



Educational Inequality and Its Implications:

The global landscape faces crises impacting education and human capital. Educational inequality in Thailand hinders human capital, youth development, and labor market integration. This presentation examines Thailand's challenges compared to Asian nations.

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Chapter 1: Context and Problem Statement

- ❖ Global crises (COVID-19, economic downturns, social fragility) have disrupted education systems and human capital development.
- ❖ A sharp rise in NEET youth (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) reveals systemic failures.
- ❖ Core structural issue: Lack of Education, driven by:
 - Socio-cultural disparities
 - Inflexible curricula
 - Mismatch between education and labor market needs

Result: Deepening inequality, poverty, and social exclusion, especially in marginalized areas.

Educational Exclusion Hinders Global Workforce Readiness

Rising educational exclusion poses significant challenges.
It threatens global workforce readiness, economic growth, and social cohesion.

Systemic Issues in Asia

- Education systems rely on **rote learning**.
- Lack integration of **vocational, digital, and soft skills**.

Indonesia: Nearly **20% of youth** excluded from education (ILO, 2023)

China: Youth lack **digital and soft skills** critical to modern industry.

Spatial Inequality Limits Access

- Poor **digital infrastructure** in rural areas.
- Urban-centric education-labor connections.

Result: Deepening **marginalization** of rural and disadvantaged youth.





The Thai Context:

- **Youth from low-income, migrant, and peripheral households** often drop out due to socioeconomic pressures.
- These "missed" populations face **long-term barriers** to employment and skills development.
- Thailand risks losing its **human capital advantage** without **flexible, inclusive, labor-aligned education**.
- Systemic failures threaten progress on key **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:



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Education gap:

SDG 4: Outdated curriculum

SDG 5: Gender inequality in education

Economic barriers:

SDG 1: Chronic poverty among NEET

SDG 8: Weak school-to-work transition

Systemic disparities:

SDG 10: Regional & vulnerability disparities


SDG 17: Need cross-sector collaboration






Chapter 2: Root Causes of Educational Exclusion and National-Level Challenges

This chapter explores the underlying causes of educational exclusion “Lack of Education” by analyzing country-level challenges in eight countries from 2020 to 2022 using a purposive sampling approach: Lebanon, Iraq, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Thailand. The data, derived from the UNHCR DATATHRON dataset (The UNHCR DATATHRON dataset 2025), highlights critical structural and contextual differences that shape each country’s education landscape



Chapter 3: Theoretical Interpretations of Educational Inequality— The Interrelationship Between National Income Levels, Human Capital, and Labor Market Structures

- Low-Income Countries: e.g., Nepal, Bangladesh
- Middle-Income Countries: e.g., Thailand, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq
- High-Income or Upper-Middle-Income Countries with Complex Labor Markets: e.g., China, Lebanon



Chapter 4: Causes and Consequences of Educational Inequality Across Income Groups: Interpretations through Human Capital and Structural Theories

SWOT Analysis (based on TOWS Matrix) to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
Categorizes countries by income level and contextual variables
Integrates three key theories:
Human Capital Theory
Educational Mismatch
Intergenerational Poverty



Chapter 5: Theoretical Applications for Diagnosing and Addressing the Causes and Impacts of Educational Exclusion

- Human Capital Theory – links education to productivity and economic growth
- Educational Mismatch – gap between education provided and labor market needs
- Structural Barriers – systemic inequalities in access and quality
- Opportunity Cost – foregone income discouraging continued education
- Intergenerational Poverty – exclusion passed across generations



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Chapter 6: Bridging the Educational Divide—Strategies for Reducing Inequality and Rebuilding Educational Systems

Low-Income Countries	Middle-Income Countries	High/Upper-Middle-Income Countries
Structural: Build schools in rural areas; mobile teaching units	Structural: Revise curricula; expand vocational training	Structural: Expand digital/blended learning access
Budgetary: CCTs, vouchers, focus on early education	Budgetary: Tax incentives, digital learning platforms	Budgetary: Recovery funds, direct support to schools
Behavioral: Awareness campaigns; challenge gender norms	Behavioral: Career guidance; destigmatize vocational ed	Behavioral: Flexible pathways; recognize informal learning
Systemic: Microlearning; inclusive digital design	Systemic: Lifelong learning infrastructure; cross-sector coordination	Systemic: Reform qualifications; sector-based upskilling

Thank you