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Challenges for girls

IN his briefing on the Social Project of Inner Wheel in collaboration with Unicef with the theme "*Together for girls and education*", Andersen asserted that education is a passport to life.

According to him, 880 million people can't read or write, the majority being girls and women. About half of all children attending school drop out before they finish Fifth Grade, the majority being girls.

"If girls don't go to school, they will be more exposed to abuse, hunger, violence, child labour and slavery, and are less likely to break the poverty circle. But if they go to school, they have a better chance of getting jobs. They marry later, have fewer children and take better care of the children. Besides, they have a better chance of protecting themselves against sexual abuse and rape. At the same time, they are less at risk of getting AIDS and other diseases," he pointed out.

Noting that things are going in the right direction, Andersen said never have so many children attended school as today.

"It can be done and Inner Wheel is helping to do it."

Statistics show that since 1995, the percentage of girls attending school has grown from 78 to 85. "2007 figures indicate that 93 million children don't go to school but in 1995, it was 115 million."