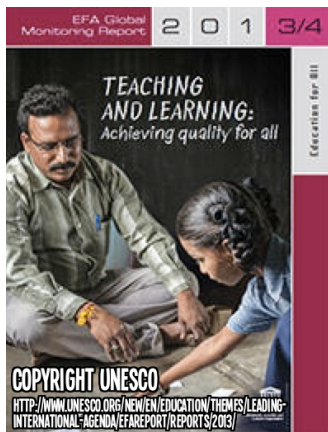


250 million children cannot read or write

2nd February, 2014



A new report from the United Nations says more than 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write. It said they could also not do basic mathematics. The report said that 120 million children have spent little or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school

means countries lose money. Each year, governments lose up to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning crisis". She said this was because there were not enough well-trained teachers in poor areas. She said that in a third of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The issue now is to put the focus on quality."

The report said that most of those not going to school were girls. It said it was important that developing countries educate girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's wealth by 25 per cent over 40 years. The report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women are literate. The Reuters news agency said: "If current trends continue, the poorest part of the young female population in developing countries won't achieve literacy until 2072" There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school fell by 85 per cent in the last five years.

Sources: *Huffington Post / dw.de / trust.org*

Writing

Reading is more important than writing. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Nations / primary school / mathematics / learning / teachers / poor / quality / developing countries / girls / wealth / literate / good news / in the last 5 years

True / False

- A U.N. report says 250 million children cannot do basic mathematics. T / F
- 120 million primary-school-age children have never been to school. T / F
- Countries lose \$130 million a year when children do not go to school. T / F
- The U.N. says there are not enough well-trained teachers. T / F
- Educating girls can increase a country's wealth by a quarter. T / F
- Three-quarters of girls in Arab countries might never go to school. T / F
- The article says it will take some nations 100 years to achieve literacy. T / F
- The number of Vietnamese not going to school fell by 85% in 5 years. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. basic | a. as much as |
| 2. little | b. present |
| 3. up to | c. growing |
| 4. global | d. educated |
| 5. enough | e. worldwide |
| 6. developing | f. elementary |
| 7. literate | g. dropped |
| 8. current | h. sufficient |
| 9. achieve | i. not much |
| 10. fell | j. reach |

Discussion – Student A

- How has technology helped with literacy skills?
- Why do so few girls go to school in some countries?
- Malala Yousafzai said: "One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world." Is this true?
- How do you think it feels to not be able to go to school?
- How has your education helped you?
- Malcolm X said: "People don't realize how a man's whole life can be changed by one book." Do you agree?
- Do you prefer reading or writing? Why?
- What questions would you like to ask the writer of the report?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. they could also not do | a. to \$130 billion |
| 2. governments lose up | b. countries |
| 3. a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was | c. focus on quality |
| 4. teachers do not have | d. 25% over 40 years |
| 5. The issue now is to put the | e. enough training |
| 6. developing | f. continue |
| 7. increase a country's wealth by | g. basic mathematics |
| 8. sub- | h. in the last five years |
| 9. If current trends | i. a global "learning crisis" |
| 10. fell by 85 per cent | j. Saharan Africa |

Discussion – Student B

- How good was your school?
- How important is reading and writing?
- What can we do to help children get to school?
- Some children in rich countries hate school and misbehave? Why?
- What's the best way to teach children to read and write?
- What is the "global learning crisis"?
- Were all your teachers well-trained and good at teaching?
- Should parents teach children to read and write?

Spelling

- prairym school
- do basic casamtmthie
- enenotsgmvr lose up to \$130 billion
- a global learning ssrcii
- in a hirtd of countries
- focus on aqtuily
- egvldnpieo countries
- edtecau girls
- increase a country's aewlth by 25 per cent
- just 36 per cent of young women are etrtelia
- current dsertrn
- female anpulotoip

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. e	5. h
6. c	7. d	8. b	9. j	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Literature

You think literature is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): science, art or sports.

Role B – Science

You think science is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): literature, art or sports.

Role C – Art

You think art is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): science, literature or sports.

Role D – Sports

You think sports is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): science, art or literature.

Speaking – School subjects

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| • literature | • maths |
| • English | • science |
| • art | • history |
| • geography | • sports |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.