

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

1. The Compulsory Education Act was enacted and have been enforced since 2007. It provides for 9 years compulsory education for all children “above the age of 6 years who has not yet attained the age of 15 years and who are –
  - (a) born on or after 1st January, 2002;
  - (b) a citizen of Brunei Darussalam; and
  - (c) residing in Brunei Darussalam,

The Act is implemented for students who fail to regularly attend primary and secondary school, regardless of gender. The Compulsory Education Act is supplemented by the 12 years education policy which requires the students to be provided with education from pre-school to upper secondary or vocational and technical education.

2. Other than primary and secondary schools, Muslim students attend, in addition, religious schools and where the Compulsory Religious Education Act applies. Through the enforcement of both Acts, Brunei Darussalam protects the right to education by every girl. Where students, particularly girls require protection, they would be referred to the relevant agencies under the Children and Young Persons Act and steps are taken to minimize disruption to their education.
3. Continuing Education Section – evening classes/courses are available. There are two types of classes: (i) Public Service Classes (academic subjects); and (ii) Continuing Education Classes (languages; cooking, secretary course). It is open to all. Class (i) applicant must be 12 years old and above; whereas Class (ii) applicant must be 15 years and above.

Also, most schools in Brunei provide platform for students to participate in activities such as cultural activities, debate, etc. as well as uniformed associations such as scouts and girl guides which give opportunities for student to demonstrate their abilities in non-academic activities.

## 2. Which measures would your Government or organization 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?

According to Brunei Darussalam National Education for All Report 2015:

### 1. Goal 2: Universal Primary Education

**Ensuring that by 2015, all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality.**

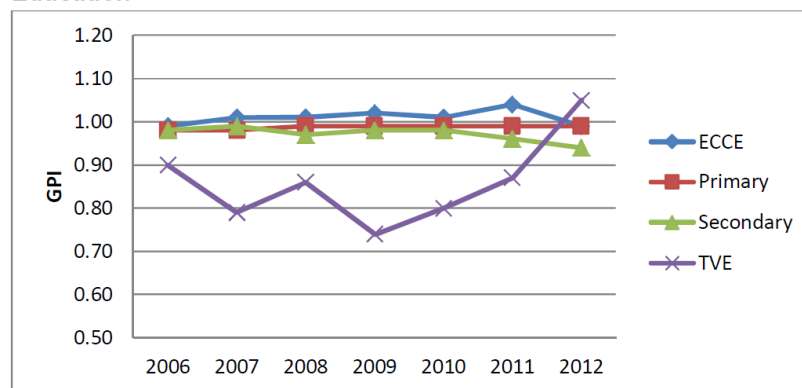
Brunei Darussalam has charted significant progress in the provision of access to quality basic education. The government is fully committed to providing quality education through the National Education Order 2007. This is supported by infrastructure development and capacity building as well as the strong foundation made possible through the Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) provisions.

### 2. Goal 5: Gender Parity and Equality in Education

**Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality**

Figure 2.23 below shows the Gender Parity Index (GPI) for the Gross Intake Rate (GIR) and the Net Intake Rate (NIR).

Figure 2.23: GPI for GER at ECCE, Primary, Secondary and Technical & Vocational Education



Source: DPDR, MoE (2006 – 2012)

Here, we can see that gender parity has been achieved since 2006 at ECCE, Primary and Secondary as indicated by the GPI. Even for ECCE, the boys started out

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 32/20 of the Human Rights Council (BRUNEI DARUSSALAM)

disadvantaged (1.04) but came close to parity in 2011. In addition to this, the GPI for Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) for Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) also shows significant shift to 1.05, favoring girls due to more female enrolment in 2012.

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

In terms of access to education for girls, Brunei Darussalam has endeavored to further lower barriers to education by providing free universal primary education; free secondary education for citizens and permanent residents and at a nominal fee for foreign students. As a result, we have seen high enrolment rates of almost 100% in conjunction with the active enforcement of compulsory education. Also, Brunei Darussalam practices equal opportunities to education for all, including across gender. So far, there is no apparent limit to the provision of education in our country and in fact, we are faced with the phenomenon that female is doing better than male in education, as can be seen in the enrolment into our pre-university programme and higher education (see the following table).

*Table 1: Data as of 30 Sept, 2015 (Source: Data Management Section, DPDR, MoE)*

<b>Pre-university Programme and Higher education enrolment</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>%M</b>	<b>%F</b>
<b>(1) Sixth Form Education</b>	2180	2878	5058	43.1%	56.9%
<b>(2) Vocational Technical Education (Equivalent to 6th Form)</b>	1644	1361	3005	54.7%	45.3%
<b>(3) Higher Education</b>	4643	7063	11706	39.7%	60.3%

**4. In the view of your Government or organization, 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.**

In view of the above context, providing access to education is not a challenge that is relevant for Brunei.

**5. Does your Government or organization have experienced with the use of qualitative and quantitative indicators to assist in monitoring the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, and if so. Which have been used and why?**

In regards to the use of quantitative indicators, Brunei has used ratios and Index such as the Gross Intake Ratios, Gross Enrolment ratios and Gender Parity Index.

(As per published at the Brunei Darussalam National Education for All Report 2015 and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.)