

Educational Policies and Priorities in Commonwealth Small States

Conceptualising and Delivering Basic Education

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Presentation Overview

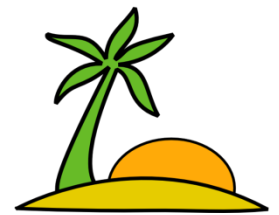
- Topics:

- Access
- Quality
- Equity



- Extending the Boundaries

- Presentation Approach:

- Broad Picture
- Small States Situation
- Priorities



What is 'Basic Education'?

- Primary?
 - Compulsory?
 - Educational provision for children
 - perhaps including:
 - pre-primary and/or
 - lower secondary schooling
- 
- early childhood?
- 
- adult learning?

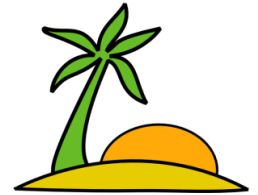
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Access



Broad Picture

- The global starting point
 - Jomtien 1990, Dakar 2000, FTI 2002
 - Often narrowed to primary
 - Dominated international agendas, trajectories, and funding since 1990/Jomtien
- 2010 GMR
 - Great improvement since 1997 but still a priority
 - At current rate, 56 million children will remain out of school in 2015



Small States Situation

- Many achieved UPE early on
 - 2002: 8 of 9 reporting had 90%+ NERs
 - 2010: 18 of 24 reporting had 80% NER (11 with 90%)
- Room for growth, but not biggest priority

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Access

- Retention



- Strong primary completion rates
- Impact of repetition and drop out felt more severely
 - Cost-effectiveness & ‘wastage’
- People are the greatest small state resource

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Quality



Broad Picture

- Following Access
 - Increasingly prioritised in recent years (2005 GMR)
- Conceptualisations:
 - Economic/Utilitarian
 - Rights-based



Small States Situation

- A priority from Jomtien (1990)
- SIPSS: School Improvement Programme in Small States
 - 2000 CCEM
 - Source: Degazon-Johnson 2003
- Blending conceptualisations
 - Knowledge Economy
 - Cultural relevance

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Quality



- Curriculum and Pedagogy
 - Knowing and Learning
 - Delivery methods
 - Tension:
 - international and national level conceptions
 - school level implementation
 - Tabulawa 2009, Botswana
 - LeFanu, 2010, Papua New Guinea
 - **Context Sensitivity**



- Examination Systems
 - Economies of Scale and limited human resources
 - Caribbean Examinations Council and
 - South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment

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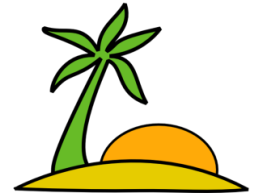
Quality



- **Teacher Mobility**
 - **Predominantly suppliers**
 - Ochs and Jackson 2009
 - **Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol**
 - Balancing teacher rights to mobility with protection of scarce human resources

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Equity



Broad Picture

- The Contemporary Priority?
 - 2010 Global Monitoring Report “Reaching the Marginalized”
- Gender Equity
 - Girls’ participation and empowerment

Small States Situation

- Split picture:
 - Matching the global picture: Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
 - Secondary level, 21 of 29 (2009) Commonwealth small states GPIs favour girls
 - Caribbean: male drop out

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Equity



- Education for Boys
 - Participation
 - Retention
- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
 - CARICOM

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Extending the Boundaries

