

PENNIES FOR PEACE FACT SHEETS

GIRLS' EDUCATION FACT SHEET

- Education is a basic human right as proclaimed in Article 26 of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
 - » 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.
 - » 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.
 - » Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. (<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>)
- 77–140 million children worldwide are unable to access education due in part to:
 - » Gender
 - » Poverty
 - » Cultural traditions
 - » Religious beliefs
- The majority of students out of school are girls.
- What are barriers to girls' education?
 - » Gender discrimination
 - » Family poverty
 - » School fees
 - » Education that is not validated in the legal structure of a community/country
 - » Fear of personal safety
 - » Lack of understanding of the future value of education to a girl
- What happens in the developing world when girls get educated?
 - » They marry later and have smaller, healthier families.
 - » They bring greater economic opportunities to themselves and to their families.
 - » They pass on the value of education to their children.
 - » They are better able to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infection.
 - » They participate more in the political processes in their communities and countries.
- Girls' education, as an investment, has the overall largest returns on economic development for a developing society.
- Reducing the gender gap in education promotes economic growth.

Sources:

World Bank, <http://go.worldbank.org/1L4BH3TG20>

UNESCO, http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev_en.php?ID=7194_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

What Works in Girls Education, Barbara Herz & Gene Sperling, *Council on Foreign Relations*

<http://www.childinfo.org/education.html>

http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index_barriers.html