



Lack of Education

Quick Facts from *Zealous Love: A Practical Guide to Social Justice*

Overview:

Education is not just about passing exams, getting good grades, or improving comparative national averages. It is about teaching people to think and equipping them with the tools necessary to improve their quality of life globally, nationally, regionally, and personally. *A lack of quality* education keeps people entrenched in poverty. Poverty is immensely complex, though. A pupil's education depends on more than just their desire for an education. Factors beyond a child's control—such as nutrition, the teacher's ability, and the teacher to pupil ratio—largely determine the outcome of the child's education. If we want to combat poverty—if we hope to see long-term, sustainable development improving the lives of those in need—then we must note the lack of education in our world.

Quick Facts:

- Worldwide, 93 million children don't get to attend primary school.¹
- In East Africa, a person with at least some secondary schooling is significantly less likely to contract HIV than someone with no formal education.²
- More than two-thirds of those in the US prison system do not have a high school diploma.³
- For every year of schooling someone has, there is a corresponding ten percent increase in that person's wages.⁴
- A recent Oxfam study showed that in Pakistani homes where the mother had no education, the infant mortality rate was 60 percent higher than in homes where the mother had had at least some education.⁵



For more information, or to join in the conversation, please visit:

www.ZealousLove.org

1 UNESCO, *The Quality Imperative: Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2005* (Paris: Unesco, 2005), 21.

Available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001373/137333e.pdf>

2 Ibid., 45.

3 United States Department of Justice--Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Education and Correctional Populations" (Washington D.C.: United States Department of Justice, 2008). Available from <http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/abstract/ecp.htm>. Accessed 5/21/2008.

4 World Bank website, "Education and Development," Available from <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTEDUCATION/0,,contentMDK:20591648~isCURL:Y~menuPK:282393~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:282386,00.html>. Accessed 5/21/2008.

5 Kevin Watson, *The Oxfam Education Report* (Boston: Oxfam, 2000), 30.