



Introduction

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is one of the countries which enrolment ratios were not calculated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) due to lack of enrolment data. The country had not submitted these data to UIS for the whole 1999-2012 period. In order to assess progress made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since 1999 across some of the EFA goals, the EFA Global Monitoring Report (GMR) Team used data from national sources, in particular the national EFA 2015 review report as well as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) of 2000 and 2009.

Because of the use of data from household survey sources, indicators that are different from the usual enrolment ratios were used in the analysis. Participation and gender parity at pre-primary level were measured using net attendance rates (NAR). Progress toward universal primary education is assessed using the primary adjusted net enrolment ratio (ANER), while the extent to which gender parity is reached in primary education is measured using GPIs of the gross enrolment ratio (GER).

It is important to note that the use of data from national sources meant using school age-groups that are different from the country agreed ones in the International standard classification of education system (ISCED). So for pre-primary education, the age-group used in this analysis is 3-5 instead of 5-6, and for primary education 6-10 instead of 7-10.

Pre-primary education

In pre-primary education, data related to the net attendance rate (NAR) suggest that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made tremendous progress in children participation in early child learning programmes. Indeed the NAR went from 3.2% in 2000 to 97.8% in 2009, with almost all children of 3 to 5 years old attending preschool programmes.

Primary education

By 2012, the country has reached universal primary enrolment. Indeed, the primary adjusted net enrolment ratio, that measures the proportion of children of primary school age enrolled either in primary or secondary education, was about 99% and it was already so in 2008.

Access to school is an important step to universal primary education, but it is equally important to ensure that all children, who enrol in primary education, complete it. Yet, in the absence of relevant data to measure primary school completion, it is difficult to assess whether the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has achieved this aspect of universal primary education.

Gender Parity

Gender parity is achieved in primary education, with the gender parity index (GPI) of GER of 1.00 in 2012 as already the case in 2008.

Conclusion

The analysis of education data of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea demonstrates that the country has made great progresses in ensuring participation in early child learning programmes of almost all children of 3-5 between 2000 and 2009. Both universal primary enrolment and gender parity in primary education have been achieved by 2012.