The benefits of ECEC and basic education

Prof. Ides Nicaise
HIVA / Dept of Ed. Sc.
K.U. Leuven
Benefits of education

• Individual:
  – Material / Financial: also for farmers in informal sector: better use of soil and seeds, higher productivity, less dependence on traders who buy their products etc., more rational consumption and saving behaviour...
  – Learning skills => snowball effects
  – Non-material: essentially health: prevention (moderate use of alcohol, tobacco; less risky behaviour; hygiene; safe sex, family planning...); use of care (purchasing power and rational behaviour); living and working conditions (housing, better jobs...)

• ‘external effects’:
  – Economic: more educated workers raise productivity of others
  – Education of next generation: living standard, health, family planning, transmission of knowledge & skills, attitudes towards education...
  – Social capital: communication, transaction, citizenship, trust, gender equality...
## SOCIAL RETURNS TO EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Prim.</th>
<th>Sec.</th>
<th>Tert.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eur + N.-Amer.</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lat.-Amer.</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Psacharopoulos (1994)
Education and income / capita

- Life skills
- Labour productivity

Income
- More income
- Less people

Family planning
- Reduced fertility

Income / capita
Intergenerational effects of education

- Parental education
  - Educational skills
  - Labour productivity

- Parental income
  - Home comfort
  - Expenditure on education
  - Reduced child labour

- Family planning
  - Reduced fertility

- Education of children
  - At home
  - At school

- Reduced fertility
- Home comfort
- Expenditure on education
- Reduced child labour
Education and life expectancy
(Grossman)

- Parental education
  - Educational skills
  - Knowledge about health

- Parental income
  - Home comfort
  - Consumption of health care

- Family planning
  - Reduced child mortality

- Education of children
  - Awareness
  - Healthy behaviour

- Health / life expectancy of next generation
  - income
  - Health skills
  - Quality of work…
Why is basic education so profitable?

- Key skills (communication, basic maths, hygiene) are learnt in primary school
- Primary = more useful for rural areas ⇔ secondary education = typically useful for industry and services => in urban settings
- Tertiary = important but serious problems of
  - Mismatch (N-Africa)
  - Brain drain (medical sector, IT...): almost all physicians trained in Congo leave the country
Challenges

• Health problems (undernourishment, AIDS)
• Population growth and movements
• Economic conditions
  • Government debt
  • Poverty of population => education is lesser priority / opportunity cost of child labour
• Wars
• Poor governance

• Quantity-quality dilemma
• Inequalities / exclusion
  • Language policy
  • Resources
• Relevance of curricula
  • Teacher professionalisation
  • ....