Worldwide approximately 73 million children are enrolled in each year of secondary education out of a possible 122 million children. That is only 60% getting a secondary education.

In China on average 89% get a secondary education, but in India it is only 49%. Figures in Africa are even lower: 45% in Northern Africa, 25% in Southeastern Africa and 13% in Central Africa. The lowest is 5% in Niger. What is compulsory in some territories is a rarity in others.

The biggest population of secondary students is in China, where a quarter of all the secondary students in the world live.

“Only one of my children is studying. The others have to work, so that we can support ourselves. ...Without an education, people have no knowledge and they aren’t able to defend their rights.”

Pedro Hu Pacheco, 2004