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Higher Education Policies in Mexico in View of Demographic Changes



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Education panorama:

- Rapid population growth during the first half of the 20th century
- New demographic changes towards the second half of the 20th century
- Large demand in various spheres: economic, urban development, healthcare, and education....

One hypothesis:

The policies have been focused on responding to immediate pressures via the creation of new institutions and expanding both open and distance education options.

Medium- and long-term strategies have been less attended.

Structure by age in Mexico, 2010

Proportions of different age groups

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|
| Juvenile | 0-19 years | 39.2 |
| Young Adults | 20-39 years | 31.9 |
| Middle-aged adults | 40-59 years | 19.7 |
| Older Adults | 60 years and over | 9.1 |

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática, Censo de población 2010.

Population of 15 years old and over according to schooling

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| No schooling | 5.8% |
| Basic | 53.5% |
| Secondary | 21.7% |
| Higher | 18.6% |
| Not specified | 0.4% |

Source: INEGI. Sociodemographic Panorama of Mexico, 2015.
Intecensal Survey.

Higher Education, 2015–2016

| | Total | Federal | States | Private | Autonomous |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Schools | 4 768 | 230 | 873 | 2 813 | 852 |
| | 100.0 | 4.8 | 18.3 | 59.0 | 17.9 |
| Enrollment (thousands) | 3 411 | 465 | 745 | 952 | 1 250 |
| | 100.0 | 13.6 | 21.8 | 27.9 | 36.6 |

Source: Mexico, IV Informe de Gobierno 2016.

Inclusiveness and equality

Indigenous populations, those in rural areas, people with disabilities or the lowest income deciles are barely represented in higher education.

Only 12% of the lowest income quintile enters higher education vs 50% of the highest income quintile.

Challenges

- Quality and relevance
- Access to higher education /access to knowledge
- The heterogeneity of the student populations
needs to be recognized and assumed by institutions
- The relevance of educational offerings
- University-Business cooperation
- Digital gap
- Lifelong learning
- Exercise of responsible citizenship

Aspects relating to the model of financing for higher education:

- Insufficient budgetary allocation**
- Lack of equality in the allocation of average subsidy per student**
- The arbitrary nature of ordinary subsidies**
- Budgetary instability and uncertainty year on year**

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Thank you