

Bursaries for teachers

Millennium development goal 2 focuses on primary education for every boy and girl in 2015. At this moment we haven't reached that goal yet. Worldwide 80 million children are not attending school (Oxfam NOVIB, 2007).

Within the education the person of the teacher is very important. He/she is a professional, an expert regarding to the different subjects in the classroom, didactics, group dynamics and pedagogy (Bakker, C., & Rigg, E., 2004). He/she is the key to quality of education and has an exemplary role towards the pupils.

Last year Education International presented a report that referred to the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966) and the Recommendation on the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel (1997). In this report Education for All signals that progress has been made concerning access to primary education, but that there still are many obstacles to overcome. Many aspects of the former Recommendations (those of 1966 and 1997) are disregarded by governments.

Worldwide is a lack of teachers (last year: 18 million, recording to UNICEF (In: Global Campaign for Education, 2006). This lack has several causes: retirement of teachers, not enough new qualified teachers entering – some countries offers free education now, which caused a significant increase of pupils -, unattractiveness of the job – low salaries in some countries, large classes, violence in schools, insufficient learning materials - , the relatively high percentage of teachers infected by HIV/AIDS and brain drain.

South Africa is one of the countries that suffer from a lack of teachers. Spring 2007 the government therefore started the Fundza Lushaka – which means 'Educate the Nation' - Bursary Programme as part of a recruitment campaign, in which it promotes teaching as 'a career of choice' for their citizens. Able students in priority areas of need can apply for a bursary. For each year they receive this they work in a governmental school after they have finished their studies.

This proposal asks the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to investigate the possibilities of a bursary system for teachers, (partly) paid by international development money or other outside funds. A bursary system like that:

- enlarges the attractiveness of becoming/being a teacher in ones own country (brain gain in stead of brain drain)
- gives financial support for those students who do not have the financial resources themselves to follow teacher training classes
- reduces the lack of teachers especially in the rural areas of some developing countries and certain grades and/or subjects
- contributes by the training of more teachers to the access of and quality of education

Literature

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