

Education Facts Across the Globe

- One in five adults in the developing world — almost 862 million people — cannot read or write (11 Facts about Education around the World).
- Across the world, many children miss out on their educations because:
 - they are made to work.
 - they are recruited into the armed forces.
 - their families cannot afford schooling.
 - discrimination and racism undermine their chance to receive an education.
 - they face violence as they try to pursue their education (Children and Human Rights).
- More than 60% of the 110 million children out of school are girls (Girls' and Women's Education Initiative).
- A quality education expands employment opportunities and gives people a chance to earn higher wages. A single year of primary school increases the wages an individual earns later in life by 5 to 15 percent for boys, and even more for girls. For each additional year of secondary schooling, an individual's wages increase by 15 to 25 percent, giving people the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty (Why Education?).
- Most illiterate persons in the world are female. In more than 20 developing nations, women's illiteracy rates exceed 70% (11 Facts about Education around the World).
- Compulsory education determines the number of years that children are legally obliged to attend school. The average duration of compulsory education is 7.85 years, but it ranges from 13 years at most (in countries like Argentina and Germany) to no mandatory years of schooling at all (in countries like Cambodia and Oman (Duration of Compulsory Education around the World)).
- At least 72 million children around the world cannot exercise their right to education due to rising levels of poverty, unemployment, and discrimination (UNESCO Institute for Statistics).
- Girls in the poorest 20% of households have the least chance of getting an education: they are 3.5 times more likely to be out of school than girls in the richest households and four times more likely to be out of school than boys in the richest households (Chang).
- Although basic education is provided by the government to children in the United States, many disparities exist in educational equity:
 - By age three, children of professionals have vocabularies that are nearly 50% greater than those of working class children, and twice as large as those of children whose families are on welfare.
 - By the end of high school, black and Hispanic students' reading and mathematics skills are roughly the same as those of white students in the eighth grade (Facts and Figures).

