

Example 2

Everyone has the right to education.

Millions and millions of people, mostly children, and among them mostly girls, are deprived of access to even basic education. Because of that they do not get a chance to make their lives better, they are not given opportunity to improve themselves and their lives. Thus education is not just right, it is a kind of passport to development as such. It opens doors in front of us and expands our freedom and opportunities. It also contributes to peace maintenance, democracy and economic growth as well as enables countries to combat poverty and health issues.

Recognition of education as a human right is derived from the indispensability of education to the preservation and enhancement of the inherent dignity of the humane person. In spite of the fact that according to several human rights treaties and declarations education as a right can be claimed by all people, there are still huge groups of people deprived of it.



In global context it is embodied, for example, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says that “Everyone has the right to education”, education directed towards the full development of our personalities. It ought to be provided for free at least at the elementary level, compulsory for all. Other education should be equally accessible and generally available for the whole society. Of newer commitments, it is included in the Millenium Development Goals, which pledged basic education available to all until 2015.

We already know it will not be fulfilled - according to the UNICEF data in spite of relative rise of school attendance of children below 14, there were still 57 million children without access to education in 2013. While India, previously low in the enrolment statistics, is significantly growing, countries of Sub-Saharan Africa currently count for more than half of these children.

In local context it is often included in country constitutions, for example in the constitution of Belize which mentions it in its preamble, the constitution of South Africa, which safeguards its citizens’ right to elementary education in language of their choice in public schools or also in the constitution of India.