



WHY NARRATIVES?

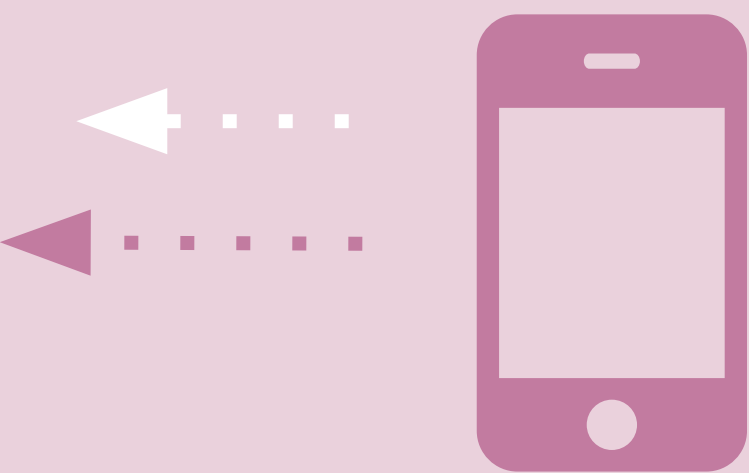
- A study by Penn State found that personal experiences/narratives led to an increase in engagement metrics.
- Evoke empathy by highlighting lived realities that quantitative data overlooks, making narratives powerful tools for shaping more responsive and humane policy reforms in girls' education.
 - Only 49% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education.

SOCIAL COMPLEXITY

- Narratives bring attention to cultural, social, and emotional dimensions, such as resilience, hope, fear – that stats tend to overlook.
- Stories highlight intersectional challenges—such as gender norms, family dynamics, or regional violence—that metrics don't fully capture.

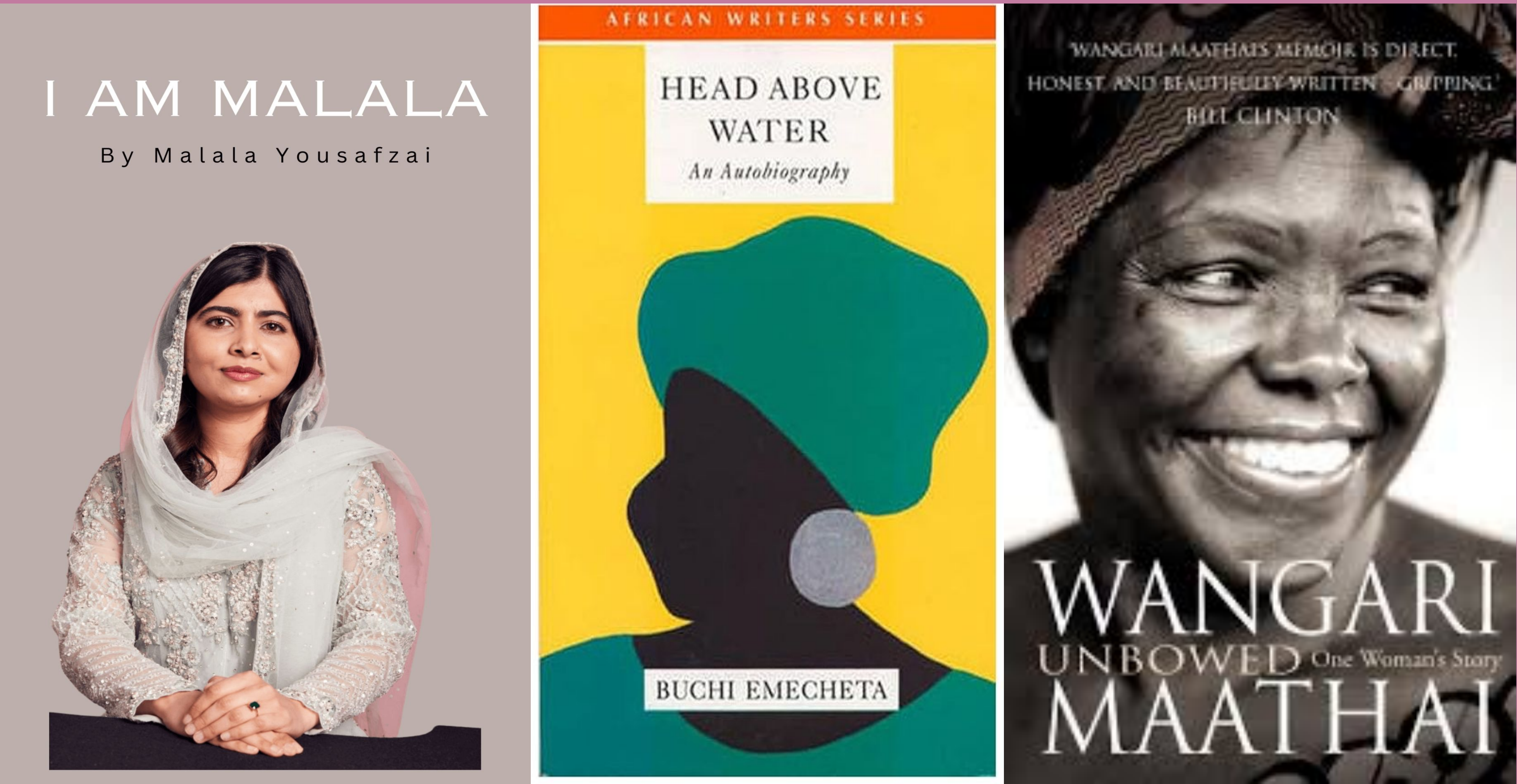


Sources



Stories That Shape Change: Narratives of Girls' Education

Personal narratives shape empathy within policy reforms by **humanizing** abstract issues, revealing **lived experiences**, and **highlighting** what data often obscures.



“One child, one teacher,
one book, and one pen can
change the world.”
—Malala Yousafzai

Presenter: Mallika Nair

BACKGROUND

Girls' education:

- Strengthens economies
- Reduces inequality
- Increases lifetime earnings of girls
- Raises national growth
- Decreases child mortality
- Educated girls are more likely to lead healthier and more productive lives

SOURCES & QUESTIONS

- Autobiographies like *I Am Malala*, *Head Above Water*, and *Unbowed* connect personal experiences with education, gender, and activism to public discourse.
- How do language and framing in narratives of girls' education evoke empathy and highlight lived experiences that are often hidden in policy data?

FINDINGS

- Narratives of girls overcoming educational barriers can humanize policy issues and rally support for specific reforms in access, safety, and funding.
- Personalization creates emotional connections, helping people empathize with individual struggles.