The Incheon Declaration sets a new vision of education for the 21st century. Education must be about literacy and numeracy, knowledge and skills, for today and tomorrow. It must also be about learning to live in a world under pressure. It must be about cultural literacy, on the basis of respect and equal dignity. It must be about connecting the dots between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

"The surest way towards FREEDOM is EDUCATION"

LITERACY IN THE WORLD

**757,000,000**

Global illiterate population

**115 MILLION**

Adolescent illiterate population

**15%**

Adult literacy rate

**59%**

Youth literacy rate

**70% TO 79%**

60% to 69%

**50% TO 59%**

40% to 49%

**LESS THAN 50%**

30% to 39%

**NO DATA**

0% to 29%

**50% TO 100%**

0%


It is estimated that as many as 220 million children of primary school age worldwide (over half of which are still enrolled in school) are unable to master basic reading, writing and numeracy skills. Such poorly literate children, who rarely gain access to meaningful literacy opportunities later in life, become part of the global pool of low literates.

Dangerous health practices constitute one of the high-risk behaviours most closely associated with illiteracy. Such behaviours directly affect mortality, disease and accident rates among illiterates, as well as their fecundity, in the case of women. They also indirectly affect their children, increasing their vulnerability.

*The social and economic impact of illiteracy: Analytical model and pilot study. ECLAC and OREALC/UNESCO Santiago (2010)*


*Adverse health effects of pesticides in agrarian populations of developing countries (Kesavachandran, Fareed, Pathak, Bihari, Mathur, & Srivastava (2009))*

*Inclusive & resilient societies
food security
global partnership
economic growth
poverty eradication
climatic change
justice
energy
health*