OUT-OF SCHOOL CHILDREN: RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES FOR COMBATING THE THREAT OF EDUCATIONAL EXCLUSION IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

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Abstract
The recent estimates by UNESCO put the world’s out-of-school children at the basic education level at 143 million. Out of this, sub-Saharan Africa contributes about one quarter. With only five years to 2015, this magnitude of out-of-school children in Africa poses a serious threat to the goal of universal access to basic education which is the purport of MDG and EFA goals no 2. Beyond the threat to universal access to basic education which educational exclusion poses, it raises fundamental issues bordering on the right of the child as well as the sovereignty or statehood of a country. In these contexts, the paper discussed the evolution of the conceptual framework for the analysis of educational exclusion drawing from the Istanbul Global initiatives on Out-of –school –Children Methodology Workshop. It attempted to develop further insight into the problem of exclusion in SSA by analyzing the concomitant variables using a demand and supply approach. Against the backdrop of the demand-supply analysis of the factors of exclusion in SSA, a 10-point strategic plan of action was proposed.