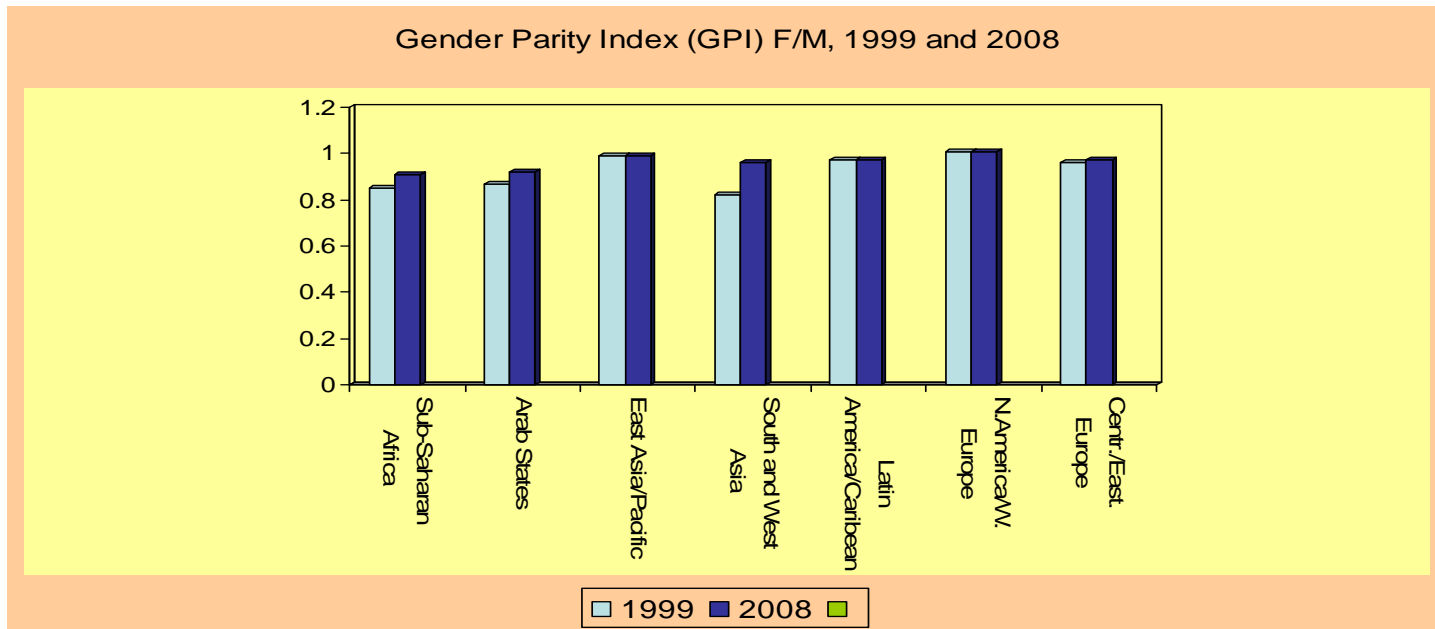


From Gender Parity to gender equality in education: Cause or Consequence?

Christopher Colclough
University of Cambridge

Progress towards Gender Parity

53% of out of school children are girls



Girls' enrolment lags behind boys' in 40% of countries at primary level

Disparities more extreme at secondary and tertiary levels

Parity on the road to equality – but the former strongly depends upon the extent of progress with the latter

Parity requires

equal proportions of girls and boys being enrolled in school

Equality requires

equal opportunities to attend school

equality in the learning process

equality of learning outcomes

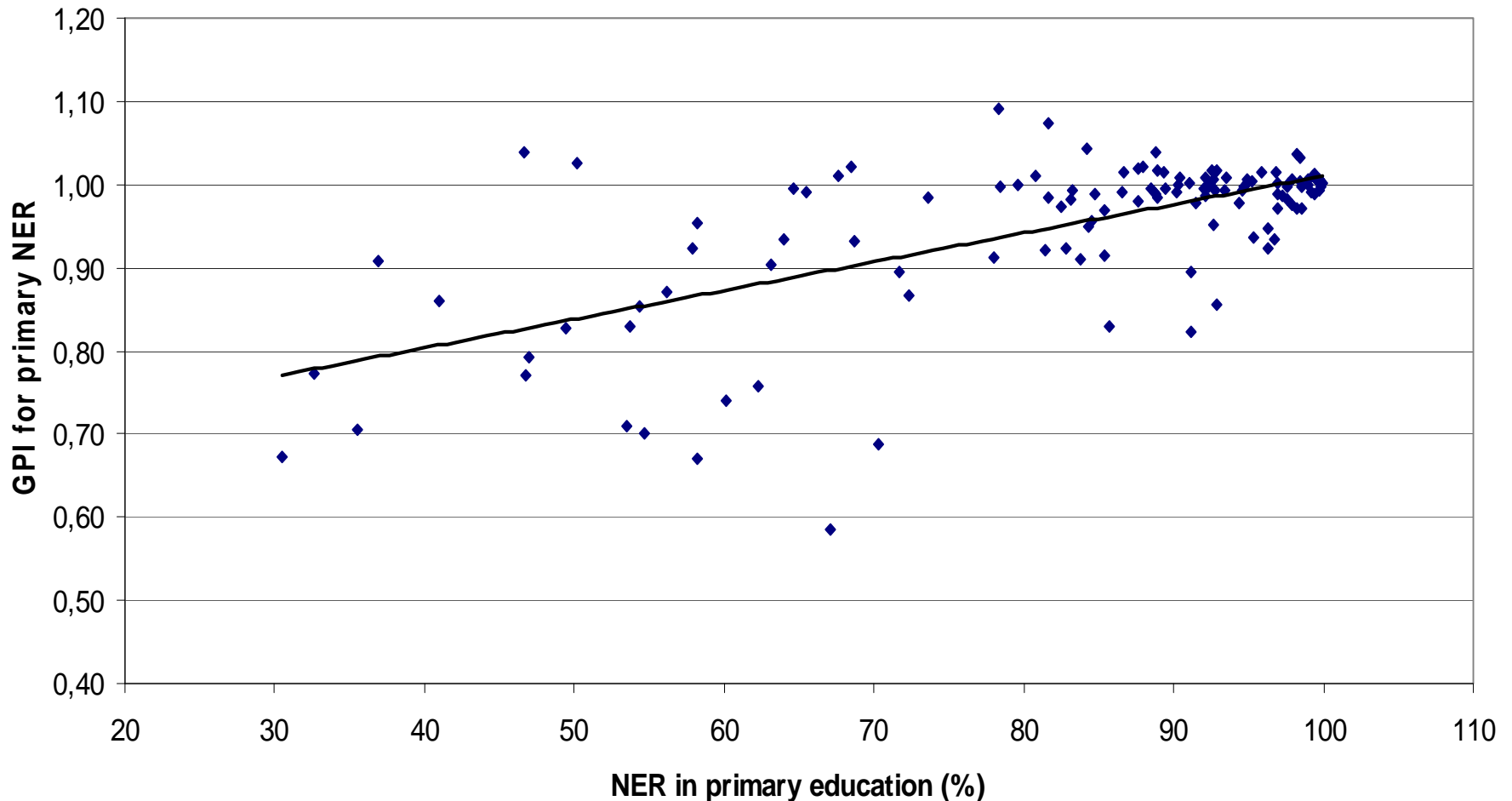
equality of job opportunities and earnings

In no country is this yet the case.

Inequality and enrolments

Where enrolment rates are low, boys are given preference in most countries and most regions

Scatter Plot of GPI against NER in primary education



Why girls are held back?



causes of inequality are diverse



Households and their context



Schools




Labour market

Households: values and poverty


- ➔ Impact of social norms and values
- ➔ How households allocate resources and opportunities
- ➔ Household poverty has more detrimental effect on decision to enrol a girl than a boy in school

Households: Child labour


211 million economically active children officially aged 5-14 years



Most of these have reduced access to education because of their work



In addition, there are many more child domestic workers, most of whom are girls



Parents are main employers of children

School Fees

Fees levied in at least 101 countries

Summary of fee survey results

	Countries with fees	Percentage of countries in survey	Countries with illegal fees	Percentage of fee-charging countries with illegal fees
At least one fee	77	97	n.a.	n.a.
Tuition fees	30	38	11	37
Textbook charges	37	47	12	32
Compulsory uniforms	39	49	0	0
PTA/community contribution	56	71	22	39
Activity fees	34	43	13	38

Traditions

Early marriage massively impedes educational progress

Married adolescents: percentage of 15-19 year olds married, various years

	Boys	Girls
Sub-Saharan Africa		
D. R. Congo	5	74
Niger	4	70
Congo	12	56
Uganda	11	50
Mali	5	50
Asia		
Afghanistan	9	54
Bangladesh	5	51
Nepal	14	42
Middle East		
Iraq	15	28
Syria	4	25
Yemen	5	24
Latin America and Caribbean		
Honduras	7	30

Countries with marked son preference have greatest levels of inequality
Cultural practices and rites of passage at puberty hinder girls' schooling

Schools

Schools are not always safe for girls

Girls required to do menial tasks

Teachers and prejudice

Sexism in textbooks

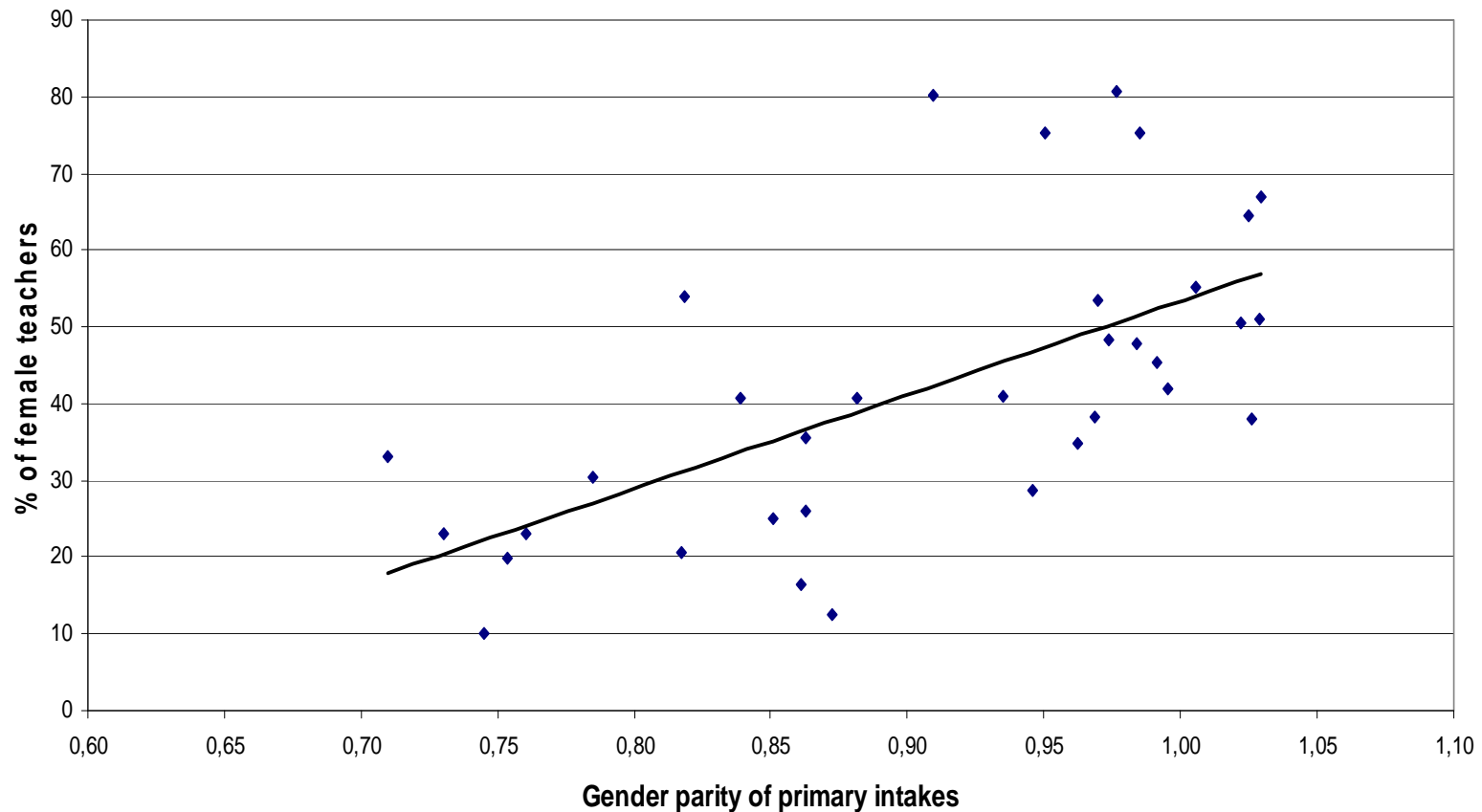
Lack of female role models

Poor school facilities and location

Create better places for learning

Recruit female teachers especially in rural and isolated schools
Highest gender disparities correlate with low number of female teachers

Sub-Saharan Africa: percentage of female teachers and gender parity in access to school



Beyond School

Girls outperform boys in some (mainly) industrialised countries

Girls underrepresented in science subjects

Occupational choice is strongly segmented

Wage and status differentials still overwhelmingly favour men

Summing Up

Resources are important

How they are spent is crucial

- Inputs
- Processes

For gender equality, changes are required which go well beyond education: not only in schools, but in households, labour market and society more broadly