

The Future of Irish Aid.

Education in Developing Countries. By Orlaith Gorman, Loreto Secondary School Wexford

Why is education in developing countries so important?

Children who have access to good quality healthcare are able to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to get a well-paying job, know and understand their rights, and break the cycle of poverty. Education also leads to improved health outcomes, empowerment and an overall better chance at life. Without education, children can be led to child labour, child marriages, education and a poor quality of life.

What would that mean for them?

Allowing education into these young people's lives means opening doors to brighter futures. Women in developing countries don't have a lot of choices. Giving them education is empowering them and allowing them to speak out. Girls who receive education are less likely to marry young, building better futures for themselves. It reduces inequality. Poor families often favour a boy's education over a girl's. While reducing inequality, it also decreases child marriage and gender-based violence.

What can we do as Irish people for Irish Aid to help?

One of the big factors of absence of education is quality of schools. Schools in developing countries lack the resources they need in order to give children a full education such as books, classroom spaces and even teachers. By providing these elements, we can insure a better quality of schools. Another problem is access to schools. Even if there is a school around, not every family can afford it. Between buying school books and not having the children to help around the house in the morning, it can put financial pressure on parents who are already living in poverty. By improving access to schools we are allowing children to get an education and make back the money they used to get one. Access for women is especially affected when it comes to the financial burden of paying for an education. As I have said before families would choose the boys to get an education over the girls, if they can't afford all of their children to go to school. Women deserve the same chance in life as men. Ending the stigma around how "girls aren't as smart as boy" and are "better off learning how to be a good mother and wife" will give them that equal chance they deserve.

The reason I choose this topic is because I truly don't understand how lucky I am to be born where I was. I have so many opportunities, such as the likes of applying for this amazing experience, that people in developing countries could only dream of, that I take

for granted. Although I believe that everyone deserves an equal chance at life, I strongly believe that women can do so much if they are just given the chance. As a young girl in today's society, I understand the challenges people face. But I can only imagine what girls have to deal with, all without an education.

Thank you,

Órlaith.



Sources:

unicef.org

irishaid.ie

dogonews.com

key.theirworld.org