



NEWS REPORT

Date:	14 June 2011
Expert:	Romanița Iordache
Title:	UNICEF, Romanian Ministry of Education and Impreună Agency release a study on access of Roma children to quality education: “A school for everybody? Access of Roma children to quality education”-[<i>O școală pentru toți? Accesul copiilor romi la o educație de calitate</i>]
Country:	Romania
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Impact of conditions of education on educational success of Roma children
Ground of discrimination:	Race/ethnic origin – Roma
Source:	Study
Field:	Education

Content

Development: A study released by UNICEF Romania, the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research and the NGO Agenția de Dezvoltare Comunitară „Impreună” reveals on 9 June that more than 70 percent of the pupils recorded to drop out from schools are Roma and that causes for leaving the educational system are poverty as well as the low quality of education and the lack of human and material resources in educational institutions.

The study “**A school for everybody? Access of Roma children to quality education**”-[*O școală pentru toți? Accesul copiilor romi la o educație de calitate*] carried out in 2010 with UNICEF funding used quantitative and qualitative data in 100 educational institutions with diverse representation of Roma students, in 70 Roma communities.

The study found out that Roma children have access to poor quality education and as the percentage of Roma children increases in a school, the quality of material resources and the quality of human resources involved in educational processes decreases. Schools with a high percentage of Roma pupils have poor specialty labs, libraries, IT labs, sports courts. Also the

number of books in the school libraries was found to decrease in direct proportion with the increase of Roma pupils. Out of the schools surveyed 26 percent do not have specialty labs, 18 percent do not have libraries, 43 percent do not have sport courts and the average is of one computer being used by 21 pupils and one internet connection to 45 pupils.

The study also showed that 60 percent of teachers in such schools commute, which has a negative impact on the involvement of the teachers in the schools and the communities.

When analyzing Roma presence in the student councils, the study finds that 39 percent of the schools do not have a student council and that where such a council was established Roma pupils are not represented proportionally.

Out of the Roma parents interviewed 90 have a positive approach to education and maintain contact with school officials and only 9 percent are not interested in their children education. Only 4 percent of those abandoning school invoke early marriages as a reason which challenges another common stereotype about Roma children.

Internet link source and additional information:

http://www.agentiaimpreuna.ro/files/O_scoala_pentru_toti.pdf