Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Seychelles

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Seychelles was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.

Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl
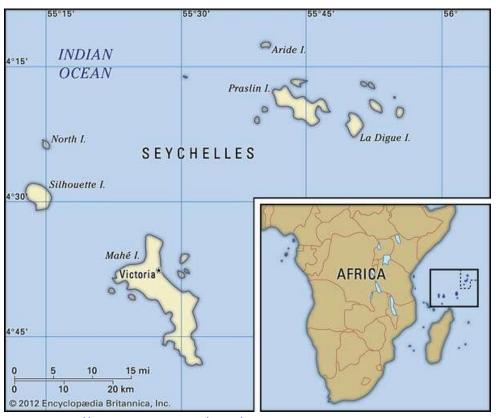
Highlights

1   The Seychelles' population increased from 41,603 in 1960, via 70,570 in 1990, to 98,347 in 2020.

2   The Seychelles' adult literacy rate is 96% (15 years and older, 2018).

3   The Seychelles is the only country in Africa that is not included in the data of the Globaldatalab, and hence we do not have information about regional differentiation. However, for the country as a whole the education index (.678), the mean years of schooling for adults (9.5 years), and the expected years of schooling for children (14.8 years) belong to the highest achievements in Africa.

4   The Seychelles has had higher education institutions since the 1970s. Currently there are about 6 tertiary knowledge institutions in the Seychelles, five presumably public and one private. There are probably around 2000 students in the Seychelles.

5   The Seychelles does not have any institutes in the 4icu top 200 of African institutions.

6   Think tanks: the Seychelles has two think tanks.

7   Museums: there are four museums in the Seychelles.

Part 1: The Story

The Seychelles' demographic and education development

Seychelles, officially the Republic of Seychelles (French: République des Seychelles; Creole: La Repiblik Sesel), is an archipelagic island country in the Indian Ocean at the eastern edge of the Somali Sea.

Seychelles was uninhabited until the arrival of European explorers in the 16th century. It came under British control in the 18th century. Independence was gained in 1976.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/place/Seychelles

Seychelles' population increased from 41,603 in 1960 to 98,347 at the end of 2020, while the urban population has increased from 27.% in 1960 (11,496 inhabitants) to 56.2% in 2020 (55,308 inhabitants). Seychelles' largest city is its capital city Victoria (22,881).

Seychelles' life expectancy increased from 60.6 years for males and 67.4 for females in 1960 to 70.3 years for males and 77.7 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 22.0 years in 1960 to 18.9 years in 1975. Since then, it started to increase and is presently 34.2 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 5.0 live-born children, which increased to 5.9 in 1970. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 2.5 live-born children which is a small increase compared to the previous years.[1]

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[1] https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/seychelles-population/

Literacy and enrolment

Seychelles' adult literacy rate is (2018) 96%: men 95% and women 96%. It is the highest in Africa. Of the youth (15-24 years old) only 97 males and 25 females were regarded as illiterate in 2018. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 1747 for males and 1316 million for females.

Seychelles' population of primary school age children (6-11 years) is 9,349 children[2]. Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 15 (10 years). Currently, 93% of the primary school age group attend primary school (2019). Children with the age to attend secondary school (12-18) are 9,318. 77% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2019): males 75% and females leading at 80%. Finally, 6,410 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 19 and 23). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education increased from 2.5% in 2011 to 19% in 2019, males 12%, females 27%.
This means that there are currently about 2,000 tertiary students in Seychelles' knowledge institutions.

Regional differentiation

The Seychelles is the only country in Africa that is not included in the data of the Globaldatalab[3], and hence we do not have information about regional differentiation of the Education Index, the Mean Years of Schooling and the Expected Years of Schooling. For the country as a whole UNDP reports a current education index of .678, which is very high for Africa. In 2019 Seychelles was upgraded to the 'very high development' group in the UNDP statistics for human development[4]. Mean Years of schooling increased from 7.4 years in 2000, to 9.5 years in 2017, while expected years of schooling increased from 11.4 years in 1990 to 14.8 years in 2017, indeed, very high for African standards[5].

Historical Development of Private and Public Universities

Seychelles currently has six universities or other tertiary institutions. There are five public ones (presumably) and there is one private one. None of the institutes has a religious background. As far as known, tertiary education only started in the 1970s. All tertiary institutions in Seychelles are located on the main island Mahé. Seychelles is not represented in the 4icu 200 top universities of Africa.

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	5
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Total	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	3	4	6

Public universities in the Seychelles

Seychelles does not have official public universities. The institutes mentioned in table 1 of

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[2] http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/sc
[3] https://globaldatalab.org/shdi/shdi/
[4]
http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/12106/First+in+Africa+Seychelles+reaches+U.N.%27s+%27very+high%27+development+group%2C+validating+investments+in+health%2C+education
[5] http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/SYC.pdf

part two are regular institutes for tertiary/vocational education/training.

The oldest institute is the Seychelles Tourism Academy, founded in 1976, following the opening of the Seychelles airport in 1972.

Seychelles Polytechnic[6]

Seychelles Polytechnic was established in 1983, with a focus on Health Studies, Media Studies, Business Studies, Maritime Studies, Teacher Training, Art and Design, Construction, Engineering, Agriculture, Adult Education and Advanced Levels. Currently, the main programme areas are Business & Secretarial Studies Programme Area, Visual Arts Programme Area, and the Manchester Twinning Programme.

Private universities in the Seychelles

The University of Seychelles is, presumably, the only private institute for tertiary education, and the only official university.

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[6] Source: http://www.seypoly.edu.sc/

University of Seychelles[7]

The University of Seychelles was established in 2009. In 2014, the university announced a partnership for collaboration and student exchanges with Gibraltar, which is developing its own first university.[8]

Regional distribution of the Seychelles Universities
All institutes are located on the main island of Mahé.

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in the Seychelles
According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there are four think tanks or research institutes in Seychelles, outside the university system, but it does not provide any further information. Internet search resulted in two think tanks. See table 3, part 2 for more information.

Museums in the Seychelles
There are four museums in Seychelles, one on Mahé, one on Praslin, one on Silhouette, and one on La Digue.

Natural history museum seychelles[9]

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[7] Source: https://free-apply.com/en/university/1069000002

[8] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Seychelles

[9] Source: https://www.seychelles.travel/en/explore/attractions/1857-seychelles-natural-history-museum-1857

Part 2: the data

Table 1: Public universities in the Seychelles

University	Year of establishment	Location
Seychelles Tourism Academy (https://seychellestourismacademy.edu.sc/index.html) Not sure if this is a public institute	1976	La Misere, Mahé
Seychelles Polytechnic (http://www.seypoly.edu.sc/)	1983	Anse Royale, Mahé
Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education (SITE)	2014	Mahé
Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT) (https://www.sit.sc/index.html) Not sure if this is a public institute	2015	Providence, Mahé
Seychelles Business Studies Academy (SBSA) (http://sbsa.edu.sc/default) Not sure if this is a public institute	?	Anse Royale, Mahé

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (https://www.4icu.org/bj/, and https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); Google, and the websites of the institutions, if available).

Table 2: Private universities in the Seychelles

University	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation
University of Seychelles (Unisey) 4ICU: country rank 1, world rank 9032	2009	Anse Royale, Mahé	No

Sources: see table 1

Table 3: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in the Seychelles

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
Equator Institute	2010	
Entrepreneurship and Industry Department Seychelles (https://www.industry.gov.sc/think-tank) Government institute	2020	Victoria, Mahé

(Sources; https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report); google

Table 4: Museums in the Seychelles

Museums	websites	Location
Natural history museum		Mahé
Dauban Mausoleum		Silhouette
Praslin Museum		Praslin

L'Union Estate & Copra Factory		La Digue

(source: Wikipedia: Museums, and other sources, like https://www.arts-store.com/mus%C3%A9es-museums-world-1/). Not included: cultural centres

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