



Experience Of Developed Countries In Financial Support For Preschool Education

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47134/innovative.v3i4.132>

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Received: 10-10-2024

Accepted: 21-11-2024

Published: 28-12-2024



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Abstract: The article examines the experience of developed countries in financing preschool education and its application in Uzbekistan. It emphasizes the importance of investments in early childhood development, as key competencies, such as personal and cognitive skills, are formed during the preschool education stage. The mechanisms of state investments in the preschool education sector are also explored.

Keywords: Public-Private Partnership, Financing, Private Sector, Private Investments, Grants, And Subsidies

Introduction

Preschool education, as we all know, includes the education of children prior to reaching school age and primarily consists of various educational games, serving as a lever to achieve the key objectives of the curriculum.

The advantages of preschool education in early childhood institutions include socialization—children learn to interact with peers and adults outside the family, develop discipline, acquire self-reliance skills, and experience comprehensive development. Children who attended kindergarten later adapt to school with ease.

Methodology

Additionally, preschool education helps children learn to manage their emotions and develop self-confidence. During this learning process, children enhance their thinking, attention, and memory skills, while also acquiring fundamental knowledge about the world around them. These benefits underscore the importance of preschool education for the successful development of children in the future.

Preschool education in Uzbekistan covers children aged 2 to 7 years and aims to ensure their intellectual, personal, and physical development.

Thanks to successful reforms, the coverage of children with preschool education increased from less than 30% in 2017 to over 70% in 2023. UNICEF supports the Government of Uzbekistan in its efforts to expand preschool education services and improve their quality to foster the development of preschool education for all children.

Alongside public preschool institutions, significant attention is now being paid to public-private partnership (PPP) preschool institutions.

In developed countries, public-private partnerships (PPPs) in preschool education involve financing and support for the private sector. This, in turn, helps improve access to education and the quality of educational services. For instance, PPP projects may involve funding from both the state and private investors for the reconstruction of facilities and enhancing their efficiency.

This collaboration helps distribute risks and resources among participants.

Public-private partnerships (PPP) in education, including preschool education, offer several advantages:

1. Increased Investments: PPP allows for the attraction of additional financial resources from the private sector to improve infrastructure and educational services.
2. Improved Quality of Education: Modern approaches and technologies introduced by private investors can contribute to enhancing the quality of education and services.
3. Expanded Access: PPP-based preschool institutions help increase the availability of spaces in educational facilities, especially in regions with insufficient infrastructure.
4. Enhanced Flexibility: Unlike the public sector, private partners can respond more quickly to changes in the needs and demands of the education market.
5. Knowledge and Experience Sharing: Collaboration between the public and private sectors facilitates the exchange of best practices and innovative solutions.
6. Optimized Management: By implementing management practices from the private sector, PPPs can lead to more efficient administration of educational institutions.

The United Kingdom is an undisputed leader in developing PPP projects in preschool education.

Various countries provide successful examples of PPP implementation. Here are a few:

1. Australia: In Australia, PPP programs are used to establish and fund early childhood education centers. The government provides subsidies for renting and operating private kindergartens, reducing financial burdens on families and increasing service availability.
2. USA: In the United States, some states run PPP programs where private organizations manage kindergartens and receive state funding based on the number of children served and compliance with state quality standards. The Head Start program is a notable example, offering early education and social support services for low-income families.
3. United Kingdom: In the UK, local authorities contract with private providers of preschool services. Private kindergartens can receive state funding through a voucher system, ensuring access to education for all children.
4. New Zealand: In New Zealand, both private and state kindergartens can receive government funding if they meet quality standards. This enables private entities to offer affordable, high-quality programs.

5. Canada: In certain Canadian provinces, public and private subsectors collaborate on local early childhood development initiatives. This includes joint funding of new programs and services to support families and children.

These examples demonstrate how PPPs can effectively operate in the preschool education sector to improve service quality and accessibility.

Result and Discussion

In developed countries, financial support for preschool education often includes state subsidies, tax benefits for families, and investments in infrastructure and staff training. For instance, in the United States, a subsidy program helps low-income families access quality kindergartens. Similarly, Uzbekistan is ramping up investments in this sector, studying foreign experiences to improve its preschool education services.

Countries such as the United States and Singapore have well-defined funding systems and external quality evaluation mechanisms for preschool education. These nations focus on government regulation and support for the non-governmental sector.

Funding education varies by country based on the level of education and educational systems. Here are some common approaches used in different countries:

1. Public Funding

- Taxes: In most countries, education funding comes from tax revenues. A significant portion of the education budget is formed through income taxes, value-added tax (VAT), and other local taxes.
- National Programs: Some countries have specific programs that provide additional funding for certain groups of children (e.g., children from low-income families).

2. Private Investments

- In some countries, such as the United States, private schools are funded through private donations as well as tuition fees collected from parents.

3. Grants and Subsidies

- Federal and Local Grants: Many countries have grant programs that support funding for both public and private educational institutions.
- Subsidies: For instance, some countries have a subsidy system for families to help them cover the costs of preschool or school education.
- Private investments in preschool education are becoming an essential element of educational systems in various countries. For example, Russia and Uzbekistan are actively attracting private capital to improve and expand services in this sector. These investments enhance the accessibility and quality of preschool education.

It is worth noting that this sector has demonstrated success in attracting private investors, highlighting its significance and growth potential.

Private investments in education offer several major advantages, such as:

- Increased Resources: Expanding funding sources to meet growing demand.
- Innovation: Integrating new technologies and approaches into educational processes.
- Quality Improvement: Raising the standards of education and services offered.

- Accessibility: Increasing the availability of education to broader groups of the population.
- Expertise: Leveraging the experience and knowledge of private sector participants.
- These advantages make private investment an important aspect of educational system development, especially in the preschool sector.
- Several countries actively invest in preschool education, recognizing its importance for child development and its contribution to overall educational quality. Notable examples include:
 - Sweden: The Swedish model of preschool education emphasizes universal, accessible, and free early education, making the country a leader in this field.
 - Norway: Offers high-quality preschool programs with a focus on accessibility and inclusivity.
 - Finland: Known for its educational system, which includes robust preschool programs emphasizing play-based learning and holistic development.

USA: In recent years, there has been an increase in private investments in preschool programs, particularly within private institutions and programs supported by public funding.

- Australia: Actively invests in preschool education, focusing on quality standards and accessibility.
- Canada: Invests in early childhood development programs with an emphasis on inclusivity and diversity.

These countries recognize the importance of early childhood development and strive to create conditions that enhance the accessibility and quality of preschool education.

By analyzing the experience of providing preschool education services in the aforementioned countries, we can conclude that each country addresses the issue of preschool education in its own way. However, assistance in offering educational services to families with preschool-aged children is a common practice across all.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is appropriate to state that financing preschool education through public-private partnerships (PPP) can involve information about commercial agreements between preschool institutions and catering businesses, as well as available loans to support PPP initiatives.

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Данный документ был подготовлен Алией Бигариновой и Умидой Исламовой

под общим руководством Дипы Шанкар, Руководителя Секции образования, Представительство ЮНИСЕФ в Узбекистане.

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