Human Development Index*

Most improved
- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- Benin
- China
- India

Least improved
- Lesotho
- Zambia
- Congo
- Congo-Brazzaville
- Liberia
- Zimbabwe

Source: UN Human Development Report

*Index of life expectancy, education and GNI per person
Very interesting look at trends. There are those who think less money should be spent and less regulations on teachers, to bring actual teaching back into the classroom. A look at test scores, graduation/drop-out rates and if a higher number of students have gone to college would be helpful to see.
Given the quick growth of charter schools, it would be interesting to see any follow-up studies comparing on whether students do better on standardized tests, go onto to two or four-year colleges and what types of jobs they get after graduation.
These sobering charts indicate that we are increasing our spending on corrections more quickly than we are increasing spending on education. In any system, it is a well-established principle that the most leverage is in the beginning of the system. If you are building a house, effort spent on the architectural drawings is more important and has greater leverage on the outcome than effort spent remodeling the house after it is finished. It is troubling to see that the United States are...