

## **RECOUP: Research Consortium on Educational Outcomes and Poverty**

Inspired by the Millennium Development Goals target of achieving universal primary education, the Department for International Development (DFID) has commissioned an educational research project to study the impact of education on life outcomes, including economic and social outcomes, in South Asia and Africa. The study is a multi-country initiative which includes Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan and India as study locations. The main focus of the study is to explore the impact of education and learning on labour market outcomes, health and fertility outcomes and human development outcomes.

### **Purpose of the Research**

- To study the mechanisms that drive the cycles of poverty and identify the policies needed to ensure that educational outcomes benefit the disadvantaged.
- Focus on circumstances in two regions where the challenges of achieving the Millennium Development Objective of halving world poverty by 2015 is greatest and where the policy benefits are most urgently required.

### **Specific Research Questions include:**

- How can the social and human development outcomes of education be measured, improved and made central to poverty policy?
- How can economic and market outcomes of education be improved, particularly for the poor?
- How are the outcomes of education affected by different partnership arrangements between households, governments and aid agencies?

### **Methodologies and Approach**

- A multi-disciplinary approach is employed combining the expertise of an array of researchers, including economists, sociologists, anthropologists and educationalist, to address similar questions in each of the three thematic areas.
- Qualitative and Quantitative methods are used providing a balanced representation of social and economic realities in each individual country, facilitating a cross-country comparative analysis.
- Quantitative research methods: a multipurpose household survey covering 2000 households has been conducted in each country generating data on the impact of education and learning on labour market, health and fertility outcomes.
- An inter-generational approach has been used to interview young adults and their parents on their schooling experience, health conditions, relationship to the labour market and life outcomes in general. Other qualitative methods including life history approaches and ethnographic field work in selected communities charting educational changes through time, key informant interviews and case studies.

## **Lead Research Institutions**

- The Centre for Commonwealth Education (CCE) of the University of Cambridge (lead partner);
- School of Social and Political Studies (SSPS) of the University of Edinburgh;
- Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) of the University of Oxford;
- Associates for Change (AFC), Ghana;
- Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD), India;
- Kenyatta University, Kenya;
- Mahbub Ul Haq Human Development Centre (MHHDC), Pakistan

## **The Regions and Countries of Focus:**

- South Asia (India and Pakistan)
- Sub Saharan Africa (Kenya and Ghana)

These regions were selected because they share similar characteristics. There is low school efficiency, low levels of cognitive achievement amongst school leavers, and consequently high inequality in educational outcomes, both social and economic.

## **Associates for Change (AFC)**

Associates for Change is the lead research agency in Ghana. AFC is a research and consulting firm providing social development, economic research and policy analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-Asia. It employs a multidisciplinary approach and leads research projects in the areas of poverty reduction, education and social development; women's empowerment and gender equity; public sector reform and social impact; HIV/AIDS; small medium enterprise development; child rights and protection. AFC collaborates with like minded agencies working on social development issues and serves as an expert group of professionals within Africa.

The AFC web site houses several pieces of research and evaluative studies related to education, social development, gender equity, HIV/AIDS and child rights and protection. Several of the RECOUP research papers can be found on our web site ([www.associatesforchange.org](http://www.associatesforchange.org)) and the RECOUP web site.

## **The RECOUP web site:**

Several of the latest policy briefs and working papers can be found on the RECOUP web site: <http://recoup.educ.cam.ac.uk/>,