

Government expenditure on education in Sub-Saharan Africa increased by over 450 percent

Government expenditure on education in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) increased from US\$12 billion in 2000 to US\$67 billion in 2013 representing over 450% growth. Despite this increase in absolute figures, the region’s allocation to education as a percentage of GDP of 3.8% was below the global levels which averaged 4.3% over the same period. In 2013, some of the SSA countries whose governments spent the highest amount of money on education include: South Africa (US\$ 22 billion), Ghana (US\$ 3 billion) and Ethiopia (US\$ 1 billion).

According to Times Higher Education, only 11 SSA universities made it to top 300 institutions in the BRICS and Emerging Countries Rankings 2017. India had 27 places while China had the highest density of institutions at 52 spots. Indian Institute of Science was in top 15 for the first time from position 25 in 2015 and attributed their progress to increased government science funding in recent years that enabled them to enhance grants for new hires, invest in state-of-the-art infrastructure and encourage interdisciplinary research.

