The territory where there is the biggest absolute gap between the enrolment of girls and boys in primary education is India. In India there are about 8 million fewer girls than boys enrolled in the first five years of education, ten times the number in any other territory.

Other territories where there is a big difference in the percentages of girls and boys enrolled in primary education are: Yemen, Chad, Benin and Niger. The 2.5 million fewer girls than boys enrolled in Northern Africa are just part of the 9 million girls that could be enrolled in the first five years of education there, but are not.

Territory size is proportional the world distribution of the excess male over female enrolment in primary education.

“That’s the main fear, that tomorrow you’ll be faced with a woman who says ‘No, I don’t want to’ to her parents, her husband and so on.”

Hasna Maki, 2004