



# Ending Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa with Online Education

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**Abstract:** The journal, which is on the topic of "ENDING POVERTY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WITH ONLINE EDUCATION", tells about the current financial state of the region, whole education system in the rural areas, the crucial problems faced by them, and how the Online Education will play an important role if the government implements it on a large scale. Moreover, this journal also discusses the extreme poverty conditions the Sub-Saharan African people are living in and how those conditions are leading the region to increase in illiteracy rate.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary world, Education is regarded as the most important tool in sustaining a country's economic status and reducing poverty. Education increases a child's developing social, cognitive, emotional, and communication skills. Moreover, Education is inversely related to poverty. If people of the country get access to quality education, they could improve their lives by getting better-paid jobs, which in turn enhances the progress of the country's economic growth and reduces poverty. Attaining education is the right of every individual. If he or she gets proper education, they get much knowledge and become better in their life. Having a good literacy rate also increases the country's reputation at the international level. Lack of education is the main reason why people are living in poverty. This is the current situation people of Sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing.

Sub-Saharan Africa region lies south of Sahara with 46 of 54 countries, excluding Djibouti, Somalia, and Sudan. Sub-Saharan Africa is suffering from high rates of education exclusion. According to a recent survey, 35 million out of 33 low-income Sub-Saharan African countries are attending school. Nearly 60% of youth aged 15-17 years are not in school. Due to this, the truancy rate is rising sharply in this region. As education is decreasing, students started to do crimes, robberies, and chain snatching, making the whole place worse. Some children are working as labourers, some at shops, and so on. This is directly increasing the illiteracy rate here. People are not supposed to do this, but their poverty conditions are making them do these things. The lack of education in Sub-Saharan Africa is mainly due to extreme poverty conditions.

## II. WHY POVERTY?

In Africa, one person out of three resides below the global poverty line. These people are experiencing poverty due to a lack of shelter, insecurity, corrupted officials, indigent infrastructure, limited natural resources, famine, and land availability. Due to this, many people are making their children work instead of joining them in school. Moreover, the schools in the urban areas are well-structured and have many facilities and quality education. Only students in these urban schools are receiving a quality education. But, in rural schools, circumstances are entirely different.

## III. HOW POVERTY IS AFFECTING EDUCATION?

Rural schools have fewer qualified teachers and are facing a shortage of teachers. Despite that, there is no quality education and these rural schools have poor infrastructure, and fewer facilities. In a recent survey, it showed that more than 1/5th of children between ages 6-11 and 1/3rd of children between ages 12-14 are out of school. As children are not attending schools, the literacy rate is dropping sharply. Sub-Saharan Africa faces unstable economies, famine and drought, which further increases education exclusion. Education is the crucial factor in determining a country's economic status. However, online education could be one of the solutions to increase the rate of education.

## IV. ONLINE EDUCATION

Online education is a virtual system, which provides different kinds of learning that takes place through the Internet. It supports the students who are unable to attend offline classes by providing virtual learning and making students feel comfortable. It runs 24/7, providing students to learn at their own comfortable time and provides many online courses about education by providing them with reliable information. Online education can also allow students to store their notes in the form of files. Students in traditional classrooms may not get individual attention for the clarification of their doubts. However, in

online education, there will be opportunities for students to interact with lectures personally. This online education is not only accessible to urban students, but also for global village students all over the world. Online education also has financial benefits compared to offline education. One of the major advantages of online learning is that it promotes lifelong learning for aspiring students.

### V.BARRIERS TO ONLINE EDUCATION

Although in today's world, many children are utilising online education to achieve their goals from various parts of the world, Sub-Saharan African children find it very difficult to attend online classes. This is because their local government obviously finds it a difficult task to arrange high speed internet facilities. Even if they were able to do so, citizens of Sub-Saharan Africa get massive electricity bills, which they could not afford to pay due to their poverty conditions. One more thing they could not afford is smart phones as they are high in cost. Despite this, language becomes a huge barrier for children living in Sub-Saharan Africa because they are taught subjects in their native language in their schools. But, online education most frequently uses English as a universal language to communicate with each other and these children are not acquainted with the English language. Even in a few of the African states, the government has already implemented fibre optics systems in order to provide education to people, but introducing these systems can lead to ownership in the future.

### VI.HOW CAN ONLINE EDUCATION BE IMPLEMENTED

Providing online education can be difficult but not impossible. It allows students to get competition from international level. If students are well-educated, automatically the country's economic status increases. By doing so, the illiteracy rate in Sub-Saharan Africa decreases and literacy rate increases. Many organisations, like UNICEF, NGO, and AHF( Africa Hope Fund) are making great efforts to help every student receive a quality education. Education is an important tool in improving both an individual's life and the country's growth. Even though there are advantages and disadvantages of using mobiles for the sake of online education, there is a real need for quality education in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. Firstly, the government should provide high internet access and mobiles at affordable costs to rural citizens of Sub-Saharan Africa. Secondly, the African government should conduct free workshops on how to use the smart phones, namely for education. As a result, the literacy rate in Sub-Saharan Africa increases, leading to a better future for graduates. To conclude, Sub-Saharan African people are in a very critical situation due to poverty, leading to reduction in literacy rate. So, in order to overcome these difficulties to give proper education, many organisations are collaborating and planning to implement an online education system for children of Sub-Saharan Africa.

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