



RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY ON THE ALLOCATION OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Submission Apr. 06, 2026 Acceptance Apr. 06, 2026 Keywords Educational equity; Resource allocation; Regional education; Governance mechanisms; Education policy Corresponding Author zgdzhxl@163.com	Educational equity has become a fundamental objective of modern education systems, particularly in the context of uneven regional development. Despite sustained policy efforts, disparities in the allocation of educational resources persist across regions, influencing both access to education and learning outcomes. This study examines regional educational resource allocation through the lens of educational equity and explores governance mechanisms that can mitigate disparities. Drawing upon theoretical analysis and policy evaluation, the study identifies key structural challenges, including urban–rural imbalance, unequal teacher distribution, and the digital divide. Furthermore, it proposes a comprehensive governance framework integrating policy redistribution, data-driven decision-making, teacher mobility systems, and multi-stakeholder participation. The findings suggest that achieving educational equity requires systemic governance innovation rather than isolated policy interventions. This research contributes to the theoretical understanding of educational equity and provides practical implications for policymakers seeking to promote inclusive and balanced educational development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Educational equity has increasingly become a central concern in global education reform. It is widely acknowledged that equal access to quality education is essential for promoting social mobility, reducing inequality, and fostering sustainable economic development (OECD, 2023; UNESCO, 2024). However, despite significant investments and policy reforms, disparities in educational resources remain a persistent issue in many countries.

Regional inequality in education manifests in multiple dimensions, including disparities in

funding, teacher quality, infrastructure, and access to technology (World Bank, 2023). These inequalities are particularly pronounced between urban and rural areas, as well as between economically developed and less developed regions. As a result, students in disadvantaged regions often face limited opportunities for academic achievement and personal development.

The allocation of educational resources is not merely a technical issue but also a governance challenge. Effective governance mechanisms are required to ensure that resources are distributed fairly and efficiently (Fullan, 2021). This study aims to explore how educational equity can be achieved through improved resource allocation and governance innovation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Educational Equity in the Global Context

Educational equity has long been a central theme in international education discourse. It is widely conceptualized as ensuring fairness in both access to educational opportunities and outcomes across diverse populations. According to the OECD (2023), equity in education implies that personal or social circumstances such as socioeconomic status or geographic location should not hinder educational success. Different countries adopt varying approaches to achieving equity. Nordic countries emphasize welfare-based redistribution, while decentralized systems rely more on local governance (OECD, 2023). UNESCO (2024) further highlights that achieving equity requires systemic and sustained interventions rather than isolated reforms, particularly in regions with deep structural inequalities.

2.2. Resource Allocation and Educational Outcomes

The relationship between resource allocation and educational outcomes is complex. Research shows that both the quantity and distribution of resources influence student performance. Darling-Hammond (2022) emphasizes that teacher quality is one of the most critical determinants of student achievement, while targeted investments can significantly reduce disparities in disadvantaged areas (World Bank, 2023). Furthermore, the concept of adequacy suggests that all students should receive sufficient resources to meet educational standards, rather than merely equal distribution (Hanushek & Woessmann, 2020).

2.3. Governance and Policy Mechanisms

Governance plays a crucial role in shaping educational equity. Effective governance requires coordination across multiple levels of government and stakeholders. (Fullan, 2021) argues that successful reforms depend on both centralized policy direction and localized implementation. In addition, digital governance has emerged as an important tool, enabling more precise and efficient allocation of resources through data-driven approaches (World Bank, 2023).

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. Multi-Dimensional Understanding of Educational Equity

Educational equity is a complex and multidimensional concept. It can be understood through three interconnected dimensions. Equity of access, ensures that all individuals have equal opportunities to enter educational systems, regardless of background. Equity of process, focuses on the quality of educational experiences, including teaching methods, curriculum, and

learning environments. Equity of outcomes, aims to reduce disparities in academic performance and long-term opportunities. These dimensions are interdependent. For example, equal access without equitable learning conditions may not lead to equal outcomes.

3.2. Theories of Resource Distribution

Several theoretical models explain how educational resources should be distributed. Equal distribution model, advocates for equal allocation of resources across regions. Needs-based model, allocates resources according to the specific needs of disadvantaged groups. Efficiency-oriented model, focuses on maximizing overall educational outcomes.

Among these, the needs-based model is most consistent with the principles of educational equity, as it prioritizes disadvantaged populations.

3.3. Governance Theory and Educational Equity

From a governance perspective, educational equity requires institutional arrangements that promote fairness and accountability. This includes, policy coherence: Alignment of policies across different levels of government. Accountability mechanisms, Ensuring that resources are used effectively. Stakeholder engagement, involving communities and educators in decision-making. Governance theory suggests that achieving equity is not only a matter of resource allocation but also of institutional design and policy implementation.

4. CURRENT CHALLENGES IN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION

4.1. Structural Urban–Rural Inequality

Urban–rural disparities remain one of the most significant challenges in education systems worldwide. Urban areas benefit from better infrastructure, higher funding levels, and access to advanced technologies. In contrast, rural schools often struggle with outdated facilities and limited educational resources.

This structural inequality is reinforced by economic disparities, as regions with stronger economies can invest more in education. As a result, educational inequality becomes both a cause and consequence of regional economic inequality.

4.2. Imbalanced Distribution of Human Resources

Teachers are a critical component of educational quality. However, there is a persistent imbalance in teacher distribution. Highly qualified teachers tend to work in urban or developed areas due to better salaries, working conditions, and career opportunities. This imbalance leads to a “double disadvantage” for students in underdeveloped regions: they lack both material resources and high-quality teaching.

4.3. Expanding Digital Divide

The integration of digital technology into education has created new forms of inequality. While digital tools can enhance learning, unequal access to technology exacerbates existing disparities. Students in regions with limited internet access or inadequate digital infrastructure face significant disadvantages in accessing online learning resources.

4.4. Governance Fragmentation and Policy Inconsistency

Another major challenge is the lack of coordination among different levels of government. Policies related to education funding, teacher allocation, and infrastructure development are often fragmented. This fragmentation leads to inefficiencies and reduces the effectiveness of policy interventions.

4.5. Socioeconomic and Cultural Barriers

In addition to structural factors, socioeconomic and cultural barriers also influence educational equity. Families with lower socioeconomic status may lack the resources to support their children's education, further widening achievement gaps.

5. GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

5.1. Progressive Fiscal Redistribution

A key strategy for promoting equity is the implementation of progressive funding models. Governments should allocate more resources to disadvantaged regions through targeted funding programs. This includes increasing public investment in education and ensuring that funding formulas account for regional disparities.

5.2. Data-Driven and Evidence-Based Governance

Data-driven governance enables policymakers to make informed decisions. By analyzing data on student performance, resource allocation, and demographic characteristics, governments can identify areas of need and allocate resources more effectively. Advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence can further enhance decision-making processes.

5.3. Teacher Mobility and Professional Incentives

Encouraging teacher mobility is essential for balancing the distribution of human resources. Governments can implement incentive policies, including higher salaries, housing benefits, and professional development opportunities. These measures can attract qualified teachers to underserved regions.

5.4. Collaborative and Participatory Governance

Educational governance should involve multiple stakeholders. Community participation can improve policy relevance and ensure that local needs are addressed. Public-private partnerships can also play a role in providing additional resources and expertise.

5.5. Digital Governance and Technology Integration

Digital technologies can reduce regional disparities by providing access to high-quality educational resources. Online learning platforms and virtual classrooms enable students in remote areas to access the same content as those in urban areas.

6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Achieving equitable allocation of regional educational resources requires a systematic and coordinated implementation approach. This section outlines key strategies focusing on policy

design, technological support, governance capacity, and sustainability.

6.1. Strengthening Policy Design and Coordination

A coherent policy framework is essential for promoting educational equity. Governments should establish long-term, equity-oriented strategies and ensure alignment across different administrative levels.

Policies should adopt a needs-based approach, allocating more resources to disadvantaged regions rather than applying uniform standards. In addition, effective intergovernmental coordination mechanisms are necessary to reduce fragmentation and improve policy consistency.

6.2. Developing Resource-Sharing and Digital Platforms

Digital technologies play a critical role in improving resource allocation efficiency. Governments should build integrated educational resource platforms that enable the sharing of teaching materials, data, and infrastructure across regions.

Online learning systems and digital classrooms can help reduce geographical barriers and provide equal access to high-quality educational content, especially in remote areas.

6.3. Establishing Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

A comprehensive evaluation system is necessary to ensure policy effectiveness. Governments should develop standardized indicators of educational equity, covering funding, teacher distribution, and student outcomes. Both formative and summative evaluations should be implemented, and evaluation results should inform continuous policy adjustment. Transparency in data reporting can further enhance accountability.

6.4. Enhancing Governance Capacity

Strong institutional capacity is essential for effective implementation. This includes improving administrative efficiency, clarifying responsibilities, and strengthening coordination among agencies. Capacity-building programs for policymakers and educators should be promoted to improve data literacy and governance skills. Decentralized governance can also enhance flexibility in addressing local needs.

6.5. Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Participation

Educational equity requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders. Governments should encourage community participation, as well as collaboration with private organizations and NGOs. Public-private partnerships can provide additional resources and expertise, while collaborative governance platforms can improve transparency and shared responsibility.

6.6. Ensuring Sustainability

Sustainable development is crucial for long-term educational equity. Policies should focus on stable funding mechanisms, continuous capacity building, and integration with broader social and economic development strategies.

In addition, ongoing innovation and policy adaptation are necessary to respond to changing conditions and emerging challenges.

7. DISCUSSION

This study highlights that educational equity is not solely a matter of resource allocation but also of governance effectiveness. Addressing disparities requires integrated strategies combining policy, technology, and collaboration.

8. CONCLUSION

Educational equity remains a critical challenge. This study demonstrates that equitable resource allocation must be supported by effective governance mechanisms. Future research should include empirical validation and comparative analysis.

CONFLICT STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

COOPERATION STATEMENT

All authors contributed equally to this work and approved the final manuscript.

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