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Non Formal Education Curriculum and Material Review Workshop

December 1 – 5, 2015



Participants of the **Non Formal Education (NFE) Curriculum and Material Review Workshop** pose in a group photo with Mr. Alam Thaheem, Director NFE, Sindh, and Dr. Christopher Ashford, Chief of Party, USAID Sindh Reading Program. The workshop, attended by 20 participants in total, was planned and organized in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

BACKGROUND OF THE WORKSHOP

The USAID Sindh Reading Program's Component 4: Non Formal Education (NFE) is focusing on building community consensus and responsiveness to support opportunities for children at-risk of leaving school and for school drop-outs. To effectively integrate the out-of-school children, SRP is working at the policy level and providing technical assistance to Literacy and Non-Formal Education Directorate for the designing and finalization of NFE and Literacy framework and materials.

As a first key step in this direction, SRP is leading the replication of a JICA-funded NFE model, which offers a set of three textbooks in the following order: Package A is for Grade K -1; Package B is for Grades 2-3; Package C is for Grades 4- 5.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The SRP developed curriculum framework and materials will significantly contribute to the strengthening of NFE sector in Sindh. Going forward, the resource effective and scalable NFE framework and materials will serve as primary guide for all SRP-led initiatives under Component 4, as well as for the government and other NFE providers like UNICEF, JICA. This will position USAID as the lead agency for the enrollment of 30,000 out-of-school readers and learners in Sindh by 2018.

NFE Curriculum and Materials Review Workshop



subject committees for Sindhi, Urdu, and Mathematics, were formed with five each. The committees were headed by specialists who were nominated by the of Board of Curriculum (BOC). Each committee included three material development experts of related subjects representative of NFE Directorate.

Introduction

The third in a series of five workshops, the NFE Curriculum and Material Review Workshop, held in Hyderabad from December 1-5, 2015, was instrumental in bringing together different actors from public institutions to review draft curriculum and Package A textbooks and teacher guide, developed during the workshops conducted in September through November.

Proceedings of the Workshop

"We struggled to have a comprehensive curriculum and text books, but this joint venture between the NFE directorate and USAID will ultimately help our education department. JICA and BoChave deputed their very skillful experts to do the task at hand." ~ **Alam Thaheem, Director NFE, Government of Sindh**

Four
English
members
subject
Director

and a



The subject committees were tasked to review the draft NFE curriculum in the light of national curriculum 2006. This process spanned over three days, starting with an in-depth orientation of the overall philosophy and development process of NFE material.

Each group presented their reviews in a plenary, which generated a wholesome discussion amongst the participants, leading to crosspollination of ideas

and suggest

ions. In the last two days groups reviewed translated and trans adapted materials of package A (Sindhi, Urdu, Math and English) textbooks along with teacher

Participants review the materials in light of reviewed draft of Package A framework.

“Our big challenge was to align Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the national curriculum with non-formal education. People who worked on this before us, we managed to improve upon what they created and picked up from where they finished off.” ~ Ameer hamza

guide.

Review of NFE Checklists/Tools

The SRP developed NFE materials are closely governed by a set of checklists or tools, which were thoroughly reviewed by the participants during the course of the workshop. The findings and key learning points from the review sessions are in the process of compilation. The details of what each checklist entails is as follows:

1. Learning outcomes Review tool

This checklist ensures the alignment of learning outcomes with the specific learning outcomes (SLOs) of the 2006 curriculum (formal). The working group reviewed this checklist at two levels: i) the clarity of the outcome statements; ii) variation of the outcomes in terms of cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains.

2. General Review tool

This checklist ensures the overall quality of content in text books. The aspects encompassing this tool or checklist are: i) title of text books; ii) purpose of books; iii) relevance and appropriateness of the outcomes horizontally and vertically; iii) end-users or beneficiaries of the text books; iv) ideas, content source and perspectives; v) gender balance; vi) durations of activity plan as prescribed in the text books; vii) flexibility in



“In the government circle I have never seen this kind of commitment and seriousness of purpose. The curriculum developers, material developers and material reviewers in the room logically debated and convinced each other.” ~ Nasira Habib, JICA NFE Consultant

terms of adopting alternative strategies to implement class activities; viii) piloting of materials and activities.

3. Design Review tool

This checklist provided insight into the format/layouts, illustrations/pictures, language and organization of NFE materials.

4. Teaching Review/Learning process Review tool

This checklist focuses on teacher guides. It contains all aspects of the learning process. It includes remarks about NFE approach, explanations, and appropriateness of teaching strategies, questions and activities .It also covers the understanding of process bylow and or no-cost, and easily available teaching aids/materials in the context.

Timeline of Major Milestones

September 2015	i)	Working group on Framework Development formed
	ii)	Workshop on development of draft framework conducted
November 2015	i)	Formation of material development/ trans-adaptation committees
	ii)	Workshop on material development/ trans-adaptation and translation of Package A conducted
	iii)	Review committee notified by department
	iv)	Compilation and composing of Package A materials
December 2015	i)	Review workshop of Package A
	ii)	Workshop on trans-adaptation and translation of Package B will be conduct in second week of December
	iii)	Compilation and composing of Package B will be in end-December
January 2016	i)	Review workshop of Package B will be held in last week of January
	ii)	Workshop on trans-adaptation and translation of Package C will be conduct in mid- January
	iii)	Launch of SRP NFE Program
February 2016	i)	Compilation and composing of Package C materials will be in end of February
	ii)	Field implementation of NFE Program

