

# **Educational Inequality in Emerging Market Economics and the Role of Government**

**ANJU KUMARI**

## **ABSTRACT**

Education plays an essential role in human development. It has a positive impact on social, political cultural and economic growth. However, educational inequality has been considered as an important cause of concern especially in the Emerging market economies which are on a high growth path since 1990. Thus, eradicating the educational inequality should be a primary policy prescription for the Government, be it democratic or authoritarian. This study tries to contribute in this body of literature by highlighting the role of government in reducing the educational inequality in the emerging market economies (EME). Educational inequality is measured by Education Gini index, which has been computed using Barro and Lee (2013) data. The sample consists of 14 EMEs, over the period of 1990 to 2010. In this paper we have classified the EMEs in 3 different clusters: high, medium and low educational inequality with a clear representation of their movement over time. The study explores the factors responsible for reducing educational inequality using an Ordered probit model. The results suggest that government expenditure in education purpose plays a major role in reducing educational inequality. Moreover, the countries with a stable political environment and an effective governance will be in a better position to eradicate educational inequality.