5 WAYS EDUCATION CAN HELP ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

1. EDUCATION IMPROVES WAGES & JOBS FOR WOMEN

One additional school year can increase a woman’s earnings by up to 20%.

2. EDUCATION MAKES WOMEN HEALTHIER

If all mothers completed primary education, maternal death would be reduced by 2/3.

3. EDUCATION EMPOWERS WOMEN TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Across 54 countries, women with a secondary education are 70% less likely to lack control over household resources, dominate or beat their married young compared to women with primary education.

4. EDUCATION PROTECTS GIRLS FROM HARMFUL PRACTICES

Child Marriage: Across 18 of the 20 countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage, girls with secondary schooling are 5X less likely to marry as children compared to girls who have little or no education.

Female Genital Mutation (FGM): In Kenya, women with no education are 4X more likely than those with secondary education to have undergone FGM.

In Sierra Leone, 97% of girls and women who have no education have undergone FGM compared to 50% of women with tertiary education.

5. EDUCATION CAN CHALLENGE GENDER STEREOTYPES

Men with secondary education demonstrated more positive attitudes and practices.

Men with less education expressed discriminatory gender views and were more likely to be violent in the home.

Education can address harmful stereotypes that can lead men to:

- Avoid seeking help for mental health
- Consume excessive amounts of drugs and alcohol
- Engage in aggressive and risky behavior

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

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The Global Partnership for Education helps improve education in developing countries, with a focus on girls and young women. The partnership aims to increase the number of girls in school and reduce dropout rates, particularly in rural areas.

Sources: