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PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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Annotation

This paper explores the classification of public-private partnerships in preschool education in academic literature and official reports by international organizations. The paper also provides discussion of how public-private partnerships are classified and what kind of public-private partnerships may be suitable for Uzbekistan.

Introduction

Public-private partnerships are contracts between private companies and the government to realize certain projects (Investopedia. 2024). They are formed in diverse industries, such as healthcare, manufacturing, and education. There is an increased interest in creating public-private partnerships in preschool education. Different types of public and private partnerships are used in foreign and local experiences. This paper deals with the classification of public and private partnerships in preschool education and will come to a conclusion based on the available literature

Types of public-private partnerships in preschool education

UNICEF (2018) has classified public-private partnerships in preschool education into four types:

1. Educational infrastructure. This involves cooperating with private companies in the construction, refurbishment, and renovation of educational facilities. This type of PPP is ideal if the government lacks critical resources in the maintenance of pre-school establishments.
2. Education service. In this type, the government hires private companies to provide education services to ensure the quality of education.
3. Vouchers. In this type, the government subsidizes private companies so that they provide education for lower fees or free of charge. This type is useful if the government has resources and funds, but poverty is prevalent in this country.

K. Smith et al. (2017) classifies PPPs in education sector into seven:



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1. Private management of public programs
2. Private support services for public programs
3. Professional services
4. Facility availability
5. Vouchers
6. Service delivery
7. Private operation of public programs.

The authors determine the types of PPPs in preschool education according to the type of engagement (Input, output, process), types of service contracts, ownership of facilities, target of payments, and scope of private party duties. As a result, they describe the typology of PPPs not as an individual contract with contrasting features, but, rather a spectrum.

Zh. Meng et al. (2019) divide Public-private partnerships into five:

1. Infrastructure construction
2. School Adoption
3. Public schools run by private
4. Supply model by agreement
5. Directional voucher model.

Although there is no universally accepted nomenclature, most authors classify public-private partnerships according to what functions are given to private companies:

- a) construction and renovation;
- b) service provision
- c) Subsidizing

Considering that Uzbekistan is a developing country, the former two may potentially increase the quality of education.

Conclusion

There are different classification of public-private partnerships in preschool education based on which functions government gives to private companies and for what purpose. While some authors used clear typologies, others described the types of public private partnerships as a spectrum based on private company's extent and nature of involvement.



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