

IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN OF SINGLE-GENDER SCHOOLS

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***Abstract.** This article deals with the impact of single-gender schools on pupils. First of all, we will give general information about these schools and differences between single-sex and co-educational ones. Then, in the next part of the article, advantage and disadvantage sides of these schools are explained with relevant examples. Finally, we will get acquainted with some studies conducted to analyze the impact of single-sex schools on pupils' achievements.*

***Key words.** Single-sex schools, single-gender schools, co-educational schools, all-girls school, all-boys school, girl and boy pupils, male and female pupils, A-level, O-level*

For many decades, single-sex schools have been a topic of much debate. Single gender education can be defined as an education administered where the environment consists of only one gender. The major distinction between co-educational schools and single-sex schools is the students. While co-educational learning happens in classrooms which have both boys and girls, single-sex education happens in classrooms which have either boys or girls. The purpose of this study is to list benefits and drawbacks of single-sex schools and recognize with the results of some researches. In a research, pupils of both co-educational schools and single gender schools were observed during a semester. Then, researchers assess their performance and conduct a research. The paper is structured as follows: The first section presents the perspectives of people who support these schools and people who contradict them. It means that the first part of the paper includes pros and cons of single-sex schooling and relevant examples of the ideas. Looking at the second part of the paper, it should be noted that some exact conducted researches are presented with their outcomes.

In this day and age, there is an ongoing debate regarding the implications for children of studying at the single-sex schools. Some argue that the same gender

schools contribute to pupils' achievements while others contend that this type of schools may lead to flat test scores. On the one hand, supporters of single-sex schools have undeniable facts about benefits of these schools. Firstly, when both genders are under one roof, there are prone to be more distractions in the classrooms. Both girls and boys are inclined to compete with each other during the lessons and it may distract them from their subjects. And it is obvious that single-sex schooling reduces these distractions and pupils are able to focus more on their subjects. [Shaswathi Bhanaukumar 2016:5] Along with the reduced distractions, single gender schools can offer more relaxing environment. An overwhelming number of boys and girls do not have to worry about impressing the opposite gender during the classes and it may be more relaxing for them. Both male and female pupils can discuss and speak out openly and honestly at schools because they do not think about any embarrassing situations among the opposite genders. [Sakshi Grover 2019:7] Last but not least, single-sex schooling may be a major contributor to the achievements of both boy and girl pupils. Teachers plan the curriculum according to pupils' interests. For instance, at the all-girls schools teachers can read books appealing to girls or they can teach some housework chores or about fashion. However, boys are not in line with them. They do not have to study the same subjects with the girls at single-sex schools [Sakshi Grover 2019:5-6]

On the other hand, opponents of single-sex schooling argue that they have several adverse impacts on children. Pupils studied at the same gender schools may have a hard time interacting with the opposite genders. This is because they have been surrounded by only boys or only girls during their school lives. But it is different in the real world. They have to earn for their livings and find a suitable job for them. In most jobs both male and females have to work together and it may be challenging for the people studied at the single-sex schools. Besides that, these people may have trouble getting married with somebody else in the future because of their schooling background. They are usually shy and do not get on with the opposite genders like a house on the fire. [Shaswathi Bhanaukumar, 2016:2-3] Another plausible problem is the lack of diversity while studying. In co-educational schooling, children have an opportunity to discuss a particular idea

with their peers and they may learn something new from the opposite genders. It really help pupils to broaden their horizon. [Shaswathi Bhanaukumar 2016:2-3] But when it comes to single-sex schools, they do not have any chance to listen other perspectives and discuss them. Furthermore, single gender schools can create gender stereotypes. Both genders start thinking that they are superior to the opposite gender and inevitably, it has negative consequences for their future, especially at their work lives [Lynn S Liben 2011:4-5]

An overwhelming number of studies examining the effects of single-sex schools have been conducted for several years. Findings of them have differed among countries. One of the first large scale studies of single-sex education was conducted in the USA. They examined first and second grade students in single-sex and co-educational of public education. The pupils of 2007-2008 school year were observed in this investigation. They were observed during all year and the data of measures of their academic achievement was accumulated by the researchers. Their academic achievement was measured via improvements in math and reading performance. The research was conducted between single-sex females and co-educational males, also between single-sex males and co-educational males. According to the outcomes of this study, it supports single-sex education for females, but not for males. [Katherine Bradley 2009:3-4]

Looking at the another study conducted by Sullivan et al in 2010, she took 16 year-old girls from both single-sex schools and co-educational schools and observed them during O-level exam (ordinary level exam). And she found out that the results were virtually the same although girls of single-sex schools had a little more chance to get good grades on exams. And then she observed 18 year-old girls during their A-level exams (Advanced level exam). She came across similar outcomes. The extent of achievement of both co-educational and single-sex school pupils were nearly the same. She did not find any difference between in overall achievement. [Bracey Gerald 2006:33-36]

In conclusion, while I admit that there are several benefits of single-sex schools for pupils, it is my firm conviction that these schools should be replaced by co-educational ones. This is because pupils who have graduated single-gender schools may have difficulty getting on with opposite genders in both their personal

lives and at their work. Looking at the results of the studies conducted by scientists, both of them showed that there is not any big distinction between single-sex schools and co-educational schools. The extent of achievement of the pupils is virtually similar in both schools. Thus, I would rather take my children to co-educational public schools in the future because they may struggle during their lives if they have studied at single-gender schools..

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SOME BENEFITS OF INTERACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Abstract. *This article examines the impact of social media on mental health, specifically focusing on the potential negative effects of excessive social media use. The authors analyze existing research and discuss how social media can contribute to feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and depression. The article also explores strategies for mitigating these negative effects, such as setting boundaries on social media usage and promoting real-life social interactions.*

Keywords. *Method, field, education, foreign languages.*