

### 3. Call for Papers

Stakeholders of education including policy-makers, administrators, educationists, government representatives, academics, and concerned NGOs are invited to participate in the seminar and contribute to the dialogue by presenting papers on the themes mentioned above. The papers are expected to incorporate the current status in the respective countries/regions regarding quality school education and future directions with a view to drawing out perspective plans for ensuring quality education. The seminar encourages all participants to share best practices related to all aspects of quality education in their country so that they set standards for others to draw upon.

The seminar would include key-note addresses, technical sessions based on specific sub-themes, resource lectures, panel discussions, and plenary sessions.

The papers should be written/printed preferably within 12,000 words excluding preliminary pages(s), annexure and references. Papers need to be sent electronically, as Word file using the font Times New Roman, size 12 (size 10 for footnotes). Tables, diagrams and other figures should be numbered and recorded as indices. The abstract not exceeding 500 words should reach NUEPA by **30 November 2008**. The abstracts would be screened by a panel of experts constituted by the organizing committee and the decision would be communicated to the participants by 15 December 2008. Full papers should reach NUEPA by 31 January 2009 at the following address:

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A token honorarium of INR 20,000 would be paid to the participants for selected papers. The NUEPA will provide local hospitality to the participants for the duration of the seminar. International participants are advised to mobilize funds from their own resources for their travel. The NUEPA may also provide funding for a few selected foreign delegates out of its limited resources.

#### Organizing Committee

Professor S. P. Malhotra

Professor C. P. S. Chauhan

Professor Sudha Gopalakrishnan

Professor Nalini Juneja



**National University of  
Educational Planning and Administration**

New Delhi, INDIA

## International Seminar on Quality School Education For All



**National University of Educational Planning and Administration**

(Declared by the Govt. of India under Section 3 of the UGC act, 1956)

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Jacaranda Hall  
**INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003  
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**5-7 March, 2009**

## 1. The Context

Countries across the world have pledged the furtherance of education through multilateral agreements and international collaborations. They have been making every effort to achieve the goals of Education for All (EFA). Apart from its intrinsic value, education is also recognized as a vehicle for rapid economic and social development the world over. Endeavours at providing access to schooling have helped increase enrollment including that of girls and other marginalized sections of society. Literacy rates have improved and dropout rates at school stage have come down. However, challenges still remain with respect to ensuring education of good quality. Stakeholders of education have expressed concern about the quality of education being imparted in schools.

Quality is at the core of education. It determines what students learn, how well they learn and what benefits they draw from their education. These issues have pushed the countries to have on their agenda the mission to ensure students' optimum learning outcomes that help them play a positive role in creating a civil society.

While it is difficult to define the quality of education operationally due to its complex nature, it is believed that it may be viewed in terms of the quality of various components of input, process and output dimensions. Some of these components may be: need-based curriculum, appropriate physical facilities, use of modern approaches to teaching, scholastic performance of students, professional preparation of teachers, and linking education to life skills and world of work. Unfortunately, the prevailing system of education everywhere in the world is marred with myriad issues including those of gender and social inequality. These issues need to be addressed on a priority basis with a view to reducing child-labour and overcoming the barriers that socially marginalized groups face.

It is evident from the existing literature that all stakeholders such as policy makers, planners, administrators, educators, parents and community leaders have realized that systematic efforts are required to counter the multiple disadvantages such as poverty, illiteracy as well as gender-based and social inequities to bring about systemic reforms in education. Different countries of the world are dealing with these issues in

their own ways. There may be some good practices being followed in some countries which may be useful elsewhere also. It may be extremely beneficial to all the countries if such practices are identified, shared and disseminated. It is, therefore, highly desirable that educationists and educational planners from different countries sit together, discuss these issues and share experiences. The proposed seminar is an attempt in that direction as it will provide a good platform to review the existing programs and ideate on ingenious solutions to provide quality education to all children as an entitlement.

### Seminar on 'Quality School Education for All'

The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi (India), a premier institution engaged in advanced level teaching, research, capacity building and policy formulation in the field of education, not only for India but also for other developing countries, especially in South Asia, is going to organize a three-day International Seminar on 'Quality School Education for All' during March 5-7, 2009 in New Delhi. The seminar seeks to involve about 150 participants from India and other countries including educationists, policy-makers, administrators, researchers and stakeholders committed towards 'quality school education for all'.

One of the objectives of the seminar is to provide an interactive platform to discuss issues relating to quality school education for all. The basic components of quality school education would be discussed on the basis of the experiences of the different countries. Besides, the proposed International Seminar would also seek to identify useful and workable strategies through sharing of ideas and make recommendations leading to action-oriented programs.

The specific objectives of the seminar are:

- \* To review the prevalent systems of elementary schooling in various countries of the world in terms of their constitutional provisions and policies and programs to implement them;
- \* To identify the core criteria of quality education for all and ways to accomplish them;
- \* To discuss various aspects of quality school

education for all including issues related to relevance, access, equity and excellence.

- \* To garner the collective synergies of the developing and developed countries to evolve policies and programs of action for achieving the goal of 'quality education for all'.

## 2. Themes of the Seminar

To address holistically all the issues of Quality Improvement in Education, the participants are invited to make their presentations related to the following themes:

1. Policy Perspectives on Quality School Education;
2. Objectives of Quality Schooling for All in the Context of Globalization;
3. Criteria of Quality School Education;
4. Provision of Schooling Facilities: Access Dimensions;
5. Curriculum and Textbooks: Relevance and Quality;
6. Teacher Preparation Programmes and Changing Pedagogical Requirements;
7. Issues in Planning, Management, Financing and Supervision of School Education for Quality;
8. Evaluation Methodology for Assessment of Quality;
9. Appraisal of School Quality: Approaches and Issues;
10. Multicultural Issues related to Quality Education
11. Reaching the Marginalized: Strategies, Outcomes and Issues;
12. Critical Issues related to Quality School Education
  - a. Environmental Education
  - b. Indigenous Education
  - c. Language Education and Medium of Instruction.
13. Innovations and Best Practices related to Quality School Education;
14. Research Issues related to Quality Schooling; and
15. Children with Special Needs and Quality Schooling.