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CAPITATION GRANT IN GHANA - ‘HIDDEN REALITIES’
Capitation Grant – basic facts

- SMCs and SPIPs.
- Enrolment surge – 17% rise in overall enrolment
- As percentage of unit cost per primary child (2005) = 4%
- Constitutes a minimum effect on the unit cost for a primary child, therefore minimum effect on quality
Key points

- Introduction of capitation provides an opportunity to *increase* quality

- Capitation must be linked to classroom-based policies impacting quality

- If capitation is to be successful, measures of quality (learning) must be easily available

- As % of unit cost capitation should represent a significant increase
Link capitation with other policies

To keep children in school, capitation must be linked to other strategies to:

- reduce dropout, repetition & overage enrolment,
- improve timely release of funds,
- Improve timely progress through school,
- Improve quality
Structural & Capacity Challenges

- Unpredictable delays in funds arriving in schools
- Requires significant capacity development support
- Head teachers complaints about additional burden on top of existing tasks. Approval of SPIPS linked to delay in release of capitation
Quality and costs

- Cost to families significantly higher than capitation fee e.g. food & travel costs
- Capitation not delivering tangible evidence of improved quality – schools using capitation disproportionately e.g. teacher refreshments
- Ghanaian children are engaged in learning activities 39% of the time compared to 79% in Tunisia
Cohort transition – less progress in the South?
Cohort transition – more progress in north?

Cohort Transition Public School A (Boys)

Cohort Transition Public School A (Girls)
Delayed Enrolment

Mean Age-Grade 'Delay' by Region

Mean Age-Grade 'Delay' Per Pupil by Household Welfare Quintle
Age-grade

Primary School

junior High School

Source: GLSS 5

Age-Grade Pattern Estimates - Primary School 2005/6

Source: GLSS 5

Age-Grade Pattern Estimates - Secondary School 2005-6

Source: GLSS 5
Grade 1 pupils reaching primary 6

Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary

- 2002
- 2000
- 1991

[Bar chart showing proportions for girls, boys, and all students across years 2002, 2000, and 1991]
Poorest need more attention

Mean attendance rates by Welfare Quintile - 6 to 11 years

Welfare Quintile

Rate

1
2
3
4
5

1998/9
2005/06
Pre-tertiary unit cost (2003-2008)

Pre-tertiary Unit Cost by Year

Year

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

Cost/Std (GHC)

61.62 69.02 64.77 85.14 132.9

334.08 250.36 293.8

Primary JHS SHS
Policy issues

- Increase capitation and target assistance according to most disadvantaged groups/districts/regions
- Incentivise schools with good record of progression and completion
- Link to early enrolment,
- Shorten the capitation delivery chain
Hope for this child?