Multigrade Teaching: challenges and opportunities
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www.ioe.ac.uk
Maheswari’s multigrade school
What is multigrade teaching?

The teaching of pupils from different curriculum grades within the same timetabled period. Multi-grade is also referred to as:

– Multiple class
– Composite class
– Vertical group
– Mixed year class
– Family class
– Double class
– Combined class
– Unitary schools (one-teacher schools)
Making the invisible visible

• India: In 2005-6 76% of all primary (grade 1-5) schools had 3 or fewer teachers

• England: In 2000 25% of primary classes were ‘mixed year’

• Ghana?
Teaching and curriculum strategies

AVOIDANCE
• Neglect
• Deferred entry of one grade – combine with next year’s entry
• Double-shift

QUASI MONOGRADe
• One teacher, multiple spaces/chalkboards
• Multi-year curriculum spans. Learners ‘enter’ the span at different points

DIFFERENTIATION
• Teacher driven: Differentiated inputs/tasks/outcomes
• Materials driven
Quasi-monograde
Vietnam: one teacher, five grades
Quasi-monograde Multi-year curriculum span for Grades 5 and 6 (except Maths), Grade 2 Rhodes, Greece
Teacher driven differentiation

• Multigrade class
  (3 grades) in rural Ireland
Materials driven differentiation:

(i) Escuela Nueva programmes

**Pedagogy**
Self-organised learning

Students learn from teacher, materials and each other

**In-service training**
Several layers of workshop to initiate, train, follow-up, demonstrate

Multigraded
Materials driven differentiation
(ii) Activity Based Learning, Tamil Nadu

- Graded learning
- ‘Learning ladders’
- Common timetable
- Classes of 30-60
- Teacher training and support

Multigraded

Students learn from teacher, materials and each other
Education for All and Multigrade Teaching: Challenges and Opportunities

Springer, 2006 (ed. A W Little)

www.ioe.ac.uk/multigrade