**POSITION PAPER:**

**Committee:** UNESCO

**Topic:** Expanding global educational opportunities and reducing inequalities in access to education

India; Located in the South Asian continent and with a bouquet of nearly a billion countries, it attracts attention with its rich cultural diversity and economic potential, as well as being the second most populous country in the world. However, it faces problems such as limited educational opportunities and gender inequality, especially in education. The conditions of education and the elimination of gender inequality have critical knowledge for the future of India.

In the education system in Indian history; The "Kothari Commission" established in 1964, the "National Education Policy" developed by the Indian government led by Indira Gandhi in 1968, and finally the "National Education Policy" approved by the parliament in 2020, are some of the important steps that played a role in shaping the education system. Although education is compulsory in India, many children, especially in rural areas, cannot attend school due to financial pressures, social norms and other barriers. In Turkey; education is compulsory and free, which has helped to increase the general level of education. There is a right to receive education until the age of 18. Gender inequality is quite evident in India. Girls' education is often overlooked due to cultural norms, economic difficulties and traditional perspectives of families. Child marriage and the emphasis on gender roles within the family restrict girls' access to education. In Turkey; Girls' stay away from school is a limited situation that usually occurs due to social and economic reasons.

First of all, the government and local governments need to invest more in improving educational opportunities. Expenditures on school construction, teacher training and provision of course materials will increase access to education. Increasing the number of schools that children, especially those living in rural areas, can access is an important step towards achieving equality in education. Regarding gender inequality; policies that support gender equality need to be created and implemented. The government should integrate gender equality issues into the education curriculum and encourage teaching on this subject. Successful female educators and leaders can be introduced to society as role models, and stories that will inspire girls can be shared. Scholarship and financial support programs should be created for girls; families should be helped to cover the cost of education. Awareness campaigns should be organized and families should be encouraged to educate their girls. In conclusion, a multifaceted approach is needed to improve educational opportunities and eliminate gender inequality in India. These goals can be achieved through the collaboration of the government, society and civil society organizations. When access to education and gender equality are achieved, India's social and economic development will accelerate and a more equitable society will be built.

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