

Egypt Education 2030: “Challenges, Opportunities & International Cooperation”

Hany Helal

Professor, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University
Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

After overviewing the Sustainable Developments Goals, the 4th SDG is presented together with some facts and analysis:

- Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91 %, However 57 million children remain out of school,
- More than half of children that have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa,
- An estimated 50 per cent of out-of-school children of primary school age live in conflict-affected areas,
- 103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of them are women,
- Children are less likely to attend school if they live in rural areas, are poor or have parents with little or no education,
- More than half of children aged 3 and 4 in selected countries are developmentally on track in physical, learning and psycho-social well-being,
- Learning opportunities of many types should extend throughout life.

As SDG 4 started only in 2016, Egypt’s Progress towards Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG 2) on primary education is presented. Net enrolment rate in primary education declined from 95.4%in 2010/2011, to 90.6 in 2013/2014, far from MDG target. While this rate in preparatory education increased by 12%, yet far from MDG target. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary declined from 97.2% in 2010/2011 to 95%in 2013/2014, 2.2% decline yet MDG goal 2 is possible. Illiteracy rate of women and men has dropped to 8.6% among young people in the 15-24 years age group, compared to nearly 65%in the 60 years age group & above, (possibility of eliminating illiteracy in the future).

Sustainable Development Strategy and Egypt vision 2030 will be presented, with focus on Education and training. Some basic data and facts concerning the education system are analyzed, with most persisting challenges and proposed actions. Ongoing reform, 2016-2020 is presented in terms of access, quality, equity and relevance.

Cooperation with international partners is outlined, especially with Japan and Egypt–Japan Education Partnership (EJEP) under implementation in cooperation with JICA. It has been declared by President Elsisy and Prime Minister Abe in Tokyo in March 2016. It includes three main pillars:

1. Human Resources Development Program (HRDP) aiming at increasing the number of Egyptian students/trainees dispatched to Japan to 2500 at least in the coming 5 years.
2. Egypt-Japan Schools (EJS) which comprise different components:
 - Introducing the Japanese style education in Egypt
 - Promotion of “Tokkatsu” in Egypt
 - Model schools to which the Japanese style education is applied
 - Capacity building of teachers and trainers
 - Improvement of school management and educational school activities
 - Promotion of physical education and music as school subjects in Egypt
 - Promoting “learning through playing” practice at nurseries and kindergartens
 - Cooperation in Technical Education
3. Promotion of E-JUST (Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology)