



Literacy level and violence

action: picture book

According to the World Factbook, almost three-quarters of the world's 775 million illiterate adults are found in only ten countries. Of all the illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women. Literacy breeds thinking. It fosters opinions. It encourages independent attitudes. It also develops opportunities for innovation and economic productivity (source; Eugene Marlow). Adults who are literate are more likely to read to their children, be employed full time, use the Internet and e-mail, vote and volunteer. Literacy can also facilitate conflict resolution and peacebuilding; when literacy is in association with learning about the world, it is likely to promote intercultural understanding, tolerance and respect.

Madrasa Early Childhood Programme in Zanzibar is an NGO which works together with poor and underprivileged communities to close the literacy gap. A request has been made by them for willing volunteers (good at art) to illustrate manuscripts (written by local teachers) and turn them into books. They are hopeful that by providing rural schools with attractive educational materials, parents will be encouraged to spend more time with their children putting their literacy skills into practice and in turn, encouraging their children to increase theirs.

EXPERT CONSULTED



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GLOBAL CHALLENGE

We investigated the link between violence, peace and literacy rates.

We found out it is of importance because a large number of conflicts happen because people do not understand each other or society. When people do not know how to read they are unable to understand society and therefore, respond with violence. If this is not addressed, useless conflicts could keep on happening and spreading.

According to UNESCO, 250 million children do not have access to learn basic writing and reading skills.

LOCAL ACTION

The link is that we are going to get people to draw things for illiterate people for possibly here in Switzerland.

We chose to draw a picture book, and send it to people who don't have access to education the way we do (therefore could be illiterate), because we thought it would be a useful to help them learn how to read.

We learned about how literacy levels itself is not so important but more about what you do with that education, what you choose to read or write with that information.

The Link Between Literacy and Peace

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