

the promotion of women's rights is often discussed as a moral imperative. If there is one thought I can impress upon you today, it is the absolute imperative of girls' education. While there is clearly no silver bullet for poverty reduction, many would argue that educating girls is the rocket booster of development. Educated women experience significantly lower child mortality, generate more income and are far more likely to educate their children than women with little or no schooling, creating a virtuous cycle for the community and the country. The outcome is not trivial—for example, increases in female income improve child survival rates 20 times more than increases in male income. In this article