**Issue of Equal Participation in Sports and Physical Activity During Childhood**

Introduction

Achieving equity in education is central to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which emphasises inclusive, equitable quality education for all. Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to an education and that richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this. However, systemic inequalities based on gender, race, and disability persist, depriving millions of children and young people of the opportunity to reach their full potential. This briefing paper explores these barriers, the international frameworks supporting equity, and actionable steps that the committee can consider to ensure education systems leave no one behind.

Key Challenges to Equity in Education

Gender Inequality

Barriers:

• Cultural norms that prioritise boys’ education over girls’.

• Gender-based violence in and around schools.

• Economic pressures leading to early marriage

Impact:

• Girls are more likely to drop out of school

• Reduced opportunities for economic independence for women.

Racial and Ethnic Discrimination

Barriers:

• Systemic discrimination within education systems

• Lack of culturally relevant curricula.

Impact:

• Limited access to opportunities for marginalised communities.

                   Poor academic outcomes

• Intergenerational cycles of poverty and exclusion.

Disability Inclusion

Barriers:

• Inaccessible school buildings, learning materials and teaching

• Stigma and lack of teacher training on inclusive education.

Impact:

• Children with disabilities are less likely to attend school

                   Those who do often lack adequate support.

• Higher rates of exclusion and unemployment.

**International Frameworks Supporting Equity in Education**

1.Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):

• Article 28 emphasises the right to education without

discrimination.

2.Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against

Women (CEDAW):

• Calls for eliminating gender-based disparities in education.

3.Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

• Mandates inclusive education for children with disabilities.

4.UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring Report:

• Tracks progress on equity in education globally, providing

valuable data and recommendations.

Key Questions for Delegates

1. What policies can your country implement to address gender-based disparities in education?

2. How can your government address systemic racism and inequality in education systems?

3. What measures can your country take to ensure schools are inclusive for children with disabilities?

4. How can international collaboration improve equity in education globally?

Cross-cutting Issues and Recommendations

1. Financing Equity in Education:

• Advocate for increased funding for schools serving marginalised populations.

• Promote international financing mechanisms, such as the Global Partnership for Education.

2. Community Engagement:

• Empower local communities to support education equity through grassroots advocacy and awareness campaigns.

3. Data and Monitoring:

• Strengthen national education data systems to identify and address disparities.

• Use equity-focused indicators to monitor progress under SDG 4.

**Conclusion**

Delegates to the Youth Committee must champion policies that ensure no child is left behind, regardless of gender, race, or disability. By advocating for inclusive policies, international collaboration, and innovative programs, the committee can advance SDG 4’s vision of equitable education for all.

**Sources of Information**

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

UN Sustainable Development

<https://sdgs.un.org/>

UN SDG 4

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4#targets_and_indicators>

UNESCO A guide for ensuring inclusion and equity in education

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000248254>

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

UNESCO 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report

<https://gem-report-2023.unesco.org/>

Exploring Equity: Dis/ability

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/ideas/usable-knowledge/21/02/exploring-equity-disability>

UNESCO Promoting Gender Equity in and through Education

<https://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/articles/promoting-gender-equity-and-through-education>

UNICEF Let Us Learn

<https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/4611/file/UNICEF-Let-Us-Learn-Executive-Summary-2022.pdf>

Global Partnership for Education

<https://www.globalpartnership.org/>