About CREATE

The purpose of CREATE is to encourage the application of knowledge and insights to improve access to basic education. CREATE will develop conceptual frameworks and empirical insights into how to improve access which is more equitable and pro-poor. It will undertake research and dissemination of findings to enhance progress towards the MDGs and EFA.

Access to basic education lies at the heart of development. Lack of education is both a part of the definition of poverty, and a means for its diminution. Sustained access is critical to long term improvements in productivity, the reduction of inter-generational cycles of poverty, demographic transition, preventive health care, the empowerment of women, and reductions in inequality.

The key problem CREATE addresses is how to increase meaningful access for those between the ages of 5 to 15 years. The numbers are large. Even where primary gross enrolment rates exceed 100%, national data indicates that attendance may be below 70%, completion rates may fall below 50%, and fewer than 20% may attend lower secondary. Achievement data often show a minority acquiring basic learning skills by grade 5.

Exclusion from basic education is a process culminating in an event with multiple causalities. Zones of vulnerability describe the various spaces where children are included, excluded, or are at risk. Initial access has little meaning unless it results in (i) regular attendance (ii) progression (iii) meaningful learning and (iv) appropriate access to post-primary education. Children falling into the zones of vulnerability are the subject of our research, especially disadvantaged groups (e.g. girls, HIV/AIDS orphans, displaced people, ethnic minorities). Enrolments decline through the primary grades and those attending irregularly and achieving poorly fall into zones where they are “at risk” of drop out or failure to proceed through secondary schooling. CREATE identifies seven zones of exclusion.

CREATE seeks to explore five key clusters of questions

- What are current patterns of access and exclusion, who is currently excluded from basic education at different stages, and why are they excluded?
- What strategies are most effective in meeting the basic educational needs of those who are excluded? To what extent are alternative forms of service delivery viable?
- What options are available to improve progression, completion and transition rates? How can drop before primary completion be reduced? How can re-entry of drop-outs be eased?
- What options exist to maintain and improve transition rates into lower secondary grades in pro-poor ways? What effects do declining transition rates have on primary completion?
- What are the political, social and economic conditions under which EFA has been achieved? Where progress has faltered what are the reasons for this? How has expanded access had an impact on social mobility and the intergenerational transmission of poverty?

For more information about CREATE visit our website www.create-rpc.org