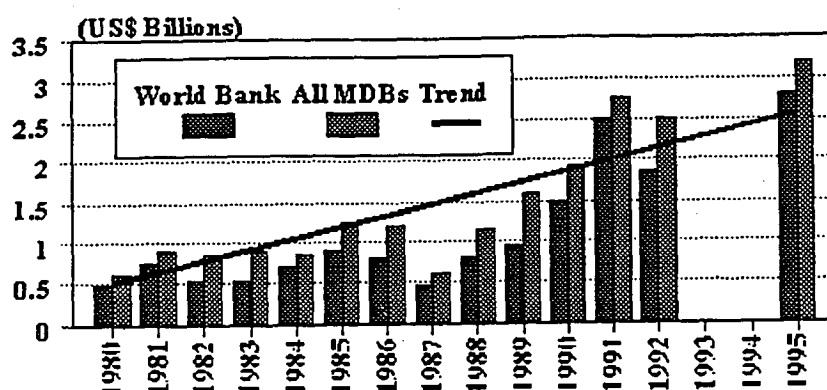


Figure 1. Education Lending by Multilateral Development Banks ^a

^a1993-1994 data not available.

Source : Development Bank Associates, *The Development Bank Business Market* (Washington, D.C. : Development Bank Associates, 1993), pp.139 and 141 for 1982-92 ; and Industry Canada estimates based on data provided by the World Bank for 1995 and MDB total.

The World Bank dominates education lending; in 1995 alone, the World Bank approved \$2.9 billion in loans for projects in education and training. The World Bank (*Priorities and Strategies for Education : A World Bank Review 1995*, Washington, D.C. : International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 1995) states : "Education is a major instrument for economic and social development. It is central to the World Bank's strategy for helping countries reduce poverty and improve living standards through sustainable growth and investment in people." The World Bank currently has 202 education projects in 88 countries, representing 10 percent of its lending, up from 4 percent a decade ago (See Module 2 for more specific details).

Vocational and technical skills were once considered the key to modernisation. The current MDB view, however, is that education is itself a basic human need, a means of meeting other basic needs, and an activity that in itself sustains and accelerates overall development.* Future lending in the educational sector is expected to show a marked upturn at the primary and secondary levels, with a corresponding downturn in other categories such as specific higher education lending.

*UNESCO'S Charter and Vision, see p. 1