



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 06 March 2024

Comparison between 2015 and 2019 UBE key indicators for Papua New Guinea

The primary objective of the study was to compare the trends and status of Universal Basic Education (UBE) between 2015 and 2019 for Papua New Guinea (PNG) using three key indicators: access, cohort retention rates and examination pass mark, to see whether they were improving or declining at province level.

The National Research Institute Discussion Paper No. 211, titled "*Comparative analysis of 2015 and 2019 key UBE indicators of Papua New Guinea's Provinces*" by Peter Michael Magury and Dr. Kilala Devette-Chee is designed to inform readers on the status of basic education at the provincial level in order to inform and challenge the province, district and community authorities to take appropriate actions and improve the status of UBE.

The findings indicate that low student achievements are evident in older students. This issue is severe and can be found in many elementary and primary schools in PNG. To ensure appropriate and quality education, it is crucial that efforts are made to increase the enrolment of students by correct age, while seeking alternatives for those students who are in need of relevant learning opportunities.

The government has to acknowledge the fact that access to education, retention rate, poor quality and learning outcomes are some of the problems that exist in basic education and must do something about it.

Providing better interventions in these key UBE areas will further boost access, improve participation, and ensure quality education for all.

The findings from this study will assist policy-makers understand the unique needs of each province, to pay more attention on areas in need and identify gaps on the status of UBE to provide appropriate government interventions at the provincial level.

The Publication and Media Release can be accessed on the PNG NRI website <https://www.pngnri.org>.

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