TIGERS & TORTUGAS:
A COMPARISON OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION BETWEEN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

By Savanna Lim
Why these 2 regions?

Both regions were heavily colonized by Europeans

Tourism is one of their main industries

Both are tropical regions that are rich in natural resources

Fast growing urban cities

Both have similar chief crops - Bananas, Sugar, Coffee

Poverty & Undocumented Migration are both huge problems

Personal Reasons
QUESTION #1: How many youth worldwide are out of school?

A NUMBER

57 million
What exactly does SDG 4 entail?

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes.

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states.
NICARAGUA
1552: Conquered by the Spanish
1821: First Mexican Empire
1909: US Occupation
1926: Nicaraguan Civil War
1936: Somoza Dynasty
1972: Sandinista Insurrection
1979: Sandinista Period
1986: Iran-Contra Affair
1990: Post Sandinista
US Involvement & Impact

- Era of the “communist scare”
- Reagan trained contras
- Deaths of many

Current Government

- “Republic”/Dictatorship
- Ortega since 2007
Education

- Uniforms
- Shifts (Day, Night)
- Limited Subjects
- Feb-Nov
- Admission to Higher Ed: Testing

- 6 years compulsory
- 86% Youth literacy rate
- Lunch by residents
Nicaraguan Literacy Campaign
- 1980: Reduce Illiteracy (50%)
- UNESCO Award
- Rural vs. Urban
- 2 weeks / 5 months
- Secondary students: Vols

"Yo, sí puedo"
- Cuban Method
- 2007
- 350-500,000

“Plan Estratégico de Educación”
- World Bank / Global Partnership for Education
- 2016-2020
- $17 million
Urban vs. Rural

- In every case, more girls
- **Nicaragua** is the second poorest country in Latin America after Haiti
- 41.5% Rural

- Repeating grades: Marele & Rafaelito
- Different hours for different ages
- English: rare

**Tabla 18. Años de Educación Promedio por Área y Edad (15-64 años)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grupo edad</th>
<th>Urbano</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19 años</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>5.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 años</td>
<td>9.52</td>
<td>6.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29 años</td>
<td>9.28</td>
<td>5.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34 años</td>
<td>8.34</td>
<td>3.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39 años</td>
<td>8.09</td>
<td>4.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44 años</td>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>3.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49 años</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54 años</td>
<td>7.33</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59 años</td>
<td>5.98</td>
<td>2.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64 años</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.16</td>
<td>4.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A picture is worth a thousand words. A complex idea can be conveyed with just a single still image, making it possible to absorb large amounts of data quickly.
Education was a priority

Castro saw education had a pivotal role in consolidating his revolution

“F is for Fidel”

Gov approved courses: nothing criticizing socialism

Education was seen as key to the revolution taking hold and creating a literate population loyal to the government.

1989: Profs & Docs = top salaries

Medical students*

Cuban Rev: Drastic change for women
  ○ Before: little went to school, housework
**EDUCATION STATISTICS!**

Cuba shows how important education is by keeping a student to teacher ratio of 12 to 1, which is approximately half of the Latin American average.

Compulsory education: ages 6-15

5 years teacher education course

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**Literacy (2011)**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0[^4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100.0[^3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100.0[^2]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EVERY child is guaranteed schooling
Low-cost, High-quality Instructional Materials
Systemwide Evaluation and Competition Among Classes and Schools
Outreach to Rural Children
Attention to Special Needs
Linking School and Work
Education for Social Cohesion and Values
Education Ongoing Tensions: Quality and Equity

TABLE 1. KEY DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR CUBA AND THE USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cuba</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>77.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy rate</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% children with low birth rate</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of children enrolled in primary school</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public expenditure on education (% GDP)</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity consumption per capita (kWh)</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>14,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO₂ emissions per capita</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: DATA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX REPORT 2007/2008
● Some view a free market as an essential driver of scientific discovery

- More cancer treatments
- A treatment for diabetic foot ulcers
- Treatment for advanced head and neck tumors
OVERVIEW: LATIN AMERICA

- Consistent Rule
- Government Priorities
- Foreign Intervention
- Similar economies, differing education systems
- Cuba: 18% spending, Nicaragua 15% = relatively the same
- Teacher salary
- Education Initiatives
INDONESIA
A Brief Introduction

- Independence: 1945
- Dutch & Japanese Teachers: Sayonara
- 250 million people
- Largest congregation of muslims
- 300 diff Ethnic groups

- 17,508 - 18,306 islands
UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (8)
EDUCATION

➢ 9-12 years compulsory education
  ○ Depends on province (34)
➢ 86% Muslim students, 15% attend Madrassas
➢ More boys than girls
➢ English from 5th grade up
➢ 4th largest population of youth going to school
➢ Local schools = local languages + Bahasa Melayu

GOALS

➢ MDGs & SDGs
  ○ Good standard
  ○ Already incorporated into their plans
➢ 25 year, 5 year, 1 year.
➢ National Secretariat for the SDGs
  ○ Tries to influence local governments, but the locals ultimately have the final say.
➢ National Development Assembly
  ○ Annual meetings
  ○ Easier to align goals
HOT DEBATE

● Uniform testing (diff for each province)
● Testing divided into less developed & more developed

CHALLENGES
★ Distance from schools
★ Access
Education

- Streamlined public education
  - Normal vs. Express stream
- Public schools > Private schools
  - International
- Small population
- One of the highest standards of living
- Immense pressure and stress
- Suicides
2015 study by the OECD ranked the Educational Systems by the results of kids aged 15 at Maths and Science

1) Singapore
2) Hong Kong
3) South Korea
4) Japan
5) Taiwan
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

- Gained Independence in 1965
- PM knew that Education was ESSENTIAL
- Went from a 3rd world country to a 1st world country in 50 years

- Most qualified chosen to serve 4 gov (earn as much as they would in the private sector, best schools)
- Global benchmarking
- Careful implementation of policy

- Teachers chosen from top third
- Special school
- Streamlined education
- O level & A level
Reason for Disparity in Southeast Asia

- Diff govs have Different Priorities
- Population Size
- Teacher Salary
- Development

Similar to reasons for disparities in Latin America

SOLUTIONS

- Capacity Building
  - Capacity of teacher
    - Better training, reach every teacher
- Accessibility for everyone
  - Roads
  - Infrastructure
  - Parents
    - *isolated areas

CONSISTENCY IS KEY
CROSS REGIONAL SIMILARITIES

- Consistent Rule
- Government Priorities
- Foreign Intervention
- Similar economies, differing education systems
- Teacher salary
- Education Initiatives
- Implementation of Law
- Population Size
- Geography
ONE TAKE AWAY:

EDUCATION IS CRUCIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


