Increasing privatisation due to low public investment in education and low teachers' salaries.

Country case: Armenia

Bucharest from 19 to 21 October 2015.

Republic of Armenia - General information

- Capital and largest city-Yerevan
- Official language-Armenian
- Religion Armenian Apostolic Church
- Government Semi presidential republic
- Total Area − 29 743 sq.km
- Population − 2 974 693



Education System of Armenia includes

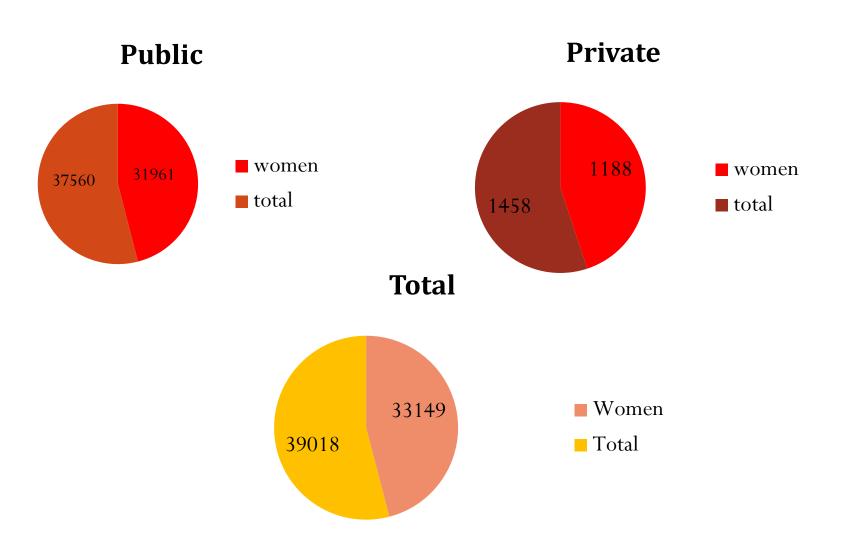
- Pre-school education
- General secondary education comprised of primary, middle level or basic and high school
- Preliminary vocational, middle level vocational and higher professional education;
- Post-graduate education, specialist training and qualification improvement institutions;
- Education assessment and education services delivering institutions.

A network of private education institutions also operates in the Republic, such as preschool institutions, schools, colleges, and higher education institutions and etc, which, in addition to ensuring the existence of the education services market, make a significant contribution to the development of education system.

The general number of secondary educational institutions implementing main educational programmes in 2014-2015

Number of secondary educational institutions									
Overall		Specialized		Special		Total			
public	private	public	private	public	private	public	private	total	
1350	44	14	2	27	0	1391	46	1437	

Number of teachers in secondary educational institutions in 2014-2015



Teachers' average salary in 2014-2015 by regions

Region	Teachers				
	Total AMD	Total €			
Yerevan	94.7	177,67			
Aragatsotn	100.5	188,55			
Ararat	101.8	190,99			
Armavir	88.3	165,66			
Gegharqunik	83.9	157,4			
Lori	88.0	165,10			
Kotayq	106.3	199			
Shirak	95.7	179			
Syunik	98.3	184,4			
Vayots Dzor	90.3	169,41			
Tavush	102.4	192			
Total	95.0	178,2			

Number of teachers' by age in 2014-2015 in the secondary schools

AGE										
Up to 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	More than 65	
1584	3434	3437	3944	4471	4955	5203	5458	3870	1204	
4,5%	9,5%	9%	11%	12%	13%	14%	14%	10%	3%	

Are low salary levels pushing teachers to take on private classes?

- Low salary levels push teachers to look for other profits:
 - Taking private classes
 - Looking for other job than teacher
- Some of the teachers take private classes either with their students or students from the higher classes who are going to enter Universities.
- Most of the teachers even take additional private classes after school day with their students.

What's the effect on students/teachers

- During the private classes the teacher works more effective as she is not working with the whole class but only one or maximum five students.
- The private classes are not cheap (min 50 \$ for a month, if the student is from school)
- The student is working more hard as he/she knows that he/she pays for it.

Is it a step towards privatisation of the education system?

- According to the Constitution of Republic of Armenia the secondary education is for free.
- Though there are some private schools, mainly the secondary education is free.
- The private schools are expensive and not every family can allow himself to take his child to these schools.

Is this affecting overall quality of education in Armenia?

- Of course the situation affects overall quality of education in Armenia.
- The salary of the teachers is low
- There are many teachers who don't work so hard with the students during the classes in the school, but they work better when the student gives extra money.
- Young qualified specialists don't want to work as a teacher because of low salaries.

Which successful action is CRSTESA undertaking to stem this trend?

- CRSTESA has Collective agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science of RA
- Within the Collective agreement and had negotiations the theachers' salaries were increased in 10 % since January 01, 2015.
- CRSTESA still negotiates for increasing theachers' salaries untill it reaches to the average salary of the Republic.
- Teachers from pre-school education system didn't have prolonged annual leave unill CRSTESA raised this problem to the social partners, so now these teachers also have right for prolonged annual leave which is being paid.

Which successful action is CRSTESA undertaking to stem this trend?

- CRSTESA now is working on improving social economic situation of teachers. (negotiations are in process)
- We are trying to encourage the teachers: on 5th of October on the Teachers' day many of them get awards and diplomas for their devoted work

There are many problems that must be solved but in the first place is of course salary which doesn't attract the young speciaists, especially men.







THANK YOU CRSTESA ARMENIA

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