



**Public and Low-fee Private Schooling in Rural
Ghana: Are the Poor Being Served?
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Introduction

In Ghana, evidence suggest considerable progress in expanding access – gender and regional differences have narrowed but

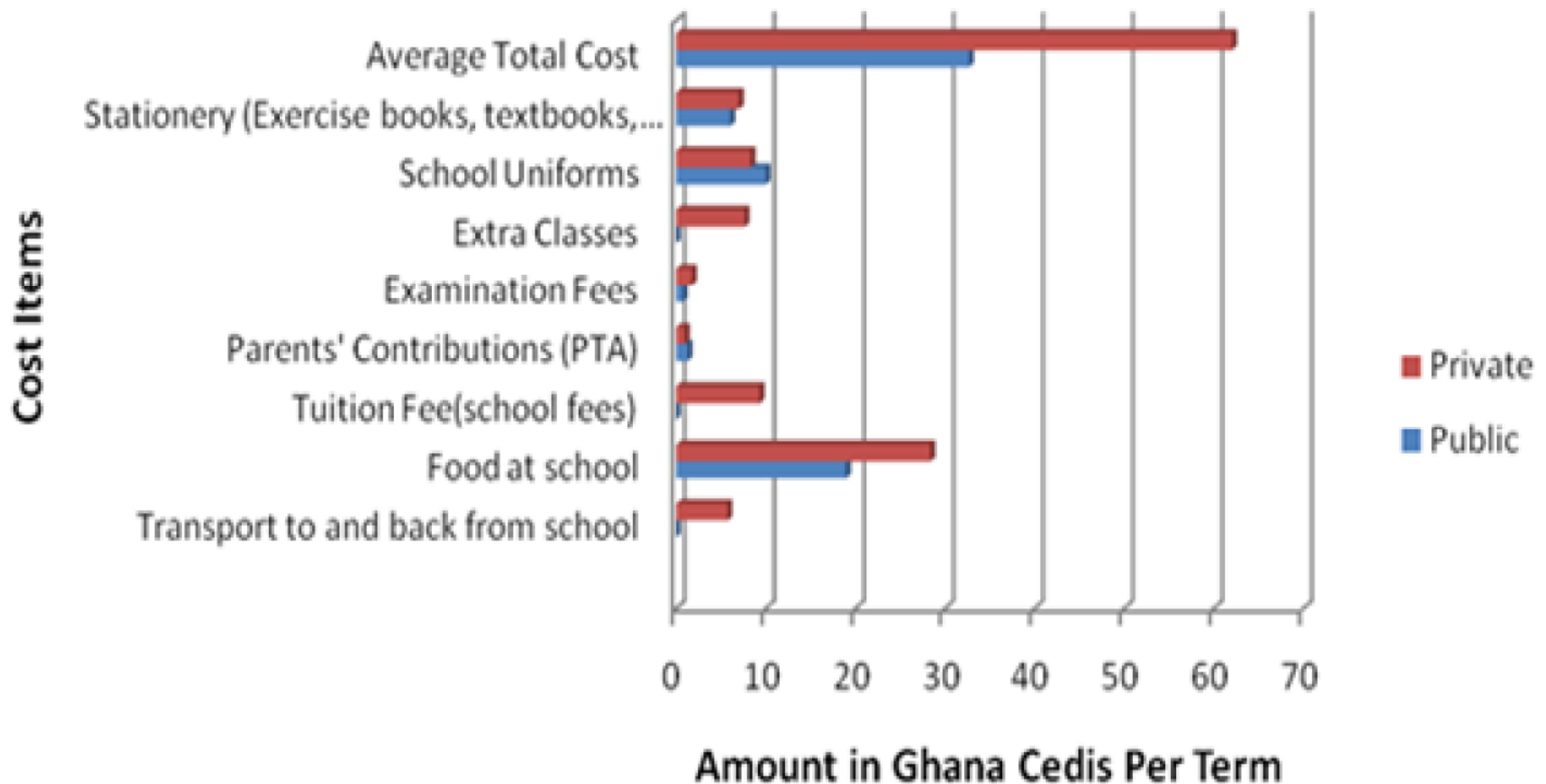
... gaps in participation between the poor and non poor and also between rural and Urban persist.

Key Message

Fee-free schooling should be driven by an incentive structure that makes public schools more accountable to local communities.

Findings

Comparing Costs of Public and Private Basic Schools



Food cost constitutes the most significant component of Household expenditure for both school types averaging about 45% and 29% of the costs per child per term for public and private schools respectively.

A large proportion of poorest household's income is spent on education – about 16% and 30% public and private respectively



What makes low fee private schools attractive to the poor?

- Capitation has reduced the cost burden
- ‘Household friendly’ fee policy
- LFP schools operated with clear vision of improving learning outcomes – people perceive them to be of good quality.

Policy Messages

- The state should create an incentive structure that make public schools more accountable to local communities.
- Providing school meals would greatly reduce the costs burden of the poor
- State to support LFPs to keep their cost low.
- School mapping to include LFPs to understand their expansion and relative costs.

Are the poor being served?

- Yes, to those who are dissatisfied with public schools and despite their poverty are looking for an alternative.
- No, for those who cannot afford low-fee private schools and still find that the alternative (public schools) are not cost free even for the poorest quality they might offer.

Thank you