



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



QUALITY EDUCATION: WHY IT MATTERS

What is the goal here?

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Why does education matter?

Education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved. When people are able to get quality education they can break from the cycle of poverty. Education therefore helps

to reduce inequalities and to reach gender equality. It also empowers people everywhere to live more healthy and sustainable lives. Education is also crucial to fostering tolerance between people and contributes to more peaceful societies.

So through education, people can get better jobs and have better lives?

Yes, education reduces inequality. Using data for 114 countries in the

While enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached **91 per cent**, **57 million** children remain out of school

1985–2005 period, one extra year of education is associated with a reduction of the Gini coefficient by 1.4 percentage points.

But hasn't a lot of progress been made over the last few years on education?

Yes, enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91%. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS Data Centre), since 2000, the percentage of out-of-school children among primary-school-age children has declined from 40% to 22% in sub-Saharan Africa and from 20% to 6% in South Asia.

Where are people struggling the most to have access to education?

More than half of children that have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa, which makes it the region with the largest number of out-of-school children in the world. And this region has a very young population so it will have to provide basic

education to 444 million children between the ages of 3 and 15 in 2030, which is 2.6 times the numbers enrolled today.

Are there groups that have a more difficult access to education?

Yes, women and girls are one of these groups. About one-third of countries in the developing regions have not achieved gender parity in primary education. In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school. These disadvantages in education also translate into lack of access to skills and limited opportunities in the labour market for young women.

What can we do?

- Ask our governments to place education

as a priority in both policy and practice.

- Lobby our governments to make firm commitments to provide free primary school education to all, including vulnerable or marginalized groups.
- Encourage the private sector to invest resources in the development of educational tools and facilities
- Urge NGOs to partner with youth and other groups to foster the importance of education within local communities

To find out more about Goal #4 and other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>