

Assessment of government's commitment to the promotion of human rights: A case of the right to education, in Uganda

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keywords: *commitment, rights, education*

Introduction

In 2015, the international community set seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the attainment of worldwide development including the right to education. The SDGs are successors of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to which the nations of the world committed to achieving by 2015.

Study objectives

The study was guided by the following objectives:

1. to examine the factors influencing the government's promotion of education as a human right,
2. to analyse the mechanisms adopted by the government to promote the right to education, and

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3. to examine the challenges faced by the government of Uganda in ensuring the Right to Education


Methodology

The study used the survey, mixed methods research design, and adopted qualitative and quantitative research approaches. The study collected data on 117 respondents who were both purposively and through simple random sampling procedures. The study used both the questionnaire and interviews methods, and correspondingly used self-administered questionnaires and interview schedules, to collect data. The study had a response rate of 63%.

Key findings

The study concluded that factors such as commitment to international law, national legal obligations, public opinion, and human development, conditioned the government's promotion of the right to education.

The study further found that the government of Uganda promotes the right to education by offering free universal education at primary and secondary school levels for citizens who cannot afford the cost of education offered by private schools. The government of Uganda has built partnerships with organisations that have contributed to expanding access to education, especially for underprivileged children. The government of Uganda has engaged parents to support its efforts in ensuring that all children enjoy the right to education namely, by asking them to provide lunch for children while at school.



However, the study also found that the government grapples with rampant social inequality, lack of funds to recruit enough qualified teachers, and to build sufficient infrastructure such as classrooms, in public schools.

Recommendations

The study recommended that grants meant to improve education in Uganda should be promptly disbursed to schools to allow for the timely implementation of school plans. The government should maintain its commitment to gender equality while legally dealing with those that violate children's rights to education. The government should continue to monitor the services of private partners. The government should increase the education budget to allow it to set up the adequate infrastructure and recruit enough qualified teachers.

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