

“What’s So Scary About Smart Girls?” by Nicholas Kristof

| Points that promote girls’ education | points that discourage girls’ education |
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| 1. Example of Bangladesh. It “gained independence, emphasized education.”—>Investments in women’s education grows economics and promotes stability. Grameen Bank, BRAC, and garment industry | A. fanatic find girls education threatening because it “transforms a society” and they do not want change —> tradition is important |
| 2. Girls education boosts the labor force—>great return investment | B. parents keep their children home and out of school to protect them from sexual assault (Girl Rising) —> sexual assault is prevalent in developing countries |
| 3. (To counter A.) Education allows girls to break tradition, shatter extremism, and evoke change. “The greatest threat to extremism isn’t drones firing missiles, but girls reading books.” | C. Boko Haram wants to keep the “nation mired in backwardness,” so kidnapping the best and the brightest helped them to accomplish that goal —> through suppression, BH keeps their girls away from school to maintain tradition |
| | D. education is not free in developing countries, so the expense is not one that is seen as necessary —> “Iran and Saudi Arabia have educated girls but refused to empower them.” |
| | E. Obama neglected to establish the “global fund for education” instead investing in military drone warfare —>president cares more about defense than education |
| | F. Iran and Saudi Arabia educate their girls, but do not give them opportunities to get jobs; they are not empowered—>therefore, there is no return on their investment if girls cannot take their education and give back to their communities |
| | G. “Boko Haram has a stronghold in Nigeria because it’s an area where education is weak and women are marginalized....Only 1 in 20 has completed high school. Half are married by age 15.”—> because of Boko Haran’s control, the women and girls are kept out of school because of safety, and also because it’s tradition to get them married young. “Stronghold” denotes violence, terror, and subjugation. |

Kristof, Nicholas. "What's So Scary About Smart Girls?" The New York Times. The New York Times, 10 May 2014. Web. 3 Nov. 2016.