

Multigrade Teaching: challenges and opportunities
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www.ioe.ac.uk



Maheswari's multigrade school



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What is multigrade teaching?



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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



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- **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



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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



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Quasi-monograde Multi-year curriculum span for Grades 5 and 6 (except Maths), Grade 2 Rhodes, Greece



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Teacher driven differentiation



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- **Multigrade class
(3 grades) in rural Ireland**



Materials driven differentiation:



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(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



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- 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

