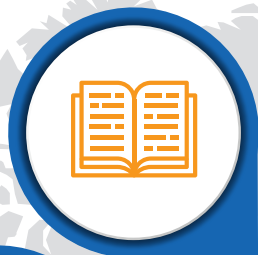


In many areas, women's lower literacy levels and lack of access to information impact access to vaccines and health services for themselves and their children.



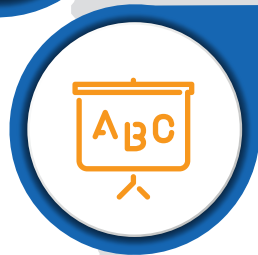
Gender inequalities in many places have restricted women's decision-making power about their children's health, including receiving vaccinations.



Due to gender norms, in some societies only women can access households to interact with mothers and deliver polio vaccines to their children. Women's participation is critical for polio eradication.



Lower education levels for women have been shown to be directly linked to lower immunization levels for their children.



In some societies, boys are more valued, with their health needs prioritized over girls'.



Women in some areas may not be allowed to travel to the health centre alone to get vaccines and health care for themselves and their children.



Where gender inequality persists, women often lack access to resources like money, transportation and time that are needed for seeking health services for themselves and their children.



Gender barriers operate with, and are affected by, several other barriers including socio-economic background, age, disability and ethnicity.



GENDER BARRIERS TO IMMUNIZATION