

Education in Developing Asia

Volume 4

**Equity and Access to Education:
Themes, Tensions, and Policies**

W.O. Lee



Asian Development Bank
Comparative Education Research Centre
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List of Abbreviations

ADB	—	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	—	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CIS	—	Commonwealth of Independent States
CPM	—	Capability Poverty Measure
DMC	—	Developing Member Country
GCE	—	General Certificate of Education
GDI	—	Gender-related Development Index
GDP	—	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	—	Gender Empowerment Measure
GER	—	Gross Enrollment Rate
GNP	—	Gross National Product
HDI	—	Human Development Index
HPAE	—	High-Performing Asian Economy
HPI	—	Human Poverty Index
Lao PDR	—	Lao People's Democratic Republic
NCR	—	National Capital Region
NER	—	Net Enrollment Rate
NGO	—	Nongovernment Organization
NIE	—	Newly Industrialized Economy
OECD	—	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRC	—	People's Republic of China
PROAP	—	Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCO)
UNDP	—	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	—	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCEFA	—	World Conference on Education for All

Currency Equivalents

(As of 15 March 2000)

	Currency Unit	
Dong (D)	D1.00 = \$0.00007111	\$1.00 = D14,063.00
Hong Kong dollar (HK\$)	HK\$1.00 = \$0.1286	\$1.00 = HK\$7.778
Kip (KN)	KN1.00 = \$0.0001299	\$1.00 = KN7700.77
Nepalese Rupee (NRe/NRs)	NRe1.00 = \$0.01454	\$1.00 = NRs68.7800
Peso (P)	P1.00 = \$0.02441	\$1.00 = P40.9601
Yuan (Y)	Y1.00 = \$0.1208	\$1.00 = Y8.2789

Note

In this booklet, "\$" refers to US dollars, unless otherwise specified.

Glossary

Human Development Index	One simple composite index to measure the average achievements in basic human development capabilities by using three indicators: life expectancy, education attainment, and income.
Gender-related Development Index	One simple composite index to measure gender inequality in human development.
Human Poverty Index	An index to measure deprivations in the three indicators of human life: life expectancy, education attainment, and income.
Gender Empowerment Measure	A composite measurement reflecting the relative empowerment of women and men in the political and economic sphere of activity.
Gini Index	An index to measure the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, expenditures) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.
Gross Enrollment Rate	Total enrollment of a level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population age group corresponding to the national regulations for that level of education.

Foreword

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a major source of funds and technical advice for the education sector in the Asian and Pacific region. ADB has provided nearly \$3.5 billion for education since 1990, representing an average of about 6 percent of total ADB lending per year during that period. ADB recognizes that human development is the basis for national and economic development, and that education – particularly basic education – is a fundamental element of human development. ADB seeks to ensure that its education investment is effectively targeted and efficiently utilized. It further recognizes that a clear policy framework based on careful analysis of the status and development needs of the education sector is necessary for effective investment.

ADB has therefore committed itself to a comprehensive process of review and analysis as the basis for preparing a new education sector policy paper. The policy paper will guide ADB in its support for education in the first years of the 21st century. It will be based on a series of activities, all designed to ensure that the education policy adequately reflects the rapidly evolving circumstances of the region.

ADB commissioned eight country case studies and five technical working papers as inputs to the policy formulation process. The case studies, undertaken by leading education research institutes in the countries concerned, analyzed the issues in education and the policies that had been developed to address the issues. The technical working papers examined selected cross-cutting issues in education development in the region. The case studies and the technical working papers were discussed at a major regional seminar involving representatives of government ministries of education, finance, and planning. Later, the case studies and working papers were integrated into a single publication *Education and National Development in Asia: Trends, Issues, Policies, and Strategies*. This study in turn was an input into ADB's education sector policy paper.

The five technical working papers contain a great deal of useful data and analysis, and it is important to ensure that they are fully available to education policymakers, practitioners, and scholars in the region and elsewhere. Consequently, revised versions are being published separately in their entirety jointly by ADB and the Comparative Education Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong as part of this series entitled *Education in Developing Asia*. ADB hopes that the papers and their wider availability will contribute to a

better understanding of the emerging challenges of education development in the region. ADB is pleased to have the partnership of a well-known academic institution in this publication, and thanks the authors and their associates for their contribution.

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