



## CREATE NEWSLETTER

### ISSUE FIVE

**MARCH 2010**

#### Director's Note:

Sept 2009 to Feb 2010

CREATE has had a busy period which has included a meeting of Partners and the Consortium Advisory Group in Sussex in September. The teams then transferred to the UKFIET conference in Oxford to take part in the bi-ennial event which draws together many of those researching education and development. Altogether CREATE members made about 20 presentations spanning the range of interests and ongoing work across the programme. The core double session attracted a large crowd of about 75 participants and Partners all made presentations. CREATE also organised a Symposium on the political economy of Education for All on a subsequent day with high level participation.

The CREATE model is now being used by DFID in its latest Education Strategy document which was launched in London on March the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The new approaches cluster around Learning for All and develop three themes on Access, Quality and skills and Knowledge. The strategy paper can be found on the DFID website.

CREATE is moving into a consolidation phase where research products will be finalised and some will be converted into policy briefs and other synthetic outputs. Many publications are scheduled for 2010 so there is a lot to do to keep to the deadlines and make sure materials are ready for printing and distribution during 2010.

Best wishes to all,

**Prof Keith Lewin**  
Director of CREATE

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#### CREATE News

##### **Ghana**

The fieldwork in Savalugu Nanton is now complete and the data sets are being entered and cleaned. These will be combined with data from Mfanteman to produce two fieldwork reports.

Several PTAs are nearing completion and a synthetic report is planned to capture insights from across the fieldwork. A joint conference with RECOUP and EdQUAL is planned for later in 2010 with the Ministry of Education.

##### **South Africa**

The analysis of data on performance continues as does the analysis of child tracking cards. The team is reporting numeracy test information back to the Ekurhuleni schools and meeting with teachers to discuss results.

In South Africa much of the focus is on the edited book, the CREATE South Africa team is finalizing for publication in 2010. The book, edited by Shireen Motala and Veerle Dieltiens will be called, Access to What: Exploring meaningful and equitable learning in South African schools.

##### **India**

The third cycle of fieldwork is now complete and data is being entered leading to a COMSS report. This will feed into an overall project report later in the year.

PTAs on governance and access and diversity are close to completion and several others are in the pipeline. A Symposium is being held to share research results with other projects including those engaged with the most recent PROBE report.

##### **Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh team is preparing the second Community School Studies report based on the second round of data. The team is working on various PTAs and policy briefs.

A PTA on multiple providers will be published shortly and CREATE will contribute to a national workshop with the Minister in attendance to explore planning and finance issues to improve access and quality.

##### **CREATE People**

Congratulations to Dr Asayo Ohba who successfully gained her doctorate from the University of Sussex. The title of her thesis was: Policy intention and its consequences: who gains access from the abolition of

secondary school fees in Kenya and a paper was presented at UKFIET. Asayo has provided invaluable support to the CREATE team over the years. We wish her luck with her new job at Hiroshima University.

### **Recent CREATE meetings, activities and events**

CREATE hosted a symposium on educational access at the 10<sup>th</sup> UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development, 15-17<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2009. The symposium was titled: Access to education: progress, policies and politics. Speakers and presentations included:

Keith Lewin: Access to Education in Transition – Progress, Policies and Politics

R. Govinda: Exploring the impact of development policies on regional and social equity

Joseph Ghartey Ampiah and Kwame Akyeampong: Access to Education in Ghana: Stalled Growth, Missed Opportunities and Promising Pathways

Manzoor Ahmed: Research, Policy Discourse, and Action Reducing the Disconnect in Bangladesh.

Shireen Motala: Equity, Fee-Free Schooling, Parental Involvement and Civic Participation in South Africa.



*Members of the CREATE team at UKFIET 2009*

Angela Little organised a symposium chaired by Pai Obanya at the UKFIET conference on EFA politics, policies and progress. Speakers and presentations included: .

Angela Little: The politics and progress of the 1997 education reforms in Sri Lanka

Wim Hoppers: The Politics of Diversifying Basic Education Delivery; A Comparative Analysis

Desmond Bermingham: The Formation of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI)

Tony Somerset: Basic education policymaking in Kenya: the three-way tension between access, cost and quality.

Other presentations by CREATE team members and associates included:

Caine Rolleston: Educational access and poverty reduction: the case of Ghana, 1991-2006

Brahm Fleisch: Out of school children: evidence from the Community Survey 2007, South Africa

Eric Ananga: The dimensions and dynamics of school drop-out.

Paud Murphy: Teachers in Ghana

Moses W. Ngware, Moses Oketch and Alex C. Ezeh: Free primary education policy in Kenya: the impact on age at school entry and grade

Alison Croft: Including disabled children in learning.

Ricardo Sabates: Access to education: measuring ten years of progress.

Luke Akaguri: The poor, costs and access to schooling in rural Ghana.

Stuart Cameron: Education and the urban poor in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Veerle Dieltiens: Has the Department of Education done enough for girls in South Africa?

Pai Obanya: Good politics for good education.

Jerome Djangmah: Post-primary schooling in Ghana

Asayo Ohba: Increased access in exchange for quality? An assessment of the introduction of free secondary education in Kenya

Kwame Akyempong and Máiréad Dunne: Community participation in education in Ghana: politics, power and gender.

Anupam Pachauri: Partnership models for school adoption and access to quality education: The Rajasthan Education Initiative context.

Moses Oketch: Does free primary education (FPE) policy benefit the poor most? Evidence from Kenya.

Further details of CREATE's inputs into the UKFIET conference (including powerpoint summaries and video presentations) can be found at: [http://www.create-rpc.org/news\\_events/CREATE\\_UKFIET\\_Sept09.shtml](http://www.create-rpc.org/news_events/CREATE_UKFIET_Sept09.shtml)

Manzoor Ahmed presented a paper at the BAFED-UNESCO Symposium on educational research, Bangladesh, 22 Nov, 09.

Sarah Meny-Gibert and Veerle Dieltiens presented on poverty and access at the HSRC Symposium on Gender and Poverty, South Africa, 14 Oct, 09. Academics and government officials were present.

A Workshop on School based Improvement Planning, Raipur, Chhattisgarh took place between 12–15 October 09. The workshop involved capacity building for practitioners. Attendees included state level education officers, district and sub district functionaries of Rewa, Dindori and Rajnandgoan, where the ComSS were conducted.



Manzoor Ahmed presented a paper at the International Conference on Bangladesh organised by Bangladesh Development Initiative, 9-10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 09. The conference took place at Harvard University, USA and included a number of people interested in Bangladesh.

On 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 09, Desmond Bermingham presented a paper, 'Strengthening the global education compact: lessons learnt from the EFA fast track Initiative' at the Institute of Education, University of London. Victoria Turrent was the discussant.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 09, Manzoor Ahmed took part in dialogue between civil society organisations with a focus on education policy. The event was organised by CAMPE in Bangladesh.

A Consortium Advisory Group (CAG) meeting took place in September 2009 and a partner institute meeting also in September 2009.

Pai Obanya presented the third CREATE Annual Lecture at the Institute of Education, University of London, 27 Jan 2010 on The Politics of Access to Education: the Nigerian Story and with Lalage Bown as discussant. The event was organised by Angela Little. Pai Obanya gave a seminar at the University of Sussex, 25 January, 2010. He presented on: Planning and Managing Meaningful Access to Education: The Nigerian Experience.

Shireen Motala met the Minister of Education in Gauteng and the Director General in Gauteng in October 09. CREATE was discussed.

Shireen Motala met the National Minister of Education, Angie Motshekga, in November 09, and the CREATE research briefly discussed.

An EFA Stakeholders Meeting took place, 25 Nov 09, in Pretoria. It was attended by government officials and NGOs involved in education. Veerle Dieltiens presented.

Luke Akaguri and Eric Ananga are completing fieldwork in Ghana and have been assisting in data collection for the main studies. Both are writing articles for the special issue of IJED.

Anupam Pauchari is on fieldwork in Rajasthan enriching her data on the Rajasthan Education initiative.

Keith Lewin attended the launch of the DFID Education Strategy Paper 2010-2015 which includes the CREATE model of access. This was first presented to the Minister at a DFID meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and also featured in the DFID MDG conference on March 11<sup>th</sup> in London.

Several members of the Sussex and London CREATE teams attended the launch of the 2010 Global Monitoring Report on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Institute of Education.

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#### **Forthcoming CREATE-related events, meetings and activities**

The UK launch of the 2010 Global Monitoring Report will take place 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Institute of Education, University of London. The theme of the GMR is Reaching and Teaching the most Marginalised.

The South African CREATE team will disseminate research findings to academic audiences and students at Wits University and University of Fort Hare in Feb and March 2010.

There will be a national conference in Bangladesh on basic education priorities and strategies in March, 10.

The AERA Annual Conference will take place 30<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May in Denver, USA.

In April, NUEPA will host an one day meeting to discuss changing patterns of access to education in India.

In June, NUEPA will host a national seminar on changing patterns of access to education in India.

District level dissemination will take place in Mfantseman and Savelugu Nanton districts in Ghana in June 2010.

There will be a book launch for the South African CREATE book.

In Ghana there will be a conference with Edqual and Recoup to disseminate findings, possibly in September.

District level dissemination will take place in September in Bangladesh.

The 2010 BAICE conference takes place 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September in University of East Anglia, UK. The theme for the conference is: Education and Social Justice in challenging times.

CREATE is planning an event with the two other DFID-funded education RPCs: EdQUAL and RECOUP in November in London with dates to be confirmed.

A joint conference will also take place in Ghana mid year with the Ministry of Education

The Kenton Conference will take place in South Africa. The South African CREATE team will be present.

NUEPA are hoping to host a closing international event for CREATE in the latter part of 2010. Dates are to be confirmed..

NUEPA is continuing tracking of children through 3<sup>rd</sup> Round survey in M.P and Chhattisgarh.

The PTAs developed under NUEPA CREATE Project are under publication as an edited volume by OUP, India and it is expected to be launched later in the year.

A joint conference with EdQUAL and RECOUP will take place in November in London (dates to be confirmed).

National Reference Group Meetings will take place throughout the coming year.

Details of all upcoming CREATE events and activities can be found at:

[http://www.create-rpc.org/news\\_events/events\\_calendar.shtml](http://www.create-rpc.org/news_events/events_calendar.shtml)

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### **Documents and publications**

#### **CREATE Pathways to Access Research Monographs (PTAs)**

CREATE has launched two new PTAs in recent months. These are available free online on the CREATE website:

<http://www.create-rpc.org/publications/discussionpapers.shtml>.

#### **Joanna Härmä: School choice for the poor? The limits of marketisation of primary education in rural India**

In recent years India has seen an explosion in low-fee private (LFP) schooling aimed at the poorer strata of society. LFP schooling, initially an urban phenomenon, has over the past decade experienced considerable growth in rural areas, and it is the rural setting, home to the majority of Indians, which is the least researched. Based primarily on a thirteen-village survey of 250 households and visits to 26 private and government schools in one rural district of Uttar Pradesh, India, this paper explores whether LFPs are in fact affordable to the rural poor and marginalised by examining the key factors in parental decision making and ultimately discovering whether equity considerations are served. Based on a detailed conceptual analysis of different poverty indicators, the paper adopts multivariate analysis to determine whether poverty is a major deciding factor in school choice, once other possible determinants associated with child and family characteristics are taken into account. The interpretation of the quantitative evidence was supported and triangulated by the qualitative evidence from focus group discussions.

#### **Michel Lafon: The impact of language on educational access in South Africa**

The role of Medium of Instruction (Moi) or Language of Learning and Teaching (LoL&T) has not received sufficient attention as a factor denying meaningful access to education in South Africa. Yet the majority of under-performing learners are also children who learn in a language that is not their mother-tongue. This research aims to assess how recent language policies have changed the linguistic practices of schools and how this impacts on 'meaningful' access (understood as learners' access to the curriculum and therefore broad content knowledge). This paper combines literature review with empirical interview-based research. The paper unpicks the different solutions - taken and proposed - to the disjuncture between Moi and meaningful access, whilst taking into account the legacy of past policies.

Other papers currently under review or being finalised include:

Hadley, S. Seasonality and access to education: the case of primary education in Sub Saharan Africa.

Juneja, N. Access to what: access, diversity and participation in India's schools.

Sinha, S. & A. N. Reddy. School Dropouts or 'Pushouts?': Overcoming Barriers for the Right to Education in India.

Govinda, R. and Bandyopadhyay, M. Governance of Elementary Education in India.

Us-Sabur, Z and Ahmed, M. Diversity in provisions for primary education in Bangladesh: its role in effective access.

### **Policy briefs**

CREATE is also publishing policy briefs. These four-page documents highlight current issues and key questions around particular aspects of educational access. They are available free online on the CREATE website: [http://www.create-rpc.org/publications/Policy\\_briefs.shtml](http://www.create-rpc.org/publications/Policy_briefs.shtml). Future policy briefs are being developed and will be available in the near future.

### **Journal articles**

The following journal articles have been written by CREATE members:

Motala, S. (2009) Education Access in South Africa. Education as Change.

Ahmed, M (2009) Implementing the Education Policy: The Instrumental Role of the Sixth Plan. Bangladesh Education Journal, Vol. 8, No 2.

CREATE researchers are writing articles for a special issue of the International Journal of Education and Development (IJED). Authors include: Eric Ananga, Stephanie Buckland, Caine Rolleston, Asayo Ohba, Luke Akaguri, Victoria Turrent, Joanna Harma, Guarav Siddhu and Stuart Cameron.

CREATE and other researchers are developing a special issue of the Journal of Educational Policy. Authors include Tony Somerset, Michael Ward, Desmond Bermingham, Keith Lewin, Wim Hoppers and Angela Little.

### **Other publications**

Bown, L. (editor) (2009) Maintaining Universal Primary Education: Lessons from Commonwealth Africa. Commonwealth Education Commission and co-sponsored by CREATE.

All CREATE products are available on its website: [www.create-rpc.org](http://www.create-rpc.org). CREATE has also launched a CD rom, which includes all CREATE publications.

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### **What's new online?**

The CREATE website is located at: <http://www.create-rpc.org>. The CREATE website is being redesigned and updated. A new version of the site which hopes to be more user-friendly should go online early 2010.

### **Capacity building**

CREATE supports capacity building in a variety of ways. The main focus of capacity building activities is around the development of research skills amongst team members. The primary audience for capacity building is therefore the constituency of junior and middle level CREATE team members in partner institutes, including those in the UK.

15 Doctoral research students are currently Research Associates and are working on topics of direct relevance to CREATE. CREATE sees this scheme as a way of developing capacity.

Kinglsey Arkorful has been successful in gaining the Commonwealth scholarship and has started research at Sussex in October 2009. His research is on increasing educational access in northern Ghana.

Anita Sharma has been successful in gaining the split site Commonwealth scholarship. She will work between the Delhi School and Sussex and will come for her first visit to Sussex in March 2010. Her research is on access to education for nomadic groups in India, namely the Bakkarwals of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vivek Singh and Pankaj Das are engaged in M. Phil research at NUEPA, New Delhi using empirical data collected through CREATE project in India. The topics of their research are respectively "Study of Unequal Facility in Elementary Education in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh" and "The Study of Potential Dropout in Elementary Education in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh".

Altaf Hossain will be visiting Sussex for three months to analyse data from Bangladesh and work on several analytic reports. He will arrive early in May.