

Illiteracy...

Top 10 Contributing Factors

1 Poverty

171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills.¹



6 Access to Education

In Eastern and Southern Africa, **1 out of 9 primary-age students is not in school.**⁶

2 Gender Bias

Today, nearly 17% of the world's adult population is illiterate; **two thirds of them are women.**²



7 Family

Mothers who have had some education are **more than twice as likely** to send their own children to school as mothers with no education.⁷



3 Geographical Factors

Household data from 42 countries show that **rural children are twice as likely to be out of school as children living in urban areas.**³

8 Societal Norms

In South Asia, **48% of girls are married and leave school before the age of 18.**⁸

4 Learning Style

60% of adults in the U.S. with literacy problems have undetected or untreated **learning disabilities.**⁴

9 Overpopulation

In Sub-Saharan Africa, **grossly overcrowded classrooms, too few trained teachers, and insufficient resources** all undermine children's chances to succeed.⁹

5 Limited Resources

In some Sub-Saharan African schools, there is only **1 textbook for every 13 students.**⁵



10 Shortage of Trained Teachers

Roughly **250 million children** around the globe are not learning basic skills, even though half of them have spent at least four years in school.¹⁰



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