



Achieve Universal Primary Education: can we make it in 2015?

One of the goals set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to achieve universal primary education. Universal education means that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

The bases for assessing whether the goal and target are achievable by 2015 are the indicators on education sector, which include enrolment ratio or participation rate, survival rate, completion rate and literacy rate.

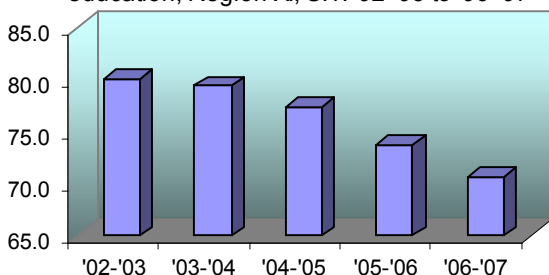
Statistics from Department of Education XI through its Basic Education Information System (BEIS) showed that Region XI's net enrolment ratio or net participation rate in primary education in school year 2006-2007 was 70.67 percent far behind the 100 percent rate that the MDGs have been targeting by 2015. In 2002, Region XI's net participation rate in primary education was 80.1 percent and went down to 79.4 percent in 2003. In the two following years, it continuously recorded a decreasing rate with 77.5 and 73.7 percent in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

Table 1. MDG Indicators (Education sector), Region XI, S.Y. '02-'03 to S.Y. '06-'07

Indicator	'02-'03	'03-'04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07
Net Enrolment Ratio	80.1	79.4	77.5	73.7	70.7
Cohort Survival Rate	69.6	62.8	64.2	54.1	56.9
Completion Rate			63.0	58.0	55.8
Simple Literacy Rate	92.0 *	90.3			

* 1994 data

Figure 1. Net Enrolment Ratio in primary education, Region XI, S.Y. '02-'03 to '06-'07

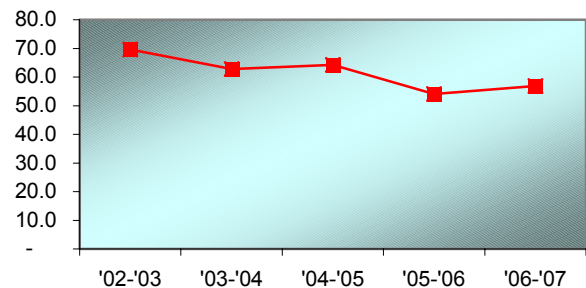


Another indicator being used to assess the achievement of universal primary education is the cohort survival rate.

Based on BEIS, Davao Region's cohort survival rate in primary education or the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reached grade 6 in school year 2006-2007 was 56.9 percent, again, far behind the 100 percent target rate by 2015. In 2002, Davao Region's cohort survival rate in

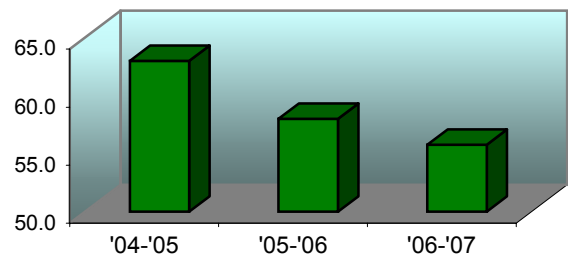
primary education was 69.6 percent and it went down to 62.8 percent in 2003. The rate slightly increased in 2004 with 64.2 percent but recorded a sudden drop in the following year with 54.1 percent.

Figure 2. Cohort Survival Rate, Region XI, S.Y. '02-'03 to S.Y. '06-'07



Like the first two indicators, completion rate in primary education in Region XI recorded a-not-so-promising performance. BEIS revealed that completion rate in school year 2004-2005 was 63.0 percent declining to 58.0 percent in school year 2005-2006, a 5.0 percentage points drop. The situation worsened in 2006-2007 as completion rate dropped to 55.8 percent in the region.

Figure 3. Completion Rate, Region XI, S.Y. '04-'05 to S.Y. '06-'07



The indicator simple literacy rate of 10 years old and over in Davao Region released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) also have a lesser chances of achieving the 100 percent target as it dropped by 1.7 percentage point from 92.0 percent in 1994 to 90.3 percent in 2003.

Taking the above indicators in consideration, the probability or chances to achieve universal primary education in Region XI, based on the computations made by the National Statistical Coordination Board XI (NSCB XI), is revealed to be low unless, double efforts will be exerted to respond to the situations revealed by the said indicators in education.

Sources of data:

Department of Education XI
National Statistics Office