

Understanding Gender and Education in South Asia - New challenges and approaches to girls' and women's education

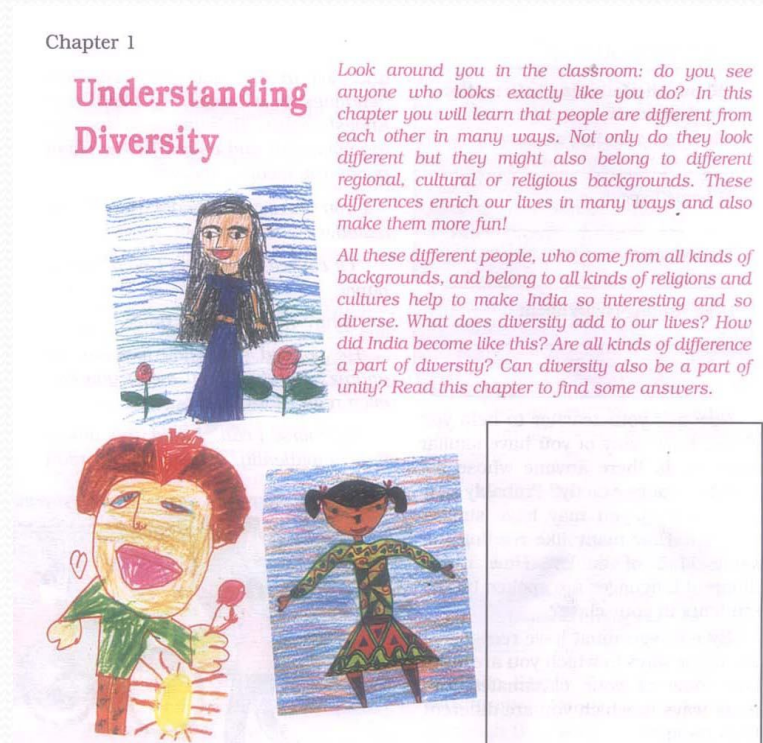
Organization: **NIRANTAR TRUST**
New Delhi India

The context

- There is no gender and education oriented network in India or South Asian region
- The linkages of gender and education are not articulated and addressed – both in education or development sector
- Lack of access to schooling and disparity in educational levels are not limited to lack of infrastructure or resources.
- Rising levels of education are not changing the gender relations and dynamics
- Education of Girls is a commitment of most of the countries and MDG too underline gender parity in Primary Education

What informed our concept

- Text book study done in 5 states
- Training of teachers in last 15 years
- Working with education system
- Being part of the curriculum forming committee
- Part of the textbook writing for SCERT Delhi



Our Experiences



- Well received & appreciated by Academics and Civil Society
- UGC used our framework to design a similar course
- A group emerging who is bringing connections of Gender and Education in different spheres of work

What are we proposing

- create a network on gender and education across the south Asian region where organizations can work with each other, sharing their experiences, research, approaches and policies to strengthen interventions on girls' education
- enhance the capacities of practitioners and policy makers linked to the education sector and grassroots organizations working for women's rights and empowerment.
- create teaching learning materials drawing on the conceptual work done by feminist academics to enabling those involved in education to integrate gender in their work.

What can it do

- Acknowledge and address poverty, cultural and gendered norms that are larger contributors
- Develop an understanding of the historical context that still determine in powerful ways how education for girls and women is articulated
- Establish dialogue amongst various stakeholders for girls and women's education
- Create opportunities for learning and sharing across among countries from each others' experiences



What can it lead to

- An active and dynamic network at south Asian level to share and learn from each other's experiences of doing policy advocacy around gender and education and replicate some of the efforts in their own context
- Training Module and Material Created to be adapted and used at local level
- Gender concerns are acknowledged and addressed in policies of mainstream education in different countries based on specific context