



GENDER APPROACH IN EDUCATION: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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Annotation: *This article analyzes the significance of the gender approach in the education system, existing problems, and ways to address them. It highlights the impact of gender equality on the educational process, the socialization of young learners, and their development as individuals. Additionally, it examines factors such as gender stereotypes in educational institutions, teacher attitudes, and parental views. To resolve these issues, the article provides recommendations for effective pedagogical strategies and creating a gender-sensitive educational environment based on national and international experiences. The article aims to enhance the quality of education and promote social justice in society through the assurance of gender equality.*

Keywords: *gender equality, gender approach, stereotypes, role of the teacher, social justice, pedagogical strategy, impact on education, education quality, gender monitoring.*

In the 21st century, the gender approach has gained special significance among innovative approaches in the educational process. Globally, ensuring gender equality is one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and this goal should be reflected in every country's education system. Unfortunately, in many countries, including developing ones, traditional gender stereotypes are still prevalent in the educational process. This situation negatively impacts equal opportunities for girls and boys, their interest in science, and future success in the labor market. Therefore, it is essential to deeply analyze the gender approach in education, identify existing problems, and develop solutions.

Before discussing the gender approach, it is important to understand gender equality. Gender equality refers to the equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities of men and women in society. This term promotes equal participation of both genders in society, politics, the economy, and the family. The main principles of gender equality include: equal rights – laws and policies offer equal opportunities to all genders; equal opportunities – access to education, jobs, leadership positions, and resources; equal responsibilities – sharing domestic work and child-rearing responsibilities regardless of gender; and eliminating discrimination – preventing any unfair treatment of women, men, or other gender groups.

The Importance of Gender Equality:

Accelerates economic development by enabling everyone to realize their potential.

Strengthens justice and social stability.

Actively involves women in education and the labor market.

Reduces domestic violence and discrimination.

The gender approach refers not to biological sex but to socially constructed roles determined by society. In education, a gender approach means ensuring equal rights, opportunities, access to resources, and social treatment for girls and boys. Modern pedagogy considers gender sensitivity as one of its core principles. Both gender equality and the gender approach are relatively new concepts in Uzbekistan. Thanks to gender equality, women and girls actively participate in various fields. It is worth noting that women also work in leadership positions. Today, Uzbek society provides women with many opportunities and favorable conditions, which open doors and inspire innovation. This contributes to national development and allows women and girls to play an active role.

Problems in the Gender Approach:

Gender Stereotypes – In some curricula, girls are portrayed as soft, obedient, and caring, while boys are depicted as strong, decisive, and leaders. These stereotypes limit youth's self-confidence and career choices.

Teacher Preparedness – Many educators lack sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge about gender equality, resulting in unequal treatment of students.

Organizational and Environmental Barriers – In some institutions, girls and boys do not have equal access to sports facilities, technology clubs, or laboratory equipment.

Gender Gaps in Leadership – In many countries, men dominate leadership roles in the education system.

Developed countries like those in Scandinavia, Canada, and Australia have successfully implemented practices to ensure gender equality in education. For instance, textbooks in Finland undergo regular gender reviews to remove stereotypes. International organizations such as UNESCO and UN Women have developed specific indicators and methodologies to monitor gender equality in education.

Solutions and Recommendations:

Revise curricula based on gender sensitivity: avoid gender stereotypes in texts, images, and examples.

Implement a gender monitoring system: ensure equal opportunities for girls and boys in educational institutions.

Improve teacher training and qualifications: conduct special courses and seminars on gender approaches.

Engage the public and parents: promote awareness and understanding of gender issues within families.

Strengthen cooperation between state and non-governmental organizations: launch support programs and grants for gender equality.

Benefits of Gender Approach:

Promotes social justice and equality

Improves education quality

Contributes to economic development

Ensures equal participation in leadership and management

Encourages healthy social relations and sustainable development

Gender Issues in Uzbekistan:

Traditional Gender Stereotypes – Deep-rooted traditional views still exist. Girls are often expected to marry and handle domestic duties, while boys are assigned breadwinner and leadership roles. These stereotypes hinder education, career choice, and social engagement.

Gender Gaps in Education – Girls show less interest in technical, engineering, and IT fields. Textbooks often portray women as homemakers and men as leaders or inventors. Many educators lack sufficient gender-sensitive pedagogy training.

Violence and Lack of Awareness – In some areas, women face domestic violence and are unaware of their rights.

Labor Market Inequality – Female unemployment is higher compared to males. Women are underrepresented in some professions and face wage gaps.

Leadership Gaps – Men dominate in government and political leadership. Women's representation in local councils and other bodies remains low.

Implementing a gender approach in education is vital not only for humanizing the education system but also for establishing social justice and achieving sustainable development. Through the joint efforts of teachers, parents, and society, gender equality in education can become a reality. This fosters equal rights, self-confidence, and social activity among youth.

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