



What does data tell us about the education situations around the world?

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Introduction

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Education expenditure trend over the world

In this section we will discuss education expenditure across different countries in time period of 2000 to 2019. The indicator we have chosen to analyze in this section is:

- Government expenditure on education, total (% of GDP).

General government expenditure on education (current, capital, and transfers) is expressed as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It includes expenditure funded by transfers from international sources to government.

World map

Average government expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2000–2019

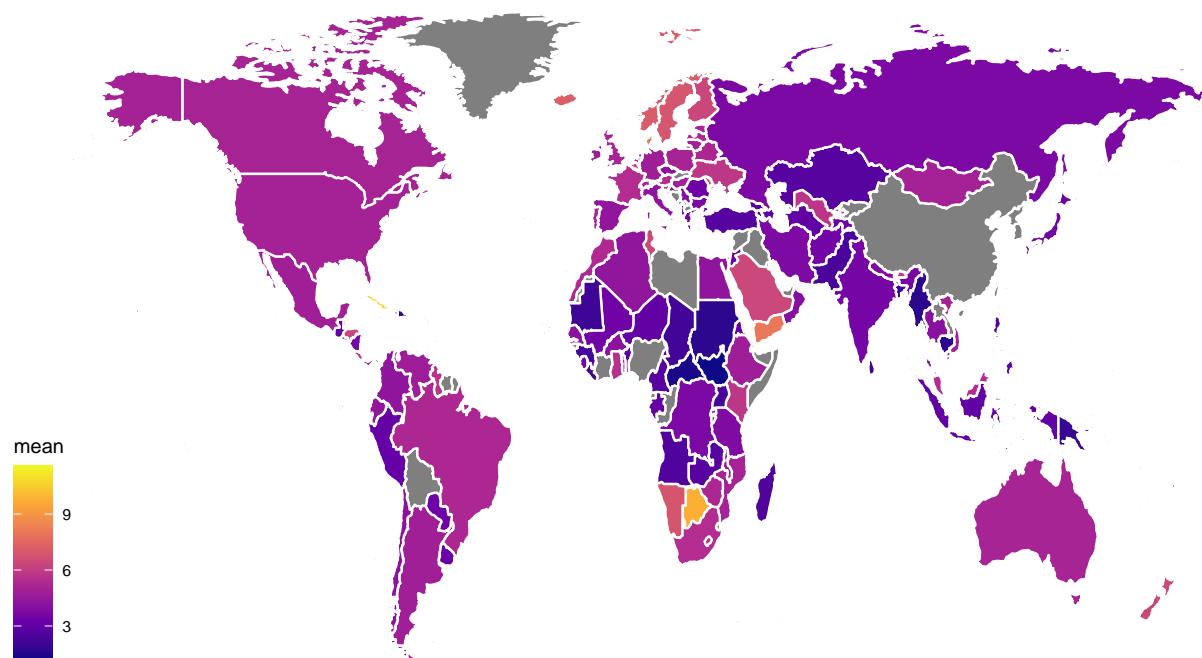


Figure ??, provides an overview of spending on education by country. To produce the figure, we calculated average spending over the time period for each country. The average government spending on education across countries ranged between 1.2% - 11.5% of their GDP.

Then we looked at the government expenditure on education by income group over time in Figure 1. What evident on the graph is that the low income countries have devoted much lesser proportion of

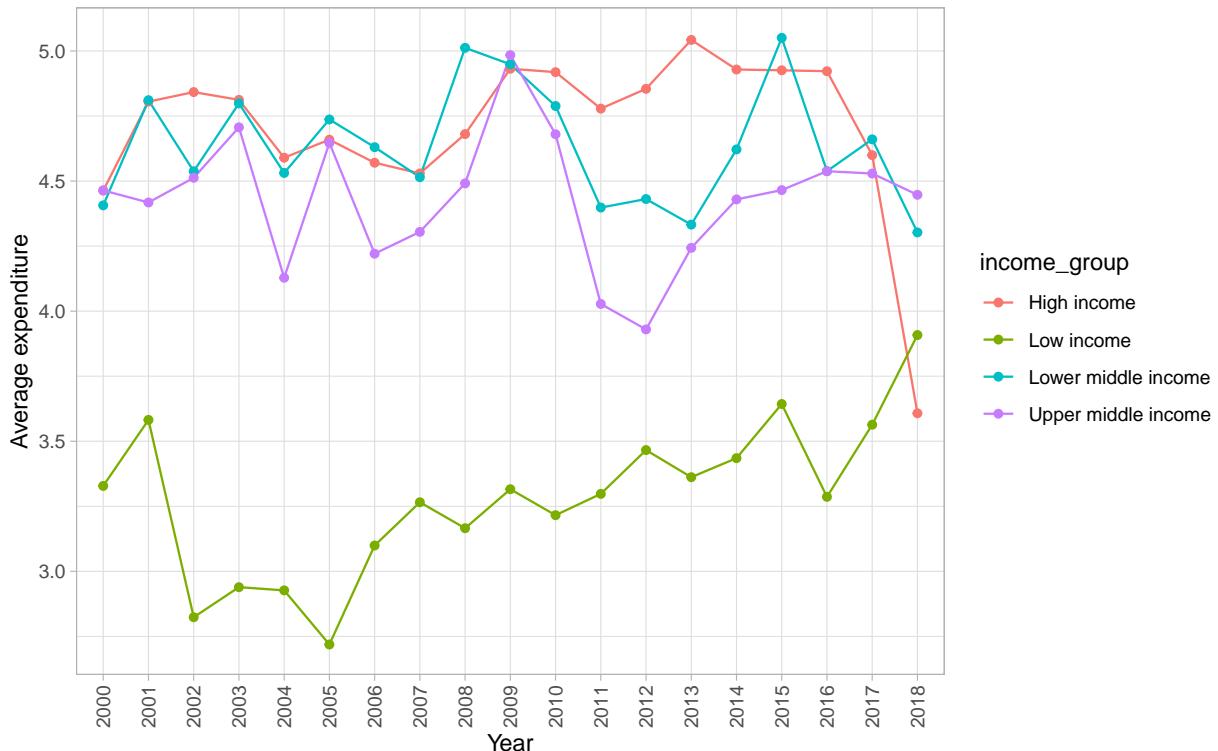


Figure 1: Government expenditure on education (% of GDP), by income group

their GDP but also we can see that spending has increased on average for those countries. On the other hand, high income countries spending more share of their GDP roughly between 4.5% to 5%. However the data had many missing values, a broad upward trend can be observed from the Figure 1.

In Figure 2, we visualized the education spending by geographical regions. During the time period, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest spending ranging between 3-4% but again, the plot shows upward trend for those regions. For the other regions, it seems that it has been relatively stable over time.

Table 1: Total government expenditure on education by income group in 2000 and 2015

Income groups	2000	2015	Percentage change
High income	4.46	4.93	10.35
Low income	3.33	3.64	9.46
Lower middle income	4.41	5.05	14.61
Upper middle income	4.46	4.47	0.02

As shown in Table 1, the increase in education spending is evident for the majority of countries. But it remained at the same level for the upper middle income countries.

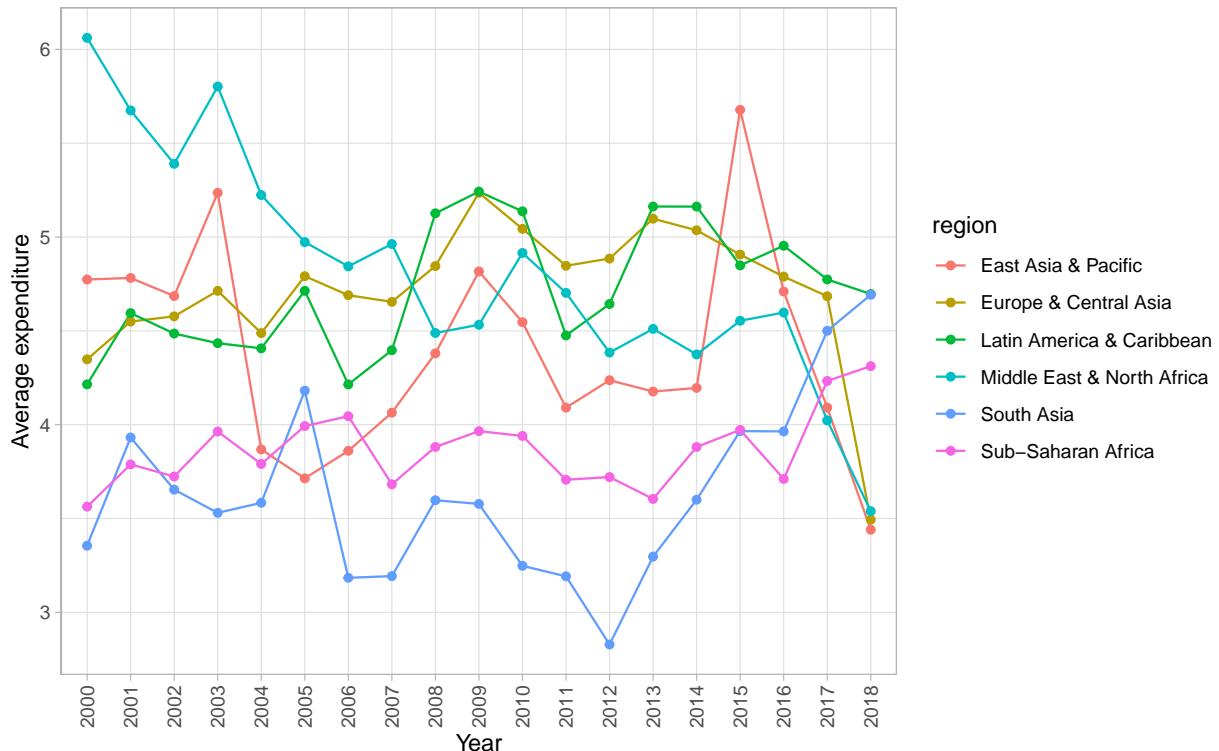


Figure 2: Government expenditure on education (% of GDP), by region

Overall, it can be concluded that the total amount of global resources spent on education is increasing over the world. But according to the article Trabelsi 2018, it is suggested that if the governance is weak more public spending on education leads to lower growth. However, the improvement of the quality of institutions enhances the economic performance.

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Conclusion

References

- Trabelsi, S (2018). Public education spending and economic growth: The governance threshold effect. *Journal of Economic Development* 43(1), 101–124.