

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Atiur Rahman

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Lessons from
East Asia for Bangladesh



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Internet e-mail: publish@iseas.edu.sg
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Preface

This study makes an attempt at finding the causal links between education and the unprecedented economic growth experienced by most of the Southeast Asian countries up to the present era. Despite the recent economic downturn in the region, most commentators agree that much of the success of these economies has been made possible by better human capital endowments, of course placed within the context of a favourable policy regime. The commitment of the leaders in investing heavily in people has, undoubtedly, been rewarded, as reflected in the favourable developmental outcomes. As a result, education did not only play a crucial role in accounting for high growth rates but some believe that it holds the key to the ultimate recovery from the economic crisis. How fast and ably these countries can move into the higher order technological capability curve, which again will be decided by the strength of educational development, will decide the fate and pace of the recovery.

Given this broad perspective, the study tries to identify a number of lessons which could be learned from the educational and development experiences of East Asia, in particular from Singapore, which perhaps has done the best in the field of education. It then investigates whether some of these lessons are replicable in a resource-poor country like Bangladesh. The study concludes that while the East Asian educational experiences may not be replicable in Bangladesh, valuable lessons can be learned from them, which can be emulated by the latter. However, these lessons have to be placed in the overall developmental and institutional context. Bangladesh should try to set its own development agenda where education should have its natural priority.

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Atiur Rahman

Glossary

ATEO	Assistant Thana Education Officer
BMED	Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board
CPEIMU	Compulsory Primary Education Implementation Monitoring Unit
DDPE	Deputy Director of Primary Education
DG	Director-General
DNFE	Directorate of Non-Formal Education
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education
DPEO	District Primary Education Officer
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
MNC	multinational corporation
MOE	Ministry of Education
NFBE	non-formal basic education
NFE	non-formal education
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIE	newly industrialized economies
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PMED	Primary and Mass Education Division
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
SMC	School Management Committee
TFO	Thana Education Officer
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
UGC	University Grant Commission
UPE	Universal Primary Education