



Collaborative Projects to Reach the Unreached in Southeast Asia and Attain Education For All Goals by 2015

Project 6 Multi-Grade Teaching



Lead Country: Lao PDR

Target Group:
Learners from remote, dispersed and isolated areas

Activities:
Development of guidelines for training of multi-grade teachers, capacity building, monitoring & evaluation

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PROGRESS REPORT by LEAD COUNTRY (As of November 2010)

Name of Project : **Project 6 – Multigrade teaching**

Lead Country : **Lao PDR**

A. Accomplishments and Activities Conducted

The Basic Education Girls Project (BEGP) has started the Multi-grade Teaching from 1999-2007 (Building construction and train the teachers in 52 districts in 11 Provinces). This result helps increase the net enrollment in primary education. This project was supported by ADB and AusAID. The project also established 3 pilot Multi-grade Schools in Oudomxay, Khamouane and Attapuea Province. Overall achievements of the project are:

- Multigrade teaching/learning for ethnic groups has a foothold in Laos
- More student centred teaching/learning approaches have been introduced
- The design of more effective and efficient learning materials for multigrade classrooms is now understood
- An approach to ethnic education in Grades 1-5 and ethnic teacher education have been successfully trialled
- Significant human resource development and materials developed for ethnic multigrade education has been achieved

In order to strengthen the Multi grade Teaching, MOE, Lao PDR has proposed the project to conduct the international workshop on Multi-grade teaching in Lao PDR, but it is not implemented yet due to lack of funding support, therefore, the progress has not been made on the original project concept.

In October, 2010 the team from SEAMEO INNOTECH has a mission in Lao PDR to survey and selected the 2 schools as pilot to implement the Small Schools Management for Life Long Learning (SSMaLL). The objectives of the SSMaLL project is to continuously improve and sustain the on – going initiative of SEAMEO member countries in managing small multi-grade schools and to develop new models that will feature the long- term advantages of multi-grading learning system. The project will train the school heads, multi-grade teachers and 2 multi-grade trainers-supervisors (one district level and one from national level)

Independently, UNICEF with AusAID funding has been able to strengthen multi-grade pedagogy in remote area schools across the 56 most disadvantaged districts. By May 2011, some 400 primary schools will receive this training. It is hoped that FTI funding will be available to continue this work. However, the original project concept submitted to SEAMEO is still necessary to strengthen the policy aspects of multi-grade approaches to primary education.

B. Implementation Challenges and Other Issues

Multi grade teaching is the main factors to reach the Education for All target and compulsory education

Other relevance issues are the changing of the organization, the staff , teachers, retired Multi grade teaching is now implementing but it lack of monitoring and quality evaluation Since Lao PDR belong to the least developed countries financial constraints will be the main obstacle for the implementation of this particular project.

C. Recommendations to Enhance Implementation

Funding from SEAMEO in the future will enable the original project concept to be implemented and thus strengthen multi-grade policy development.

The original objective (To better understand the supporting context required to ensure that multi-grade pedagogy is successful; including the need for specific training, appropriate teaching facilities, community support and specialized management strategies) remains applicable.

To strengthen the Multi grade Teaching Capacity Development, Sustainability Monitoring and Evaluation are highly needed