

Ages: 12+

Education for all: Who has the power?

This lesson aims to show the linkages between the developed and the developing world in terms of education provision for all. It enables students to see that people in the developed countries and governments in developed countries, as well as people and governments in developing countries, have the power to change things. It may be useful to explore the reasons why some children miss out on education.

This lesson explores the following issues:

- Problems with education in developing countries
- Problems with aid
- Corruption issues
- Who can change things and how

Key Words:

aid education
corruption

Starter Activity:

- Discuss with the class briefly why children are missing out on the chance to go to school
- Brainstorm in pairs/groups who they think has the power to change things and what they could do to change things – encourage them to think locally, nationally and internationally

Main Activity: debate

This activity could be done as a class debate or within groups.

Aim: to show how different people have the power to change things.

1. Hand out copies of the roles to students. Read and assign roles. Roles 3, 4 and 5 are more difficult.
2. Students can prepare for the debate using the suggested points. Students can prepare some questions for other roles.
3. Students can then be either arranged in small groups to debate the issues or discuss as a class.
4. The teacher can chair the meeting or choose a student to do so.

Plenary:

Students to discuss or write up the following in groups/pairs/individually:

1. How can the following people change things so every child can have an education?
 1. governments in developed countries
 2. governments in developing countries
 3. ordinary people in developed countries
 4. ordinary people in developing countries
2. Suggest ways you could help change things, so that there is education for all children.

12 million children are missing out on school

Role 1: Pupil out of school in a developing country

- You went to school for four years but three years ago your parents pulled you out of school because they couldn't afford to pay the fees. As a result you cannot read or write very well
- You have friends who still go to school and you would really like the chance to be like them and to go to school and learn. When you were at school it was your ambition to train to become a doctor
- You now work in the fields to support your family, herding goats and growing crops, and hope one day to return to school

Role 2: Parent in a developing country

- You would really like your children to go to school so that they can get a better job when they are older
- You have been sick with malaria and you weren't able to work for many months. Because of this you cannot afford the school fees or the cost of uniforms for your children
- You think that the government is corrupt, and it is wasting money and not spending it to benefit the people. One of your friends is a teacher, and they have not been paid by the government for several months. They also have to teach a class with more than 100 children because there are not enough teachers
- You think that if the government was using its money wisely, governments in rich countries might be more willing to increase aid and help to pay the costs of education. At the next election you are not voting for this government again!

Role 3: Education Minister in a developing country

- You would like to be able to give free education for all children in your country. However, your government simply doesn't have enough money.
- More aid money from developed countries would help to pay for and train teachers, and make education free for everyone. But the money that comes from developed countries is often only given for a very short time and for specific projects and then it stops
- Your government has put special rules in place to stop corruption. This helps to make sure that money is only spent on the purpose that it is meant for. The previous government did not do enough to stop corruption and a lot of money was wasted
- You think that international governments should support developing countries with more aid that is guaranteed for longer periods of time. This would help your planning and mean that you could train more teachers, pay them regularly and get rid of school fees so that education is free for everyone.

72 million children are missing out on school

Role 4: MP in a developed country

- You would like to see governments in developing countries providing education free for all children. However, you don't really want to give more aid money in case it is lost by corruption in developing countries.
- You like the short-term projects because you can see exactly where the money goes. You need more guarantees that more aid will be spent on education.
- You also have your own country to think of. The costs of healthcare, education and transport are constantly increasing in your country. You have to please the people who voted for you by improving the services in your own country.

Role 5: Campaigner in a developed country

- You feel that governments in rich countries give too many excuses about why they can't increase aid, and you're not sure if you believe them!
- You know there are problems in rich countries too, but promises have been made that every child should have the chance to go to school by 2015. It's important that these promises are honoured.
- You think that all children everywhere deserve an education and you want your government to increase its aid and to give longer-term support to help developing countries pay essential costs like teachers' salaries.
- You think that now is the time for action. You had an education, many children still don't, and governments in developed countries have the money to change all that.

Role 6: Pupil in a developed country

- You have seen on the news that 72 million children in developing countries can't go to school. You have found out that rich countries are not giving enough aid, which could help to pay the costs of schooling for more children.
- You can't understand why you can have a free education yet some children in other countries cannot. You feel that all this could change if your government helped with more aid.
- You have written to your MP because you think they can ask the government to act now and make education for all a priority. You think they should give more money as soon as possible to make sure that children can go to school and get a good education.

72 million children are missing out on school