Oxfam Education

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Every Child Needs A Teacher – background and learning opportunities

Introduction

In 2000 there were an estimated 110 million children were missing out on school around the world and over 180 countries signed up to Millennium Development Goal 2 agreeing to;

"Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling"

The early focus was on enrolment and a lot of early progress was made when some countries stopped charging school fees and many children went to school for the first time. For example Tanzania reduced the numbers of primary age children out of school from 3 million to a quarter of a million. But more recently progress has stalled. There are currently 60 million children out of school and it is likely that 48 million children will still be out of school in 2015.



A year 5 maths lesson in in Mandanpur Khadar, Delhi

Photo: David Levene/GCE UK

Current attention is turning from enrolment alone towards the quality of education that children receive, and issues like the number of qualified teachers, teacher training, class sizes and school infrastructure. It's a paradox that much of the recent progress in school enrolment

was achieved without significant extra investment in education. As more children entered school, education systems struggled to sustain quality.

Around the world 1.7 million more trained teachers are required if every child is to receive an education. This has implications for funding, as greater investment in education is required to bridge the teacher gap. However rich countries are not delivering some of the aid they have promised, and some countries with many children out of school are not spending enough money on education, even when they can afford to.

With only two years to go before the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education is due to be met, the Send My Friend to School campaign is asking young people in 2013 to focus on the theme of 'Every Child Needs A Teacher'.

Classroom resources

To sign up for 'Every Child Needs A Teacher' visit www.sendmyfriend.org
Participating schools receive a free resource pack and DVD. The resources contain case studies and a guide to how young people can take action by creating their 'ideal' teacher.



Children at an Oxfam supported youth project in Delhi design their ideal teachers Photo: David Levene/GCE UK

An outline of the campaign and a step by step plan for learning and taking action is at http://www.sendmyfriend.org/take-action/

The 'Every Child Needs A Teacher' campaign video can be viewed at http://vimeo.com/59643750#

The film outlines the background to the campaign and illustrates how students can take action by creating 'ideal' teachers.

The Guardian Teacher Network has a guide on how to teach political campaigning at http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/apr/08/political-campaigning-teaching-resources?CMP=new 53&CMP=

The guide provides support for young people to successfully engage the press and their MPs.

In February 2013 the Young Ambassadors for Education visited Delhi to learn about the challenges India faces in ensuring every child completes an education.

The film of their video is at http://vimeo.com/63161059#at=0

The Guardian published a feature examining education in India in greater depth at http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/mar/11/indian-children-education-opportunities

Curriculum making

Education for all is an increasingly complex and fast moving topic. The persistence of so many children missing out on school despite the long standing target of universal provision means the topic is increasingly suitable for critical thinking and open-ended questions. Debate is raging within policy circles about the best ways to proceed after 2015, and young people's voices and opinions could be added to these debates

Teachers are encouraged to keep abreast of the latest news when designing and updating resources.

http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/efareport/http://www.sendmyfriend.org/news/campaign-updates/

Drafting 'ideal teacher' messages and writing to MPs fits the 'persuasive writing' element of English Language. Drafting a press release or a blog is 'writing for an audience'. Learning about education in a particular country, for example India, fits the Geography curriculum and problem solving using education data fits the Maths Curriculum. Teachers of Design and Technology may wish to teach designing and constructing 'ideal teachers'

There are resources for higher-level 'Every Child Needs A Teacher' activities at http://www.sendmyfriend.org/resource_type/do-it-yourself/

There are logos and graphics so teachers can produce their own resources at http://www.sendmyfriend.org/resource/logos-and-graphics/

Please share any new resources you develop by emailing education@oxfam.org.uk