ELEARNINGNEWS ARTICLE

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A fund to promote the girls' education around the world ... with e-Learning

e-Learning has the power to transform education in developing countries. Malala Fund project, presented to the United Nations

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani girl, who became famous when she was only 11 and wrote a blog post for the BBC about girls' lack of access to education in Pakistan.
For this reason, in 2012, she's been shot to the head and seriously injured by Talibans who went on the school bus she used to come back home after school.
Now a first-year student at Oxford University and **Nobel Prize winner for Peace in 2014**, she's not neglected his humanitarian commitment.

Recently, she's founded a foundation in her name to promote education of girls around the world. In a recent interview with the United Nations, Malala has presented the projects of the foundation regarding the use of **e-Learning as a winning strategy to promote the girls' education** in the less developed countries.

In fact, in these countries the literacy rate has great margins for improvement (in Pakistan only 61% of women aged 15 to 24 are literate, Nigeria is 66%, Mali is 34%), while in countries like the USA the literacy rate, without gender distinctions, is close to 100%.

The Malala fund has launched the **Gulmakai network**. The goal of the network is to legitimize activists in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and in areas with high concentrations of Syrian refugees. The network is currently investing millions of dollars to help activists in these regions address issues, including education, with local leaders. And it is achieving good results.

"To help support these efforts," explains Malala, the Gulmakai network will be based on "e-learning and improvement interventions in the quality of education".

There are about 130 million girls who do not have access to schools, but hope lies in the possibility offered by e-Learning.

First of all, for girls who live in countries where education is more or less limited, e-Learning offers an accessible and safe way to attend school.

Secondly, eLearning allows girls to have contacts with educators from other geographical areas: if a region does not support female education, eLearning gives the opportunity to work with educators in other regions of the country or even in other nations.

Finally, with e-Learning it is possible to enjoy **continuous education** even when one lives in a "non-stable" situation and is constantly on the move: this is a particularly relevant problem for young people living in refugee camps all over the world.

It is important to note that e-Learning is already used to address the disparities in access to education for boys and girls in developing countries.

A report recently published by the United Nations on education for girls reported that "distance learning is an effective method of responding to situations where school sites are damaged or the journey to school is dangerous", assessing, in definitive, that "online educational programs have proven to be successful".

Certainly to make e-Learning a real possibility for girls all over the world, access to the Internet and computers must continue to

expand.

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