TIPS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS:
APPROACHING THE COVID-19 CRISIS
THROUGH GENDER LENSES

WHAT ARE SOME IMPORTANT GENDER IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

While the Covid-19 crisis affects all learners, as girls in the Arab Region are more prone to drop out, it is important to sustain girls’ motivation for learning and schooling during this difficult times.

It is also important that parents and teachers work together in identifying cases of vulnerable learners in danger of dropping out and finding solutions to keep them on track.

The Covid-19 crisis and its consequences, such as schooling interruption and social isolation, are very difficult to live with and may lead to increased levels of frustration and irascibility. Parents and teachers are therefore called upon to avoid all forms of biases/prejudices, discrimination and violence, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in both its physical and psychological forms.

Parents and Teachers are role models for their children and learners. It is thus important that parents and teachers deliver consistent messages about the fact that both boys and girls have a right to equally accessing and benefiting from quality learning opportunities; and that both boys and girls have to be equally supported to overcome this current major crisis.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ENSURE THAT GENDER DIMENSIONS ARE CONSIDERED?

Encourage both boys and girls to sustain their learning efforts in all areas, including in Math and Sciences (girls can do it, too!).

Avoid stereotyping learners, such as mentioning that some issues and tasks are rather for boys; or rather for girls.

Praise both girls and boys equally and fairly in assessing their learning efforts and results (both girls and boys need a good word!).

Ask both boys and girls to be fairly involved in house chores, such as cleaning, cooking, and taking care of younger siblings.

Lend your ear to their problems and be aware that both boys and girls need your psychological support, warmth and confidence.

Pay heed to potential early signs of depression, lack of hope and desire to leave school – and figure out how to keep both boys and girls on track.

Avoid physical, verbal and psychological violence that can hurt learners and can provide negative role models in managing crisis situations.

Engage both boys and girls in playing and learning together, learning from one another and assessing their progresses mutually.

Pay attention that both boys and girls develop skills to manage technology and encourage them to get involved in remote/online learning creatively.

RESOURCES

UNESCO:
https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse

UNESCO Office in Beirut:
https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/beirut