

GENDER POLICY STATEMENT

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource reaffirms its commitment to gender equality and inclusiveness across all levels of the education system. The Ministry ensures that the perspectives, needs, and lived experiences of learners, educators and stakeholders, irrespective of gender are fully integrated in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of education policies, programmes, and initiatives.

The Ministry has achieved the following:

-  sustaining high performance on education indicators, particularly in accessibility, availability, quality, and affordability of education for all learners.
-  providing free education at all levels up to the first undergraduate degree, guaranteeing equal opportunities for boys and girls across the system.
-  maintaining gender parity in enrolment at pre-primary, primary, and secondary levels.
-  ensuring gender parity in literacy at all levels in education sector with a focus on pre-primary, primary, secondary, special education needs and technical education.
-  strengthening comprehensive sexuality education, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, in line with international technical guidance. Emphasis is placed on age-appropriate, values-based education to support healthy relationships and respect for diversity.
-  introducing awareness and sensitisation programmes in schools to combat stereotypes and promote positive gender relations.

GENDER-RELATED CHALLENGES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN MAURITIUS

-  Addressing under-representation of girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) pathways and careers;
-  Tackling underperformance and disengagement of boys at primary and secondary levels;
-  Developing and implementing systematic Gender Action Plans in all educational institutions; and
-  Challenging entrenched gender stereotypes and cultural barriers which influence subject and career choices.

GENDER RESPONSIVE STRATEGIES/ACTIONS

-  Promoting girls' participation in STEM through career guidance, mentorship, STEM clubs, competitions, and targeted scholarships at secondary and tertiary levels.
-  Supporting boys' achievement through remedial programmes, alternative pedagogical approaches, and strengthened TVET pathways.
-  Developing and disseminating gender-responsive teaching and learning materials which are free of bias and promote inclusiveness.
-  Mainstreaming gender policies in all TVET and educational institutions, with targeted advocacy for institutional gender policies and reporting mechanisms.
-  Sensitising parents and communities to challenge gender stereotypes, support equal opportunities and promote positive learning environments.
-  Enhancing capacity-building programmes for educators, school leaders, and administrative staff on gender equality, gender-based violence prevention, and inclusive education practices.
-  Implementing transformative school-based programmes promoting respect, equity, and safe spaces for all learners.
-  Strengthening of monitoring and data collection mechanisms to track gender-related progress and guide evidence-based policymaking.

Through these initiatives, the Ministry remains committed to building an education system which not only guarantees equitable access to quality education and opportunities for all learners but also empowers girls and boys alike to realise their full potential in an environment free from gender-based barriers and discrimination.