



Introduction

Macao is one of the countries which enrolment ratios were not calculated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) due to inconsistencies between enrolment figures provided the country and the United Nations population data from the 2012 population revision, in particular in more recent years. In order to monitor progress made by Macao since 1999 across some of the EFA goals, the GMR Team used data provided by UIS for the earliest period, that is 1999, and the data provided by the Department of Statistics of Macao upon our specific request. It is important to stress that enrolment ratios from the two sources are not necessary comparable since they are based on different school age populations. Finally drop-out rates from the country source were turned into survival rates to last grade and were used to assess progress towards primary school completion.

Pre-primary education

In 2012, Macao had high levels of participation in pre-primary education, with a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of nearly 92%. The country has maintained high levels of pre-primary enrolment since 1999, when its pre-primary GER was 90%.

Primary education

In primary education, Macao (China) has also maintained high GER and net enrolment ratio (NER) since 1999. The country increased its NER from 85% to 90% in 2012 and is in an intermediary position to reaching universal primary enrolment.

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. In terms of primary education completion, the country reported an overall dropout rate of 1.8% in 2012, down from 2.4% in 1999. In other words, in Macao (China) almost all children who enter primary school reach at least the last grade, are likely to reach higher levels of education, with a survival rate to last grade of 98% in 2012.

Gender Parity

In primary education, Macao (China) reached the gender parity target already by 1999, with a gender parity index (GPI) of 0.99, and has maintained this position in 2012. Almost all girls as well as all boys were also likely to reach the last grade of primary education, with survival rates of 98%, respectively.

Conclusion

The analysis of education data of Macao (China) demonstrates that the country has maintained high levels of participation in both pre-primary and primary education between 1999 and 2012. Moreover, the country has almost eliminated gender disparities in primary school participation and retention. Nevertheless, more interventions are needed in order to reach universal primary enrolment, and thus the universal primary education goal.