

**Course title: Gender and education**

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### **A Girl-Friendly School**

A girl-friendly school is an educational environment that ensures equal opportunities, safety, and respect for girls. It actively removes the barriers—social, cultural, physical, or psychological—that prevent girls from enrolling, staying, and succeeding in school. Such schools are built on the belief that educating girls transforms families and communities, and that gender equality is essential for inclusive, quality education for all.

#### **Features of a Girl-Friendly School**

1. **Safe and Secure Environment:** Girl-friendly school protect from harassment, bullying, or gender-based violence within and around the school.
2. **Gender-Sensitive Infrastructure:** This type of school provides separate toilets for girls, sanitary hygiene facilities, and adequate privacy.
3. **Equal Learning Opportunities:** It encourages girls to participate equally in academics, sports, science, leadership, and technology.
4. **Gender-Sensitive Curriculum and Teaching:** Girl-friendly school provide textbooks and teaching methods free from gender bias or stereotypes.
5. **Supportive Teachers:** In this type of school, the teachers are trained in gender sensitivity and responsive classroom practices.
6. **Flexible School Hours:** Timings or attendance flexibility for girls with domestic or caregiving responsibilities are seen in Girl-friendly school.
7. **Community Awareness:** Engagement of parents and communities to challenge social norms that restrict girls' education found Girl-friendly school.

#### **Significance of Girl-Friendly Schools in Inclusive Education**

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Contribution to Inclusive Education</b>
<b>1. Promotes Gender Equality</b>	Ensures that both boys and girls receive equal opportunities to learn and grow.

Aspect	Contribution to Inclusive Education
<b>2. Reduces Dropout Rates</b>	Addresses issues like early marriage, menstruation, or safety concerns that often cause girls to drop out.
<b>3. Empowers Girls</b>	Builds confidence, leadership, and decision-making skills among girls.
<b>4. Breaks Social Barriers</b>	Challenges stereotypes and discrimination that exclude girls from education.
<b>5. Encourages Holistic Inclusion</b>	When schools are girl-friendly, they naturally become safer and more inclusive for all children, including marginalized groups.

## Conclusion

A girl-friendly school is a key component of inclusive education. By ensuring that girls learn in a safe, supportive, and empowering environment, it paves the way for a more equitable and just education system—where every learner, regardless of gender, can reach their full potential.