

# Global Learning Crisis in Four Slides

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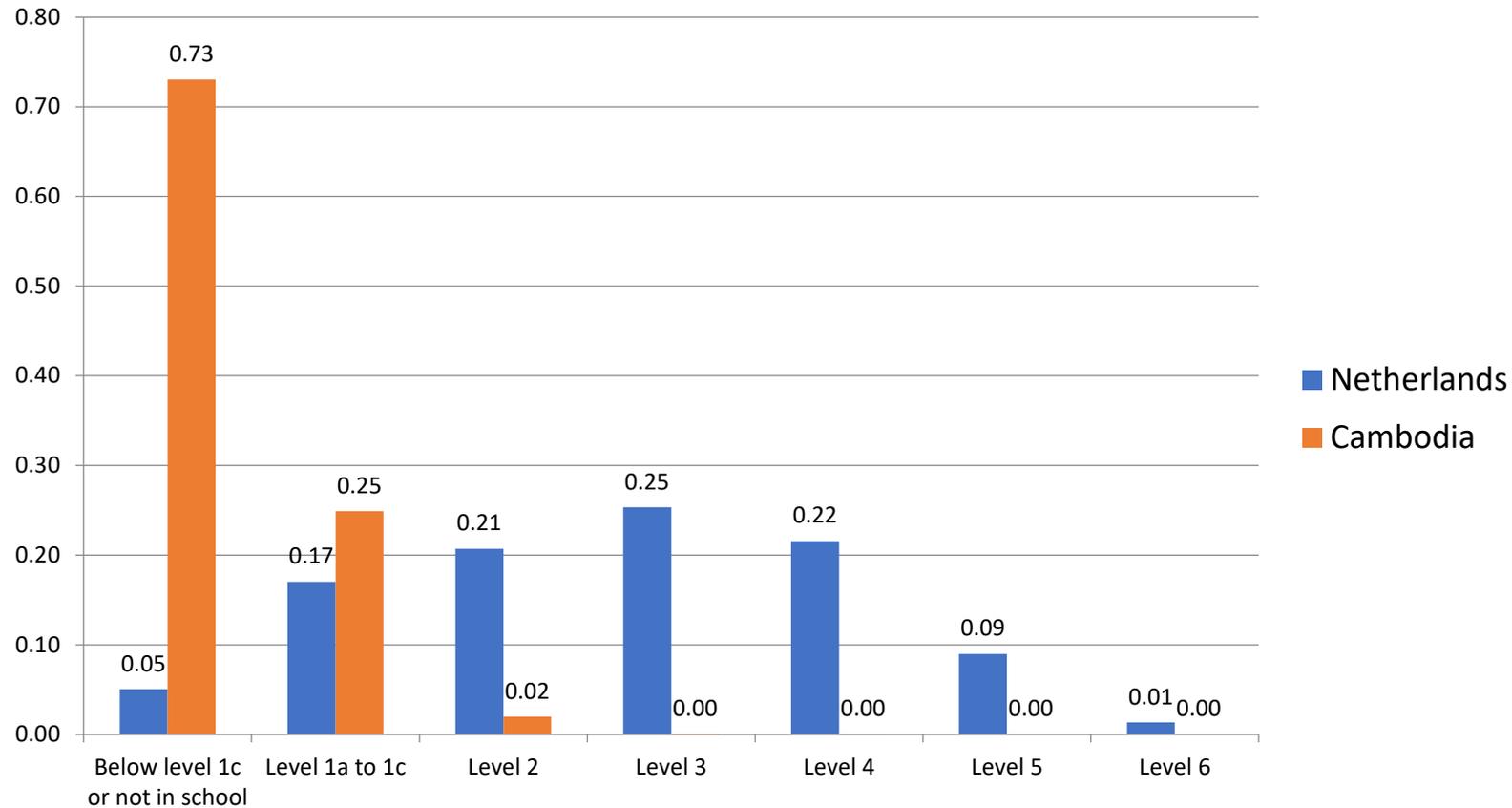
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February 21, 2020

Australian Aid Conference

It is hard to overstate the difference in learning outcomes of 15 year olds between the OECD and poorer countries

In Cambodia (orange) **98 percent** of the 15 year old population is below level 2 on reading...their “highest skill” students (2 percent) are at the “low skill” level of skills the OECD countries worry are about to be completely obsolete



In Netherlands (blue) the worry is about “low skill” job seekers will be affected by automation and all that...but 77 percent of the population is at level 2 or above

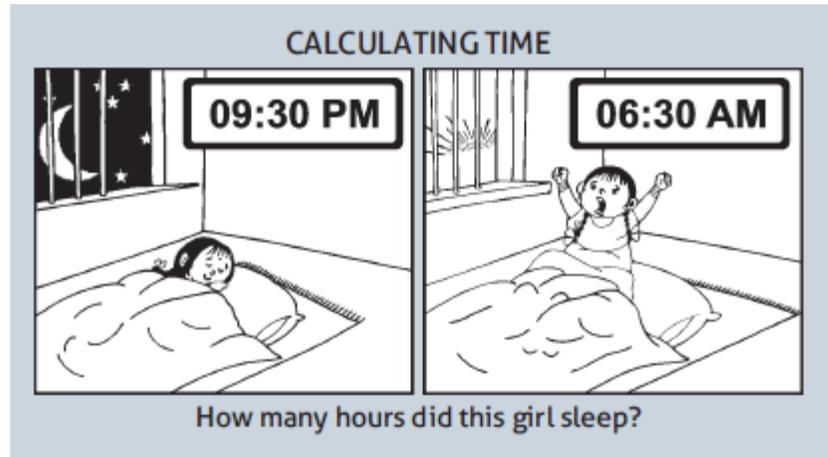
Author’s calculations with PISA-D results

The learning crisis is at the top too...even the statistical “elites” are getting at best a globally mediocre education

	Percent of kids at level 4 or above on reading	<b>Maximum percent of top 1 percent with globally good performance</b>	Percent of kids at level 4 or above on Math	<b>Maximum percent of top 1 percent with globally good performance</b>
PISA-D				
Zambia	0.0014%	0.1%	0.0014%	0.1%
Cambodia	0.0012%	0.1%	0.0290%	2.9%
Senegal	0.0572%	5.7%	0.1019%	10.2%
Paraguay	0.7362%	73.6%	0.0269%	2.7%
Honduras	0.4848%	48.5%	0.2685%	26.9%
Guatemala	0.3297%	33.0%	0.0365%	3.6%

# The great betrayal: roughly half of kids in India enrolled in higher education didn't answer a simple question about time correctly...

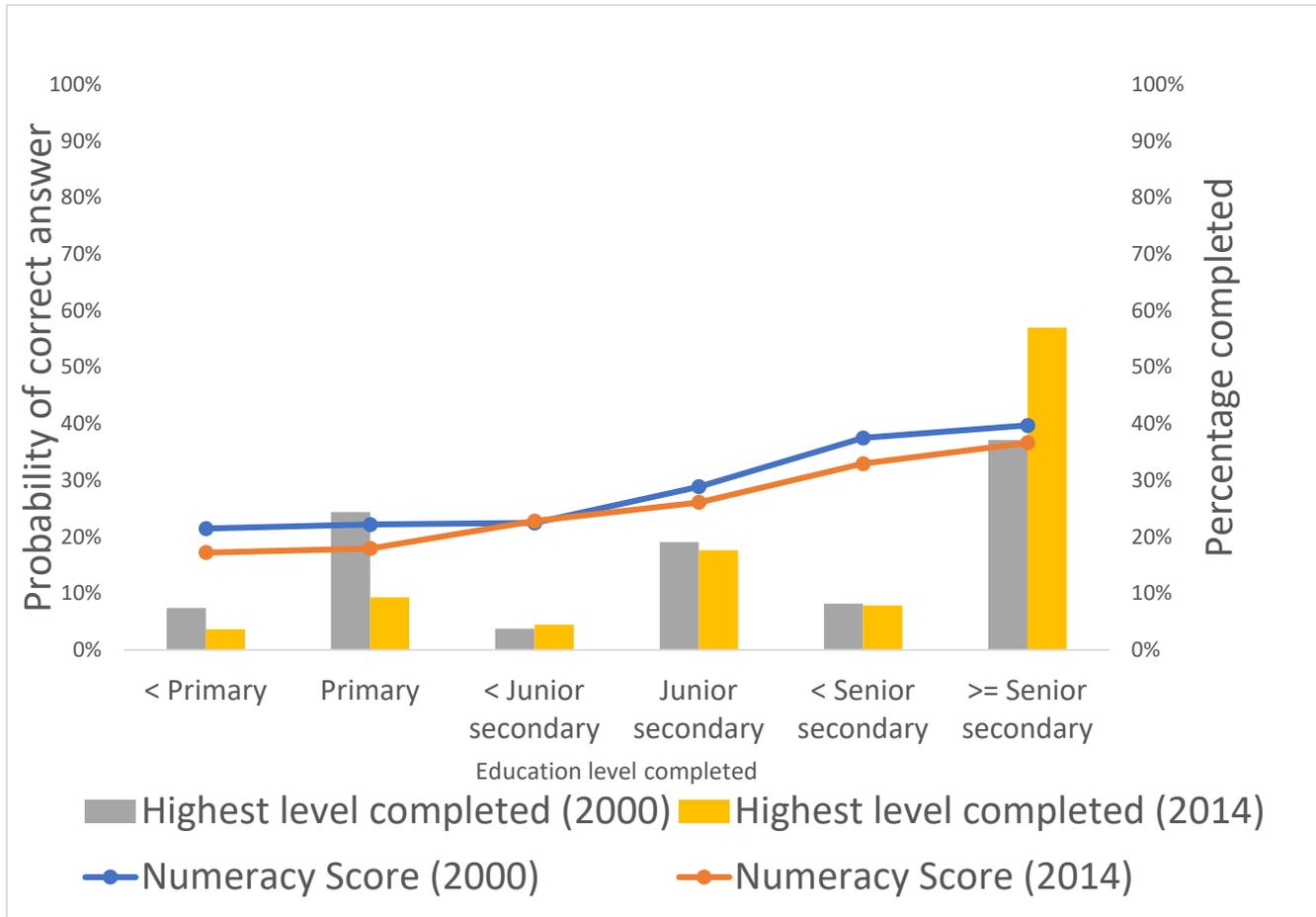
Survey of youth aged 14 to 18 across India contained simple application questions like:



Source: ASER 2017, Beyond Basics

Correct answers by level of Schooling (of youth aged 14 to 18)	Percent correct
Less than 8 years complete	26.8
8 or more years of school complete	41.4
Enrolled as undergraduate	54.4

“More of the same” of pushing more kids through school and “more of the same” of ‘quality school’ reforms is not unlikely to help



In Indonesia per student spending tripled, many reforms aimed at improving quality, 20 percent more kids finished senior secondary and yet the learning profile remained flat (and fell) and the skills of the 18024 cohort on primary school arithmetic *fell*

Source: [Beatty et al 2018](#)