

## Lack of Primary Education Worldwide: A Look at the UN Millenium Goal Working to Make Primary Education Universal

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Did you know that only one in every five children in the world has access to basic primary education? Did you know that there are about 77 million children who are not receiving primary education? In 2000, the new millennium was accompanied by the 189 countries coming together and developing the eight UN Millennium Goals that are believed to be reached by 2015. Countries that agreed to this plan ranged from our most developed countries to our poorest and most undeveloped countries in the world.

One of the eight UN Millennium Goals is to achieve universal primary education for all children. It is the goal to ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary education, which consists of schooling up through fifth grade. While we are at Meredith and are surrounded by peers who are receiving college educations, it is hard to believe that around the

world there are millions of children who do not get the opportunity to receive what we believe to be a necessity and a right, not a privilege.

There are many reasons why children around the world are not given the opportunity to receive primary education. One reason is that in many countries education is not provided by the government, but from the people's own pockets. In many undeveloped countries they do not have the money to enable their children to attend school. It is more productive for the children to be out in the workforce and make money than for them to be spending money to receive an education. Other families do not believe that education now will help with the business that their family is focusing on later. Children are forced and voluntarily go into the workforce all around the world. They work ridiculous hours for practically nothing. The movie *Stolen Childhoods* is a great representation of what is going on with children around the

world. These children, who we believe should be in school, are out in the fields picking coffee or in small cramped shacks making rugs.

On a taxi ride in St. Thomas, I asked the driver to tell me a little about the country which he willingly did. The conversation went into how many people came to live in St. Thomas. He told me that most people had moved there to work. He then went on to his own life story telling me that, where he was from, it was expected for the children to stop their education and find work if a parent passed away. He did receive his primary education, but it ended in sixth grade. He went on to tell me that he was lucky that he received as much education as he did and very few of his friends got any primary education. This story intrigued me. I had learned about the UN Millennium Goals and how many children do not receive a primary education, but to meet

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## The Heartbreak Kid: Heartbreaking Indeed

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If you are looking to support the moral degradation of American culture, be sure to see *The Heartbreak Kid* (2007). The directors, Bobby and Peter Farrelly, also known as the Farrelly

Brothers, took the saying "if at first you don't succeed, try again" seriously after their other flicks like *The Ringer*, *Me, Myself and Irene*, and *Dumb and Dumberer*. In the romantic comedy *The Heartbreak Kid*, the humor has nothing to offer; it is crude and repetitive. In

addition, the tone is just another of the movie's faults. If you have never seen a romantic comedy that makes you despise the very thought of love, *The Heartbreak Kid* can remedy that. It is a muddle of bad morals, bad

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## Star Tech

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and on-the-go folks; General Motors and Hyundai even offer XM radio for their vehicles.

What are the advantages of High-definition digital radio (HD radio)? According to the website <http://www.hdradio.com/>, the main benefits are CD-quality sound for FM stations and FM-quality sound for AM stations. Broadcasting with a digital audio signal combined with the conventional analog signal allows HD radio to provide more than one broadcast over a single channel and to include textual data such as artists' names, song titles, weather and traffic information.

According to a September 26 USA Today article, the automotive company Ford is planning to make HD radio available on nearly all 2008 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models. BMW is also offering HD radio as an option for its lineup. I would guess that many other automotive companies will follow suit, offering HD radio as options on their vehicles as well.

Unlike satellite radio, HD radio is free after you purchase a receiver. Receivers are available online and in multiple retail stores, including Radio Shack, Target, Circuit City and Best Buy. They cost about \$200 and are available for home and car. As long as your favorite radio station is broadcasting in HD, you'll be good to go. In Raleigh-Durham, there are nine stations broadcasting twelve HD radio channels, with two more channels coming soon.

Still stuck on FM? Yep, I am too-but we may be behind the times. In this digital age, tuning a dial is becoming totally uncool.

Satellite radio offers many advantages to traditional analog signal radio stations. For starters, there are no commercials; also, stations are available from coast to coast, so Aunt Joan in California can listen to the same shows and music as Uncle Jimmy in New York. News broadcasts, weather, sports, and talk shows... oh yeah, and radio, too: satellite radio offers all these and more.

A few companies offer satellite radio subscriptions; XM and SIRIUS are perhaps the most well known. SIRIUS subscriptions cost about \$13 a month (cheaper by the year) or \$500 for the lifetime of a satellite radio. Visit <http://www.sirius.com/> to try a free three-day trial of SIRIUS satellite radio, listen to online satellite radio (after you have a subscription), or learn more information about SIRIUS. Seriously, it might be fun.

With 170 digital channels, XM radio is offered monthly for about \$13 or as low as \$10 for a multi-year subscription. Visit <http://www.xmradio.com/> to browse XM stations, find stations playing your favorite artists, find the subscription that's right for you, listen online and find out more information.

>Satellite radios are available for home, vehicle,