



serious problem. Worse still, poor education outcomes have terribly pernicious multiplier effects on things like poverty, health, gender equality and the environment. Fortunately, the reverse is also true.

Although there has been significant progress in achieving the MDG-2, the Universal Primary Education in South and West Asia, the progress has been mixed in East Asia and the Pacific. Nearly 18 million is still out of school in South and West Asia, and some 8 million are out of school in East Asia and the Pacific. The situation among the minority, ethnic and tribal group is far worse. And in the area of adult literacy rate, South and West Asia still accounts for more than half of 796 million illiterate adults world wide. An estimated 412 million adults lack basic literacy and numeracy skills in the region. Gender disparities contribute to high illiteracy rates, with women accounting for 63% of South and West

In addition, millions of school children leave or drop out school before gaining the most basic literacy and numeracy skills. Poor quality education jeopardize the future of young children increasing the risk of lifelong illiteracy and poverty. We all know that teachers are the single most important resource in delivering quality education, yet in many of the countries in the region there is acute shortage of qualified teachers. The consequences of no education or poor education is simply enormous, more so in this competitive globalize world where knowledge is power, wealth and prosperity.

MDG goals 1 reducing poverty and underweight children, MDG-2 achieving Universal Primary Education, MDG-3 achieving gender equality and women empowerment, MDG-4 reducing under 5 and infant mortality rate, MDG-5 ensuring antenatal care and birth by skilled professionals, MDG-6 prevention of HIV/AIDS and TB, and MDG-7 ensuring safe drinking water, total sanitation, reducing carbon emission, protection of environment and forest and ensuring sustainable development are linked to education. Take education and poverty. A recent study found evidence that each additional year of schooling adds an



