

Literacy Facts in Relation to Poverty, Crime, and Global Health

- The United Nations declared 2002–2012 the [Literacy Decade](#) as literacy is crucial in alleviating poverty at its core.
- Education is the #1 strategy for empowering girls and reducing poverty, according to “Cross-Cutting Projects: Eradication of Poverty, Especially Extreme Poverty,” by UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally [illiterate](#).
- Two-thirds of students who [cannot read](#) proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.
- “Education is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of AIDS and has been called a “social vaccine.” United Nations [Millennium Development Goals](#).
- In rural Nepal, two-thirds of adolescent girls are not enrolled in school. These illiterate girls are at greater risk than their in-school counterparts for becoming part of the sex trade. Districts with the highest rates of [female illiteracy](#)—90% and 92%—are also among the worst districts for girl trafficking.
- 50 million people in [Latin America](#) cannot read or write.
- UNICEF says access to a decent basic education is one of the most important factors in [ending child labor](#) and the sexual exploitation and abuse of young girls.

**We need your leadership and compassion,
Kappa Delta Pi chapters!**