



International Literacy Day

8 September 2022

GWI urges states to increase funding and implement literacy-building programmes that empower women and girls to 'build back better' post COVID-19.

In 1966, UNESCO declared 8 September, International Literacy Day (ILD) as an annual, global celebration to remind the public of the importance of literacy for a sustainable society. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with some 796 million illiterate people around the world, two-thirds being women, who still lack basic reading and writing skills.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 24 million people will likely never return to formal education, 11 million of those people being girls and young women. ILD is an opportunity to rethink the fundamental importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all.

GWI aligns with UNESCO to mark ILD day with an emphasis on the 2022 theme, "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces". (UN)



796 million

adults and young people lack basic literacy skills.

(UN Women, 2022)



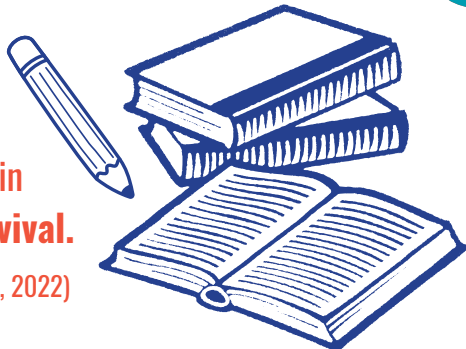
In **Thailand**, almost **93%** of the total population are able to read and write.

(Statista)



Data from **68** countries indicates that a woman's education is a key factor in determining a child's **survival**.

(UN Women, 2022)



Women make up more than **two-thirds** of the world's **796 million** illiterate people.

(UN Women, 2022)



In **Pakistan** a half-kilometre increase in the distance to school will decrease girls' enrolment by **20%**. In **Egypt, Indonesia** and several **African countries**, building local schools in rural communities increased girls' enrolment.

(UN Women, 2022)



Children of mothers with no education in the **Latin American and Caribbean** region are **3.1 times** more likely to die than those with mothers who have secondary or tertiary education, and **1.6 times more** likely to die than those whose mothers have primary-level education.

(UN Women, 2022)



Reading a book relieves stress 600% more than playing a video game.

(Basmo)

By reading just 20 minutes per day, you will actually end up reading 1.8 Million words in one year.

(Basmo)



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Around the world, 129 million girls are out of school, including 32 million of primary school age, 30 million of lower-secondary school age, and 67 million of upper-secondary school age. In countries affected by conflict, girls are more than twice as likely to be out of school than girls living in non-affected countries. There are many barriers to girls education such as poverty, child marriage, gender norms, gender-based violence and poor sanitation. **Action is needed!**

If girls were educated in low-income countries



GWI Actions for Literacy

GWI is committed to empowering women and girls through **literacy-building programmes** such as Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID), Teachers for Rural Futures (TFRF), Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates and the GWI Internship programme.



- Since 2016, GWI has successfully carried out over 30 BRPID projects which have taught **thousands** of illiterate women and girls to read and write.
- The TFRF programme has successfully sponsored **eight** young women from rural Uganda to complete their studies in the field of education. By becoming teachers, the young women have been able to mentor girls and spread literacy in their communities.

64%

of child marriages could be avoided



59%

fewer underage girls would have children



(Lukukeskus)

"Literacy strengthens women's self-confidence and is the basis for their independence and rights assertion",
Dr. Katharina Strub,
GWI Treasurer.

"Every child in the world, be it girl or boy should be able to read and write, without any form of gender-discrimination and become literate to the best of their capability",
Terry Oudraad, GWI President.

"Being literate helps women to raise themselves out of poverty, to raise healthy families and increases their awareness of their rights",
Louise McLeod, GWI Vice President,
Advocacy and Education.



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