

# Education Infrastructure for Social Inclusion in Uganda

## Policies that had a bearing on education infrastructure

- Introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997;
- Introduction of Universal Secondary Education (USE) in 2007;
- Liberalization of education at all levels;
- Curriculum reforms – introduction of the thematic curriculum in primary education;

# **Objectives and Results of the education sector policies**

- 1. UPE was intended to increase access to primary education; enrolment increased from about 2 million pupils in 1997 to over 7 million in 1999**
- 2. USE was intended to increase access to secondary education; transition rate from primary to secondary schools increased from less than 15% in 2006 to over 40% in 2008;**
- 3. But education quality in UPE and USE schools fell drastically**
- 4. Government made efforts to increase infrastructure but it remained inadequate**

# **Objectives and Results of the education sector policies - Continued**

- 5. Private schools (primary and secondary) began offering relatively higher quality education;**
- 6. Government developed some discomfort with liberalization of education and wanted it controlled through legislation – the 2008 Education Act; the PPAs in the education sector – the Government intention was to leverage on private capital to ensure continued access to quality education by the poor.**
- 7. But education infrastructure in UPE and USE schools remained inadequate.**

# **Objectives and Results of the education sector policies - Continued**

- 8. Social divide has emerged – education for the poor and education for the rich;**
- 9. The social divide is both geographical (rural vis-à-vis urban) and income based;**
- 10. There are concerns about the relevance of the school curriculum. Alternative curriculum would require even more infrastructure;**

# **Objectives and Results of the education sector policies - Continued**

- 11. Over 90% of students being admitted to universities obtained their primary education and secondary education in private schools;**
- 12. Drop out rates have increased as relevance of education diminishes;**
- 13. There are hardly any scholarships for bright children from poor families;**
- 14. The education system is very frustrating to the majority of poor people;**
- 15. Technological advancement is making the divide worse**

# Recommendations

- The education system should offer a variety of choice in terms of curricula, academic delivery, medium and mode of instruction;
- Education must make a person knowledgeable, a good citizen and equip him/her for a professional livelihood;
- Education must be accessible to all;
- Financial support and scholarships must be available to needy pupils;
- Focus must be on education quality
- Investment in education infrastructure must be expanded enormously.