

UNIT 6: GENDER EQUALITY

READING

Gender equality has been greatly promoted around the world. However, there are still many challenges that women face.

First of all, there are still girls who **are forced to** get married before the age of 18. In many places, parents may see child marriage as a way to protect their daughters from violence. However, many of these young girls become victims of **domestic violence**. Child marriage also carries serious health risks as young girls are not physically developed to give birth.

Secondly, more than half of the world's **uneducated** people are women. This means fewer girls than boys go to school or stay long at school. Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young. They can also have better job skills and can earn higher salaries. Education gives girls the opportunity to have a better life and give back to their communities.

Thirdly, women are often paid less than men. In other words, women have to work longer than men to earn the same amount of money. Differences in career choices might be one reason. Women tend to become nurses, secretaries, or shop assistants, which are **low-paying** jobs, while men choose high-paying careers as surgeons, airline pilots, or engineers.

Women are still not equal to men in today's society, and governments, organisations and individuals must work together to achieve gender equality.

Task 1. Match the highlighted words from the text with their correct definitions.

1. Domestic violence
2. Are forced
3. Uneducated
4. Low-paying

A. Cruel or violent treatment between people who live together.
B. Not having received a formal education at school.
C. Making very little money for the work that is done.
D. Made to do something against one's will.

Task 2. *True (T) or False (F).*

Statements	True	False
1. Parents always force their daughters to marry early because they hate them.		
2. Child marriage can cause health problems for young girls.		
3. Men make up the majority of uneducated people in the world.		
4. Education can help girls avoid getting married at a very young age.		
5. Men and women always receive the same salary for the same amount of work.		

Task 3. *Choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.*

1. What is a major health risk mentioned in the text?

- A. Obesity.
- B. Giving birth when the body is not ready.
- C. Lack of exercise.
- D. Eye problems from studying.

2. Why do fewer girls go to school according to the text?

- A. They are lazier than boys.
- B. They prefer to stay at home.
- C. They are part of the world's uneducated majority.
- D. Schools are too far away.

3. What is ONE benefit of education for girls?

- A. They can buy more expensive clothes.
- B. They can earn higher salaries.
- C. They don't have to work at all.
- D. They can travel the world.

4. Why is there a pay gap between men and women according to the third paragraph?

- A. Women work fewer hours.
- B. Men are naturally smarter.
- C. Differences in career choices.
- D. Women don't like money.

5. Who needs to work together to achieve gender equality?

- A. Only governments.
- B. Only individuals.
- C. Only international organisations.
- D. Governments, organisations, and individuals.

Task 4. Choose the letter A, B, C or D to complete the passage below.

When people think of domestic abuse, they often focus _____ (1) domestic violence. But domestic abuse includes any attempt by one person in _____ (2) intimate relationship or marriage to dominate and control the other. Domestic violence and abuse are used for one purpose and one purpose only: _____ (3) and maintain total control over you. An abuser doesn't "play fair." Abusers use fear, guilt, shame, and intimidation to wear you down and keep you under _____ (4) thumb.

_____ (5) violence and abuse can happen to anyone; it does not discriminate. Abuse happens within heterosexual relationships and in same-sex partnerships. It _____ (6) within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels. And _____ (7) women are more often victimized, men also experience abuse - especially verbal and emotional. The bottom line is that abusive behavior is never _____ (8), whether from a man, woman, teenager, or an older adult. You deserve to feel valued, respected, and safe.

Domestic abuse often escalates _____ (9) threats and verbal assault to violence. And while physical injury may pose the most obvious danger, the emotional and psychological consequences of domestic abuse are also severe. Emotionally abusive relationships can destroy your self-worth, _____ (10) to anxiety and depression, and make you feel helpless and alone. No one should have to endure this kind of pain - and your first step to breaking free is recognizing that your relationship is abusive.

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|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. A. in | B. on | C. at | D. for |
| 2. A. a | B. an | C. the | D. x |
| 3. A. to gain | B. gain | C. gaining | D. gained |
| 4. A. your | B. his | C. her | D. their |
| 5. A. Domestic | B. Effective | C. Intimidate | D. Local |
| 6. A. occur | B. occurring | C. occurs | D. occurred |
| 7. A. when | B. what | C. while | D. that |
| 8. A. accept | B. acceptable | C. unacceptable | D. accepting |
| 9. A. from | B. on | C. with | D. at |
| 10. A. cause | B. result | C. come | D. lead |