

Facts and Figures

Is education relevant in the modern world?

Question: Based on the featured examples below, explain and elaborate how education has shaped the modern society.

In 2016, the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) fund was started to provide **free, quality education** to children and youth when **disaster strikes**.

- Project Syndicate, 2017

In Uganda, 70% of children who enrol in primary school **drop out** before they complete primary school.

- Teach For Uganda

In the last 15 years, the total number of students worldwide has expanded by about **243 million**.

- Project Syndicate, 2016

Between 2013 and 2016, there were a total of **71 students who committed suicide** in Hong Kong.

- South China Morning Post, 2017

In 2014, the US spent a total of **\$16,268** on each individual student's education from primary to tertiary level, which was well above the global average of **\$10,759**.

- The Guardian, 2018

Due to a fall in the number of students enrolling in South Korean elementary schools, certain rural schools have started recruiting **elderly illiterate grandmothers as pupils** to teach them to read and write.

- Channel News Asia, 2019

In Singapore, teachers worked **46 hours per week in 2018**, which is longer than the average working hours of teachers in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries who worked for an **average of 39 hours**.

- Channel News Asia, 2019

In England, poorer students who live in coastal areas achieve around **three grades lower** in their GCSE examinations than their peers who live in non-coastal areas.

- The Independent, 2019

From 2000 to 2015, the number of children who do not go to school has **declined from 100 million to 61 million** globally.

- UNICEF Data

In America, **31 percent** of people with post-graduation educations are more liberal as compared to **5 percent** of those with high school education or less.

- National Public Radio, 2016