



ISYMUN

Issue: The access to education

Committee: Human Rights

Chair(s): Hamsathvani JEGATHESPARAN, Lucie DADOLE, Izzye ZAMPIERI



“It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education.”

- Nelson MANDELA

Hamsathvani Jegathesparan, Lucie Dadole, Izzye Zampieri – Human Rights- 2022

Introduction:

Education has always been an important step in the life of oneself, it is what shapes the future citizens of our society, and it is a crucial part in the life of everyone. To know that in our days, some people are still denied the right to have a proper education is alarming. Indeed, over 600 million children and adolescents worldwide are unable to attain minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, even though two thirds of them are in school.

All around the world, children are deprived of education and learning for various reasons. Poverty remains one of the most obstinate barriers. Children living through economic fragility, political instability, conflict or natural disaster are more likely to be cut off from schooling – as are those with disabilities, or from ethnic minorities. Moreover, in some countries, education opportunities for girls remain severely limited.

Every child should have the right to learn and to have a proper education as it is essential to help the future generation thrive and improve the society we currently live in.

Definitions of key terms:

Education: The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.

Children: A young human being below the age of puberty or below the legal age of majority.

Adolescents: A young person who is developing into an adult

Primary education: Primary education or elementary education is typically the first stage of formal education, coming after preschool/kindergarten and before secondary school. Primary education

takes place in primary schools, elementary schools, or first schools and middle schools, depending on the location.

Secondary education: Secondary education or post-primary education covers two phases on the International Standard Classification of Education scale. Level 2 or lower secondary education (less commonly junior secondary education) is considered the second and final phase of basic education, and level 3 (upper) secondary education or senior secondary education is the stage before tertiary education. Every country aims to provide basic education, but the systems and terminology remain unique to them. Secondary education typically takes place after six years of primary education and is followed by higher education, vocational education or employment.^[1] In most countries secondary education is compulsory, at least until the age of 16. Children typically enter the lower secondary phase around age 12. Compulsory education sometimes extends to age 19.

Illiterate: Unable to read and write.

General overview:

The Universal Declaration of Human rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. The article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, mentions that:

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote

understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

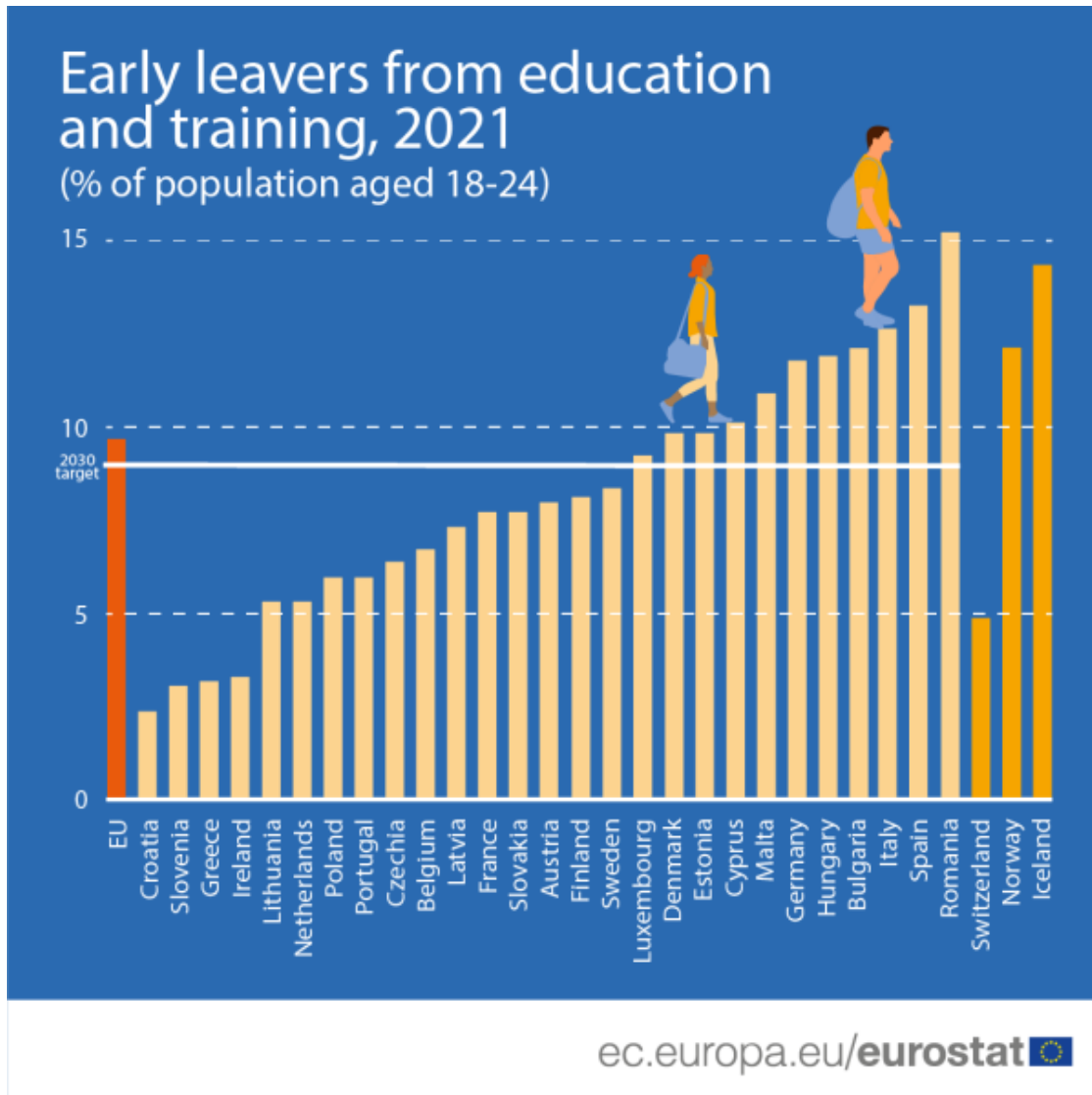
However, not all humans are aware of these basic rights or have the access to it. Indeed, studies and statistics show that around 90 percent of the world's population had completed a primary education in 2020, whereas only 66 percent had attained a secondary education. As the standards of education keeps increasing, the more and more people are concerned by the education. Today, education remains an inaccessible right for millions of children around the world. More than 72 million children of primary education age are not in school, and 759 million adults are illiterate and do not have the awareness necessary to improve both their living conditions and those of their children.

Here are some general data about education:

- Children in fragile, conflict-affected countries are **more than twice as likely to be out of school** compared with those in countries not affected by conflict; similarly, adolescents are **more than two-thirds** more likely to be out of school.
Source: GEM Report, Policy Paper 21, June 2015, p.2
- **69.4% of children** completed primary school in partner countries affected by fragility and conflict in 2020 compared to 66% in 2013.
Source: GPE Results Report 2021, p. 38
- **63% of GPE implementation grants** were allocated to partner countries affected by fragility and conflict in 2021 compared to 44% in 2012.
Source: GPE Secretariat

Hamsathvani Jegathesparan, Lucie Dadole, Izzye Zampieri – Human Rights- 2022

- In GPE countries affected by fragility and conflict, the number of girls completing school for every 100 boys rose from **74 to 88** for primary, and from **67 to 83** for lower-secondary between 2002 and 2015.

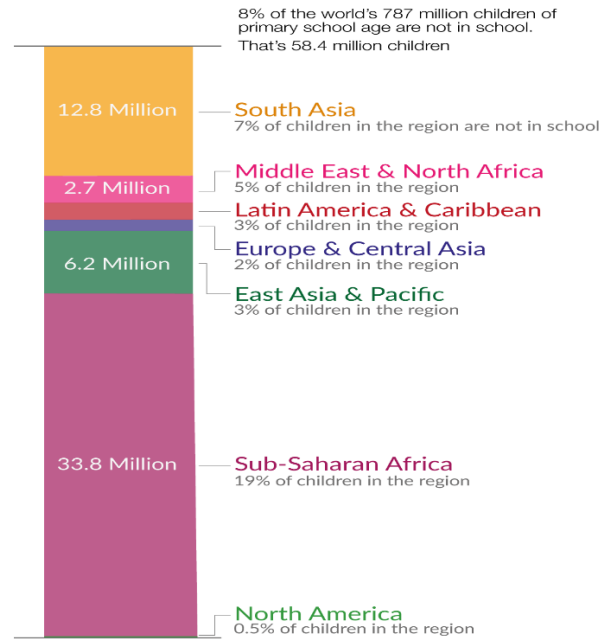


Statistics about early leavers from education

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php?title=Early leavers from education and training](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php?title=Early_leavers_from_education_and_training)

For this indicator, high school dropouts are defined as individuals, ages 16 to 24, who were not currently enrolled in school and had not completed high school or obtained a GED. Overall, the dropout rate has declined considerably, from 15 percent in 1970 to 6 percent in 2016. In 1972, the dropout rate was 21 percent among non-Hispanic black youth, 12 percent among non-Hispanic white youth, and 34 percent among Hispanic youth. Dropout rates for Hispanic youth peaked in the late 1980s and early 1990s, at 36 percent. Rates have since declined substantially for each group. In 2016, the dropout rate for black youth (including Hispanic black youth) reached a historic low of 6 percent, while rates among Hispanic youth also reached a historic low of 9 percent. However, these estimates do not include institutionalized civilians, a population that has grown significantly since the 1980s, particularly among young black and Hispanic males. Young adults who have not graduated from high school are incarcerated at higher rates than those with higher levels of educational attainment. It is likely that the estimates of dropout rates, especially those from the past few decades, would be slightly higher if institutionalized civilians were included in these estimates, although it is not clear by how much.

Where are the 58 million primary school age children who are not in school? Our World in Data



Data source: UNESCO for the year 2019 Licensed under CC-BY by the author Max Roser OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Statistics about children who are not in school

<https://ourworldindata.org/children-not-in-school>

- Fifty-seven million children, adolescents and youth are barred from attending school in the Central and West Africa region, representing 24.1 per cent of the 236 million out of school worldwide, warn the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in a report published on eve of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack.

Source : <https://www.nrc.no/news/2022/september/central-and-west-africa-home-to-almost-a-quarter-of-out-of-school-children-worldwide/>

- While many countries have made impressive progress on removing the barriers to education over the years, 64 million children of primary school age (about 6 to 11 years) are still out of school, as well as 61 million adolescents of lower secondary school age

Hamsathvani Jegathesparan, Lucie Dadole, Izzye Zampieri – Human Rights- 2022

(12 to 14 years) and another 138 million youth of upper secondary school age (or one in three between the ages of 15 and 17).

Source: Unesco

- Girls still face barriers to education in most regions, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where girls of every age are more likely to be excluded from education than boys. For every 100 boys of primary age out of school, 121 girls are denied the right to education.

Source: Unesco

- The denial of education continues to be shaped by wealth, with significant gaps between out-of-school rates in the world's richest and poorest countries. These gaps begin to appear at the primary level, with almost every child in primary school in high-income countries, while this is just the case for 80% in low-income countries. And the gaps widen with age: 60% of youth of upper secondary school age are not in school in low-income countries, compared to just 6% in high-income countries.

Source: Unesco

Major actors:

UNICEF: concerned by education, it supports teacher training and furnishes classroom equipment in newly independent countries. In 1965, the organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for the Promotion of brotherhood among nations." Today, UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

UNESCO: Also works to promote education in the developing countries.

USA: the United States invested \$305 million to GPE in 2021. The Let Girls Learn initiative was launched in

2015 by the previous President Obama. The initiative has invested millions of dollars in

partnership with the private sector to improve girls' education in more than 50 countries.

China: China has the largest education system in the world. Investment in education accounts for about 4% of total GDP in China. In 1986, the Chinese government passed a compulsory education law, making nine years of education mandatory for all Chinese children. Today, the Ministry of Education estimates that above 99 percent of the school-age children have received universal nine-year basic education. China has improved the quality of education through a major effort at school curriculum and other reforms.

Questions to consider/reflect on:

- What countries do not give a proper access to education to their inhabitants? And why?
- How can the United Nations intervene in this issue?
- How do the countries deal with access to education to women?
- What are the previous actions taken to give people their basic need to be educated?

Appendix:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights – The United Nations
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

Bibliography:

- Access to education in the world: UNESCO issues its report - Solidarité Laïque (solidarite-laique.org)
- Illiteracy rates by world region 2019 | Statista
- Unicef
- Policy on educational issues | European Commission (europa.eu)
- Information – World Top Information Education Hub (naijaquest.com)
- Unesco
<http://uis.unesco.org/en/news/new-education-data-sdg-4-and-more#slideoutmenu>