

DYNAMICS AND CAPACITIES OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN POLOG REGION

Xhejda JONUZI¹, Meribe MUSTAFI², Rukije IBRAIMI³, Fatmire AMITI⁴

Department of Geography-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

**Corresponding author e-mail: xhejda.jonuzi@gmail.com*

merife.mustafi@gmail.com

rukije.skenderi@email.com

Abstract

The dynamics of educational institutions in the Polog region in recent years have seen efforts to improve educational infrastructure by investing in new schools and providing more education opportunities. At the same time, there have been challenges affecting the dynamics of education, such as a lack of resources and infrastructure, high unemployment rates, and a decrease in the number of students.

However, efforts to improve this situation continue, including enhancing the quality of education and increasing opportunities for skill development and professional growth. The capacities of educational institutions in the Polog region depend on the number of schools, universities, and other educational institutions in this area. These capacities include classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and other necessary infrastructure.

Education in the Polog region is one of the main components of its development. Considering that Polog is located in North Macedonia, North Macedonia, and the Polog region have a developed education system, offering primary, secondary, and higher education schools.

In the Polog region, there are a total of 9 municipalities: Municipality Bogovinje, Municipality of Brvenica, Municipality Želino, Municipality of Vrapčište, Municipality Jegunovce, Municipality of Gostivar, Municipality of Mavrovo and Rostuša, Municipality Tearce, and Municipality of Tetovo.

In the Polog region, we have 147 primary schools, 17 secondary schools, and a total of 1066 graduated students, while in North Macedonia we have a total of 976 primary schools, 129 secondary schools, and a total of 6926 graduated students.

Keywords: educational institutions, Polog region, investment in school, professional growth.

1. Introduction

Education is the cornerstone of societal development, serving as the bedrock upon which future generations build their aspirations and contribute to the advancement of their communities.

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Furthermore, an in-depth analysis allows stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, and community leaders, to formulate targeted strategies aimed at enhancing educational outcomes and fostering inclusive growth.

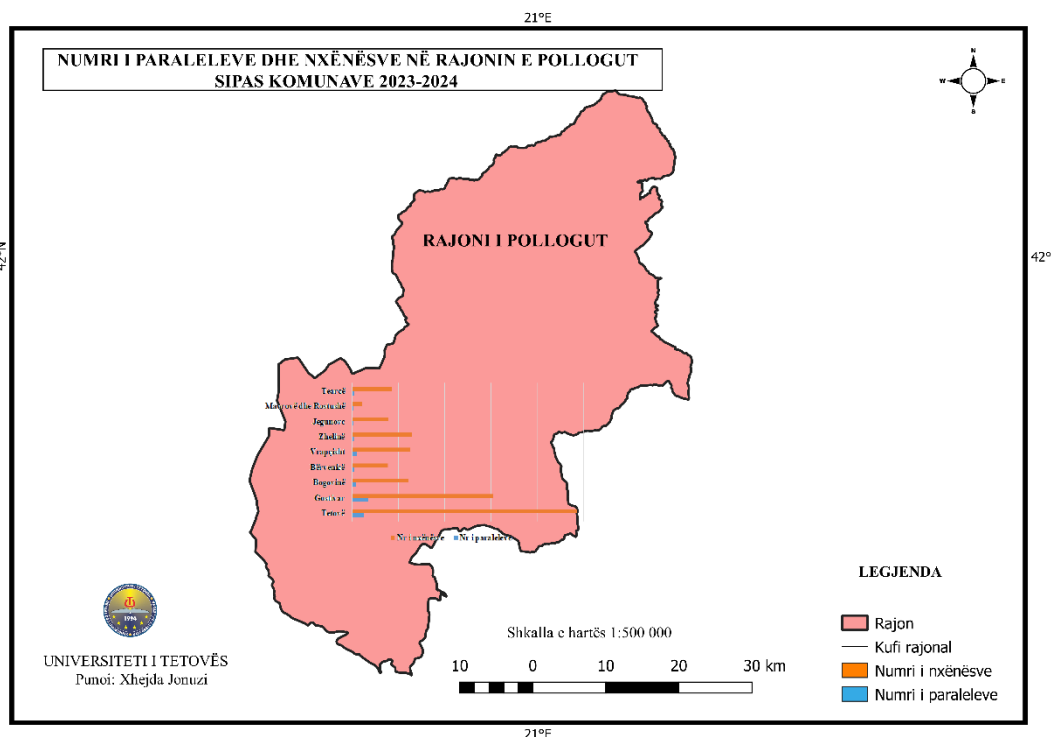
This study endeavors to delve into the dynamics and capacities of educational facilities within the Polog region, exploring various facets such as infrastructure, enrollment rates, academic programs, and extracurricular activities. By examining these aspects comprehensively, we aim to paint a holistic picture of the educational ecosystem, elucidating both its strengths and areas requiring attention.

Through rigorous research and analysis, we seek not only to assess the current state of educational facilities but also to offer actionable recommendations for bolstering their capacities and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all residents of the Polog

region. In doing so, we aspire to contribute to the broader discourse on educational development and pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for the region's youth.

Dynamics and capacities of educational facilities in polog region

In the Polog region and within the framework of North Macedonia, we have many educational institutions, but we will focus more on primary education in the Polog region. The Municipality of Tetovo is one of the most important and populous municipalities in North Macedonia, with 19 rural settlements and 1 urban settlement. It has a developed educational system that includes primary schools in the city and rural areas.



Map 1. The number of classes and students in the Polog region by municipalities for the year 2023-2024

Table 1. Primary Schools in the Polog Region within the framework of the Republic of North Macedonia

Primary schools in the Polog region and Republic of the North Macedonia					
	Schools	Grades	Number of students		
			T	M	F
2017-2018					
Polog region	148	1893	28981	15154	13827
North Macedonia	988	10818	188517	97809	91428
2019-2020					
Polog region	147	1895	28261	14647	13614
North Macedonia	979	10866	185788	95595	90193
2021-2022					
Polog region	147	1907	27610	14346	13255
North Macedonia	976	11057	184910	95242	89668

Table 2. High schools in the Polog region and North Macedonia

High schools in the Polog region and North Macedonia					
2017-2018					
	Schools	Grades	T	M	F
Polog region	18	592	10899	5831	5068
North Macedonia	131	3494	70861	3666	34195
2019-2020					
Polog region	17	583	10080	5162	4918
North Macedonia	128	3519	68273	34607	33666
2021-2022					
Polog region	17	586	10435	5613	4822
North Macedonia	129	3509	69378	35065	34313

Table 3. Upper secondary schools in the Polog region and North Macedonia with graduated students

Upper secondary schools in the Polog region and North Macedonia with graduated students 2017-2020-2022			
2017-2018			
	T	M	F
Polog region	1022	420	602
North Macedonia	7947	3286	4661
2019-2020			
Polog region	1080	459	621
North Macedonia	7433	3059	4374
2021-2022			
Polog region	1066	421	645
North Macedonia	6926	2878	4048

Primary education is given special importance, as it provides the foundation of education for children. ¹Some key elements of the primary education system in the Municipality of Tetovo are:

- Central primary school - Tetovo has central primary schools that offer primary education for students in the city.
- Primary schools in villages - in addition to the central schools, there are also primary schools in the villages around Tetovo, providing children in peripheral areas with educational opportunities.
- Educational programs - the educational programs at the primary level are adapted to the requirements of the Ministry of Education of North Macedonia and include the teaching of various subjects such as language, mathematics, science, history, and many others.
- Educational initiatives - Local authorities and educational institutions may also offer additional programs to enrich education, such as sports, artistic, and cultural activities, etc.
- Primary education in Tetovo constitutes the foundation of the educational development of children, striving to provide a stimulating and quality educational environment for all students.

The Municipality of Gostivar is one of the most important municipalities in North Macedonia, with a total of 33 settlements and a large number of primary schools. Some of the most well-known primary schools in Gostivar are:

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- Gostivari Primary School, an important central primary school in the city of Gostivar.
- "Zef Lush Marku" Primary School, another important primary school in the city.
- "Rilindja" Primary School, also significant in the city of Gostivar.

In the Municipality of Bogovinje, there are 13 rural settlements. As in many other municipalities, there are central primary schools and peripheral primary schools. The central primary schools are those located in the larger centers of the municipality, while the peripheral primary schools are those located in the villages and rural areas of the municipality.

- "Abdyl Frashëri" Primary School has one central school in Bogovinje, while the peripheral schools are located in Rakovec and Lower Sellca.
- "Dervish Cara" Central Primary School is located in the village of Novak, with peripheral schools in the villages of Lower Palchishte and Kallnik.
- "Liria" Primary School is located in Zherovjan.
- "Sabedin Bajrami" Peripheral Primary School is located in the villages of Kamjan, Siničan, and Upper Sedllarce.
- "Sami Frashëri" Primary School is located in the village of Pirok.
- "11 Tetori" Peripheral Primary School is located in the villages of Urviç, Jellovjan, and Novosellë II.

In the Municipality of Brvenica, there are 9 rural settlements, and education is one of the main development priorities of the community. There are central and peripheral primary schools that provide education for the children of this area/municipality. Efforts have also been made to improve the educational infrastructure and ensure equal access to education for all students in the Municipality of Brvenica. In Brvenica, there are peripheral primary schools such as "7 Marsi" in the village of Čellopek, "Kosta Racin" in Brvenica, and "Goce Delčev" in the village of Stence.

In the Municipality of Vrapčište, there are 14 settlements, and Vrapčište has its own educational system. Education in this municipality is given special importance for the development of the youth community. In Vrapčište, we have:

- "Mehmet Deralla" Primary School with peripheral schools in the villages of Gradec and Gornjan.
- "Sali Lisi" Primary School, a central school in the village of Dobri Dol, with a peripheral school in the village of Toplica.
- "Naim Frashëri" Primary School with its center in Negotino, while the peripheral schools are located in the villages of Senakos, Kališta, Gjurgjevište, and Lomnica.

Vrapčište Primary School with the central school in Vrapčište, while the peripheral schools are in the villages of Vranjovce, Zubovce, and Galate.

In the Municipality of Želino, there are 18 settlements, and there is a combination of central and peripheral primary schools, meeting the educational needs of the entire community.

"Ibrahim Temo" Primary School is a peripheral primary school in the village of Strimnica.

"Fan Noli" Primary School is a peripheral school located in the villages of Treboš, Pallaticë, and Uzurmište.

In the Municipality of Jegunovce, there are 16 settlements, and education is an important aspect of community development. We have several primary schools to discuss: "Simče Nastevski" located in the village of Vratnica. Peripheral schools in the villages of Jazince and Lower Oraša, among others.

The Municipality of Mavrovo and Rostuša consists of 41 settlements. The primary schools in this municipality are:

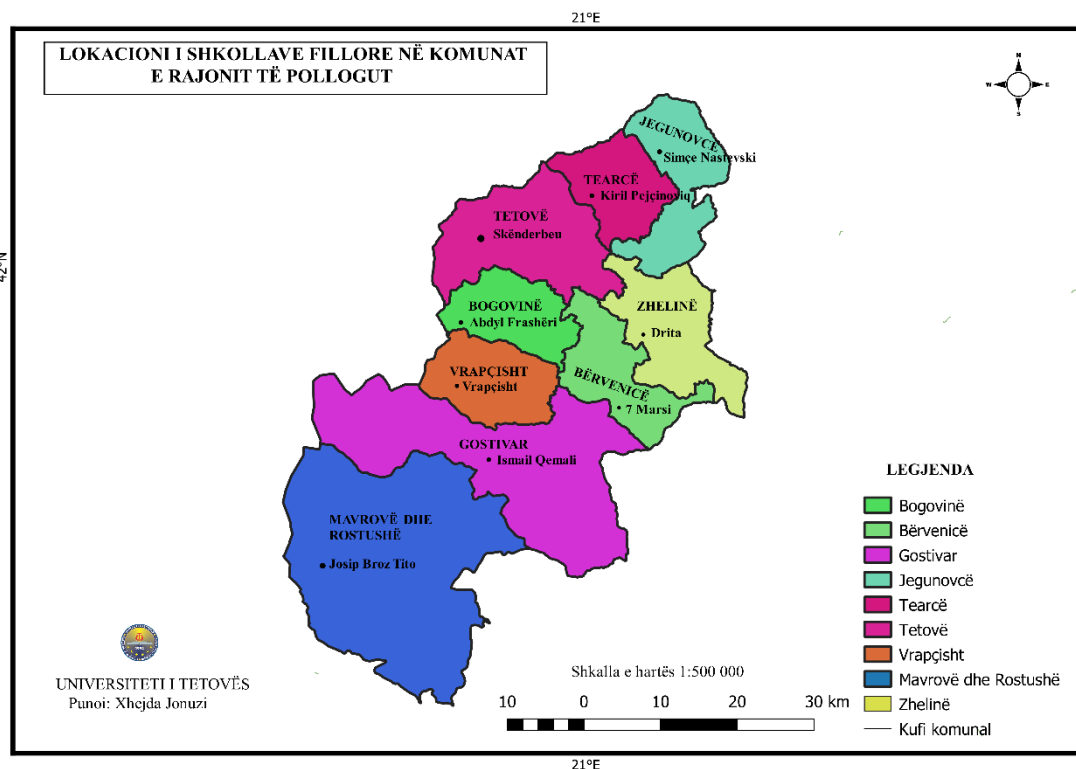
- "Josip Broz Tito" in the village of Žirovnica
- The peripheral school "Denče Dejanoski" in the village of Vrben.

- Additionally, there were regional schools in the villages of Vrbjane and Viduše, which are no longer operational due to a lack of students.

The Municipality of Mavrovo and Rostuša also has 4 preschools located in the villages of Vrben, Mavrovo, Duf, and Nistrovo.

The Municipality of Tearce has 12 settlements, and primary education in Tearce plays an important role. The primary schools in Tearce are:

- "Eqrem Çabej" Primary School in the villages of Sllatinë and Neprošten.
- "Kiril Pejčinoviç" Primary School in Tearce and the peripheral "Kiril Pejčinoviç" Primary School in the village of Lešok.
- "Asdreni" Primary School in the village of Gillogje.
- "Faik Konica" Primary School in the villages of Dobrošte and Odër.
- "Ismail Qemali" Primary School in the village of Nerashte.



Map 2. Locations of primary schools in the Polog region by municipalities

2. Conclusions

Educational facilities in Polog, such as schools and other institutions, play a crucial role in the development of students as they provide an environment where they can learn, develop their skills, and build new knowledge. In some peripheral and hilly settlements, the terrain has a significant impact on the learning experience of students, leading to a decrease in the number of students.

Areas with diverse terrain may have their challenges, such as school accessibility, transportation, and the safety of educational facilities. To help increase the number of students attending schools, it is important to understand how educational programs and infrastructure can be adapted and improved in line with the important characteristics of the terrain.

In primary schools in the Polog region, the decrease in the number of students is caused by: demographic changes - which lead to a decrease in the number of students, such as if an area

experiences a population decline trend, this affects the decrease in the number of students in local schools.

Migration - families move from one area to another, including employment, rent, or internal migration. Economic developments - changes in the economy, including the decline of local employment sectors, affect the decrease in the number of students. There is also competition among schools - in some cases, competition among schools to attract students can lead to a decrease in the number of students.

The quality of education matters, as schools that offer high-quality education, rich programs, and advanced opportunities often have more student mobility. Reputation and parental assessment - schools with a good reputation and high ratings from parents tend to have more applications from families for their children.

Additional opportunities and extracurricular activities - schools that offer additional opportunities for students, such as sports, and artistic activities, may be more attractive to parents and students.

Location and transportation - schools that are easier to reach or offer good transportation options may have a competitive advantage. Suggestions for addressing competition: schools can take steps to improve their quality, positively promote their reputation, and offer additional opportunities to attract students and parents.

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