

Trend in Academic Performance Between Boys and Girls in Saudi Arabia: Any Justifications for the Differences?

Thematic Paper Session

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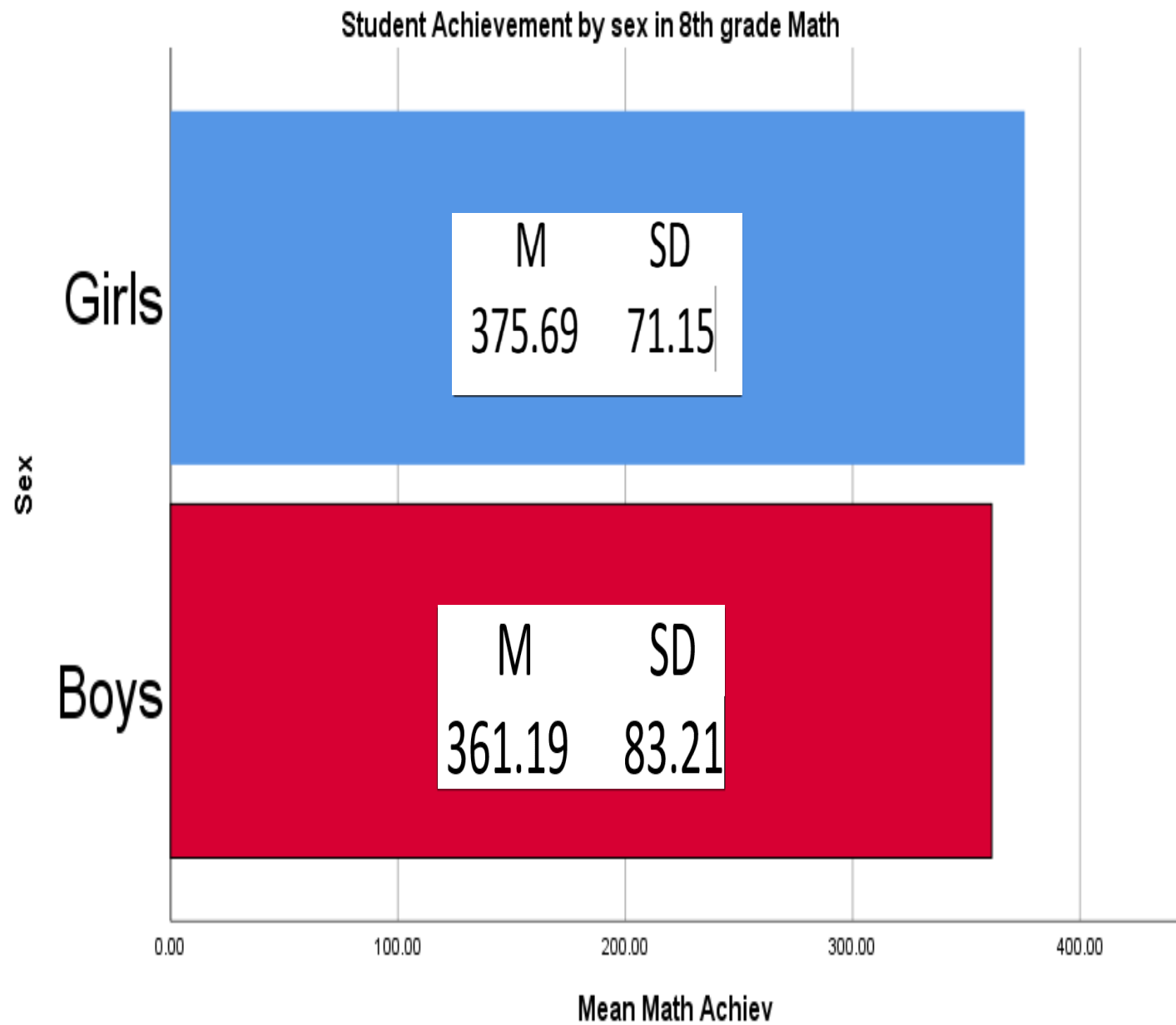
Academic performance between boys and girls

- ❖ Extensively studied in a variety of ways and disciplines.
- ❖ Findings very often tend to blame either the biological factor or the sociological factor:
 - Biological factor: boys and girls differ in brain structures, functionality, and regions of the brain.
 - Sociological factor: parents, schools, and the society—early on children are taught what it means to be a boy or girl through day-to-day distribution of tasks, which get confirmed through childhood into adolescence. Expectations, praises, and role-models from classroom teachers are also often cited as social factors contributing to the differences.

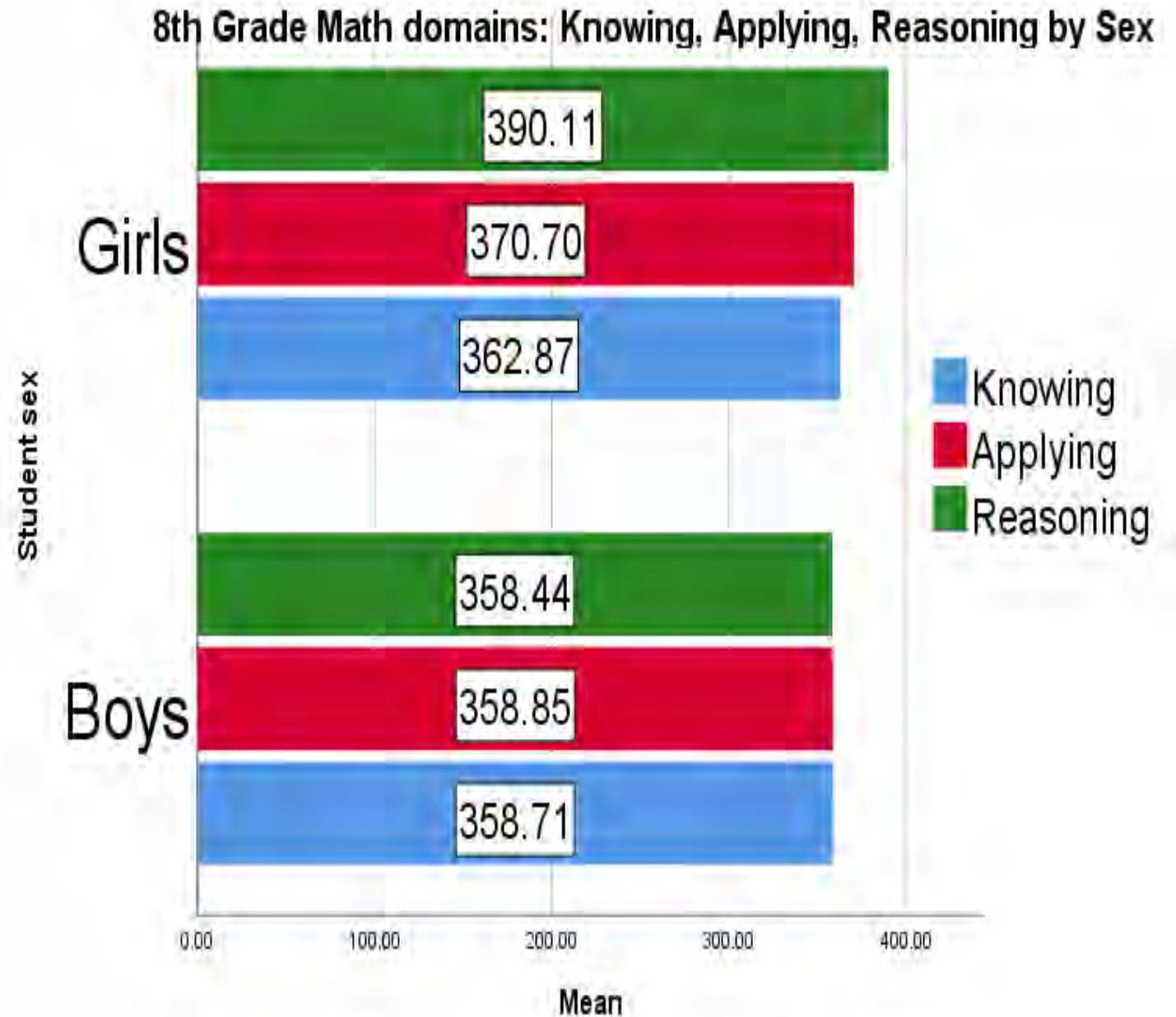
These arguments are used to assert that one group is better than the other in some subjects (Math and science for boys and reading for girls).

Where Saudi Arabia fits in these arguments?

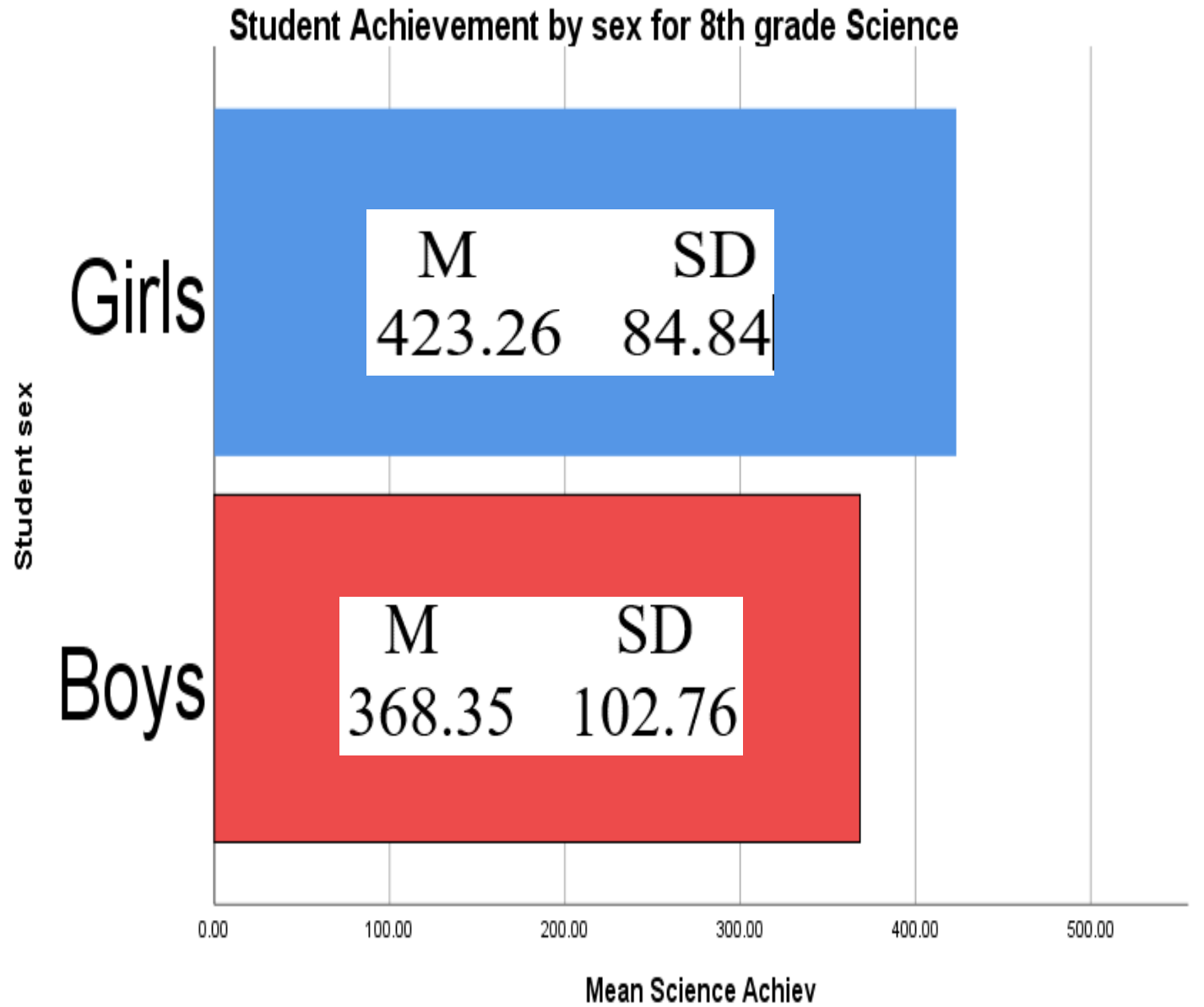
TIMSS 2015 (8th Grade)
Math Achievement
between boys and girls
in Saudi Arabia



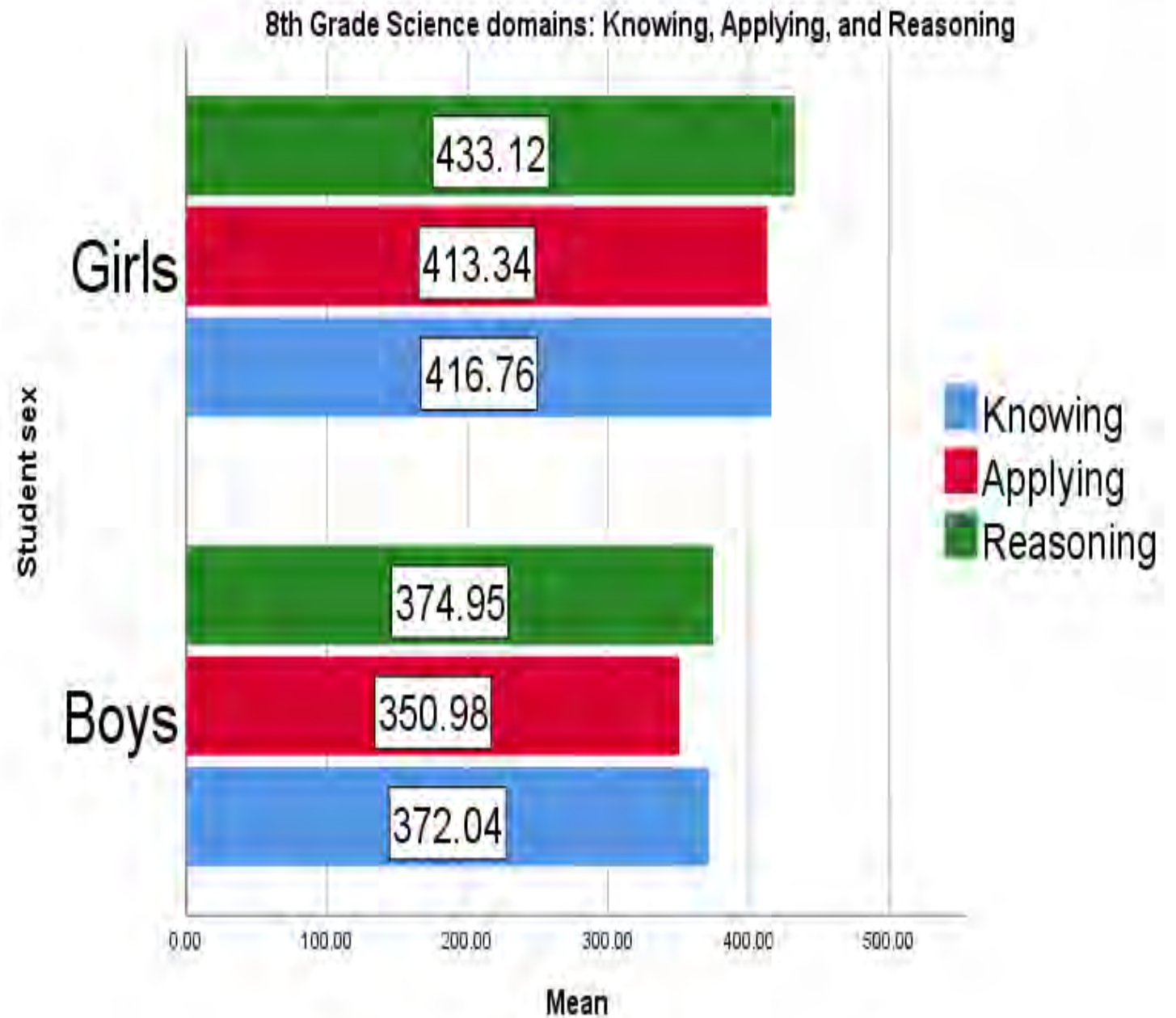
TIMSS 2015
(8th grade)
math achievement
by domains and sex
in Saudi Arabia



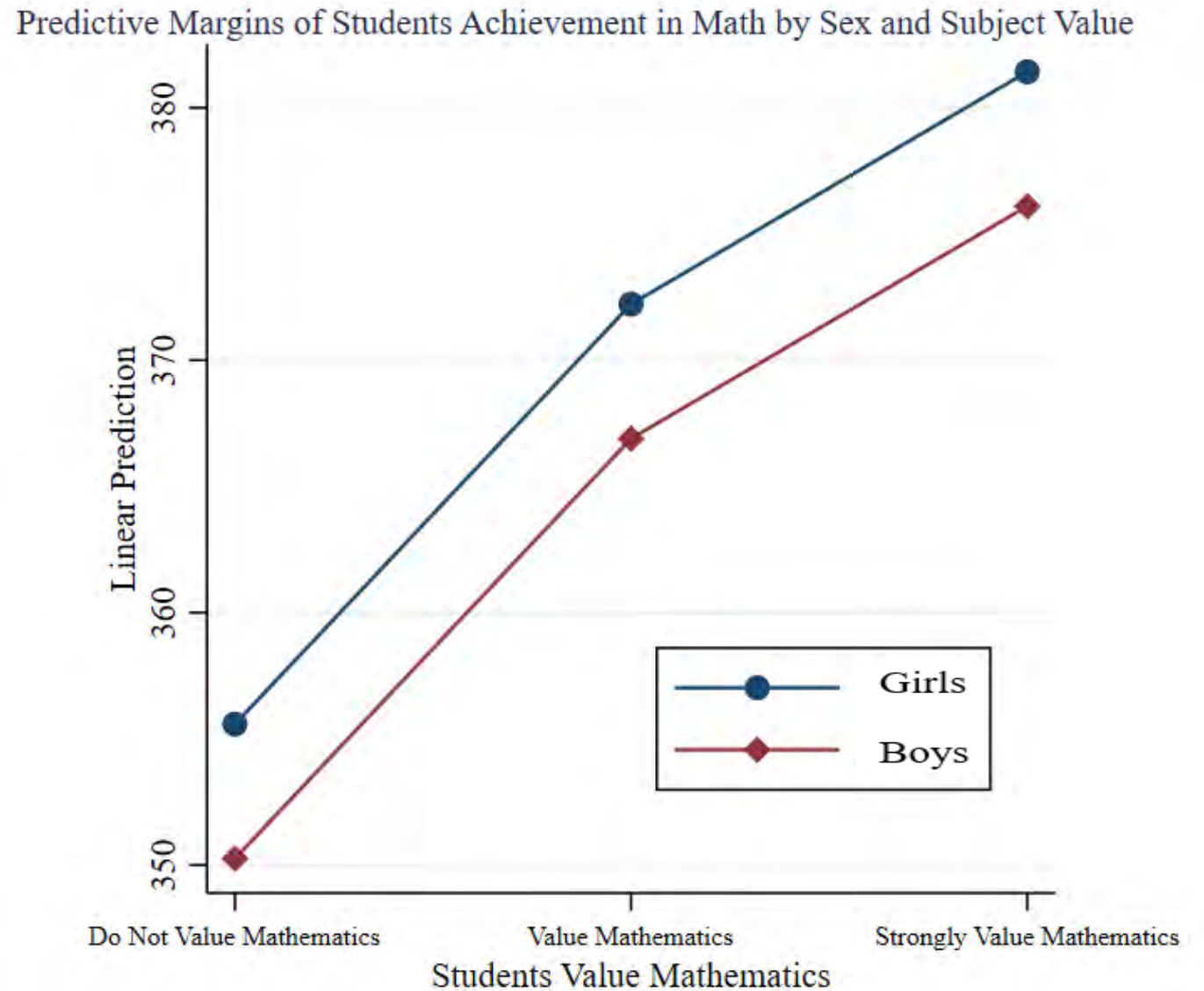
TIMSS 2015 (8th Grade)
Science Achievement
between boys and girls
in Saudi Arabia



TIMSS 2015
(8th grade)
Science achievement
by domains and sex in
Saudi Arabia

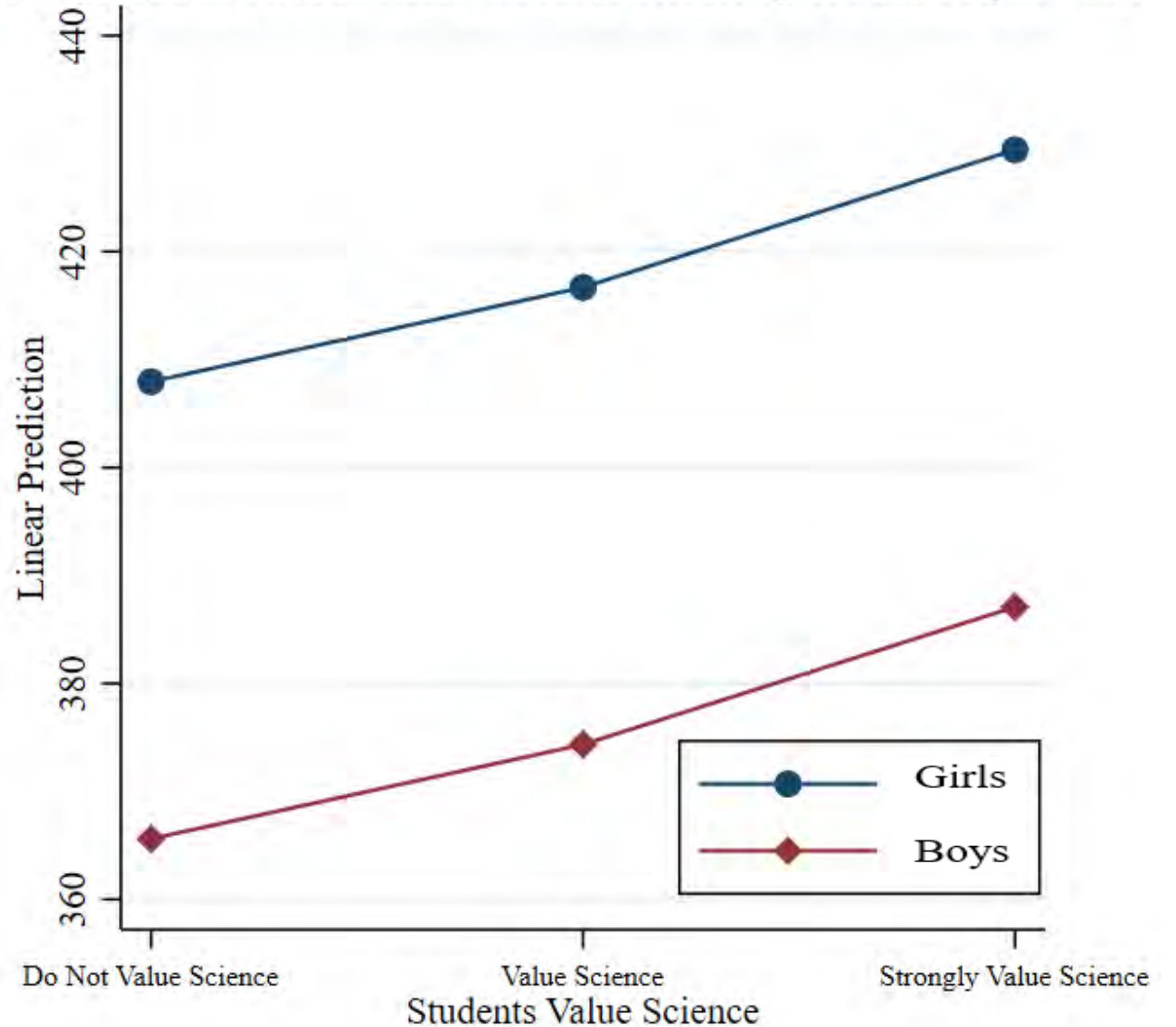


8th grade
predictive margins
of Math achievement
by sex and subject
value



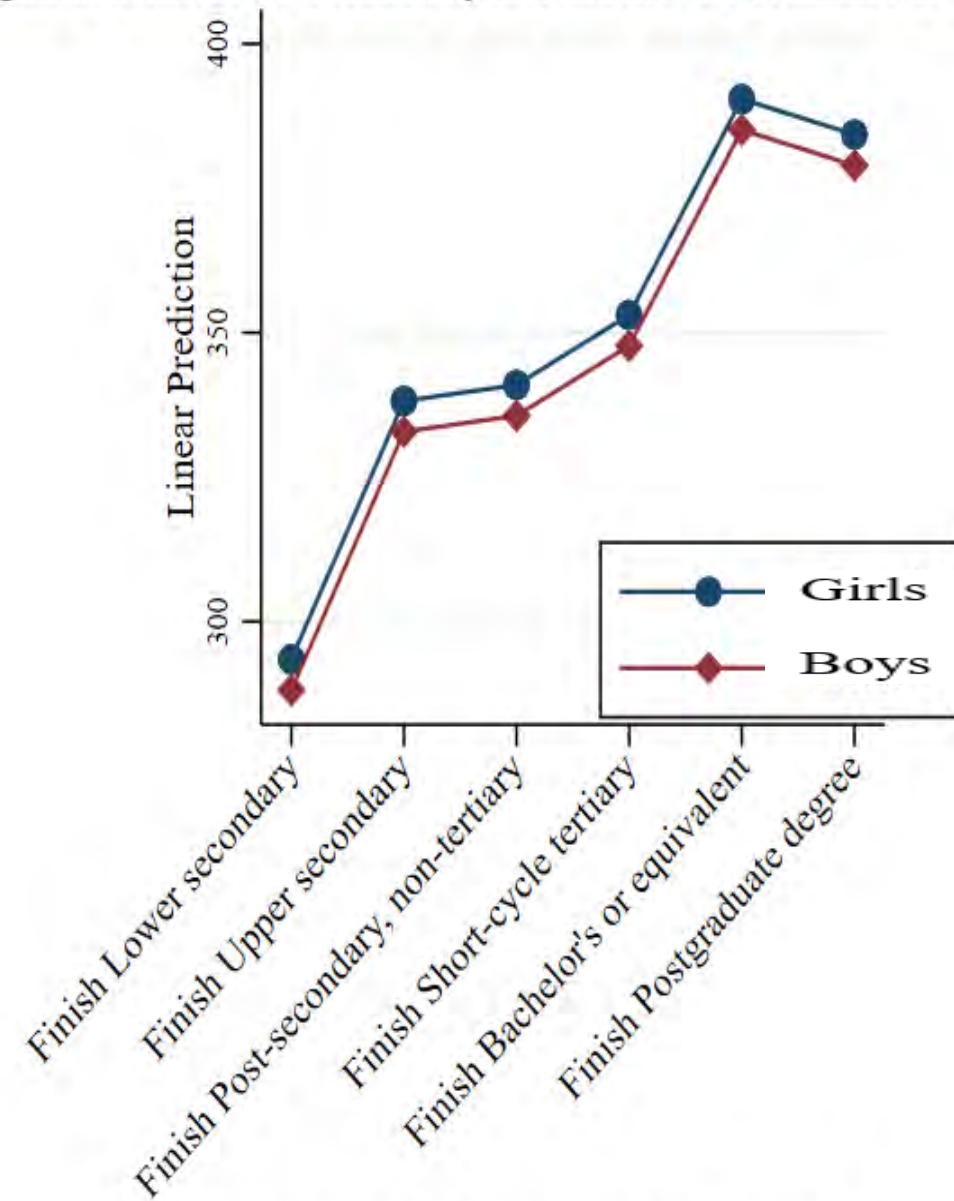
8th grade
Predictive margins
of science achievement
by sex and subject value

Predictive Margins of Students Achievement in Science by Sex and Subject Value



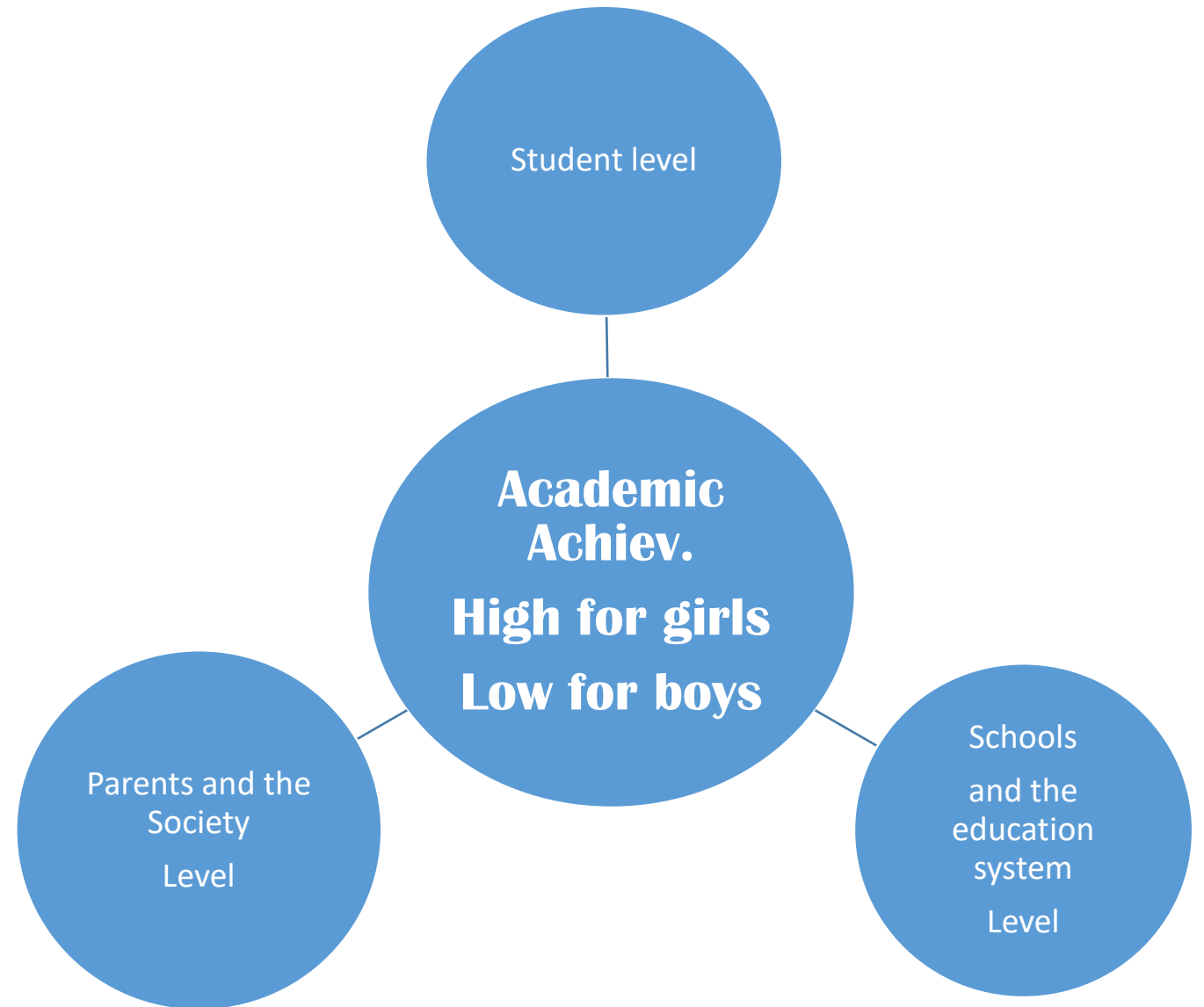
8th grade
Predictive margins
achievement by sex
and expectation of
academic attainment

Predictive Margins of Student Achievement by Sex and how far in education students expect to go



How far in education students expect to go

Some possible justifications for the differences in academic achievement between boys and girls



Thank you for your attention and time

Your questions and feedback are highly appreciated!