

Education in sub-Saharan Africa: What are the differences between Burkina Faso and Rwanda?

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Abstract:

The following work concerns primary education in two countries of sub-Saharan Africa: Rwanda and Burkina Faso. The aim is to understand why Rwanda has made major progress in this field, whereas it is less the case for Burkina Faso. The two countries are compared on the basis of four main points concerning primary schooling: The number of children attending primary school, quality of education, gender equality and finances. Moreover, the governments of both countries, international organizations, banks or governments abroad, have attempted a diversity of solutions in order to improve primary schooling in these countries. In this research, we look at some of them and discuss some further points that could be interesting to develop. Finally, we realize that Rwanda has adopted some valuable strategies to improve its educational system and that seems to be the reason why the country made more progress. It could also be that after the genocide, the Rwandan authorities decided to tackle problems very carefully. Of course in both countries, there is still progress to be made in this field, especially in Burkina Faso.

Key words: education, sub-Saharan Africa, Rwanda, Burkina Faso