

Institut für Weltwirtschaft und Internationales Management

DOKTORANDENKOLLOQUIUM WELTWIRTSCHAFT

Mittwoch, 29. April 2009

16.00 – 18.00 Uhr

Vortrag und Diskussion zum Thema  
(in englischer Sprache):

**Progressivity of Education Spending in Nigeria**

Dr. Reuben A. Alabi, A. v. Humboldt Research Fellow, at  
IWIM, University of Bremen / Germany

Ort: Universität Bremen, WIWI-Gebäude,

Hochschulring 4, Rotunde 3 / 3.Etage

Weitere Infos: [iwim@uni-bremen.de](mailto:iwim@uni-bremen.de)

[www.iwim.uni-bremen.de](http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de)

## PROGRESSIVITY OF EDUCATION SPENDING IN NIGERIA

### Summary

Globally, there is wide recognition of the importance of education in socioeconomic development of countries in general and those in the developing world in particular. A major concern that has emerged over the last decade has been the need to ensure that children are given the requisite opportunity to access basic education in their respective communities. Because they constitute the future human capital of the society and therefore have potential to exert significant impact on the growth and development of the economy, children's full participation in basic education is a *sine qua non* for societal progress. As economic systems have become more global in scope and the information and skills required to participate fully in them have become more complex, the scope of imparting skills necessary and sufficient for the populace to participate fully in socioeconomic development has also widened. The growing evidence on the role of human capital in the development process has made social sector investment an important component of national strategies for sustained growth and development. One of such investments is investment in education sector. However, there is need to know the relationship between these expenditures and outcomes. Moreover, the knowledge of distributional impact of this spending on the poor is necessary if the poor is to be lifted out of poverty. This study therefore examined the relationship between education spending and school enrolment in Nigeria. The study revealed that education spending and school enrolment is weakly correlated. It shows that the proportion of GDP spent on education in Nigeria is low compared with other countries, the efficiency of the spending is equally poor and that the distributional impact of the spending is not pro-poor. The study concludes that more funding on education in Nigeria can only be justified if such investment can be done efficiently and be made pro-poor. This can easily be done by targeting the poor that are left behind in educational opportunities and resources.