

Highlights

GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING REPORT 2016

Education for people and planet: CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

UNESCO

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The 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, underscoring The Incheon Declaration for Education 2030, entrusts UNESCO with the leadership, coordination and monitoring of the Education 2030 agenda. It also calls upon the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report to provide independent monitoring and reporting of the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4), and on education in the other SDGs, for the next fifteen years.

The 2016 GEM Report makes three messages starkly clear.

- **The urgent need for the political will, the policies, the innovation and the resources to buck the current trend where only 70% of children in low income countries will complete primary school in 2030, a goal that should have been achieved in 2015.**
- **The need for a must act with a sense of heightened urgency, and with long-term commitment. Failure to do so will not only adversely affect education but will hamper progress towards each and every development goal: poverty reduction, hunger eradication, improved health, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainable production and consumption, resilient cities, and more equal and inclusive societies.**
- **The need to fundamentally change the perception about education and its role in human well-being and global development. Now, more than ever, education has a responsibility to foster the right type of skills, attitudes and behaviour that will lead to sustainable and inclusive growth.**

Education and sustainable development:

Planet: environmental sustainability

- **Human behaviour that leads to environmental degradation involve demography, modern lifestyles and individual behaviour.**
- **Education, especially of girls and women, is the most effective means of curtailing population growth.**
- **Education can improve livelihoods by increasing earnings, and skilled people are essential to the transformation of economies and food systems.**
- **Education can influence individual and collective environmental behaviour through contemporary, traditional and lifelong approaches to learning.**
- **Analysis of 78 national curricula shows that 55% use the term ‘ecology’ and 47% ‘environmental education’.**
- **Beyond formal education, government agencies, religious organizations, non-profit and community groups, labour organizations and the private sector can all help change individual and collective behaviour.**
- **Education enhances people’s resilience to climate-related risks. Projections show that if education progress stalled, future disaster-related fatalities would increase by 20% per decade.**

- **Prosperity: sustainable and inclusive economies**
- **Literacy and agricultural extension programmes can help farmers increase productivity by up to 12%.**
- **Increased levels of primary and secondary education contribute to long-term economic growth.**
- **By 2020, the world could have 40 million too few workers with tertiary education relative to demand, and up to 95 million too many at lower education levels.**
- **Analysis conducted for the 2016 GEM Report suggests that if workers from advantaged and more disadvantaged social backgrounds had the same education, disparity in working poverty could reduce by 39%.**
- **Education is clearly linked with earnings – across 139 countries, the rate of return per additional year of schooling is 9.7%.**

People: inclusive social development

- **Differences in income, location, ethnicity and gender account for patterns of educational marginalization within countries.**
- **Poverty is by far the greatest barrier to education.**
- **Among 20- to 24-year-olds in 101 low and middle income countries, the poorest have on average 5 years fewer schooling than the richest; the gap is 2.6 years between urban and rural dwellers, and 1.1 year between women and men.**
- **School-based interventions, such as meals and health campaigns, can have an immediate impact on health. Conversely, meals in schools may increase attendance.**
- **Education can reduce maternal mortality. Increasing female education from zero to 1 year would prevent 174 maternal deaths per 100,000 births.**
- **Access to water, sanitation, hygiene and energy has a positive influence on education.**

Peace: political participation, peace and access to justice

- **Education and an open learning environment that supports discussion of controversial topics and allows students to hear and express differing opinions.**
- **Better education and women's involvement in national and local decision-making bodies are closely linked.**
- **Across India's 16 biggest states, increasing the number of women involved in district politics by 10% would lead to a nearly 6% rise in primary school completion, with a larger impact on girls' education.**
- **Across 106 countries over 55 years, ethnic groups with more education were more likely to engage in non-violent protests.**
- **Higher literacy levels accounted for half the regime transitions towards democracy between 1870 and 2000.**

Place: cities and human settlements

- **In most countries, urban planning schools and programmes are limited. India has about one planner for every 100,000 urban residents, compared to 1 for every 5,000 in Canada and the United States.**
- **Education-led participatory approaches, recognizing the needs of the disadvantaged, improve urban planning and decision-making.**

Partnerships: enabling conditions to achieve SDG 4 and the other SDGs

- ***The total annual cost of ensuring that every child and adolescent in low and lower middle income countries has access to good quality education from the pre-primary to upper secondary level will rise from US\$149 billion to US\$340 billion by 2030.***
- ***The Education 2030 Framework for Action set two benchmarks on domestic financing for education: 4% to 6% of gross domestic product (GDP) and 15% to 20% of public expenditure.***
- ***In about half of all lower income countries, tax ratios are below 15% of GDP, compared with 18% in emerging economies and 26% in advanced economies.***
- ***Recent estimates suggest that lower income countries lose about US\$100 billion annually due to multinational tax avoidance via offshore investments.***
- ***Two ways to prioritize spending for education are to remove fossil fuel subsidies and to earmark education funds.***

Read the full report from the official website at,

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245752e.pdf>