EdQual

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

Consortium Partners

Lead institution

Graduate School of Education, Univ of Bristol UK

IEPA, Univ of Cape Coast, Ghana

Faculty of Education, Univ of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Kigali Institute of Education Rwanda

Education Policy Unit, Wits Univ South Africa

Dept of Education Univ of Bath, UK

PURPOSE

To generate and promote new knowledge that will improve education quality for the poorest people in the world and raise gender equity.

AIM

To design initiatives that can realistically be implemented on a large scale.

Special attention will be given to the needs of disadvantaged learners and the challenges of remote or overcrowded schools.

EdQual is a consortium of six universities. We have won £2.5 million from UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to implement a programme of research on **EDUCATION QUALITY** 2005-2010.

www.edqual.org

Director: Prof. Leon Tikly

funded by

DFID Department for International Development

COMMUNICATION

Consultative Workshops

Key policymakers were invited to national consultative workshops held in Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa between 17-29 November 2005.

The workshops prompted challenging discussion on notions of quality education and priorities that will inform research design, scheduled to start in January 2006.

Successful implementation depends on communication.

We listen & learn

Researchers → Target Audiences

We influence opinions & practice

Communication is an ongoing iterative process of dialogue and participation in research.

Target Audiences

Researchers
e.g. academics, consultants

International Advocates
e.g. UNESCO, DFID, Oxfam

National Advocates
e.g. civil society organisations, teachers' unions

Governments

Practitioners
e.g. teachers, administrators

Media
e.g. press, television, publishers

Lay audiences
e.g. pupils, parents, communities

RESEARCH

The RPC will carry out **5 large scale projects** plus some **small scale projects**.

The Use of ICT to Support Basic Education in Disadvantaged Schools and Communities

Lead institution: Kigali Institute of Education

This project will design and evaluate teacher development initiatives to support the introduction of ICT in Rwanda and South Africa. The aim is to raise teachers' competence and confidence to use ICT in teaching and learning and introduce communities to ICT. The project benefits from collaboration with researchers in Chile, where thousands of schools have been linked into a single online network.

Each Large Scale Project (except school effectiveness) will involve action research and be responsive to the voice of practitioners.

Implementing curriculum change to fight poverty and promote gender equity

Lead institution: University of Witwatersrand

Disadvantaged groups, including girls, face barriers to achieving in mathematics and science subjects. EdQual researchers will work closely with teachers in South Africa and Rwanda to design initiatives that will support schools to improve student learning and promote mathematical and scientific literacy in their local communities. Outcomes will be trialled in Pakistan to assess their suitability for another cultural context.

School Effectiveness & Educational Quality in Low Income Countries

Lead institution: Bristol

This project will identify in and out-of-school quality factors that impact on learners' achievement in numeracy and literacy, by applying the latest multi-level techniques for statistical analysis to data collected in fourteen Southern and East African countries by SACMEQ (Southern & East African Consortium on Monitoring Educational Quality). Findings will be explored further through case studies in a small number of schools in Tanzania and South Africa.

Language and Literacy Development through Primary Schools

Lead institution: University of Dar es Salaam

This project will identify effective practice in teaching science, mathematics and basic literacy through the medium of both a first and a second language. It will do this by reviewing existing initiatives and carrying out in-depth case studies of primary schools in Ghana and Tanzania. Findings will be applied to the development of materials, strategies and related teacher development, which will then be trialled, evaluated and refined.

The RPC welcomes proposals for small project funding from collaborations including consortium institutions.

Leadership & Management of Change for Quality Improvement

Lead institution: University of Cape Coast

This project will work with headteachers of schools serving disadvantaged communities in Ghana and Tanzania to identify examples of effective practice and develop models of effective leadership for managing change and encouraging community participation. The main outputs will be a leadership manual and toolkit for use by schools. These will additionally be trialled in Pakistan to assess their relevance to another cultural context.

Areas for small scale projects (examples)

❖ Early Childhood Care and Education
❖ Built environment for quality improvement
❖ Improving quality of vocational or higher education.

Capacity Strengthening means

Administrators' Workshop

Keren Durant, Research Manager at Bristol, led a workshop at the University of Dar es Salaam for 8 administrators from the African partner institutions, 15-18 November 2005, covering:

- ❖ Financial quarterly reporting;
- ❖ Systems for documentation and record-keeping;
- ❖ Arranging meetings and minute taking;
- ❖ Communication and travel arrangements.

❖ Putting in place sustainable structures

❖ Devising plans for achieving institutional aspirations

❖ Building inter-institutional links that will outlast the RPC

Capacity Strengthening includes

❖ Supporting African consortium institutions to become centres of excellence in an area of quality education.

❖ UK partners.

❖ Organisations (e.g. schools, ministries of education) with whom the RPC works.

❖ Communities with whom the RPC works.