

Programme for Education Advisers Retreat March 9th–13th 2009, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Aim: To explore ways and means of measuring and improving basic education quality, and in the light of this, recommend what DFID could do differently.

Key questions:

- How is the quality of basic education most effectively improved and measured?
- How can DFID deliver improved education quality?
- What should we say in DFID's Education Core Script?

Outputs:

1. Getting inside the black box: case study experiences of successful quality improving interventions supported by DFID looking at the practical experience of change in 38,000 schools in Tamil Nadu.
2. Recommendations on how DFID can make improved quality a reality in DFID's PSA countries.
3. Recommendations on measuring quality in DFID's PSA countries.
4. Comments and next steps in developing an education core script/strategy
5. Update on corporate issues.

Field Visit Images



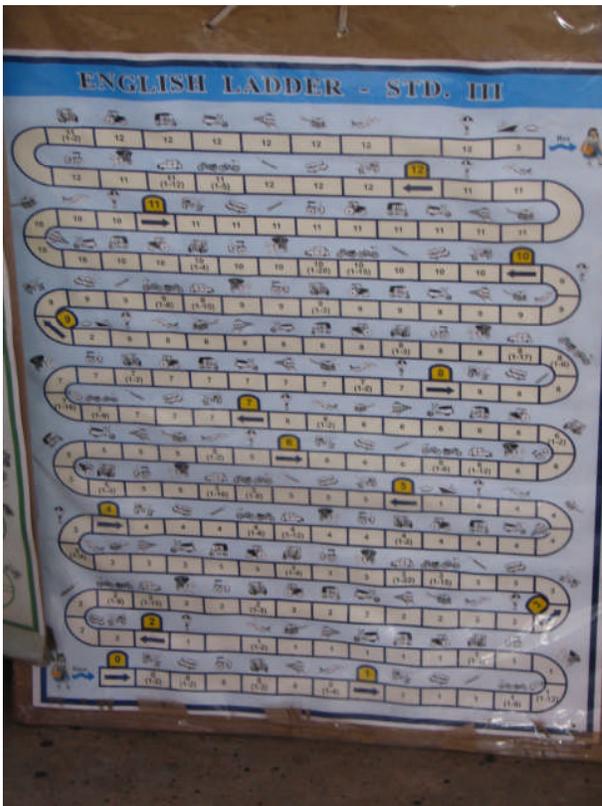
Tamilnadu



Keen to Learn



Activity Based Learning in action



The learning ladder



Learning in the round

Day One, 9th March: Framing the Issues

Time	Activity	Chair and Presenter	Comments/next steps
09:00 - 09:30	Registration	Meeta and Sanjay, BACE Marketing Private Ltd (the Event Manager)	Tea/coffee for UK/late arrivals
09:45	Welcome and Introductions:	Chair: Peter Colenso Presenter: Jo Bourne	<u>Set the scene:</u>
10:15	Jobs, Skills and Growth	Chair: David Levesque Guest speaker: Rachel Phillipson (DFID Growth Team);	<u>The importance of education quality for individual earnings, the distribution of income and economic growth</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 min presentation • 5 min questions/clarifications • 10 min participants prepare questions/comments for panel
11:00 – 11:30	Tea/coffee		Panel identify range of key questions and agree who will respond
11:30	The case for investment in education	<u>Chair:</u> Keith Lewin (CREATE) <u>Panel:</u> Rachel Phillipson, Chris Colclough (RECOUP), David Levesque; Sam Carlson (Senior Education Economist, World Bank, New Delhi)	Chair presents themes proposed by participant questions and invites participants to present questions/comments and 2 panel members per theme to respond. Open discussion where possible (like Question Time).
13:00	Lunch		
14:00	Researching the issues: latest from	<u>Chair:</u> Richard Arden	Each RPC and YL has 20 mins, plus short

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	EdQual; and CREATE; RECOUP, Young Lives	<u>Presenters:</u> Leon Tickly, Chris Colclough, Keith Lewin and Martin Woodhead	time for clarifications
15:45	Tea		
16:00 – 17:00	Researching the issues continued	Leon Tickly, Chris Colclough and Keith Lewin, Martin Woodhead plus Barbara Payne, Sally Gear, Colin Bangay, David Levesque	Group-work: RPC Directors and Link Advisers to facilitate: self selecting groups (4, one for each RPC and YL) identify small number of key policy messages arising from research that should be reflected in Core Script
17:00 – 17:45	Session chairs, RPCs and link advisers meet to compile key messages from day with raporteur		
Evening	An organised dinner at the hotel. Time also available for 1:1s/small group meetings 1		
Key papers:	Quality options paper; Jobs, Skills and Growth paper, Education Quality and Economic Growth (Hanushek); RPC key documents; What can Teachers do to Raise Pupil Achievement by Geeta Kingdon; Young Lives policy briefs; Robin Alexander paper on EFA and the Problem of Pedagogy		

Day Two, 10th March: Improving Quality; what does success look like? Country case studies; monitoring and measuring

Time	Activity	Chair and Presenter	Comments/next steps
08:30	Round up of day one	Raportuer and David Levesque	
08:45	Country examples of successful quality improvement interventions: equal access to quality education Gansu East Africa	<u>Chair:</u> Education Adviser / Government Official	Successful quality improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4x20 mins presentations • critical analysis of quality problem/rationale for approach taken/impact (and how impact is being measured)

Time	Activity	Chair and Presenter	Comments/next steps
	Bangladesh Ethiopia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • useful if also includes focus on one or all of following: gender equity/inclusion; early childhood and nutrition/post primary
10:45-1100	Tea/coffee		
11:00	<p>The Indian Experience:</p> <p>1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, an overview of India's national flagship programme (DFID supported) for universalising elementary education.</p> <p>2.1 Measuring and Monitoring Quality – India's National Assessment Survey (DFID supported)</p> <p>2.2 Measuring and Monitoring Quality-The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER);</p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Michael Ward</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>1. Ms Sangeeta Mehta, DFID India</p> <p>2.1 Professor Avtar Singh, NCERT</p> <p>2.2 Dr Rukmini Banerji and Dr Wilima Wadhwa, Pratham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 minute overview of SSA from Sangeeta • 2x20 minutes presentations with time for discussion after each • The aim will be to show how quality is being monitored and measured by the education system and by civil society within the context of a national reform programme (SSA) • <u>Discussion questions (in four groups):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you know whether quality interventions are working? - Who should be held accountable for improving education quality and how? - Can national debate on quality and civil society scrutiny help to raise standards?
13:00	Lunch		
14:00	<p>The Indian experience continued</p> <p>3. What works to improve the quality of</p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Barbara Payne:</p> <p>3. Professor KK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback in plenary on discussion questions (30 minutes) • 20 minutes presentation on the quality

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	elementary education in India – impact evaluations of quality improving interventions (DFID supported)	Vashishta, NCERT with contribution from Professor Angela Little, IoE, University of London	improving interventions that are being supported under SSA (of which ABL is one) and plans for evaluating these and building capacity for evaluation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussion
15:30	Tea/coffee	We will be joined for tea by the Minister of School Education, Tamil Nadu, the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu and the State Principal Secretary for School Education	The Minister of School Education, Tamil Nadu, the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu and the State Principal Secretary for School Education will share their views of ABL over tea and may stay for the presentation that follows.
15:45 – 17:00	The Indian experience continued 4. Activity Based Learning (ABL) Presentation and film on The Tamil Nadu Experience: Holistic and Comprehensive Approaches to quality Improvement.	<u>Chair:</u> Felicity Townsend: 4. Mr Vijayakumar and Mr Venkatesen (Government of Tamil Nadu) and colleagues and Michael Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation, including short film • Interaction with ABL materials and personnel • Discussion • Logistics for field visits on 11 March
Free time from 1700 to 1900			
19:00	Think Women Evening: Mahila Samakhya (DFID supported Education for Women’s Equality programme); Buffet Dinner	<u>Chair:</u> Sally Gear Ms Prashanti of Mahila Samakhya (MS), Andhra Pradesh and Ms Taranga Sriraman of the MS National Project Office	On the theme of ‘Think Women’ the representatives of Mahila Samakhya will share some of their guidance and techniques, experience and models, to help us incorporate gender equality issues into our work in education. We will also screen one or two of the Girl Stars movies;

Day Three, 11 March 2009: Quality improvements in practice – 12-15 groups for field visits to elementary schools across the State of Tamil Nadu

Field visits will occupy the whole of the third day – starting from 0700hrs and finishing at around 1800 hrs – Options 14 and 15 will, however start around 0500 or 0600 hrs and will finish around 2000 hrs		
Options 1 - 4	City Schools in Chennai	These are the most mature ABL schools
Options 5 - 9	Elementary schools in periurban locations surrounding Chennai	These will be schools that have been practising ABL for about two years
Options 10 - 13	Rural Schools in districts adjoining Chennai	These will be schools that have been practising ABL for about two years
Option 14	Schools in Madurai district in the south of the State, involves a flight of about one hour	The aim of this visit will be to demonstrate the state-wide nature of the reform
Option 15	Schools in Coimbatore district in the west of the State, involves a flight of about one hour	The aim of this visit will be to demonstrate the state-wide nature of the reform
Evening time available for 1:1s, small group meetings		

Day Four, 12 March: What does this mean for DFID and partners?

Time	Session	Chairs and Presenter	Comments/next steps
08:30	Reflections and issues arising from field visits. How to move towards a holistic and comprehensive approach to quality improvement.	Mr Vijayakumar and Michael Ward	Through feedback from the different groups we will try to unpack what we have learned from the Tamil Nadu experience, particularly the importance of a holistic and comprehensive approach to improving quality. Also an opportunity to clarify any issues not explained during the field visits.

Time	Session	Chairs and Presenter	Comments/next steps
10:30	Tea/coffee		
10:45	Free session for participants to identify issues for discussion in groups	<u>Chair</u> : Carew Treffgarne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self selecting groups, with opportunity for country or regional reflection. • Group feedback as necessary
12:30	Lunch		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants fill in grid on assessment of learning outcomes
13:30	National, regional and international assessment options	<u>Chair</u> : Steve Passingham Presenter: Colin Bangay plus respondents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of options • Exploring this issues (some country examples) • <u>Discussion question</u>: what would our recommendations be on assessing learning outcomes?
14:30	Formal end of retreat	<u>Chairs</u> : Jo Bourne/Michael Ward. Invited participants to make short comments on the retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo and Michael to summarise main outcomes (from raporteurs) • Invited participants: Peter C; Indian govt official; Kenyan govt official; development partner; DFID adviser • End of retreat evaluation form (Event Manager to arrange)
15:00	Tea/coffee		
15:30 – 17:30	DFID only: Policy priorities roundtable	<u>Chair</u> : Phil Rose	Update from HQ team + Carew on workplan (Phil) and key policy areas: climate change; disability; fragile states; post basic; early childhood. Advisory roundtable on top priorities emerging from country programmes. Wish list of

Time	Session	Chairs and Presenter	Comments/next steps
			asks for new Resource Centre (and volunteers to engage in follow up).
19:00	Evening Entertainment and Dinner		

Day Five, 13 March: Core Script (DFID Staff Only)

Time	Session	Presenter
09:00	Making It Happen & HR	Peter C: MiH Jo: HR
10:30	Tea/coffee	
10:45	EPR findings in more detail/ Core Script	Peter/Jo –Implications of retreat discussions and experiences for the way we work: policy and practice
13:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	Open time for further discussion if needed.	For those with later flights, there are options for trips/shopping that can be arranged by the hotel.

