

Course title: Gender and education

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Prepared by: Dr. Jaishree Devi, Assistant Professor

Department of Education, RTU

Child-Friendly School (CFS)

A Child-Friendly School (CFS) is an educational model promoted by **UNICEF** that ensures every child—regardless of gender, ability, background, or social status—has access to safe, inclusive, and high-quality education. It focuses on making schools welcoming, participatory, and supportive environments for *all* children.

A child-friendly school is one that:

- Places the child at the center of the education process.
- Respects the rights, dignity, and individuality of every learner.
- Creates a safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive learning environment.
- Encourages active participation and joy in learning.
- Promotes health, nutrition, safety, and emotional well-being.

It aligns with the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** — emphasizing that every child has the right to learn in an environment that is *safe, caring, and supportive*.

Role of a Child-Friendly School in an Inclusive Approach

A child-friendly school plays a major role in making education inclusive — ensuring no child is left out due to disability, gender, caste, language, poverty, or any other factor.

Aspect	Role in Inclusive Education
1. Equal Access to Education	Ensures all children, including those with disabilities or from marginalized communities, are enrolled and retained in school.
2. Safe & Supportive Environment	Provides safety from violence, discrimination, and bullying—especially for girls and vulnerable children.
3. Flexible Teaching Methods	Uses child-centered, activity-based learning to meet diverse learning needs (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, etc.).
4. Gender Sensitivity	Promotes gender equality through unbiased classroom practices, equal participation, and facilities (e.g., separate toilets for girls and boys).
5. Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	Adapts curriculum, materials, and assessment to include children with learning difficulties or disabilities.
6. Community & Parent Participation	Involves families and local communities in school decisions to support diverse learners.

Aspect	Role in Inclusive Education
7. Holistic Development	Focuses not only on academics but also on social, emotional, and moral growth.

Conclusion

A child-friendly school is the *foundation of inclusive education*. It transforms schools from places of instruction to communities of care and participation, where every child—irrespective of ability, gender, or background—feels valued, respected, and empowered to learn.