School-related Gender Based Violence: Preventing the achievement of quality education for all

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Key messages

SRGBV undermines children’s - especially girls’ - right to a quality, inclusive and equitable education.

SRGBV is a global concern, but we only have a partial picture.

Better data and research is needed to identify, map and understand its extent and impact.

Post-2015 targets must track progress towards reducing SRGBV.
SRGBV is complex and multifaceted.
Violence against children is a worldwide phenomenon

Available data shows:

- **246 million** children are estimated to suffer school-related violence every year

- Over one-half of all children live in countries where they have **no legal protection** from corporal punishment

- Up to **10%** of adolescent girls in **40** low and middle-income countries reported **forced sexual** acts in the previous year
Limitations in data:

- Lack of comparable data globally
- School-related surveys prioritised physical violence, bullying
- Absence of focus on gender dimensions
- Information on sexual violence in schools is scarce
Prevalence of sexual harassment is high across SE Africa

- On average, 41% of school principals stated that pupil-pupil sexual harassment occurs in their schools.

- In 11 countries, over 30% reported teacher-pupil sexual harassment.
Both boys and girls experience bullying, often in different ways. In some countries, boys are more likely to experience physical bullying. While girls are more likely to face psychological bullying.
SRGBV is preventing quality education for all

Intergenerational Violence and Gender Inequality

Physical and Mental Health

Unsafe Schools

Learning Outcomes

Dropout

Absenteism

Disengagement

Sexual Violence

Corporal Punishment
Understanding conditions that exacerbate SRGBV is essential

Poverty and disadvantage can increase vulnerability to SRGBV

- **Chronic poverty** and unstable living conditions can increase girls’ risk of sexual violence and exploitation

- Schools in poor and deprived areas face greater challenges dealing with bullying and physical violence

Marginalized groups are at increased risk of SRGBV

- Children with **disabilities**, especially girls
- LGBT students
- Children affected by HIV/AIDS
- Ethnic and social **minorities**

*Conflict-affected countries*

- Sexual violence is widespread
Comprehensive approaches are needed to tackle SRGBV

- Integrate gender equality into curriculum
- Provide specialised training for teachers
- Promote non-violence among men and boys
- Develop codes of conduct with teachers and students
- Enforce legislation and policies to protect children
- Build community involvement
- Establish girls’ clubs
- Ensure safe and accessible reporting mechanisms and support
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

All stakeholders must...

- Demonstrate commitment and leadership
- Integrate SRGBV into policy and government action
- Collaborate using a multisectoral approach
- Improve partnership and coordination at all levels
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

All partners must...

- Agree on a common core **definition and indicators** for SRGBV
- Strengthen **research and evaluation**
- Harmonize **data collection** and build capacity for monitoring SRGBV
The international community must...

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recognise SRGBV in the post-2015 framework
www.efareport.unesco.org

Blog: efareport.wordpress.com
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