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## Human Vitality

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- Disease Prevention
- **Education & Lifelong Learning**
- Exercise & Fitness
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## Help Educate Adults in Poverty

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Despite global efforts to improve working conditions and workers rights worldwide, laborers in developing countries still face nightmarish conditions. Still common in developing countries, sweatshops require workers to toil for up to 14 hours per day without breaks and often force them to take unpaid overtime. Harsh working conditions and excessive hours prevent these individuals from pursuing an education – the very tool that could pull them out of poverty.

Education is a passion for Hearts – not only educating ethical consumers like you by providing information about how to live more conscientiously, but also providing educational opportunities for people living in poverty. We're doing our part by providing sustainable employment that fosters educational opportunities in poor communities around the world. We invite you to join the movement to support lifelong learning for the poorest of the poor by discovering how you can support educate-focused businesses and social enterprises!



## Quick Guide: Sweatshop Labor Leaves No Time for Adult Learning

- **70 hour workdays in sweatshops:** In rural China, the average sweatshop employees work at least 70 hours per week, seven days per week, are frequently discriminated against, and live in cramped dormitory-style housing.<sup>[i]</sup> In the Philippines, typical hours are from 6 am to 8 pm (14 hour days!).<sup>[ii]</sup>
- **Zero days off for fast fashion workers:** Forced overtime and pay rates based on productivity targets mean workers toil continuously without rest or even bathroom breaks.<sup>[iii]</sup>
- **1 year of school raises wages 10%:** Education is essential to rising out of poverty because knowledge empowers, increases skills, increases productivity, and encourages new ways of thinking. Just one additional year of schooling raises wages for both men and women by an average of 10%.<sup>[iv]</sup>
- **\$0.60/hour traps people in poverty:** Despite their long hours, sweatshop workers barely make enough money to sustain them (**far from a living wage**). Seamstresses sewing NBA jerseys in El Salvador receive only \$0.60 per hour, earning \$0.24 per jersey that later sells for \$140.<sup>[v]</sup>

## Take Action! Invest in Mentor Social Entrepreneurs

1. **Volunteer to mentor a social entrepreneur:** If you're dialed into the business world and want to help educate workers in developing countries by mentoring an aspiring social entrepreneur, try joining [SocialEdge](#). This organization (an offshoot of the Skoll Foundation) aims to connect entrepreneurs from around the world and provide them with the resources and expertise needed to launch a successful enterprise. Another great option is [Bpeace](#), an organization that connects business pros with aspiring women entrepreneurs in developing countries.
2. **Support scholarship programs for adult learners in developing countries:** If you want to help workers in developing countries further their education, donate to a scholarship fund specifically for adults in developing countries, like [Christian Foundation for Children and Aging](#) (CFCA), or sponsor individual students through education crowdfunding sites like [Education Generation](#). Opening the door to education will allow these workers to pull themselves out of poverty and create a brighter future for both them and their families.
3. **Buy from ethical fair trade businesses that encourage professional development:** Businesses that invest in education help their employees to further their careers and will ultimately bring about a more skilled workforce. One way to recognize such businesses is to look for those with [fair trade certifications](#).
4. **Choose products from companies that don't force overtime:** Seek out products from companies that employ ethical business practices through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. Look for companies that meet [ISO 26000](#) standards, [AccountABILITY](#) standards, or that implement the [Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights](#).
5. **Political actions to improve global working conditions:** Tell your Congressional representatives that you support the [UN Global Compact's labor principles](#), as derived from the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.



## Dig Deeper: the Importance of Global Education

- Explore the [UN's](#) resources on global education.
- Read about World Concern's [vocational training program](#) for women.
- Read DoSomething.org's facts about [education and poverty in America](#).

Images By: [melody.gates](#)

### + References

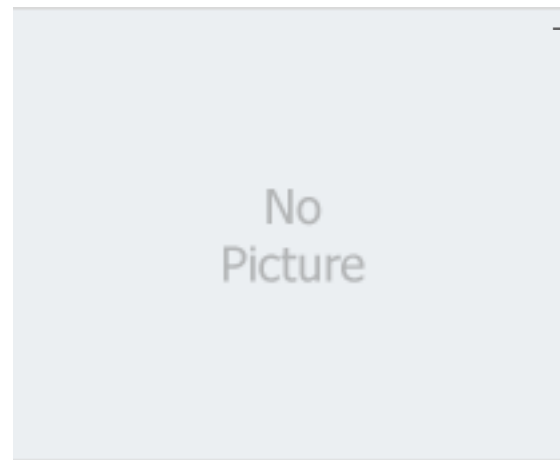
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