

**THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION**  
Age Group: Second – Fifth Grade

Overview: Participants recognize the right of children to an education.

Time: About 1 hour

Materials: Prepared level of education cards – Red (\$1000), Blue (\$500), Yellow (\$100) and Green (\$20)  
- 1 set per group of four participants, play money, list of expenses, chart paper, individual sheets of paper, pencils

Procedure:

1. Place education card and appropriate level of play money in envelopes before lesson.
2. Divide class into groups of four.
3. Place envelopes on table and let each person choose their own.
4. Participants read the cards and prepare play money for activity.
5. Explain that the income is related to the level of education attained and living expenses must be paid from that amount each month.
6. Explain as you state/write each expense the participants must set that amount aside from the play money.
7. Read and display charts

**HOUSING**

Red	\$150 for nice three bedroom house
Blue	\$0 – You live with your parents and brothers above the store
Yellow	\$50 for a one room apartment
Green	No housing costs but you rent an additional field from your neighbor for \$10

**FOOD**

Red	\$75 you spend in a grocery store
Blue	\$50 for other items not sold in your store
Yellow	\$25 for just yourself
Green	No additional costs but you can only eat what you can grow or trade

**MEDICAL EXPENSES**

Red	You are able to go to the doctor at any time
Blue	\$50 for an arm you broke lifting some boxes in the store
Yellow	\$0 but you have a tooth that aches and you are afraid that you cannot afford to see a dentist
Green	\$0 but your youngest sister has been ill and you live too far from any clinics or doctors

**UTILITIES**

Red	\$50 because you can afford air conditioning and heat
Blue	\$100 because you also have to pay for utilities at the store
Yellow	\$0 because you cannot afford the expense
Green	\$30 because you decide to irrigate your crops so you can grow more corn

8. After all expenses have been deducted discuss who was better able to take care of each situation.
9. Discuss importance of education using following questions as a guide.

Questions:

1. How is education important to meeting everyday needs?
2. How might education improve human rights?
3. How does education help prevent exploitative child labor?
4. Discuss – “Denial of education is the biggest single cause of global poverty and inequality.” by Oxfam UK.
5. Discuss – “Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its Foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.” by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations.
6. Discuss – To provide every child in the world with primary education will cost an extra \$8 billion, the same as four days of global military spending.
  - \$8 billion a year is spent in the U.S. on cosmetics
  - \$12 billion is spent each year in Europe and the U.S. on perfume
  - \$435 billion is spent globally each year on advertising

Additional Information:

[www.freethechildren.org](http://www.freethechildren.org)  
[www.campaignforeducation.org](http://www.campaignforeducation.org)

# THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

Prepare for lesson by copying a sheet for each group of four. Cut and paste each description on a sheet of construction paper.

(red)

(blue)

You were fortunate enough to graduate from high school. You earn a monthly salary of \$1000.

You were able to complete elementary school and then it was necessary to work in your family's store. You earn a monthly salary of \$500.

You were able to attend only two years of elementary school because your family needed an additional income when you were growing up. You now earn about \$100 a month.

Your family farmed in an area far from any school. You were never able to learn how to read or write. You now farm and earn \$20 a month.

(yellow)

(green)