

11 EDUCATION

11.1.1 *Regional Perspective*

Laos and Cambodia are the countries in the Lower Mekong Basin with the poorest education performance and indicators while Thailand and Vietnam in comparison have well developed education systems.

Table 25: Education Indicators 2001/2002 – LMB Countries

Country	Adult Literacy %	Gross Enrolment Ratio – Both Sexes		
		Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Thailand	92.6	98	83 ¹	29
Vietnam	90.3	103	70	11
Cambodia	69.4	123	21	3
Lao PDR	66.4	115	41	4

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics website, ¹ 2000/2001

The high Primary gross enrolment rate in Lao PDR and Cambodia indicate a high number of overage pupils in the primary school age bracket.

11.1.2 *National Perspective*

The Lao formal education system includes five levels: five years of primary education, three years of lower secondary education, three years of upper secondary education, one to two years of post secondary education and three to seven years of tertiary education.

In general the education sector in Lao PDR suffers a lack of funds for salaries and schooling facilities and a lack of qualified personnel. This situation is most pronounced in the more remote parts of the country in the north and the south. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that the population is young and the majority of school age children live in rural areas. Years of schooling average 2.9 - 3.6 for boys, and 2.1 for girls.

In 2001 the net primary school enrolment rate had reached 80 percent, up from 62 percent in 1990. The Government aims at achieving full enrolment before 2015.

11.1.3 *Local Perspective*

In terms of spending on education Khammouane Province allocated around 1.8 million Kip per student in 2000 (JICA/CPC 2001). Among all 18 provinces in Lao PDR Khammouane was the third lowest. Vientiane and Sekong spent most per student with around 9 million Kip. Some indicators for the education sector in Khammouane Province is shown below.

Table 26: Education Indicators for Khammouane Province 1998

Indicator	Primary	L. Secondary	U. Secondary
Number of Schools	520	46	9
Enrolment Ratio	76.4	24.8	10.6
Number of Students	47,494	6,741	2,241
Dropout Ratio	20.0	-	-
Repetition Ratio	24.0	-	-
Teacher-Student Ratio	1:31	1:13	1:11
Number of Teachers	1,509	-	-
% of Unqualified Teachers	38.0	-	-

Source: JICA/CPC, 2001