This country case study looks at how effectively and equitably education is offered to all the children of Fiji under a system of school operations. It critically examines the structure of the education system, particularly concentrating on the primary and secondary sectors. The central focus of the study is the partnership between state and community in education system, a system which has evolved since colonial times and which has become a characteristic of the system. A major focus is on issues concerning rural schools.

Chapter One describes the demographic, socio-cultural profile and characteristics of Fiji and sets the context of the study. Chapter Two discusses the historical evolution of Fiji's education system looking into education under early colonial rule and the push for secondary education. Chapter Three gives an account of the current structure and regulation of Fiji's education system, looking particularly at the roles of each stakeholder in the education partnership, such as the role of the community/state partnership, the Government in the provision of education, the communities in providing education and the role of head-teachers and principals in the education process. It also presents statistics on the numbers and types of schools and their controlling authorities and other related statistics. Case studies of schools in selected areas are the topic of Chapter Four. Chapter Five examines issues that have emerged from the study, especially dealing with the issues of size, ethnic dimension, socio-economic factors, rural and urban disparities, the gender issue, resources, school libraries and educational resources management. The final chapter of the report evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the system and looks at the areas of potential improvement. The methodology used in compiling this largely qualitative report included documentary research of published studies, Ministry of Education reports and statistics; extensive discussions with many officials of the Ministry of Education and visits to 22 schools in Fiji.