Equity, Privatization, and the Right to Education

Webinar 1: Introduction to Privatization of Education: Forms & Diffusion

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Webinar Series organized by UNESCO's International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP)

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Why this Webinar Series?

1) Varying levels of awareness and understanding of education privatization and the right to education globally

2) Need for information distilled into *hopefully* comprehensible materials (including the new primer accompanying this series)

3) Hour-long webinars allow for manageable amounts of information on specific topics
Webinar 1: *Introduction to the privatization of education: forms and diffusion*

Webinar 2 (24 February): *Comparing approaches: lessons from different education systems*
   Special guest Dr. Antoni Verger

Webinar 3 (3 March): *Moving forward: delivering on education as a human right*
   Special guest Ashina Mtsumi

Webinar 4 (10 March): *Final discussion and key conclusions*
   Special guest Camilla Croso
Privatization “in” and “of” education

**Endogenous** – Privatization “in” education

importing of ideas, techniques and practices from the private sector in order to make the public sector more like businesses and more business-like.

**Exogenous** – Privatization “of” education

the opening up of public education services to private sector participation on a for-profit basis and using the private sector to design, manage or deliver aspects of public education.

Ball & Youdell, 2008
Webinar 1 Overview:
Piecing Together Education Privatization

1) Definitions and components of education privatization
2) National education decision-making
3) Five pathways of education privatization
4) Three country examples
5) Displaying global diffusion
Different Ways of Defining Education Privatization

1) **Provision and funding** - the “transfer of activities, assets and responsibilities from government/public institutions and organizations to private individuals and agencies” (Belfield and Levin, 2002, p. 19)

2) **Management** - the “transfer of public-sector responsibility to privately owned or operated organizations or companies, for example non-governmentally run schools such as private or charter schools” (Adamson & Astrand, 2016, p. 8)

3) **Property ownership** - “privatization is the act of reducing the role of government or increasing the role of the private sector in an activity or the ownership of assets” (World Bank, 2001)
Combining Definitions of Education Privatization

Shifting of State **responsibility** for the **management** and **provision** of equitable, high-quality **education** to the **Non-State** (private) sector, including for **funding** and/or **ownership**, thereby relegating **government** to a **subsidiary** role of allocating funds and monitoring outcomes.

1 - Established in International Human Rights Treaty (ICESCR, 1997)
Applying the Definition: Identifying Private and Public Institutions at the Individual Level

- **Funding**: Do families or governments fund?
- **Traditionally public schools**: all 3 categories public
- **Education privatization**: mix of public and private categories
- **Traditionally private schools**: all 3 categories private
- **Management**: Who oversees content and delivery?
- **Ownership**: Who owns the physical capital?
How did We Get Here?

1950’s

Milton Friedman first posits public schools as monopoly power, denying consumers (parents) choice in education.

1970’s

Augusto Pinochet enacts Milton Friedman’s neoliberal experiment of privatizing education in Chile.

1980’s

Thatcher (U.K.) and Reagan (U.S.) policy reforms promote marketization. World Bank lending policies strongly incentivize privatization in Global South.

1990’s

Sweden switches rapidly from centralized social welfare state model to national marketization of education.
Key Elements of National Education Systems

- Policy Drivers (privatization, etc.)
- Economic Rationales (efficiency, choice, etc.)
- Educational Mechanisms (LFPS, Charters, Vouchers, etc.)
Contemporary Examples

Pathways, Mechanisms, & Saturation of Education Privatization

India: Underinvestment in Public Education Leads to Dearth of Public Schools

“Low Fee” Private (and often for-profit) schools concentrated in rural & urban-poor areas.

School quality is highly contested & inconclusive (Ashley et al. 2014; Srivastava 2016).
India: Dearth of Public Provision and Higher Proportion of Private Schools

K-12 provincial enrollment by percent enrolled in private schools (Pictured right)

Where private school saturation exceeds 10%, province is labeled on map.
New Orleans: Catastrophe Eliminates Public Infrastructure, Resulting in Wholesale Privatization via Charter Schools

2003 – Louisiana “Recovery School District” established; authorized transformation of low performing public schools to charters.

2005 – Hurricane Katrina severely cripples infrastructure and local economy.

2005 – First NOLA “failing” schools charteized; over 7,000 teachers fired without due process

2012 – Student expulsion rules change

2015 – Remaining NOLA public schools charteized
New Orleans: Largest U.S. Example of Education Privatization Targeted at BIPOC and Urban Communities

United States K-12 Districts with Charter School Enrollment (as a percent of total K-12 enrollment) Greater than 10%.

Data year: 2017
Chile: Coup d’État Followed by Adoption of Neoliberal Ideology

Education Reforms:

1. Voucher funding for K-12.
2. Incentivized structure increases to private school supply.
3. Scaled autonomy and accountability through decentralization and mandatory high-stakes standardized testing.
Chile: Coup d’état and the Neoliberal Model

1973 Military Coup

1. Chilean conservatives and U.S. join to prevent left-wing parties from implementing socialist policies.
2. Friedman’s neoliberal policies seen as solution to political development and economic structure of Chile.
3. Results change Chile from a Welfare State to a Subsidiary State.

Changes possible due violence and repression towards opponents of the military regime.
Chile’s Growth in Private Voucher School Enrollment (1980-2012)

Private voucher schools (50%) overtake public schools (45%), due to co-pay and student selection.

Source: MINEDUC, Estadísticas de la Educación, 2013.
Chile’s Student Distribution by School Type and Socioeconomic Quintile (2012)

Results:

1) Radical stratification

2) Apartheid in education (Waissbluth, 2013)

3) The most segregated educational system (OECD, 2011)

Figure 6. Distribution of Students by Administrative Affiliation and Socioeconomic Group 2012. Percentages.
Challenges in Tracking and Mapping Education Privatization

1) Private providers of education not necessarily compelled to disclose the number of pupils served.

2) The OECD, World Bank, and UNESCO have not specifically tracked this emerging phenomenon by collecting data on the definitional categories of funding, management, ownership.

3) Private providers at times operate without State recognition or knowledge.
How Widespread is Education Privatization?

Remember our key definitional components:
- management, funding, and ownership

However, international data only available for aspects of:
- management and funding

Country-level education privatization = Average of 1 & 2 below
1) mean % enrollment in private (management) &
2) mean % private funding.
Percentages grouped by quartile. Calculations for ISCED Level 1 (primary students).

Data Sources: World Bank & UNESCO, calculations from most recently-available data reporting years.
Data years range from 2011 – 2018.
Global Heat Map of the Spread of Education Privatization at ISCED 1 (using Funding & Management), by Quintile (global median 8.3%)
Thank you!

Next Webinar ... February 24\textsuperscript{th} 2021

\textit{Comparing approaches: lessons from different education systems}

In Webinar 2, we will examine evidence on different approaches to education, using the lens of education equity to evaluate them. Dr. Antoni Verger will join as a presenter.