantially greater amount of influence on their children than educated males are able to have on their children, according to a few studies. This is only one of the many reasons why the issue of sexism in education ought to be a concern to those who are concerned about it. If more women in a country are educated, then that society will have fewer individuals living in poverty, a bigger number of people participating in the labor force to the best of their abilities, and a brighter future for children. In addition, a woman's level of education has the potential to influence not only the standard of medical care that she receives but also the standard of instruction that her offspring are provided with. When compared to the returns on investment for men's education, the returns on investment for women's education are much higher [3]. However, in fact, feminists have been fighting for women's rights since the nineteenth century, and their theory of equality comes from the liberal political philosophy that all people should be equal before the law [4].

This paper will utilize the method of comparative analysis to focus on the numerous circumstances and the status of gender disparities in China and the United Kingdom. It will reveal the breadth of

gender discrimination while also drawing attention to the constructive efforts that have been done in both countries, and it will do so in a manner that is both thorough and thoroughgoing.

This comparative study on gender inequality aims to educate more women, change the patriarchal mindset of their parents and society as a whole, and enable women to grow up to be independent and earn their own living instead of relying on their husbands or parents, so that they can become independent individuals. Additionally, the study aims to change the mindset of society as a whole so that it is less patriarchal.

## 2. China

Traditionally, the Chinese have a strong preference for boys, which goes back thousands of years. Before the founding of China, girls born in many parts of the countryside would be brutally killed or thrown away or treated inhumanely as they grew up doing hard work to look after their families. This was because they believed that boys could earn more money, were more productive and more capable of looking after their parents. Inequalities in schooling, in turn, contribute to disparities in how women are treated in the labor market when they are looking for jobs. All other factors being equal, a recruitment firm is much less likely and much less likely to invite female applicants to an interview than men, not to mention the fact that there are fewer educated women than men due to gender discrimination [5].

In a number of various locations in China, it has been demonstrated that a desire for males has a significant influence on the allocation of family resources in the areas of health and education. This preference can be found in a variety of provinces and municipalities throughout China. For example, when it comes to medical care for children aged 0 to 4, families in the province of Sichuan spend more than twice as much money on medical treatment for their males as they do on medical treatment for their daughters. Fathers in China, particularly in rural regions, show a strong preference for sons, and they are more willing to make financial sacrifices and forego educational possibilities for the growth of their sons than for the development of their daughters. This demonstrates that men in China place higher importance on their sons than on their daughters. Keeping this in mind is especially important when considering China's one-child policy, which is still in existence today [6].

China has been steadily integrating into the process of globalization ever since the country's reform and opening up, and the current situation of gender equality concerns is strongly tied to the country's rural areas. Since the country's reform and opening up, China has been steadily integrating into the process of globalization. This is because men and women have traditionally held separate roles in society; as a consequence, rural areas confront women and men with different obstacles. This is owing to the fact that rural areas present women and men with different opportunities. The data reveals that the changes brought about by China's integration into the global system have made the crisis in the countryside significantly worse, which has in turn made the problem of gender disparity much more difficult to address [7].

In recent years, however, there have also been more policies released to protect women, improve their status in the family and reduce the proportion of people who favor sons over daughters. In turn, women have demonstrated their ability and financial strength in the workplace. However, gender discrimination in education is still present and very serious today. Workplace subterfuge and sexual harassment still exist, and in remote rural areas, girls are still unable to attend school and are forced to work to earn money or marry early to take care of their children.

## 3. United Kingdom

There has been a slight increase in the number of students enrolling in higher education institutions over the past decade or two, with a more notable trend towards an increase in the proportion of black people and women joining these institutions. This increase in the number of students enrolling in higher education institutions has been observed. Yet, black female academics face discrimination on

the basis of their class, gender, and racial identity; as a result, they have to put in twice as much effort as whites to achieve the same results. Women are much less likely than men to participate in roles that involve decision-making, and there are significant barriers to progressing to senior positions in higher education. As a result, women continue to be at a disadvantage overall, particularly when it comes to caring responsibilities such as childrearing and other forms of caregiving. After they have completed their schooling and entered the workforce, women make up only 2.8% of professors. Because of this, there is already a large level of bias and unjust treatment of women in school. This is compounded by the fact that there are already relatively few women participating in education; as a result, these women continue to be at a disadvantage when they enter the workforce [8].

It is common knowledge that Western nations are more tolerant of differing points of view, and in general, parents do not exert a great deal of influence over the behaviors of their children. It is also common knowledge that Western nations are more accepting of diverse sexual orientations. As a consequence of this, there are some people who, in order to live the life, they imagine for themselves, might make the choice to transition to the opposite gender. As a result, not only is there prejudice against women in the United Kingdom, but there is also discrimination towards transgender children, which is another sort of discrimination that is highly hazardous as well. At school, students could come up against a number of difficulties, challenges, and injustices; alternatively, they could be denied access to education and be made to go through horrific events while they are there. They frequently lack the resources necessary to successfully integrate themselves into the classroom, and many schools are not appropriately equipped to accommodate transgender pupils. Moreover, myths and prejudices regarding transgender children continue to be perpetuated [9].

Primary and secondary schools in the United Kingdom are currently in the process of putting into practice the anti-discrimination measures that have been proposed by the government of the United Kingdom to prevent transgender discrimination. The UK Advertising Bureau introduced new regulations in 17 years, requiring advertising slogans to ban phrases such as only mothers can take care of children, introducing gender equality regulations at a national level so that boys and girls can identify themselves and schools and parents can accept more girls in education. For women in the workplace, there are sex discrimination laws, equal pay laws, etc. to regulate the behaviour of employees and adhere to the physical codes issued by the Human Rights and Equality Commission.

#### 4. Comparison

It is especially noteworthy as China is a country with a sizeable population, in addition to the fact that gender discrimination in China leads a sizeable number of women to leave the country on a daily basis. Both of these facts contribute to the significance of the situation. The issue of gender discrimination will hasten the process of population ageing, as well as continue to reduce the total size of China's population, the number of births, and the number of people participating in the labour force. Additionally, it will continue to bring about a reduction in the number of people participating in the labor force.

In point of fact, the factors that led to discrimination against women in both the educational system and the working environment in China and the UK were the same. This was the case in almost all of these countries. In the early days of human history, the typical family unit was headed by a patriarch. This arrangement benefited men on a number of fronts, including religious, sociocultural, and economic sectors; in addition, it supported a growing desire for male progeny and provided advantages for men on a number of these fronts. As a consequence of this, men had a preeminent role within the power structure, inheritance practices, and living arrangements of the family; women were compelled to rely on men for their own survival, which resulted in a lower social status for them. Because traditional Chinese culture has traditionally been built on Confucianism, the preference in China is for male kids. This is because the continuation of the family is an integral component of traditional Chinese culture, which results in the preference for male offspring [10].

In order to solve this issue, China and Britain both realized that it was necessary to implement new regulations or direct the thinking of the general public in order to change this impression. China was the one who issued these policies, and Britain was the one who led the thinking of the masses. One of the first things that ought to be done is to ensure that instructors in schools and throughout the teaching process do not harbour any biases against the female pupils they are working with, and that they receive the required training before they start their professions. Second, there should be a greater emphasis placed on women in the working environment, and a blind selection policy should be implemented in the hiring process so that people who discriminate against women are prevented from doing so. Both of these things should be done in order to ensure that women are not subjected to an environment that is hostile to them. Finally, with the help of the government, put a stop to any and all forms of public violence against women and girls. This includes sexual assault, human trafficking, and any other forms that may still be in existence. Because it is unacceptable that a girl should be required to renounce her education simply because her family is unable to afford the costs of her education, the fourth recommendation is to provide aid to families who are having difficulty making ends meet. In conclusion, it should be a top priority to work towards ensuring that women have equal access to positions of leadership and that they are fully included in the decision-making processes that take place in public life, politics, and the economy.

## 5. Conclusion

The problem of gender disparity is not only a catastrophe for women, but it is also a significant matter for the entire world, and it is a big impediment to the political, economic, and cultural life of countries all over the world. It is a very difficult task to eliminate the problem of gender discrimination when it continues to exist for a variety of reasons, one of which is the fact that women are generally treated in an excessively unjust manner in general. Because of this, it will be very challenging to completely eliminate the problem. The fact that there are still significant gaps in opportunity and treatment between the sexes is a problem that is pervasive throughout the majority of the world. Every aspect of a woman's life, including the family, the workplace, and the educational system, is rife with inequitable treatment and discrimination of some kind or another. These are the conditions that they are currently facing as a result of their situation.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to find out that inequality between the sexes may be seen not only in the sphere of education but also in the working world. This inequality can be observed in both education and the working world. On the job, women are more likely than men to be the target of sexual harassment, and they also have a lesser probability of being promoted or receiving more salary than men do. This is in addition to the fact that women are more likely to be the target of sexual harassment than males. This presents an issue in the working environment. If there is no way to change any of these elements, then it is extremely doubtful that society will make any progress in a more positive direction in the foreseeable future.

In point of fact, to be more exact, fewer opportunities to participate in school are provided to females, a circumstance that will become much more obvious when contrasting rural areas with urban ones. Because it is generally agreed that the unequal distribution of educational opportunities between the sexes is the most significant barrier to the expansion of the educational system as a whole, it is essential that the government and society work together to devise strategies, take appropriate actions, and draught laws that will ensure girls' access to equal rights and opportunities. In addition, because it is generally agreed that the unequal distribution of educational opportunities between the sexes is the most significant barrier to the expansion of the educational system as a whole, it is imperative. In addition, it ought to go without saying that women should be treated equally and given the opportunity to participate in education on an equal basis not just by their parents, but also by the educators who instruct them in the classrooms that they attend.

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