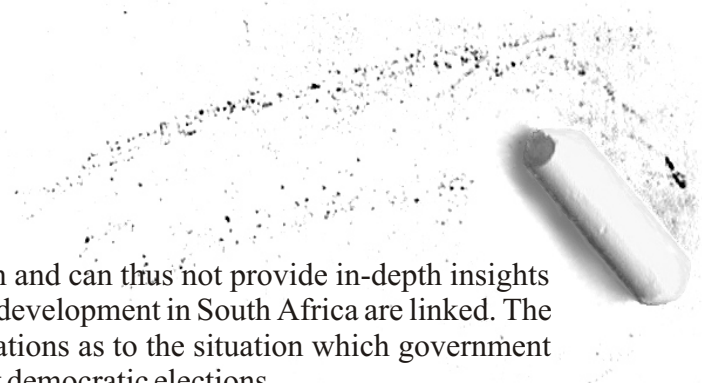


## SECTION 7 CONCLUSION



Census '96 has only three questions related to education and can thus not provide in-depth insights into the complexities of the way in which education and development in South Africa are linked. The census is, however, able to provide us with some indications as to the situation which government policy needed to address just over two years after the first democratic elections.

Analysis of education levels of household heads against access to a range of basic services that are important determinants of quality of life show that households headed by people with higher education generally enjoy greater access to services. Further, households headed by men are likely to have greater access to services than households headed by women with similar levels of education. The same holds, but more strongly, for households in urban areas as against those in rural areas. These tabulations do not imply causation. One important missing variable is income, in that households with heads with higher education are likely to have higher incomes, and those with higher incomes are likely to have greater access to services. Nevertheless, the tabulations provide an indication of where one might find those South Africans who are most in need of both household-level services and individually-targeted ones such as education.

The analysis of the situation of people aged under 26 years confirms that South Africa has relatively high levels of school enrolment, and that the gender differences in this respect are minimal. Nevertheless, population group and rural–urban differences remain to be addressed. Further, the statistics on the number of young women who bear children at an age when they should be attending school points to a potential problem area.

The analysis of the situation of those aged 26 years and older confirms the legacy of the apartheid years, with low levels of education and clear inequalities in terms of population group, location and gender. The analysis in respect of economic status and income confirms that people with higher education are more likely to be employed and, if employed, to have higher incomes. It shows, further, that men at any particular educational level are more likely to be employed than women and more likely to have higher incomes.

The analysis of the educational situation of people who were not born in South Africa shows that those born in Europe and America tend to have significantly higher educational levels than those born in Africa.