

INVITATION

THE RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION IN ARMENIA

Wednesday, 20 September 2017, 18:15 - 19:15, Plenary Hall
Light Dinner and English/Russian interpretation provided

Education plays a key role in determining how you spend your adult life - a higher level of education means better quality of life (higher earnings, better health, longer life). By the same token, educated and skilled population is the foundation of the democratic society. Historically, Armenian society has had high level appreciation of education as value: a literacy rate of 100% was reported as early as 1960. Since announcement of independence in 1991, the government has also prioritized development of education system by starting a series of large-scale reforms.

It is hence particularly alarming and urgent that on the background of quite high starting point in quality and access to education, massive reforms to modernize the system and high public appreciation of the value of education that the system shows clear signs of deterioration. Thus 58% of respondents of Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer survey ranked the Armenian education sector as one of the most corrupt sectors in the country in 2013. Corruption and politicization of the education sphere have hampered the successful implementation of the reforms, more so they led to quality deterioration and inequity of access to quality education.

Social polarization and inequity is growing due to unfair distribution of public good, disproportionate regional development, and lack of access to quality realization of the right to education. Poverty and education achievements are strongly correlated, i.e. according to official statistics, within the course of 2010-2015 poverty among university graduates declined by 3%, while it grew by 16.8% among those having elementary and low education.

It is clear that immediate systemic changes are needed to address governance, quality and access issues. The session will review how efficient and adequate the current measures are in addressing the problems and securing the right to quality education. It will also discuss alternative solutions and policies.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS & MODERATION BY:

Ms. Larisa Minasyan, Open Society Foundations-Armenia, Executive Director

PANELISTS:

Ms. Arevik Anapiosyan, Institute of Public Policy, Executive Director

Corruption in Education as a Hamper to Realization of the Right to Quality Education

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, DISCUSSION