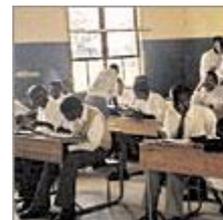




# EdQual

A Research Programme Consortium on  
Implementing Education Quality in Low Income Countries



## **New Possibilities for International Partnerships, Collaboration and Capacity Building in Educational Research**

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# New Possibilities for International Partnerships, Collaboration and Capacity Building in Educational Research

- Review of international literature in light of our collective experience of N-S research partnerships
- Critical reflections on one DFID-funded research programme consortium
- Draw out implications on different levels
  - EdQual
  - N-S research partnerships
  - Engagement of development agencies
  - Theoretical literature

# Review of Literature

- Much on development partnerships; less on research partnerships
- Team members experience with research collaboration with colleagues in Belize, Kenya, Tanzania & Rwanda
- 2005-2010 EdQual
- Comparative perspectives on the dangers of uncritical international transfer of policy & practice - & research paradigms & approaches.



*It is not easy to avoid the dangers of 'uncritical transfer' if one lacks the national or institutional capacity to undertake the type of research or investigative inquiry necessary to 'customise' the experiences of others, however tried and tested*

**Dame Pearlette Louisy**  
**Governor General St. Lucia**

# EdQual

School  
leadership

Ghana  
Tanzania

UK, Pakistan

Language &  
literacy

Tanzania  
Ghana

UK

School &  
pupil  
effects

Bristol  
(SACMEQ)

Curriculum  
Change

South Africa  
Rwanda  
Pakistan

UK

Use of ICT

Rwanda  
South Africa

UK, Chile

13 PhD projects

Ghana, Rwanda, SA, Tz, Zanzibar

2 Small Scale Projects

Ghana, SA, Tz

# The 'Reflections' Research

- 14 written reflections
- 2 'reflection workshops'
- Anonymous successes & challenges from around 20 people
- Documents
  - Invitation to tender, proposal
  - Inception phase report, Annual reports,

# Vision for partnership

- Research conceptualised and led from within Africa
  - Critique of dominant research ‘collaboration’ models
  - Moral & ethical position (Postcolonial perspectives)
  - Relevance to African policy and practice (comparative perspectives)

# Vision for Partnership

- High premium on process goals
  - Equitable partnership
  - N-S-S collaboration & networks
  - Capacity building for all (N&S)

# Decentralising leadership?

## **DFID's TOR**

centralised model of management ,  
“partners involved in all stages”

## **EdQual aspiration**

decentralised management of projects

# New Roles New Tensions

Director  
Responsibility  
indirect control

African researchers  
Circumscribed leadership  
Resource for  
management

UK – resource  
Reactive vs Proactive?  
Communication channel  
Incentives?

# Conclusions & Implications

## EdQual

- Critical reflection, learning
- Celebrate small steps
- Build on caps

## N-S-S collaboration

- Shared informed value-basis
- Human element - Mutual respect & trust

## Funders

- Risk new research partnership modalities
- value process outputs, get product outputs

## Theoretical literature

- Recognise tensions & challenges of new research modalities
- Development as process not product