



Global Student Forum
www.globalstudentforum.org



Name: Phina

Age: 18

Nationality: Zambian

Status: Teenage mother



'I always wanted to be a nurse, so that I could help the many sick people in my village that had no money for medical treatment. I thought it was the end of my dream when my parents told me I had to stop school and get married to a man I didn't even know. I was 14 and very frightened. I wanted my childhood, not life with a man I didn't love...

'After I had my first two children I tried to get back into school. I had started school so late that I hadn't even completed my primary education. But we had moved away to live with my husband's family. There was no high school anywhere near for me to start again. I knew that if I couldn't get to school I wouldn't have the knowledge to give my children a good start. Then they would be poor like me. The only school was 85 km away. I couldn't leave my children at home.

'When World Vision came into the area and built the school, they realised there were many young girls who had families. Now they open the school in the evenings for young mothers. We learn academic skills but also how to care for our children and our home and how to earn money for our family.'

Education Is The Path Out Of Poverty

School gives children the training to become active members of society and provides the skills that will help them to become financially independent and secure. Educated girls generally marry later and are better equipped with the knowledge and skills that they need to care for their own children.

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Name: Luiza

Age: 13

Nationality: Romanian

Status: Trafficked child



'When I was out in the park alone a man appeared and told me to come with him. I tried to run away but he slapped me and told me he would kill me if I refused to go with him. The man took me on a bus to another town and then locked me in a house.

'He locked me up in a small room with no furniture. He gave me dirty clothes to make me look poor. Then he forced me to beg on the streets for money. It was very frightening. The days that I didn't earn enough, he made me steal food from the market. One day I was stealing at the supermarket and I got caught on purpose. The lady from the supermarket called the police. When I told the police what had happened to me they arrested my kidnapper.'

Education Is The Path Out Of Poverty

In a world where at least 800,000 people are trafficked annually, education is one of the main weapons in preventing the spread of trafficking. Children who go to school are far less vulnerable to trafficking. Many schools in communities where trafficking is a problem teach children how to identify potential traffickers, how to protect themselves and how to understand their rights. Children can also learn the skills they need to generate an income and look after their own families when they grow up.

By helping to reduce the levels of poverty within a community, education can also reduce the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

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Name: Irene

Age: 16

Nationality: Kenyan

Status: School girl



'When I was 11 I ran away from home. The village where I live, they believe that girls should be circumcised. It's like a rite of passage. In countries like the UK you call it Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). In my village it's called tradition and I was too scared to go through it. Many girls bleed to death or contract illnesses from rusty knives.

'I was lucky because somebody found me and I ended up in a rescue centre for girls that have been circumcised against their wishes. The staff there have been working with the community to show that, instead of FGM, which can be really dangerous, girls can undergo positive and healthy rites of passage, like dances and celebrations of growing up.'

At the centres, girls, many of whom have never been to school, receive lessons in basic literacy and numeracy. They also learn vocational skills such as tailoring, which are useful for earning a living. Girls are invited to go on a special course where they are taught about the effects of FGM and also about things like HIV and AIDS.

Education Is The Path Out Of Poverty

On average, a child who goes to school will earn an extra 10% for every year of schooling that they receive. They will be 40% less likely to become infected with HIV and AIDS if they complete Primary School.

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Name: Fabian

Age: Unknown

Nationality: Jamaican

Status: Educator in inner-city Kingston



'I grew up in Bennetland... It was once a very peaceful and middle class community but now... there are a... lot of factions fighting against each other... People don't have the ability to earn a decent living and so they turn to crime and violence.

'I teach kids of 9 years and older in the evenings... It's literacy class but we also do life skills sessions... how to be a better human being; not just the academic stuff... We give workshops to encourage them that life can take them from the 'slums'. We concentrate on the basics - mathematics, English, social studies, general science and life skills... It really shows these youngsters how to cope... in a growing and challenging society.

'A number of people who have come to our programme have changed... are now working as policemen, nurses or teachers. [They] came to the programme not knowing where they were going. We re-directed them on to the right path... offered them a second chance at being someone.'

Education Is The Path Out Of Poverty

Education teaches children ways of understanding about the world and their own roles and responsibilities within their community and society. It is crucial because it can have such a positive influence on individuals, giving them a better chance of a stable and peaceful future and helping their communities to prosper.

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