

The Philippines and Selected ASEAN Countries: Education Spending and Outcomes

At a Glance



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The Philippines is generally doing a good job in the basic education sector. The country's educational inputs, participation, education efficiency, and completion outcomes are competitive compared to other ASEAN countries', although there are still some areas the country should work on.

Educational Inputs

Table 1. Educational Inputs

Country	Public expenditure per student				Public Expenditure on Education		Primary pupil-teacher ratio
	% of GDP per capita				% of GDP	% of total government	pupils per teacher
	Primary		Secondary				
	1991	2004	1999	2004	2004	2004	2004
Cambodia	n/a	6.5	6.8	n/a	2	n/a	55
Indonesia	n/a	2.9	8.7	5.6	1.1	9	20
Lao PDR	n/a	6.7	4.3	8.9	2.3	11	31
Malaysia	10.1	20.2	22.3	28.3	8.1	20.3	19
Myanmar	n/a	n/a	7.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	33
Philippines	n/a	11.1	10.7	9.2	3.2	17.8	35
Singapore	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thailand	11.6	13.8	11.5	13	4.2	27.5	21
Vietnam	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.4	17.1	23

Source: The World Bank Group, World Development Indicators 2006

- Philippine government spending for secondary education decreased from 1999 to 2004. In 2004, the Philippine government allotted only 3.2% of its gross domestic product (GDP) for education while Malaysia spent more than double.
- The Philippines lags behind some of the ASEAN countries when it comes to per capita spending. In 2004, the National Government spent 11.1% of GDP per capita for every elementary student. Likewise, it spent 9.2% of GDP per capita for every high school student in the same year.
- Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines has the second largest pupil-teacher ratio at the primary school level at 35 students per teacher, next to Cambodia.

Participation in Education

Table 2. Participation in Education

Country	Gross enrollment ratio			Children out of school	
	% of relevant age group			primary-school-age children (in thousands)	
	Preprimary	Primary	Secondary	Male	Female
	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004
Cambodia	9	137	26	n/a	n/a
Indonesia	22	116	62	n/a	215
Lao PDR	8	116	46	50	68
Malaysia	99	93	70	113	107
Myanmar	n/a	93	38	408	374
Philippines	39	113	84	385	269
Singapore	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thailand	92	99	77	365	433
Vietnam	47	98	73	n/a	n/a

Source: The World Bank Group, World Development Indicators 2006

- Generally among ASEAN countries, there is a high number of out-of-school children. In fact, there are more male students than females who drop out.
- The Philippines has 385,000 male and 269,000 females who are out of primary and secondary school. The Philippines' total out of school youths is the third highest among ASEAN countries next to Myanmar and Thailand.
- Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines has the largest number of enrollees in the secondary level (84%).

Table 3. Education Efficiency

Country	Share of cohort reaching grade 5				Repeaters in primary school		Transition to secondary education	
	% of grade 1 students				% of enrollment		% of enrollment in last year of primary	
	Male		Female		Male	Female	Male	Female
	1991	2003	1991	2003	2004	2004	2004	2004
Cambodia	n/a	58	n/a	61	12	9	85	80
Indonesia	34	88	78	90	4	4	80	83
Lao PDR	n/a	62	n/a	63	21	18	80	76
Malaysia	97	87	97	87	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Myanmar	n/a	64	n/a	66	1	1	74	66
Philippines	n/a	72	n/a	80	3	1	98	97
Singapore	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thailand	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vietnam	n/a	90	n/a	88	3	2	99	100

Source: The World Bank Group, World Development Indicators 2006

Education Efficiency

- In general, more male students in ASEAN countries fail to reach grade 5. Likewise, more male students repeat at least one grade level in primary school. On the other hand, more male primary school graduates enter secondary school.
- In the Philippines, female students stay longer in school than male students. In spite of this, the country is still lagging behind most ASEAN countries such as Vietnam and Malaysia when it comes to the number of female students reaching grade 5.
- Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines has the lowest proportion of repeaters in the primary school level at 3 for every 100 male students and 1 for every 100 female students.

Table 4. Education and Completion Outcomes

Country	Primary completion rate						Youth literacy rate				Adult literacy rate	
	% of relevant age group						% of ages 15-24				% of ages 15 and older	
	Total		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	Female
	1991	2004	1991	2004	1991	2004	1990	2002	1990	2002	2002	2002
Cambodia	n/a	82	n/a	85	n/a	78	81	88	66	79	85	64
Indonesia	91	101	n/a	101	n/a	101	97	99	93	98	92	83
Lao PDR	43	74	48	78	38	70	79	83	61	75	77	61
Malaysia	90	95	90	95	90	95	95	97	94	97	92	85
Myanmar	n/a	72	n/a	72	n/a	73	90	96	86	93	94	86
Philippines	86	98	84	94	84	102	97	94	97	96	93	93
Singapore	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99	99	99	100	97	89
Thailand	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	98	n/a	98	95	91
Vietnam	n/a	101	n/a	104	n/a	98	94	n/a	94	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: The World Bank Group, World Development Indicators 2006

Education and Completion Outcomes

- Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines has one of the highest percentage of primary school graduates at 98% in 2004, a remarkable increase from 86% in 1991. In 2002, the youth (15-24 years old) and adult (15 years and older) literacy rates of the Filipinos are at par with other ASEAN countries. Ninety-four out of 100 male and 96 out of 100 female youths are considered literate. On the other hand, 93 out of 100 adults are considered literate.