

## Summary

This thesis explores initiatives in the developed world which are focused on helping and improving accessibility to education in developing countries. It considers the reasons why these activities are needed and highlights risks in an unbalanced relationship between the developed and developing world. The thesis indicates that insufficient access to education for all children in developing countries is one of the main causes of persistent poverty. The thesis also pictures the basis for development aid and assesses the Millennium Development Goals, which currently represent the largest UN initiative for development and poverty reduction. This thesis emphasizes the importance of education as an essential factor in the development of individuals and their societies and summarizes the major barriers to educational access that may be faced by children in the developing world. The final part of the thesis deals with one form of support for education; the sponsorship of disadvantaged children's education within developing countries, as mediated in the Czech Republic by the Child Sponsorship Program of the Charity Czech Republic, in conjunction with many similar projects managed by other organizations. This thesis evaluates the benefits and risks of child sponsorship. Furthermore, on the basis of research studies into the long-term impact of child sponsorship, interviews with sponsors and representatives of several organizations, observations from both personal experience and critics in the media, this study evaluates the meaningfulness of these projects.

## Keywords

Education, poverty, developing countries, development aid, child sponsorship