

BLESS USA
P.O. BOX 384
CEDAR GROVE, NJ 07009

Tel: (973) 857-4299
fax: (973) 857-6100
info@blessusa.org
www.blessusa.org

EDUCATION PROGRAM

*Give instruction to a wise
man, and he will be still
wiser; Teach a just man,
and he will increase in
learning.*

Proverbs 9:9

BLESS USA

Question: Is there a direct link between a lack of education and poverty in Egypt?

Answer: In a study performed by the World Bank (2002), it was found that more than 46% of people living in poverty were illiterate, and 40% had only a basic education or less. Since trends suggest that poverty rates decrease significantly when education levels rise, improving education access and quality should be the driving force against poverty in Egypt.

DID YOU KNOW

Adult literacy rate (ages 15 and above)

Male 67.2% Female 43.6%

Combined gross enrollment in primary, secondary, and tertiary schools

Male 80% Female 72%

Question: How does poverty effect access to education in Egypt?

Answer: Those in need must find ways to make ends meet, such as working longer hours or more than one job. At times, the level of poverty may force parents to have their children (especially girls) leave school and work at a young age. Additionally, the indirect costs of education also lead to drop out. Unfortunately, these factors contribute to the continuing cycle of poverty and lack of education.

Question: If education in Egypt is free, what is meant by indirect costs?

Answer: Although education in Egypt is free, there are significant private expenses associated with it at every stage of instruction. Students of all ages are faced with school-related costs such as administrative fees, textbooks, supplies, uniforms, and private tutoring, which has become essential to an adequate education. Because of the correlation between education, poverty rates and quality of life, BLESS has set up the **Education Program** to positively impact individual's lives. The Education Program provides financial assistance to students in order to provide the essentials required for education.

A Note from HG Bishop Youannes:

My beloved BLESS USA family,
Grace & peace be to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.
Pertaining to the Education Program, I would like to inform you that we support our needy students with the following:

1. university fees
2. stationary, school clothes & shoes for
primary students is approximately 100 LE
preparatory school students is approximately 150 LE
secondary school students is approximately 200 LE
3. monthly assistance for some students

The annual aid spent on education increases with each year:

Year	Number of Cases	Education Assistance (L.E.)
2001	1,412	309,461.15
2002	3,399	447,162.00
2003	5,370	608,628.60
2004	5,862	744,150.60

Education brings freedom and renewal to each individual, an opportunity to unlock potential and realize dreams, and prepares each individual to contribute to the development of their society as a whole. We invite to share in the blessings in helping our brothers and sisters in need through the Education Program of BLESS USA.