

Focus on...Education

It is your right to make informed choices

In the globalisation of the 21st century, nations are under intense pressure to compete for trade, employment opportunities, technology and quality of life issues such as health, gender equality and opportunities for their citizens to improve family and community life. Education is the foundation for all of these benefits.

Education helps to reduce social inequality, especially for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of gender, social class, language, ethnicity, rural location, disability or conflict. All children of school-going age must be exposed to a curriculum that equips them with knowledge, skills and capacity to continuously learn throughout their lives, so that

they can enjoy productive working careers – careers that will incorporate new technologies and developments.

In particular, public provision of education is viewed as an indicator of both the accountability of government and its capacity to provide for the educational needs of its citizens.

ANSA-Africa can concretely and constructively address a number of key aspects of education provision at the national, regional and local levels such as: education expenditure patterns, access to schooling, education efficiency, and educational quality.



UN Millennium Development Goal 3:

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- Sub-Saharan Africa shares with South Asia the world's largest gender gap in education, both at the level of enrolment as well as at the level of attainment.
- More worryingly, the absolute growth in education in sub-Saharan Africa has been slower than in other regions so that the absolute levels of female attainment (or enrolments) in this region have fallen below those of south Asia. The result is a generalised education crisis in Africa.

Source: Gender and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa
United Nations University Research Paper 2006/37

- Sub-Saharan Africa's adult literacy rate is 69% for men, 53% for women as of 2000.
- The primary school enrollment ratio for 1997-2000 was 63% for boys, 58% for girls.
- The secondary school enrollment ratio for the same period was only 29% for boys, 23% for girls.

Source: The State of the World's Children
Unicef 2004



ANSA-Africa is a growing network, jointly created by the World Bank and the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa, to advocate across the continent of Africa for citizen involvement in demand-side governance initiatives – particularly in how governments spend budget at community level

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