

GLOBAL EDUCATION INEQUALITY



More children and young adults today are enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education than ever before. It is estimated that around 617 million children and young adults around the world are unable to reach the minimum level of expertise needed in reading and mathematics. This is with two thirds of these children enrolled in school! There are many reasons why there is a lack in proper primary education -

- Lack of properly trained teachers
- Inadequate learning materials
- Unfit working environments e.g makeshift classrooms
- Poor sanitation facilities

Many children come to school, especially those in developing countries, hungry, sick or exhausted from labour/work and household tasks to benefit and learn from lessons.

Roughly one in five school aged children are not in school at all. Children and adolescents are excluded from schools for many reasons -

- **POVERTY** – Children from the poorest households are more than five times less likely to be out of primary school than those from richer households
- Children with **DISABILITIES** and from **ETHNIC MINORITIES** are more likely to be left behind
- In many parts of the world, **GIRLS'** education opportunities can be limited. Only 66% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education.
- **LOCATION** can keep children from going to school. Children from rural areas are more than twice as likely to be out of primary school than children from urban areas.

THINGS THAT NEED TO CHANGE-

- **LEARNING AND SKILLS** – Children need to learn proper skills from properly trained teachers and need to be given quality learning resources and materials
- **EQUITY AND INCLUSION** – ALL children should be given the same baseline education. This will require making targeted efforts at children who are not getting that at the moment because of their **GENDER, ETHNICITY, LANGUAGE, DISABILITIES AND BACKGROUND**. This also includes misplaced children that are affected by emergencies and problems in their personal lives.

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO LEARN

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

DONATE – Thankfully, there are many organisations that work to provide learning opportunities to children and adolescents that are less privileged and/or are being deprived of basic learning resources. Some of the organisations that I suggest are

- **THE MALALA FUND** – The Malala Fund works in regions where the most girls miss out on secondary education. Their priority countries are Afghanistan, Brazil, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. The Malala Fund's main goal is to spread the word that every girl has the right to 12 years of free, safe, quality education.
- **UNICEF** – Unicef is a worldwide charity that helps deprived/developing countries and they use their funds to help those countries by providing resources. They forge partnerships with key development organizations, like the Global Partnership for Education, the Global Education Cluster and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, to advance their plans and projects to give every child their right to education.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS AND SPREAD THE WORD- If we all are aware of these problems, we can all make a difference by donating, campaigning, raising money, signing petitions and making this issue become more prevalent.