

## **The Impact of Health on Education**

A CREATE seminar on the Impact of Health on Education was presented by Dr Pat Pridmore in the School of Lifelong Education and International Development, Institute of Education, University of London on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. The seminar, chaired by Professor Angela Little, was attended by 30 participants, mainly from the Institute of Education. Pat synthesized what is already known about the link between health, educational access and achievement, identified knowledge gaps, discussed the advantages and disadvantages of research designs and methods used in empirical studies and drew implications for future empirical work.

In her response to the presentation, Professor Sylvia Tilford of Leeds Metropolitan University noted the need for researchers to make greater efforts to promote the uptake of their findings by policy makers. Although the presentation had been geared to identifying gaps in education research and policy development there was also a need to address the wider context in which poverty, unsafe water and poor hygiene contribute to poor health and educational outcomes. She pointed out that although randomized controlled trials are considered by some to be the gold standard of research design these trials can raise ethical questions when a control group is denied access to an intervention that can offer health benefits. She argued for more qualitative studies to contribute to the jigsaw of evidence to support health interventions for improved educational outcomes.

The full version of the paper will be available shortly on [www.create-rpc.org](http://www.create-rpc.org). A powerpoint summary of the presentation is also available from [http://www.create-rpc.org/news\\_events/events\\_reports.shtml](http://www.create-rpc.org/news_events/events_reports.shtml).