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The Equity Challenge in China's Higher Education Finance Policy

| Article | Published: 12 May 2009

| Volume 22, pages 191–207, (2009) [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

Sustaining China's rapid economic growth in the future will come to depend in large part on the quantity and quality of the human resources it can mobilize. The paper considers the prospects for higher education financing, and highlights the importance of improving equity in access to higher education as a precondition for a sustainable expansion in the higher education sector. The paper aims to throw light on two key questions: What are the links existing between current financing arrangements and equity in access to higher education? What kind of financing arrangements could ensure increasing access to higher education?

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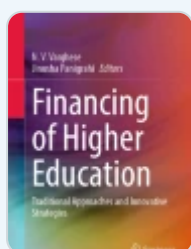
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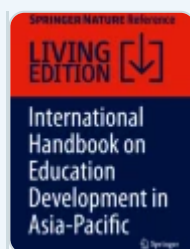
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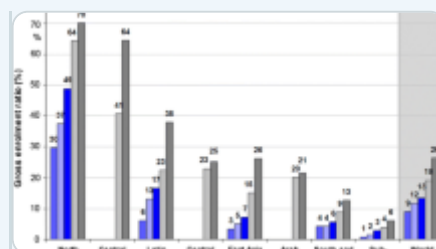
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Notes

1. An important issue is that subsidies to higher education crowd out the public support to primary and secondary education, but for reasons of space this is not covered in the paper.
2. The *west poor areas* include 12 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions. They consist 18% of China's GDP, 29% of the population, 60% of the poor

people, 72% of the minority population and 72% of the surface area of China ([The World Bank Group for China, 22 January 2003](#), 17).

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Author information

Authors and Affiliations

School of Political Science and Public Administration, Shandong University, 5 Hongjia Lou, Jinan, 250100, China

Fengshou Sun

Brooks World Poverty Institute, The University of Manchester, Humanities Bridgeford Street Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

Armando Barrientos

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About this article

Cite this article

Sun, F., Barrientos, A. The Equity Challenge in China's Higher Education Finance Policy. *High Educ Policy* 22, 191–207 (2009). <https://doi.org/10.1057/hep.2008.27>

Published

12 May 2009

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.1057/hep.2008.27>

Issue Date

01 June 2009

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