

**REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE REPORT OF THE OHCHR ON  
REALIZING THE EQUAL ENJOYMENT OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION BY EVERY GIRL, PURSUANT TO  
HRC RESOLUTION 32/20 OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

1) **What are the concrete steps your Government or organisation has taken to ensure the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl? Please also elaborate on the impact these steps have had, where appropriate.**

- The government of Mauritius provides free education to its citizens from primary to tertiary levels. Since July 2005, the government has also introduced free transport for all students. Examination's fees for School Certificate and Higher School Certificate are exclusively paid by Government since 2015. Schooling is compulsory up to the age of 16. For these reasons, the percentage of people receiving formal education in Mauritius is quite high i.e. 98%.

- **Pre-primary Schools**

Enrolment in pre-primary schools has decreased since 2006, as shown in the following table:

*Table 1: Pre-primary enrolment and Gross Enrolment Ratio<sup>1</sup> (4-5 years) by sex, 2006 – 2016*

Year	Republic of Mauritius					
	Enrolment			Gross Enrolment Ratio		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2006	37,129	18,730	18,399	99	98	100
2007	36,467	18,362	18,105	97	95	99
2008	36,242	18,263	17,979	96	95	97
2009	35,974	18,097	17,877	96	95	97
2010	35,139	17,991	17,148	95	96	94
2011	33,901	17,282	16,619	97	97	98
2012	33,518	16,960	16,558	100	100	101
2013	31,419	15,902	15,517	98	99	97
2014	30,142	15,155	14,987	98	98	98
2015	29,832	15,013	14,819	101	101	101
2016	28,866	14,594	14,272	100		

- It is to be noted, however, that only about 20% of these schools are run by Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA, formerly known as the Pre-School Trust Fund). The remaining 80% are privately run by either Roman Catholic Authority (RCA) or Hindu Education Authority, Municipal/Village Councils, non-government organisations or private individuals. Pre-primary schools run by ECCEA are free, whereas the others are fee-paying schools, with Government subsidizing pupils going to private pre-primary schools.
- As can be seen in Table 1, from 2006 to 2015 the percentage of girls going to pre-primary schools has always been nearly the same as, if not more than, the percentage for boys. Decrease in enrolment rate is due to decrease in the population.

- **Primary Schools**

Like pre-primary schools, enrolment in primary schools has been gradually decreasing since 2005, both for boys and girls. It is to be noted that in Mauritius, education is compulsory at primary level. Primary education is also free in Mauritius, except for the private non-aided fee-paying schools.

From Table 2 below we see that the percentage of girls attending primary schools is as high as the percentage for boys.

*Table 2: Primary enrolment and Gross Enrolment Ratio<sup>1</sup> (5-10 years) by sex, 2005 – 2016*

Year	Republic of Mauritius					
	Enrolment			Gross Enrolment Ratio		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2005	123,562	62,729	60,833	103	103	103
2006	121,387	61,687	59,700	102	102	102
2007	119,310	60,641	58,669	101	101	101
2008	119,022	60,693	58,329	101	101	101
2009	117,922	59,948	57,974	101	101	101
2010	117,432	59,672	57,760	101	101	101
2011	116,068	58,935	57,133	101	101	102
2012	113,634	57,748	55,886	102	102	102
2013	108,853	55,022	53,831	100	100	101
2014	105,300	53,160	52,140	101	100	102
2015	101,422	51,287	50,135	97	97	98
2016	97,300	49,623	47,677	97		

- In 2016, most schools (221) are run by government, 51 by Roman Catholic Education Authority (RCEA), 2 by the Hindu Education Authority and the remaining 44 are private non-aided schools.



– Certificate of Primary Education (CPE)

In Mauritius not only do girls have the same chance as boys of having access to primary school but their performance at CPE (Certificate of Primary Education) exam, held at the end of primary education, is better than that of boys, as shown below in Table 3:

*Table 3: Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination results - 2005 – 2015  
School Candidates only*

Year	Republic of Mauritius								
	Number examined			Number passed			% passed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2005	27,117	13,981	13,136	17,596	8,244	9,352	64.9	59.0	71.2
2006	25,007	12,942	12,065	16,987	8,028	8,959	67.9	62.0	74.3
2007	24,050	12,368	11,682	15,915	7,428	8,487	66.2	60.1	72.7
2008	23,664	12,299	11,365	15,957	7,633	8,324	67.4	62.1	73.2
2009	22,620	11,764	10,856	15,411	7,328	8,083	68.1	62.3	74.5
2010	23,156	12,048	11,108	15,871	7,604	8,267	68.5	63.1	74.4
2011	23,176	12,055	11,121	15,890	7,561	8,329	68.6	62.7	74.9
2012	22,697	11,716	10,981	15,613	7,319	8,294	68.8	62.5	75.5
2013	22,419	11,626	10,793	16,762	8,016	8,746	74.8	68.9	81.0
2014	20,717	10,688	10,029	15,108	7,117	7,991	72.9	66.6	79.7
2015	20,434	10,463	9,971	15,153	7,103	8,050	74.2	67.9	80.7

– Secondary schools

**Secondary education (General)**

Secondary education is free in Mauritius since 1977.

There are 173 secondary schools in Mauritius, out of which 68 are run by the State, while the remaining 105 are private aided or non-aided schools. The number of students enrolled in secondary schools has been decreasing over the past years. However, figures show that from 2005 to 2015 there have always been more girls enrolled in secondary schools than boys. In 2016, 52% of secondary school students were girls.

Table 4: Secondary enrolment and Gross Enrolment Ratio<sup>1</sup> (12-19 years) by sex, 2005 – 2015

Year	Republic of Mauritius					
	Enrolment			Gross Enrolment Ratio		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2005	110,287	52,988	57,299	69	65	72
2006	114,657	55,136	59,521	70	67	74
2007	116,706	56,097	60,609	71	67	74
2008	116,503	55,873	60,630	70	67	74
2009	116,226	55,389	60,837	71	67	75
2010	115,003	54,855	60,148	71	67	75
2011	115,289	55,188	60,101	72	68	76
2012	115,677	55,374	60,303	73	69	77
2013	113,872	54,391	59,481	72	68	76
2014	114,239	54,590	59,649	73	69	78
2015	114,311	54,694	59,617	73	69	78

– Cambridge School Certificate (SC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC)

As with the CPE examination results, girls perform better than boys, as shown in Tables 5 and 6:

Table 5: Cambridge School Certificate (SC) Examination results Republic of Mauritius, 2004 - 2015

Year	Republic of Mauritius								
	Number examined			Number passed			% passed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2004	14,809	6,876	7,933	11,483	5,184	6,299	77.5	75.4	79.4
2005	15,501	7,316	8,185	12,149	5,503	6,646	78.4	75.2	81.2
2006	16,448	7,790	8,658	12,971	5,803	7,168	78.9	74.5	82.8
2007	17,343	8,213	9,130	13,298	5,889	7,409	76.7	71.7	81.2
2008	17,794	8,262	9,532	13,617	5,908	7,709	76.5	71.5	80.9
2009	17,498	8,124	9,374	13,586	5,840	7,746	77.6	71.9	82.6
2010	17,487	8,170	9,317	13,609	5,987	7,622	77.8	73.3	81.8
2011	17,192	8,080	9,112	13,194	5,799	7,395	76.7	71.8	81.2
2012	16,885	7,799	9,086	12,788	5,431	7,357	75.7	69.6	81.0
2013	15,890	7,277	8,613	11,914	5,117	6,797	75.0	70.3	78.9
2014	15,632	7,061	8,571	11,475	4,951	6,524	73.4	70.1	76.1
2015	15,675	7,205	8,470	11,365	4,894	6,471	72.5	67.9	76.4

Table 6: Cambridge Higher School Certificate (HSC) Examination results Republic of Mauritius, 2004 – 2015

Year	Republic of Mauritius								
	Number examined			Number passed			% passed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2004	6,883	3,209	3,674	5,245	2,328	2,917	76.2	72.5	79.4
2005	7,274	3,301	3,973	5,686	2,430	3,256	78.2	73.6	82.0
2006	8,040	3,698	4,342	6,376	2,769	3,607	79.3	74.9	83.1
2007	8,517	3,896	4,621	6,622	2,842	3,780	77.8	72.9	81.8
2008	8,907	3,999	4,908	7,011	2,976	4,035	78.7	74.4	82.2
2009	9,490	4,034	5,456	7,475	2,995	4,480	78.8	74.2	82.1
2010	9,813	4,146	5,667	7,687	3,055	4,632	78.3	73.7	81.7
2011	10,081	4,283	5,798	7,995	3,224	4,771	79.3	75.3	82.3
2012	10,414	4,326	6,088	8,242	3,235	5,007	79.1	74.8	82.2
2013	10,287	4,293	5,994	8,017	3,174	4,843	77.9	73.9	80.8
2014	10,429	4,252	6,177	7,863	2,977	4,886	75.4	70.0	79.1
2015	10,285	4,336	5,949	7,746	3,120	4,626	75.3	72.0	77.8

– **Secondary education (Pre-vocational)**

On the whole there are more boys enrolled in schools offering pre-vocational education. As at March 2016, there were 9792 students enrolled in schools offering pre-vocational education, 66% of whom were boys. It is only in the Pre-Vocational Sector that less girls than boys are enrolled. There is therefore need to address this issue so that girls' enrolment in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector be bettered.

2) **Which measures would your Government or organisation propose and implement in order to eliminate gender disparities in education by 2030, taking into account goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other relevant SDGs?**

- There hardly are gender disparities in education in Mauritius, as girls and boys have equal access to education both at primary and secondary levels, but it has been noted that in secondary schools certain subjects are limited to boys' or girls' schools only.
- The government could encourage boys' schools to include subjects like Design and Textiles or Food Studies, and girls' schools to include Design and Technology in their respective curricula, as these subjects should not be considered as boy's or girls' subjects.

- This idea is being explored and therefore may have a cascading effect on the to-be established Academy.

**3) What are the challenges that *your Government or organisation* faces in implementing policies and programmes towards the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl? Please elaborate on the nature of these challenges and the steps taken to address them.**

- No girl is at a disadvantage in the Mauritian education system as both sexes enjoy the parity of esteem. The only issue that the Min/Education envisages to address is the increase in the number of girls in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector.

**4) In the view of your Government or organisation, what are the obstacles and barriers faced by girls in particular in effectively accessing education? Please elaborate on the nature of these obstacles, how they manifest in practice, and what steps have been taken to address them.**

- As a real Democracy favouring freedom in all its forms, Mauritius has always given equal opportunities to both sexes with regard to education. Girls have been so involved in the system, and have taken their studies so seriously that they are outperforming boys, right from the primary to the tertiary levels as witnessed by final exams results.
- Access to education is a regular feature for both genders in the Republic of Mauritius.

**5) Does your Government or organisation have experience with the use of qualitative and quantitative indicators to assist in monitoring the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education of every girl, and if so, which have been used and why?**

- In view of the replies given at 1-4, this question does not arise as a matter of fact.