

Single-sex schools VS mixed-gender schools: comparing impacts

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Abstract: This article provides an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of same-sex and mixed-gender schooling, the importance of diverse educational environments, the strategies for addressing disparities and promoting equality in education. The advantages of same-sex schools include potential benefits for academic achievement, social development, and the promotion of gender equity. However, disadvantages such as reinforcing gender stereotypes and limiting cross-gender interactions should be considered. Mixed-gender schools offer advantages such as diverse social interactions, balanced perspectives, and challenging gender stereotypes. However, potential disadvantages include gender disparities in attention and participation and the perpetuation of gender biases. Creating diverse educational environments is crucial for promoting positive outcomes in academic achievement, social development, cultural competence, and well-being. Strategies for addressing disparities and promoting equality include improving access to education, addressing gender disparities, prioritizing diversity and inclusion, enacting supportive legislation and policies, and engaging with communities. By implementing these strategies, educational institutions can create more equitable and inclusive learning environments. What makes this study particularly timely and relevant is the recent development of same-sex schools versus mixed schools as a political issue in Turkey. There are controversial discussions about this matter, and our research addresses these concerns with empirical evidence and a nuanced perspective.

Key words: same-sex school; mixed-gender schools; gender disparities; equality

1 Introduction

The debate surrounding same-sex schools versus mixed-gender schools has garnered significant attention and has been a topic of ongoing discussion in educational research. Understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each school setting is crucial for informed decision-making in educational policy and practice. This article aims to provide an overview of the literature on same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools, explore the multifaceted nature of same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools, examining their potential impacts on various aspects of student development. By examining factors such as academic achievement, delinquency, gender stereotypes, social interactions, and cultural contexts, this study seeks to shed light on the complexities of these school environments and provide a comprehensive analysis of the advantages and disadvantages associated with each school type. Drawing on a range of empirical studies, this article contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the advantages and disadvantages associated with same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools.

2 Overview of same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools

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The issue of same-sex and mixed-gender schools has been the subject of extensive research and debate. Various factors, including psychological, social, and educational considerations, have contributed to the discourse surrounding these school types. Research has explored the potential impacts of same-sex and mixed-gender schooling on academic performance, social development, gender identity, and student experiences. Studies have examined the effects of school type on delinquency, academic engagement, gender stereotypes, and social interactions. Additionally, political, philosophical, and religious factors have influenced perspectives on same-sex and mixed-gender schooling.

Same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools have been the subject of extensive research, examining their advantages and disadvantages in various aspects of student development. Studies have explored the impact of school type on academic outcomes, social development, gender-related factors, and student well-being. In terms of academic achievement in same-sex schools versus mixed-gender schools, there are conflicting findings. Some studies suggest that single-sex schools may benefit girls in terms of academic performance, while others find no significant differences between school types [1]. Generally, factors such as academic engagement, gender stereotyping, and self-confidence are believed to contribute to these outcomes [2]. In terms of social development, same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools can influence social interactions and relationships among students. Same-sex schools may provide opportunities for same-sex friendships and potentially reinforce gender essentialist views [3]. Mixed-gender schools, on the other hand, offer opportunities for diverse social interactions and the development of interpersonal skills [4]. In terms of gender-related factors, the school environment can shape gender-related factors such as gender stereotypes and career aspirations. Single-sex schools may have varying effects on gender stereotypes, with some studies suggesting that they can reinforce traditional gender roles. Mixed-gender schools may provide opportunities for challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equity [5]. In terms of student well-being, the impact of school type on student well-being is a complex area of study. Factors such as self-consciousness, social interaction anxiety, and emotional development can be influenced by school environment [6]. The presence or absence of same-sex peers may also impact students' experiences of safety, belonging, and identity development.

It is important to note that the outcomes associated with same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools can be influenced by various contextual factors, including cultural norms, educational policies, and individual characteristics. In addition, the issue of same-sex and mixed-gender schooling is influenced by various political, philosophical, and religious factors.

Political factors play a significant role in shaping attitudes and educational policies and practices related to same-sex and mixed-gender schooling. Political ideologies, party affiliations, and government regulations can influence the availability and support for same-sex schools or the preference for mixed-gender schooling. Political debates surrounding issues of gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and religious freedom can intersect with discussions on school type and influence policy decisions [7]. Research has shown that political conservatism is often associated with opposition to same-sex marriage and may influence attitudes towards same-sex schooling [8].

Philosophical perspectives also come into play when considering same-sex and mixed-gender schooling. Philosophical debates surrounding gender equality, individual rights, and social justice can inform discussions on the merits and drawbacks of different school environments. For example, proponents of same-sex schooling may argue that it provides a space for gender-specific pedagogy and fosters a sense of identity and empowerment among students [9]. On the other hand, proponents of mixed-gender schooling may emphasize the importance of diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all students [10]. Different philosophical frameworks, such as liberalism, conservatism, or feminism, can

shape views on gender, equality, and the role of education in society. Philosophical debates on individual rights, social cohesion, and the balance between autonomy and socialization can inform perspectives on school type [11].

Religious beliefs and philosophical perspectives often intersect, as religious doctrines can shape philosophical outlooks and vice versa. For instance, religious teachings may inform philosophical perspectives on gender roles, sexuality, and family structures, which can influence opinions on same-sex and mixed-gender schooling [12]. These factors can contribute to the formation of social norms and values that shape educational policies and practices. Religious institutions and leaders may hold specific views on gender roles, sexuality, and the purpose of education, which can impact their support or opposition to certain school types. Religious considerations can intersect with political and philosophical perspectives, leading to diverse opinions on the issue [13]. Additionally, religious beliefs and affiliations can strongly influence opinions on same-sex relationships and marriage. Religious factors, particularly conservative Protestantism and high rates of church attendance have been found to contribute to racial differences in support for same-sex marriage. Religious beliefs can also shape attitudes towards gender roles and influence preferences for single-sex or mixed-gender schooling.

In conclusion, the effectiveness of single-sex schools may vary depending on the specific educational system and the composition of the schools. Same-sex schools and mixed-gender schools have distinct advantages and disadvantages in terms of academic outcomes, social development, gender-related factors, and student well-being. Also, it is important to note that the issue of same-sex and mixed-gender schooling is complex and multifaceted, and individuals' perspectives can vary widely based on their political, philosophical, and religious beliefs. The influence of political, philosophical, and religious factors on the issue of same-sex and mixed-gender schooling can be complex and dynamic, reflecting the diversity of perspectives and values within a given society [14]. Understanding and addressing these factors is crucial for engaging in informed discussions and decision-making regarding educational policies and practices. Further research is needed to fully understand the underlying mechanisms and to inform educational policies and practices that promote positive student outcomes in both types of school environments.

3 Advantages of same-sex schooling

Same-sex schooling has been a topic of interest and debate in the field of education. Advocates of same-sex schools argue that they offer unique advantages for students. This section explores the potential benefits of same-sex schooling, focusing on the advantages it may provide in terms of academic achievement, social development, and the promotion of gender equity.

It is argued that same-sex schooling may have positive effects on academic performance, particularly for girls. Single-sex schools may provide an environment that fosters focused learning and reduces distractions, leading to improved academic outcomes [15]. The girls in same-sex schools may experience higher academic achievement compared to their counterparts in mixed-gender schools [16]. Same-sex schools are usually associated with more positive sex-role attitudes among students. By eliminating the influence of the opposite sex, same-sex schools may provide a space where students can explore their interests and abilities and enjoy increased opportunities to explore non-traditional subjects and career aspirations without conforming to traditional gender stereotypes. Likewise, same-sex schools are linked to positive effects on students' career aspirations, particularly for girls. The absence of gender biases and stereotypes in the classroom may encourage girls to pursue traditionally male-dominated careers. By providing a supportive and empowering environment, same-sex schools may encourage girls to pursue traditionally male-dominated fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

It is argued that same-sex schools can contribute to higher self-esteem among students, particularly for girls. The absence of gender-related pressures and comparisons in same-sex schools may create a supportive environment that enhances students' self-perception and confidence. Girls in same-sex schools have been found to have higher self-esteem compared to those in mixed-gender schools. The absence of gender-related social comparisons and competition with boys may contribute to a more positive self-perception. Students in same-sex schools may experience reduced gender salience, meaning they are less preoccupied with gender differences and stereotypes. This can create an environment where students feel more comfortable expressing themselves and engaging in activities without the pressure of conforming to gender norms.

It is important to note that while these advantages have been reported in some studies, other research has found no significant differences between same-sex and mixed-gender schools. The impact of school type on student outcomes can be influenced by various factors, including selection mechanisms and individual characteristics. Additionally, the effectiveness of same-sex schools may vary depending on factors such as the educational system, school composition, and individual characteristics. Further research is needed to fully understand the advantages and disadvantages of same-sex schools and their implications for student development.

4 Disadvantages of same-sex schooling

While same-sex schooling has been associated with certain benefits, such as improved academic performance and reduced gender stereotypes, it is important to also consider the potential disadvantages of this educational approach.

Disadvantages of same-sex schools have been identified through various studies. One fundamental issue is the difficulty in interpreting the differences in educational outcomes between single-sex and mixed-gender schools, as these differences may reflect selection mechanisms rather than the effects of the schools themselves. In terms of academic outcomes, while single-sex schooling may have positive effects on girls' qualifications achieved at age 16, it is neutral for boys and has no significant impact on later ages [17]. Additionally, attending single-sex schools may lead to a lower uptake of gender-atypical subject areas, such as sciences, for both boys and girls [18].

Another disadvantage of same-sex schools is the potential reinforcement of gender essentialist views and limited opportunities for cross-sex friendships [19]. Stakeholders affiliated with single-sex schools may endorse ingroup preference more strongly, potentially perpetuating gender biases. This lack of exposure to the opposite gender can also contribute to increased anxiety in mixed-gender situations among students from single-sex schools. Furthermore, single-sex schools may contribute to the reproduction of gender gaps and gender discrimination. Gender bias in teaching methods, examples, and selected lessons in schools can perpetuate gender gaps in learning [20]. Studies have also found that students in single-sex schools may have more gender-salient experiences, which can lead to increased socioemotional distress, peer victimization, and feelings of not fitting with gender norms [21].

Research has also examined the impact of single-sex schools on course selection and career aspirations. Girls in single-sex schools may take fewer science courses compared to their counterparts in mixed-gender schools. Furthermore, stakeholders affiliated with single-sex schools may endorse gender essentialist views more strongly, and the absence of cross-sex friendships in single-sex schools may contribute to heightened mixed-gender anxiety.

It is important to note that some studies question the benefits of single-sex schools, suggesting that any observed advantages may reflect prior differences in ability, motivation, and other background factors between students in single-sex and mixed-gender schools. The relationship between single-sex schooling and academic outcomes can be complex to examine due to selection biases and small sample sizes in many studies. Also, the disadvantages associated with same-sex schools should be considered in the context of individual and cultural factors. The outcomes may vary depending on the

specific educational system, cultural norms, and the composition of the schools. The disadvantages of same-sex schools include potential limitations in course selection, gender essentialist views, and the absence of cross-sex friendships. The interpretation of academic outcomes and the generalizability of findings are also important considerations. Further research is needed to fully understand the implications and limitations of single-sex schooling and to inform educational policies and practices.

5 Advantages of mixed-gender schooling

Mixed-gender schooling, where boys and girls are educated together in the same educational setting, has been a prevalent model in many educational systems. This approach offers several advantages that contribute to students' academic, social, and personal development. By fostering diverse interactions, mixed-gender schooling provides opportunities for students to engage in collaborative learning, gain different perspectives, and develop essential interpersonal skills. The coexistence of both genders in the classroom promotes a balanced and inclusive environment that reflects the diversity of society.

It is argued that mixed-sex schools can have positive effects on academic outcomes. A study conducted in Seoul high schools found that attending mixed-sex schools was associated with higher college entrance exam scores and increased college attendance rates. Additionally, a study examining the educational attainment of students within a coeducational university found that women in mixed-sex classes had better overall scores and were more likely to pass their first-year courses [22].

It is argued that mixed-sex schools provide opportunities for diverse social interactions and the development of social skills with peers of both genders. Students in mixed-sex schools have the chance to interact with peers of different genders, fostering a more inclusive and diverse social environment. This exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences can contribute to the development of social, interpersonal skills, communication abilities, and the ability to work collaboratively in diverse groups and cultural competence [23]. Interacting with peers of different genders can also foster a better understanding and appreciation of gender diversity. Also, mixed-sex schools can provide a balanced perspective on various issues and topics. By bringing together students with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints, mixed-sex schools create an environment where different perspectives can be shared and discussed. This can contribute to critical thinking, empathy, and the development of well-rounded individuals.

It is argued that mixed-sex schools can help challenge and reduce gender stereotypes. By providing a setting where boys and girls interact and collaborate, mixed-sex schools can promote equal opportunities and challenge traditional gender roles and expectations. By providing equal opportunities and promoting gender equity, mixed-sex schools can help students develop a more inclusive and egalitarian mindset. Exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences can broaden students' understanding of gender roles and contribute to the dismantling of gender biases. Learning to interact and collaborate with individuals of different genders can enhance communication skills, teamwork, and the ability to work effectively in diverse environments. In addition, attending a mixed-sex school can help students develop the skills necessary to navigate and succeed in diverse workplaces. It can also provide opportunities for networking and building connections with individuals of different genders, which can be beneficial for future career prospects.

It is important to note that the advantages of mixed-sex schools can vary depending on the specific context, cultural norms, and individual characteristics. Additionally, the effectiveness of mixed-sex schools may be influenced by factors such as school climate, teacher-student relationships, and curriculum design. Further research is needed to fully understand the nuanced effects of mixed-sex schools on student development.

6 Disadvantages of mixed-gender schooling

While mixed-gender schooling offers certain advantages, it is important to acknowledge the potential disadvantages associated with this approach. The chapter encompasses factors such as gender disparities in attention and participation, reinforcement of gender stereotypes, limitations on career aspirations, and challenges in creating an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

One concern is the potential for gender disparities in attention and participation in the classroom. It is argued that mixed-gender schools may perpetuate gender stereotypes and reinforce traditional gender roles. Studies have shown that boys tend to dominate classroom discussions, while girls may face challenges in having their voices heard [24]. Similarly, boys tend to receive more attention from teachers, particularly in math and science subjects, which may contribute to a gender imbalance in classroom dynamics. This can contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequalities and hinder the development of equal opportunities for all students. This dominance of boys in the classroom can lead to decreased interest and participation among girls in traditionally masculine STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Likewise, mixed-gender schools may contribute to the underrepresentation of girls in STEM fields. The absence of same-sex classrooms or schools can limit opportunities for girls to challenge gender stereotypes and pursue STEM subjects with confidence [25]. In addition, boys and girls may have different learning styles and preferences. Mixed-gender schools may not always cater to the specific needs and learning styles of each gender, potentially leading to disparities in academic engagement and achievement. However, it is important to note the gendered behavior and differential treatment of girls and boys in mixed-sex schools, although overt discrimination against girls has declined over time.

Another concern associated with mixed-sex schools is the potential for perpetuating gender stereotypes and limiting career aspirations. The presence of boys in the classroom can reinforce traditional gender roles and expectations, potentially influencing girls' interests, and choices [26]. Similarly, gender bias can still exist in classroom interactions, with teachers unintentionally treating boys and girls differently. This bias can impact students' self-esteem, confidence, and participation in classroom activities. It is argued that single-sex schools can provide a more supportive environment for challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equity. Additionally, the accessibility of gender-related self-knowledge can differ between single-sex and mixed-sex settings, impacting students' self-concept of ability in subjects considered inappropriate for their own sex.

It is argued that mixed-gender schools can create distractions and peer pressure that may impact students' focus on academics. Social interactions and romantic relationships can divert attention from academic activities. Also, the presence of the opposite sex can also lead to competition for attention from teachers, potentially affecting students' learning experiences. In other words, owing to the possibility of gender bias in schools, particularly regarding attention and participation, some genders may receive less teacher attention than their counterparts, resulting in unequal learning experiences, affecting their involvement and learning performance. Teachers must be aware of their prejudices and aim to provide equal attention and opportunities to all students. Besides, in some cases, mixed-gender schools may present challenges related to safety and well-being. Issues such as bullying, harassment, and gender-based violence can arise in mixed-gender environments, potentially affecting students' emotional well-being and sense of security [27]. Furthermore, the transition from single-sex schools to mixed-sex environments after graduation can pose challenges for students. Single-sex schooling aims to create a safe environment with reduced interaction with the opposite sex, but this may limit students' experiences and preparedness for mixed-sex spaces in post-school settings. The ability to navigate relationships with individuals of the opposite sex in university and workspaces can be affected by the lack of exposure to mixed-sex environments during schooling.

In conclusion, it is important to note that the disadvantages associated with mixed-gender schools can vary depending on the specific context, cultural norms, and individual experiences. Selection mechanisms and biases can also influence the interpretation of differences in educational outcomes between single-sex and mixed-sex schools. Some studies have questioned the benefits of single-sex schools, suggesting that any observed advantages may reflect pre-existing differences in ability, motivation, and background factors rather than the effects of the school environment itself. It is important to consider these selection mechanisms when evaluating the impact of school type on student outcomes. Additionally, the impact of these disadvantages can be mitigated through effective policies, teacher training, and creating inclusive and supportive learning environments.

7 The importance of diverse educational environments

Diverse educational environments have been recognized for their importance in various aspects of education. It is argued that diversity in educational settings can have positive impacts on democratic citizenship, environmental performance, knowledge gains, early childhood education, student engagement, and the development of competencies related to biocultural diversity and sustainable development.

Creating a diverse educational environment is of utmost importance and can lead to numerous positive outcomes for students. It is argued that diverse educational environments promote active thinking processes, intellectual engagement, and growth in academic skills [28]. Students in diverse environments have shown increased engagement, motivation, and critical thinking abilities. Additionally, exposure to diversity in the classroom can enhance students' understanding of different cultures, perspectives, and experiences, fostering empathy, and promoting democratic citizenship [29]. Also, the importance of diversity and inclusion in preparing students for the post-graduate work environment diversity has been highlighted [30][31].

Furthermore, a diverse educational environment can contribute to improved academic performance and reduced achievement gaps. Active learning environments, which are often associated with diversity, have been found to increase student performance and decrease failure rates [32]. Diverse classrooms provide opportunities for collaborative learning, where students can benefit from the diverse knowledge and perspectives of their peers [33]. This can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of complex topics and enhance problem-solving skills. It is critical to identify the institutional characteristics that influence students' ability to engage effectively with diversity. As a result, it is critical to promote diversity and inclusion promotion to establish inclusive educational environments that welcome and celebrate multiple identities [34][35].

In addition to academic benefits, a diverse educational environment prepares students for the realities of a diverse society and workforce. It helps students develop cultural competence, adaptability, and effective communication skills necessary for success in a globalized world [36]. Exposure to diversity also challenges stereotypes and biases, promoting tolerance, acceptance, and respect for others [37]. It contributes to the development of inclusive and equitable communities where individuals from different backgrounds can thrive. Moreover, a diverse educational environment supports the well-being and mental health of students. It creates a sense of belonging and validation for students from underrepresented groups, reducing feelings of isolation and marginalization [38]. Culturally responsive education and practices that honor students' identities and lived experiences contribute to creating a racially safe and affirming environment [39]. This, in turn, fosters a positive and supportive learning environment for all students. Therefore, in early childhood education, the importance of incorporating diversity and inclusion into practice and policy has been recognized [40] and in the context of knowledge gains and professional development, workshops and training programs on diversity, equity, and inclusion have been shown to improve attendees' knowledge and perceptions regarding diversity-related concepts and biases [41].

In conclusion, creating a diverse educational environment is crucial for promoting positive outcomes in terms of academic achievement, social development, cultural competence, and well-being. Exposure to diversity enhances critical thinking, empathy, and prepares students for the complexities of a diverse society. It is essential for educators and institutions to actively promote and embrace diversity to create inclusive and equitable learning environments. Further research and attention to these areas can contribute to the development of effective educational policies and practices that embrace diversity and foster positive outcomes for all learners.

8 Addressing disparities and promoting equality

To address disparities and promote equality in an educational institution, several strategies can be implemented. Firstly, it is important to focus on improving access to education for marginalized groups, including individuals from low-income backgrounds, racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities [42]. This can be achieved through targeted outreach programs, scholarships, and financial aid initiatives that aim to reduce barriers to education.

Additionally, efforts should be made to address gender disparities in education. This includes promoting equal opportunities for girls and women in traditionally male-dominated fields and addressing gender stereotypes that may limit career aspirations [43]. Creating a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages girls' participation in STEM subjects and providing mentorship and role models can help bridge the gender gap in education.

Furthermore, educational institutions should prioritize diversity and inclusion in their policies and practices. By embracing diversity, educational institutions can create a more equitable and enriching learning environment for all students. This involves creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for students from diverse backgrounds, including individuals from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds [44]. Implementing inclusive curriculum and teaching practices that reflect diverse perspectives and experiences can help foster a sense of belonging and promote equitable learning outcomes. To ensure educational equality, it is crucial to address disparities in resources and opportunities. This may involve equitable distribution of funding, ensuring access to quality educational materials and technology, and providing support services for students with diverse needs [45]. Efforts should also be made to reduce achievement gaps and provide targeted support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Legislation and policy changes can play a significant role in promoting educational equality. Governments and educational institutions should enact and enforce laws and policies that promote equal access to education, reduce disparities, and ensure equitable distribution of resources [46]. This requires equal access to education and protection against discrimination, which can help create a more equitable educational system. In other words, equal access to education refers to the principle that all individuals, regardless of their background or characteristics, should have the same opportunities to receive an education and equal access to education and protection against discrimination are fundamental principles that can contribute to the creation of a more equitable educational system. It is important to hold educational institutions accountable for promoting equality and address any systemic barriers that may perpetuate disparities. Legislation and policy changes can also play a significant role in promoting equality in education. This includes addressing issues such as school funding inequities and implementing policies that support inclusive and diverse educational environments.

Lastly, community engagement and awareness campaigns are essential in promoting equality in education. By raising awareness about the importance of educational equality and advocating for change, stakeholders can contribute to a collective effort to address disparities and promote a more inclusive educational system [47]. Community engagement and partnerships are essential in addressing disparities and promoting equality in education. Collaborating with community organizations, stakeholders, and families can help identify and address specific needs and challenges faced by marginalized groups [48]. Community-based initiatives, such as service learning and research projects, can provide opportunities for

students to participate in and contribute to their communities while promoting social justice and equality. Also, addressing disparities in educational leadership is crucial. Efforts should be made to increase representation and opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, in leadership positions within educational institutions [49]. This can be achieved through targeted recruitment and retention strategies, mentorship programs, and professional development opportunities.

In conclusion, addressing disparities and promoting equality in an educational institution require a multifaceted approach, which involve improving access to education, addressing gender disparities, prioritizing diversity and inclusion, promoting equitable leadership, enacting supportive legislation and policies, and engaging with communities. By implementing these strategies, educational institutions can create a more equitable and inclusive learning environment for all students.

9 Conclusion

In conclusion, the issue of same-sex and mixed-gender schooling is complex and multifaceted, influenced by political, philosophical, and religious factors. While mixed-gender schooling offers certain advantages, it is important to consider the potential disadvantages. Research suggests that mixed-gender schooling can contribute to gender disparities in attention and participation, reinforce gender stereotypes, limit career aspirations, and present challenges in creating an inclusive and equitable learning environment. Understanding these disadvantages is crucial for informed decision-making in educational policies and practices. It is essential to continue exploring and addressing these issues to create educational environments that promote equality, diversity, and positive student outcomes. By fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments, educational institutions can strive towards providing equal opportunities and experiences for all students, regardless of their gender or background. Addressing disparities and promoting equality in educational institutions are crucial for creating inclusive and equitable learning environments. By implementing strategies such as improving access to education, addressing gender disparities, prioritizing diversity, and inclusion, promoting equitable leadership, enacting supportive legislation and policies, and engaging with communities, educational institutions can work towards reducing disparities and promoting equality. These efforts are essential for ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to thrive academically, socially, and personally. Fostering inclusive and equitable educational environments can contribute to a more just and equitable society.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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