

## REAL STATISTICS

### Literacy:

- India's overall literacy rate is only 73%. This is astounding when compared to developed countries like the U.S which has a literacy rate of over 99%
- According to India's most recent census, there are 3077 villages with zero literate people.
- Literacy is essential to getting a job above subsistence level wages. Currently, 69% of Indians live below two dollars a day, which is the worldwide benchmark for poverty.
- There are many more illiterate women than men in India. The literacy rate for men is 81% while for women it is 65%.
- Rural Indians are much more likely to be illiterate. The literacy rate for those in urban areas is 84%, compared to 68% in rural areas. Of course, the lowest literacy rates are for rural women.
- On the bright side, literacy rates are rising; younger people are more literate than older people. Just in the past ten years, the overall literacy rate has jumped over 8%.

### Schools:

- Students in rural India lack basic necessities like textbooks and school uniforms.
- Student to teacher ratios are extremely high, sometimes breaking 100 to 1, but averaging 35 to 1.
- Students lack equipment needed for hands-on learning (rulers, beakers etc.)
- According to UNESCO, less than half of Indian children enroll in secondary schooling.
- Tertiary enrollment is even lower, around ten percent.
- Only 61% of students make it to grade five.
- Primary schools have a student teacher ratio of 40 to 1 on average.
- Only 3.3% of GDP is spent on education.
- There is a two-tier system of education in India: public and private. Nearly 25% of Indian

children are enrolled in private schools, due to the substandard nature of government schools.

- The middle class and the wealthy send their kids to private schools while the poor are left to languish in underfunded public schools.
- Rural schools are even more inadequately funded than urban schools are. The 2012-2013 economic survey of Delhi showed that education spending there was triple the national average of an abysmal 3000 rupees a year.
- When students are provided with lunch, the food is often not safely prepared or healthy in any way shape or form. This issue is being alleviated by Akshaya Patra, a wonderful organization that REAL supports.

Sources:

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Useful Infographic:

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