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An Assessment of the Implementation of Gender Equity Policies in Schools in South Africa

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ABSTRACT The South African Constitution outlaws all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, cultural origin, age, religion and so forth. The post-Apartheid government of South Africa has put in place policies and programmes to enhance gender equality. In education different policies have been put in place to ensure gender equality at all levels and these are currently being implemented. This study examined the implementation of gender equality policies in schools in South Africa. Data was collected through observation and face to face interviews with twenty-five primary and high school teachers and two district education officials. The study revealed that boys and girls have equal access to the school system. Consequently, the new curriculum and most of learning materials in schools visited are gender sensitive. However, girls continue to be disadvantaged by the fact that classroom practice continue to favour boys and marginalize girls. The school environment does not promote favourable conditions for learning for girls as they are most affected by sexual violence.