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## World Bank's Focus on Primary Education Blamed for University Struggles in Africa



Africa, and particularly Uganda, have been found to have suffering education systems. The education failure is the fault of the [World Bank](#) according to Mahmood Mamdani, Professor and Director of the [Makerere Institute of Social Research](#) at Makerere University in Uganda. In the 1980s investment in education turned from universities to primary education, upon the request of the World Bank. Since, universities have been left to be funded by students.

"The World Bank convinced the Government that university education was not only elitist but a luxury that society could not afford," said Mamdani. Makerere University, where Mamdani delivered his thoughts, appears to have suffered financially due to such measures.

Mamdani argues universities, then, should become the primary financial focus as it is in those facilities that teachers are certified. Mamdani said, "Who would train administrators and teachers for primary schools? Who would design the curriculum? The answer to both questions is: universities."

Critics, however, feel such calls are unrealistic. The World Bank has yet to respond.

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