

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – A FOCUS ON EGYPT

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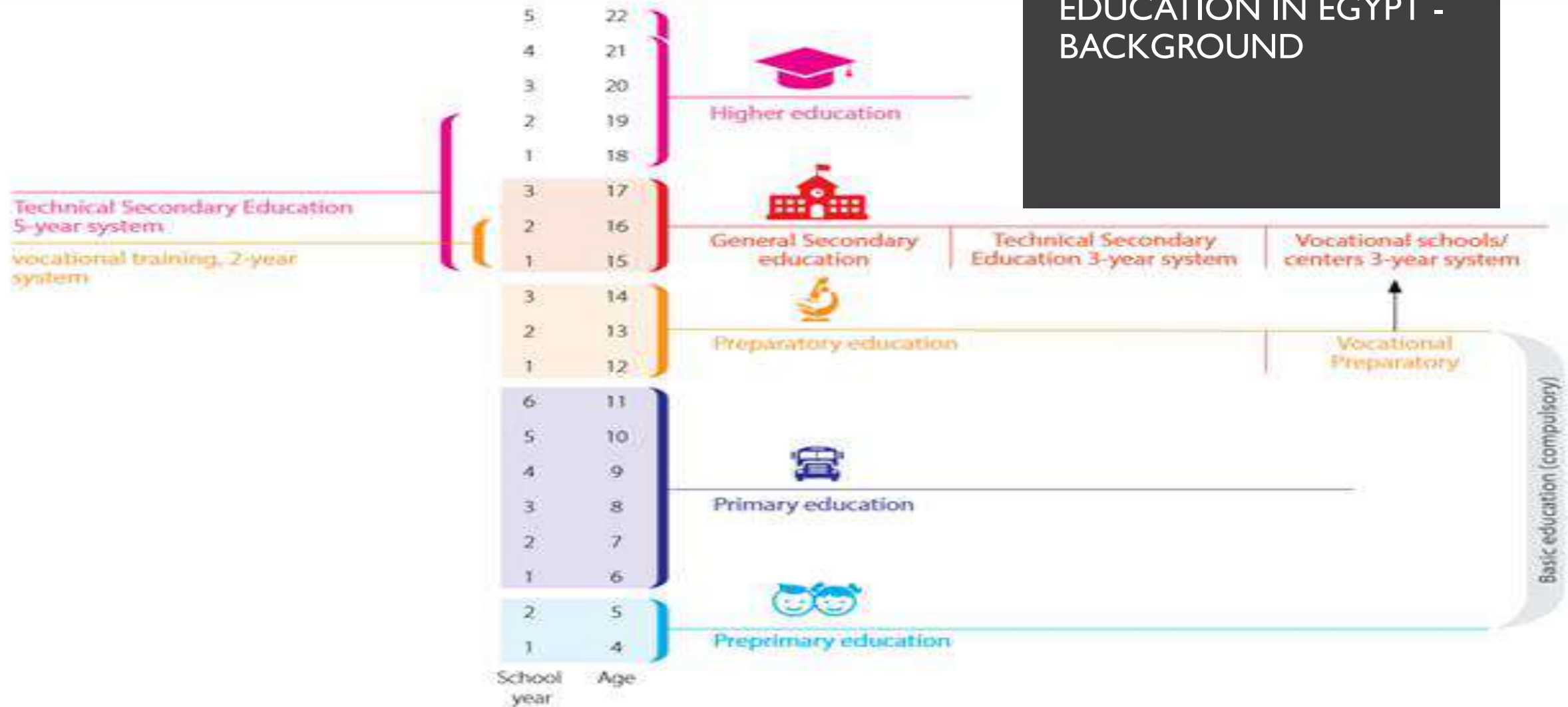
DISCUSSION POINTS

- Early Childhood Development in the MENA Region - Background
- A Focus on Egypt - Early Childhood Care and Education
- English Access MicroScholarship – A Case Study of Learning through Engagement
- Challenges and Opportunities

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN MENA REGION

- Malnutrition – a major challenge
- Engagement in social, emotional, and cognitive development activities – very limited
- Enrollment in pre-primary education – half of world average
- Violent child Discipline vs. positive reinforcement

EDUCATION IN EGYPT - BACKGROUND



Source:

National Strategic plan for Pre-University Education Reform in Egypt 2007/08-2011/12, Ministry of Education (MoE). The Egyptian Education system is

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE IN EGYPT



32% of the children aged 5 years or younger ever attended early childhood education whether formally or informally (UNICEF 2016)



98% of the children enrolled in the primary education (grades 1-6), yet, 94% pass to the preparatory level (grades 6-9) yet, gross enrollment is much less despite the mandatory requirement (UNICEF 2016)



69% enroll in secondary school education with only 33% enrolling in general secondary and 36% vocational

EGYPT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- High immunization rates
- Lower neonatal and infant mortality rates
- Need more access to social, emotional, and cognitive development opportunities
- Some access to early childhood care and education (40% total, 28% in schools)
- Higher access starting age 5 with almost 52% having access to early childhood care and education
- Direct correlation between household income and access to early childhood care and education

ENGLISH ACCESS MICRO- SCHOLARSHIP: INTERVENTION THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

- Afterschool program ages 12-14 for two years
- Access limited to students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds
- Curriculum designed to address the gaps in education system focusing on English and computer skills
- Communicative approach to instruction and activities to ensure student engagement
- Program recruitment through community partnerships
- Financial measures to ensure attendance and retention

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Targeted policies and programs
- Investment in curriculum and teacher training
- Parent engagement and training
- Community partnership

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- Krafft, C. (2015). Increasing education attainment in Egypt: The impact of early childhood care and education. *Economics of Education Review*, 46: 127-143

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