

The Private Education for the Poor Fund

Without education, it is nearly impossible for a child to escape the cycle of poverty. Studies show again and again that access to quality education leads to greater opportunities, better health, and a brighter future. But for many in the bottom billion – the poorest of the world’s poor – public schools, where they are available, often fail to equip children with the skills needed to survive and thrive in the modern world.

In some of the most disadvantaged places on earth, in the slums, shanty towns and villages across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, there is an extraordinary blossoming of *affordable private* education. In our continuing endeavor to bring attention to innovative and effective approaches, Geneva Global has established a new philanthropic fund, the Private Education for the Poor Fund, in conjunction with Professor James Tooley, whose path-breaking research has been highlighted in his book *The Beautiful Tree*.

Many people believe that it is only through public education that the poor can be reached. But this ignores the reality that poor parents are already abandoning the low quality education that public schools provide, to send their children to private schools which charge very low fees, affordable to those on minimum wages and poverty-line incomes. The recent research has found a large majority – 65 to 75% – of schoolchildren in poor urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia using these private schools. Even in impoverished rural China, researchers found more than 500 low cost private schools in remote mountain villages, where none were officially supposed to exist.

Affordable private education offers the poor an alternative to poorly managed public schools. It is poor communities – choosing to move their children into affordable private schools – who have affirmed the value of this educational alternative to public schools. The Private Education for the Poor Fund works to expand the scale, scope and impact of such educational opportunities, providing children from families at the bottom of the economic ladder the opportunity to rise above their circumstances through access to quality education.

By contributing to the Fund, you are helping provide a path out of poverty for some of the world’s most vulnerable children. The minimum contribution is \$5,000. Contributions to the Private Education for the Poor Fund are made through Givers Trust, a US-based 501(c)(3) organization, and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers.