



World Forgotten Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

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Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.

To be removed from the WFCF mailing list, please send a message to
help@world-forgotten-children.org

The Great Divide

Technological Growth and the Increasing Gap between Rich and Poor Nations

Technology is a force that brings innovation and affluence to those that have access and the resources to utilize it. However, for populations around the world lacking technology, the gap of the have's and have not's is deafeningly clear and carries with it serious repercussions to the people of less fortunate regions. With poverty as a worldwide concern, particularly with the fragile state of the global economy, technology has been sought out as an answer to provide solutions. Contrastingly, the costs to those who cannot obtain technology appear to be surmounting continuously as poverty spreads and technology that could improve the overall ecology of these regions remains out of reach.

With 19% of the world's population accounting for 91% of Internet users, it is clear that a tool that has become standard in North America and Western Europe eludes most of the globe. Technological solutions, such as e-learning, telemedicine and assistive technologies that can help individuals learn, receive healthcare and address special needs remotely unfortunately remain unavailable to those that typically need the most help.

Technology as a solution to the plight of impoverished communities, particularly in the context of handicapped orphaned children in the developing world, could bring immense hope in the form of providing remote assistance to those in rural areas on many levels of socioeconomics and general well-being. Even simple and fairly assumed technologies of proper irrigation, water purification, medical technologies, food pasteurization, among others that are standard to everyday life are completely outside of the resources available to impoverished areas in the developing world. With technology as such an unavailable commodity, it is obvious that the third world's lacking and the industrialized world's abundance forges the divide for any hope of developing nations to catch-up or even compete with the rest of the world. By being left behind, the economies in these areas will likely continue to decline and the people of these regions will predictably continue to suffer.

In considering some of the most helpless, the handicapped orphaned children, who could greatly benefit from the enlightenment and connection technology provides, sadly they are left without. As governments of the developed world work toward further advancements in resources like energy, agriculture and software to solve problems, the problems in areas without technology exponentially increase. When thinking of the possibilities to improve life that technology can provide, the urgency of recognizing the effects of advancement in industrialized nations and the cost to developing countries becomes a cause to petition for. With technology literally at our fingertips, it is difficult to think of those that cannot dream of such accessibility. There is so much potential for technology to assist these third world regions, and within them the handicapped orphaned children in their populations, but it is up to those that have to spread the benefits of modern living to those that are without such tools.

By Kristin Klinger, Senior Editorial Editor, IGI Global

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Providing Helping Hands to Less Fortunate Children of the World

Social Welfare of Russian Children

One would assume that in a country as sizeable, rich and powerful as Russia, there will be better social welfare available Russian children than there is. According to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, 50% of Russian children are born into poverty-stricken families and 2.5 million children are homeless. Although Russia's population to 143.4 million, with the number of children in Russia decreasing by 4 million during the last 10 years, the number of homeless children continues to increase!

According to UNICEF, there are over 700,000 orphaned children that live in Russia, increasing at the rate of 113,000 per year. UNICEF estimates that 95% of these children are social orphans, meaning that they have at least one living parent who has given them up to the state. As the result of this kind of influx of orphaned children, the number of orphanages has increased by more than 100% in the last decade.

Regrettably, the track record of the Russian orphanages and children who end up in these facilities is very poor for any child exiting the state program. According to the Russian Ministry of Education, approximately 15,000 children leave Russian orphanages each year, usually at the age of 16 or 17 years of age. Out of this population of children, 50% fall into a high-risk category, 40% become involved in crime, 10% commit suicide, 33% stayed unemployed, 20% become homeless and only 4% are admitted to universities.

Furthermore, according to UNICEF, there are 617,000 Russian children who are disabled. Every day in Russia, an estimated 20 babies are born to HIV-positive family members. Two of those, on average, are abandoned at birth. According to UNICEF, more than 50,000 children in Russia have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and are facing ill equipped hospitals with 70% of all medical equipment outdated, unrepaired or broken down, as the Russian Health Ministry reports.

Perhaps the horrible statistics above about the social welfare of Russian Children is a good reminder to all Russian politicians who were so determined to expand the Russian Nuclear arsenals that waged war in Africa and Afghanistan. Perhaps the funds used for weaponry should have been invested more in their child social welfare programs. This is also reminder to American Politicians that unfortunately the same can happen in the U.S. if we keep waging wars and ignoring the urgent needs of the social welfare of children in the United States!



Some of the Russian children at the Diema's Dream Foundation orphanage who have benefitted from recent support of WFCF for the purchase of 10 wheelchairs costing \$6500.

A few ways that you can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills

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