The Culture of Equity: Globally & Nationally

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**How School Culture Affects the Achievement Gap**  
*Author: Ethan Trapani*

2 Types of Culture present in school environments  
- Psychological culture  
- Physical culture

**Psychological Culture**  
- Academic Resiliency  
- Deficit thinking

**Physical Culture**  
- Availability of teachers  
- Access to adequate resources (technology)

**Conclusion:**  
School culture can either widen or close the achievement gap. Deficit thinking, the lack of access to adequate resources and the lack of availability of teachers are all achievement gap wideners. More access to adequate resources and teachers, and academic resilience, are achievement gap closers.

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**Closing the Gender Gap. Period.**  
*Author: Lindsey Bronder*

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**Single-Sex Schools Versus Co-Ed Schools**  
*Author: Abbey Fresco*

**Pros of Co-Ed Schools:**  
- More developed social skills  
- Makes transition into the workforce easier  
- Lack of stereotyping and segregation

**Cons of Co-Ed Schools**  
- Different needs of male and females  
- Lower graduation rates  
- Heightened sense of pressure with both sexes present

**Pros of Single-Sex Schools:**  
- Lack of distraction and higher sense of confidence present  
- Low rates of teen pregnancy and STD contraction  
- Higher test scores produced

**Cons of Single-Sex Schools:**  
- Poor use of budget  
- Confusion when it comes to transgender students

**Conclusion:** Based on research, co-ed schools are more beneficial for students in terms of academic and social development.

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Photograph by Poulomi Basu from her series “A Ritual of Exile: Blood Speaks”.  
Mangu Basu, 14, pictured above said:  
“I want to grow up and be a teacher because I like going to school. When we go to school, we all sit together and there is no discrimination against menstruating women.”

**Menstruation-related factors affecting girls’ school attendance & success in developing countries:**  
- Shame & embarrassment  
- Lack of resources like sanitary pads & analgesics  
- Lacking quantity & quality of sanitary facilities  
- Lack of puberty education covering menstruation

**Solutions:**  
- Providing puberty education to address stigmas  
- Providing sanitary napkins  
- Provide adequate sanitary facilities

**Conclusion:**  
While the media & aid organizations view these menstruation-related factors as significant obstacles & these solutions as improving girls’ education, academics disagree over the extent of the issue & that the solutions really improve girls’ education.