

The Prioritization of Education

In the context of sustainable development and global priorities, the importance of education is unrivaled by other sustainable development goals. Without an educated population, sustainable development, by definition cannot be sustainable. In the developing world, it is quintessential that the local population has access, and the knowledge to maintain and perpetuate the actions being taken to promote the 2030 agenda. For this growth to occur, the entirety of the population must receive a basic education, at minimum.

The foundation built by a quality education is unrivaled, both in developing and developed countries. In observation of solely the economic impact, educated citizens earn approximately ten percent more, per year of education, than their undereducated counterparts. This can lead to a 20% economic boost in a 30 year period and raise 12% of impoverished people's out of poverty. The cost of educating a single student is only \$1.18 daily, and is recorded to return up to \$16 in benefits. In comparison to the sixteen other goals for sustainable development, education has the highest monetary, as well as perpetuating return. With 171 million people out of poverty, education can be maintained, while global aid contributions can be shifted to less pressing issues, and local support staffs of educated people's can become easily accessible. The overall fiscal result of education is the ability for a return on investment that will allow for the financing of goals which are less profitable, but yield a higher moral standard and environmental impact.

While an influx of money and utility indirectly correlates to equality and justice, education is a direct link to a more peaceful and just society. Research suggests that countries waste \$1 billion yearly on disproportionately educating males and females. If reinvested, over 2.5 million more children can receive quality education for a full year. Education allows children to think critically and morally, and has been proven to increase voter turnout, and drastically change the scope of political participation. As more and more students are educated, injustices will be taken more seriously, and government accountability will become essential in the daily lives of global citizens. As part of an education sponsored by UNICEF and others aid organizations, the philosophy and characteristics of the Sustainable Development Goals must be stressed, so that children understand the importance of the tidal shift occurring in our world within the next fifteen years. Each and every student globally is a potential vehicle of change in the field of sustainable development, and must be treated as such.

The correlations between education and societal function are endless, as are the correlations between education and well being. Children with educated mothers are 50% more likely to live beyond the age of five, and four million childhood deaths have already been prevented by secondary education of mothers. This correlation can be traced to the knowledge of nutrition, ability to notice (and report) health issues, and increased likelihood to be employed above the poverty line.

In a broad perspective, education is the only Sustainable Development goal that promotes the success of the other goals with direct statistical correlation. An educated population can act towards completion of the SDGs, and the monetary return is perpetually re-investable towards various goals and further education. Trained work forces and educated professionals raise the economic standing of a population, and knowledgeable mothers save their children from preventable deaths. All and all, education must be funded to ensure that sustainable development, is by definition, sustainable, and self-sustaining.

