



Education Privatization and its Impact on the Right to Education

Summary of Issues for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Pre-session on Ghana, September 2014

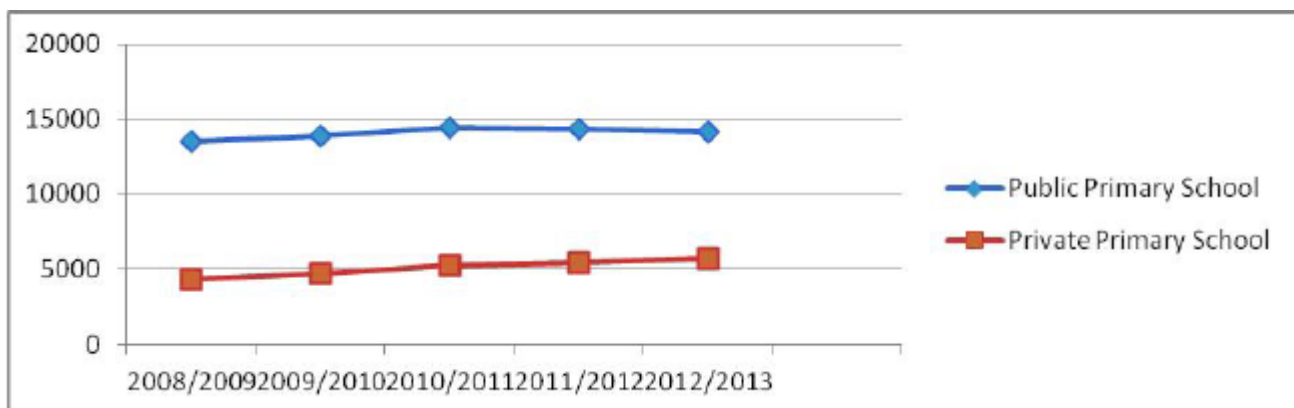
Government Policy Supports Increasing Privatization in Ghana's Education Sector

- Government has deliberately favored the development of private education in the last 50 years, including by making non-salary inputs into private education institutions to encourage investment.
- The Government sees the growth of the private sector as key to increasing access to education.
- Increasingly in Ghana the more you pay for education the better education you get.

Rapid Growth of Private Schools in Ghana

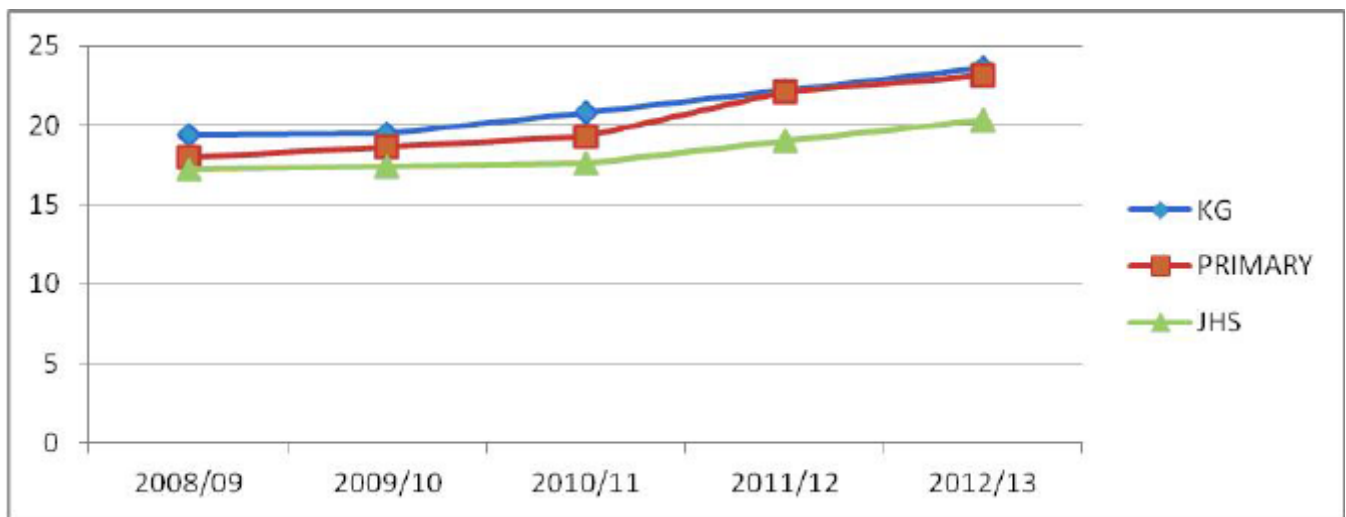
- About 29% of all primary schools are private and the number continues to grow rapidly.
- The number of private primary schools increased by 13.9% between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, whereas the number of public primary schools increased by only 6% (same period). In the last year the number of public primary schools decreased by over 2% (Education Sector Performance report 2013, MoE).
- Admissions into Primary 1 private schools increased by 5.5% between 2011/12 in 2012/13. However, public school P1 admissions fell by 2.1% during the same period (Education Sector Performance report 2013, MoE Pg. 35).

GROWTH OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS 2008/2009 -2012/2013



Source: Education Sector Performance Report 2013_MoE

PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT IN PRIVATE EDUCATION 2008/09 – 2012/13

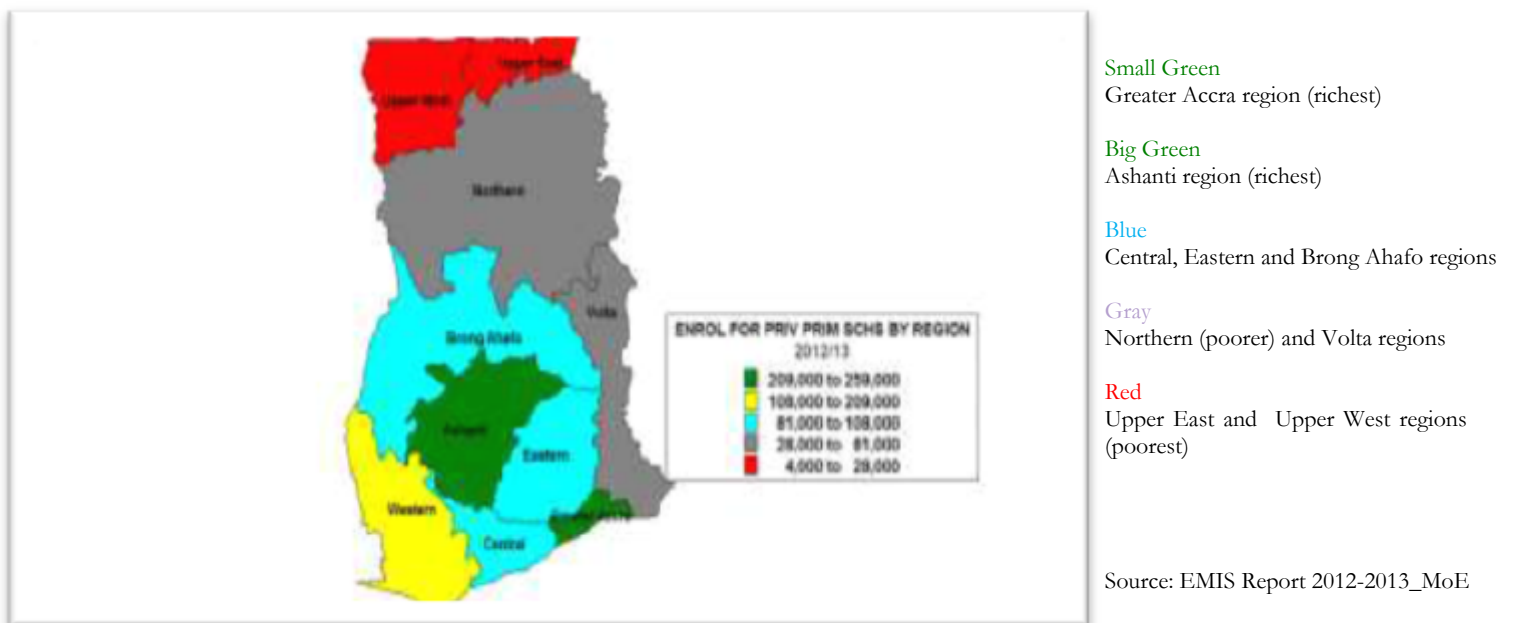


Source: Education Sector Performance Report 2013_MoE

Exacerbating Inequalities

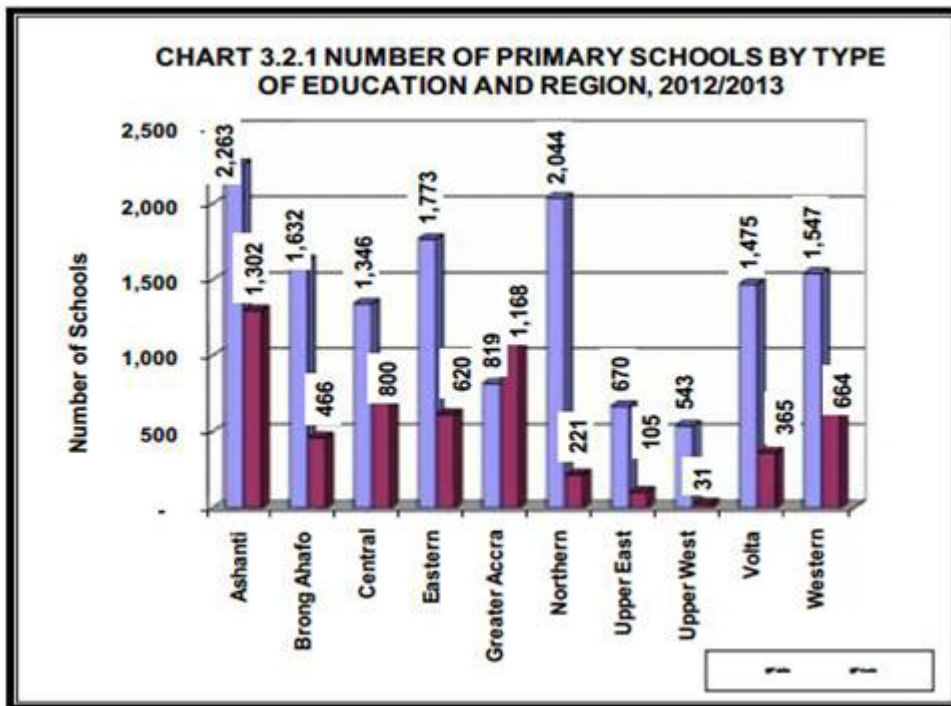
- World Bank warns of ‘the current trajectory of a highly unequal two tiered system’ (2013).
- Government admits ‘most of the children in private schools come from middle class homes where the environment is conducive to learning. ... unless drastic steps are taken to improve public basic schools that class divide will continue to be a permanent feature of Ghanaian society.’
- Privatization not expanding access or tackling inequalities. Highest out of school population from poorest households and living in rural areas, but private schools do not effectively target either group. The growth in private education favors wealthier urban areas where private operators perceive they can make the greatest profit.

ENROLMENT IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS BY REGION 2012/2013



Source: EMIS Report 2012-2013_MoE

- Most private schools are located in the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions (the richest regions). In the rest of the regions private schools are mostly located in the district capitals. The further away from the capital the fewer private schools there are.



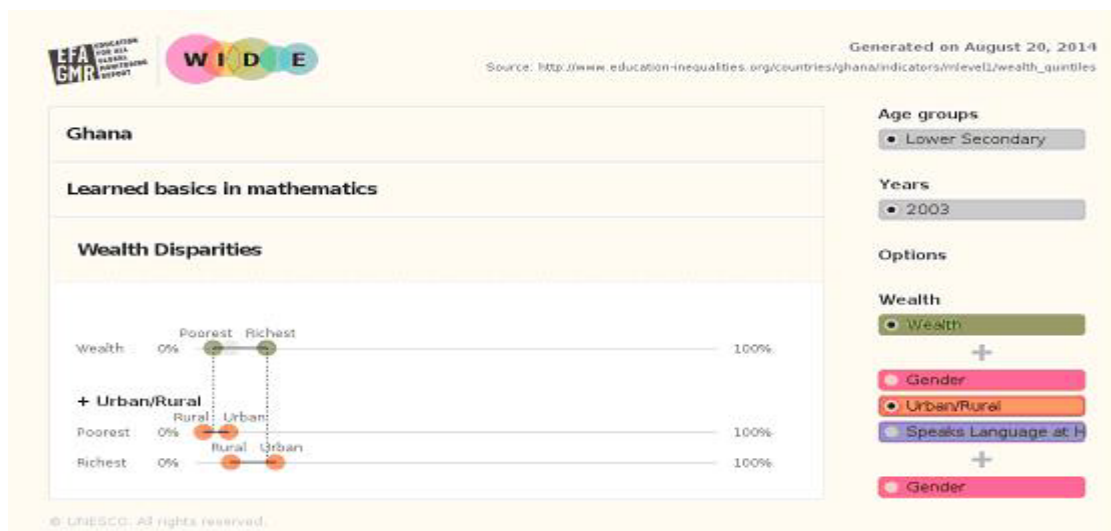
Light purple = public primary schools,

Dark purple = private primary schools

Source: EMIS data 2012-2013_MoE

Growing Gap in Learning Outcomes

- The gap between the rural poorest junior high school pupils and the richest urban junior high school pupils in learning basics in mathematics has significantly increased, from 8 points difference in 2003, to 21 points in 2007, to 30 points in 2011.





Concerns about Quality and Lack of Regulation/Monitoring

- High proportion of untrained teachers in private schools: Government statistics show the percentage of trained teachers is much lower in private schools (9.2% at the primary level and 17.5% at the secondary level) than in public schools (respectively 69.4% and 83.7%).
- Mandate to regulate and monitor private schools exists but Ministry lacks resources and accurate information to properly monitor private schools. Therefore claims of better quality in private schools are difficult to substantiate.
- Private schools often unregistered and 'off the radar' for Government.

New Phenomenon of Low Fee Private Schools (LFPS)

- Estimated 7,000 LFPSs and 500,000 students in LFPSs in Ghana. Eg: Omega school franchise – for profit, 'school in a box' model, standardized materials and curriculum, high volume, low overheads.
- Use of untrained high school graduates as teachers. Paid 15-20% of professional teacher salaries.
- Higher student teacher ratios: up to 50:1 in private schools, compared with the national norm of up to 35:1.
- Very low fees still unaffordable for very poor households. LFPS fees for 1 child for 1 year estimated to be 43% of average annual income of poorest 5% of households in Greater Accra and poorest 7% in Central region. 'Pay as you learn' - Daily fee payments lead to increased absenteeism and dramatic sacrifices of basic necessities for poorest households.
- No evidence that they expand access. Evidence suggests that a very high proportion of LFPS students were previously enrolled in another school. 10% of children still do not have access to basic education.

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