



Highlights ▶ EIA's secondary education materials in NCTB's website ▶ DG and ADG of DPE, DFID head visits EIA classes ▶ EIA teachers across Bangladesh celebrate World Teachers Day 2015

Technical Forum Series discusses key issues in TPD for effective teaching and learning practices

Dear Reader,

Another year has passed! As we look back and reflect on it, we see how much we have achieved.

In 2015 EIA embarked upon one of its crucial stages "institutionalisation and sustainability" – we increased our relations with government both locally and centrally to share, listen and inform key aspects of Teacher Professional Development practices that will make positive impact in the classroom, the impact that has and will turn the classrooms across Bangladesh into a learning pivot. We will continue our effort, pour in more energy collectively, with teachers, education officials and policy makers in 2016 in strengthening the wave of changing learning changing lives.

Thank you for all your support to this programme!

Happy New Year 2016!

English in Action Team

On 3rd December 2015, EIA organised a technical forum series titled "Teachers' Professional Development for Effective Teaching and Learning Practices" in Dhaka.

The aim of this forum was to collectively establish practical, evidence-based principles for effective and affordable teacher development programmes, in order to inform the design of the new national teacher education programme for primary (post PEDP III).

Evidence from developing countries has long shown that teachers are critical to the quality of teaching and learning, and that teachers are the critical agents of change. We now have access to a new and growing body of international evidence about what works in motivating and supporting teachers to bring changes to their classrooms, which improve student learning.

The forum critically looked at this evidence, and practical illustrations, to explore the elements of effective teacher development capable of working at large scale, in order to inform the post PEDP III discussions.

Participants from DPE, Brac, Unicef, World Bank, European Union, Asian Development Bank, Save the Children, Campe, UCEP, British Council and Jica contributed to this forum with their experience of working in Bangladesh education sector.

Discussants agreed that there is a need for new classroom activities, supported by instantly accessible teacher development and classroom resources, to be tried and discussed by teachers, on a regular basis over a period of years, both informally in school and more formally in out-of-school networks, with those supporting and monitoring teachers changing their

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From left: Ms. Sue Williamson, Dr. Carolyn Sunners, Mr. Md. Alamgir & Mr. Md. Siddiquir Rahman



Participants at the technical forum discusses key aspect of TPD

own attitudes and using the good practices themselves.

The discussions revolved around the evidence from EIA and other programmes in Bangladesh, as well as the wider international evidence base provided by DFID systematic reviews.

Ms. Sue Williamson, Team Leader, English in Action, Mr. Md. Alamgir, Director General, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Dr. Md. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, ndc, Additional Director General, DPE, Dr. Carolyn Sunners, Team Leader, Human Development Team, DFID, Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Project Director, EIA, Project

Management Unit, DPE and Tom Power from the Open University, UK a lead author of one of the DFID systematic reviews, were present amongst others in the technical forum.

The next forum of this on-going series will take place in February 2016.



Participants at the technical forum



Mr. Md. Alamgir, Director General, DPE



Dr. Mahfuzul Islam, Deputy Director, Training, DPE



Mr. Fazlur Rahman Bhuiyan, Director, Programme, DPE

EIA's secondary education materials in NCTB's website

জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড
৬৯-৭০, মতিঝিল ব্যাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০
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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং : ১৯০ তারিখ : ১১/১০/২০১৫

"English For Today" পাঠ্যপুস্তকের Audio এবং Listening Text অনুশীলন সংক্রান্ত

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষক, শিক্ষার্থী, অভিভাবকসহ সকলকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, এনসিটিবি প্রণীত ৬ষ্ঠ, ৭ম, ৮ম এবং ৯ম-১০ম শ্রেণির **English For Today** পাঠ্যপুস্তকের সংশ্লিষ্ট অংশের **Audio এবং Listening Text** এনসিটিবির ওয়েবসাইট www.nctb.gov.bd এ **English For Today Teaching-Learning Materials *For Classroom** শিরোনামে আপলোড করা হয়েছে। শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ইতোপূর্বে জারিকৃত পরিপত্র নং- ৩৭.০০.০০০০.০৭১.০৭.০০৩.১৩-২২০ তারিখ- ০৩.০৩.২০১৫ অনুযায়ী শিক্ষার্থীদের অনুশীলন এবং অভ্যন্তরীণ মূল্যায়নের যথাযথ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্টদের অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(মোঃ ইমরুল হাসান)
সচিব
ফোন : ০২-৯৫৬৫৬৪৪

NCTB (National Curriculum and Textbook Board) has uploaded EIA classroom audio materials including listening text audios in their website link: <http://www.nctb.gov.bd>. With this initiative EIA materials can be reached to teachers across Bangladesh. All secondary teachers will now be able to get the audio materials based on English for Today textbook easily by browsing and downloading from the NCTB website.

By practicing listening and speaking with these audios the students will also be able to learn a standard level of English communication in terms of pronunciation and intonation.

Ministry of Education has also circulated the news through newspapers adverts on 11th October 2015. All secondary teachers and respective authorities were requested to take initiatives to practice those in their classrooms and use these materials in assessment process.

This marks a crucial step in Institutionalization and sustainability of EIA approaches further into the government mechanisms.

DG and ADG of DPE, DFID head visits EIA classes in Barisal, Khulna, Rangpur and Pabna

DG and ADG of DPE, DFID head visits EIA classes in Barisal, Khulna, Rangpur and Pabna.

Some of the teachers and students in Barisal, Khulna and Pabna had extraordinary opportunity to show their progress in English classes with Mr. Md. Alamgir, Director General, Dr. Md Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, ndc, Additional Director General, and DFID country representative Sarah Cooke.

On August 2015, Ms. Sarah Cooke visited Nur Nagar Government Primary School in Khulna. She spent time with teachers and students and discussed what different activities were used to engage students in

the classrooms. Her visit was accompanied by DFID Programme Manager Tayo Nwaubani and EIA divisional manager Sudeb Kumar Biswas.

Mr. Alamgir Hossain along with Mr. Khan Mosharraf Hossain, District Commissioner, Patuakhali; Mr. Ataur Rahman, District Primary Education Officer, Patuakhali; Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Project Director, EIA, Sue Williamson, Team Leader, EIA and some other education officials visited Residential Government Primary School and Model Primary School in Patuakhali.

Mr. Alamgir, was pleased to see the changes in the English classes. He said-“if the teachers can continue the practice, the students

will be more benefitted.”

Dr. Md. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal in the same month visited an EIA class in Rangpur, and appreciated the use of mobile and speakers in classrooms to practice listening in Carmichael College Government Primary school and 59 Number Khayer Suti Government Primary School in Pabna on 27th August.

Teachers in these classes were using pair work, group work, and self-made materials along with the audios provided by EIA. The good practices promoted by EIA approaches are transforming classes in all these schools like thousands more around Bangladesh.



Ms. Sarah Cooke, Mr. Golam Kibria, Ms. Tayo Nwaubani with AT Ms. Nusrat Engaging classroom in Khulna



Dr. Md. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, ndc, ADG, DPE listening to students in the class in Pabna



Mr. Md Siddiqur Rahman in class visit in Patuakhali



Mr. Md. Golam Moula, DPEO (District Primary Education Officer), Kishoreganj

“If the teachers can develop themselves then the ultimate development goes to the students” – DPEO, Kishoreganj

Md. Golam Moula, DPEO (District Primary Education Officer), Kishoreganj is very pleased to share that the students of sadar upazila are comparatively doing well in English than the other upazila students.

One year back in 2014 all primary school teachers of this upazila got the training and materials from EIA. It was a demand which sprouted within the community after some teachers and AUEOs (Asst. Upazila Education Officer) observed activities in EIA classroom. There was significant interest on the EIA classroom approaches and unique materials loaded in a mobile phone hosted in a SD card. Many teachers who were not part of EIA came together and requested the approval and continuous support from UEO and the DPEO, which enabled them to be a part of this change.

Mr. Moula said, “EIA is giving training to the teachers which is very important for their capacity building and in making the

classroom joyful. If the teachers can develop themselves then the ultimate development goes to the students.”

“EIA training is totally different from the regular training as there is a scope for follow up. The other teachers who couldn't practice anything in the class can observe other teachers and can reflect about their practices. They feel committed within themselves that they can do new things and can share it in the next teachers meeting for improvement.”-He added.

Itna, Mithamain and Austagram; three haor (wetland) areas are also included in EIA intervention. Mr. Moula has strong preference to include this haor areas because according to him, lot of qualified teachers find it demotivating to work in haor as the life there is very difficult. There is also less scope for professional development in such regions. So very often these teachers want transfer to Sadars

(cities) areas. If they can be a part of EIA approaches both the teachers and the students will enjoy the classroom activities and specifically teachers' motivation will elevate, this will also contribute in their profession.

Mr. Moula has many plans for his district teachers, as most of the teachers have email address, he plans to open an English in Action Club starting from Sadar upazila. He also plans to create a group in Facebook by which all the teachers will be connected together including AUEO's, UEO and with DPEO himself. All conversation there will be about the classroom practice and of course it will be in English.

The contribution and direct support from AUEO, UEO and DPEO makes a huge difference in the community at large, making positive change sustain which opens many opportunities for next generation.

All primary school teachers in Keraniganj are now part of a new change

The wave of change has now spread across Keraniganj upazila as all the primary teachers are now aware of EIA approaches and good practices which can make a positive impact in their classroom.

Around 65 primary school teachers came together for the workshop organized by Keraniganj upazila Education Office supported by EIA on 2nd December 2015. This event helped all primary school teachers in this upazila to know about the communicative language teaching in English classes. Unlike other workshops, this workshop was extraordinary as this was solely organised by the upazila government education officials.

There are 128 Govt. Primary school in Keraniganj and in 2012 EIA intervention could only reach 63 schools. But Shah Sufi Md. Ali Reza, Divisional Deputy Director,

Primary Education, Dhaka was very keen to ensure all school come under the fold of EIA approaches. He took the initiative to ensure remaining school teachers get the training which will have a great impact on the English language development in this area. He recognises EIA, as the best project in Bangladesh working for English language development and he took necessary initiatives to organise this event.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Reza, He said "EIA project will not last forever but we can keep the practices of EIA everlasting by our initiatives. By this training, I've taken over the EIA approaches, now the responsibility is to the UNO. He will nurture the practice within you (teachers) and thus to our children."

Shaheen Ara Begum, District Primary

Education Officer (DPEO) emphasises the practice of English, stating, "Our children understand but they can't speak in this foreign language. To help them we have to use it as we use Bangla with our family members, colleagues, friends and relatives in our society."

Abul Bashar Mohammad Faqrujjaman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Keraniganj; who was selected the best UNO in Dhaka district advised to the teachers, "EIA is providing with resources, take these as your asset and develop yourself in your profession."

Mr. Md. Siddiquir Rahman, Project Director, EIA; Ms. Sue Williamson, Team Leader, EIA and Ms. Zakera Rahman, Divisional Manager, Dhaka were present amongst others in the workshop.



Primary teachers from all over Keraniganj upazilla participate in the unique workshop

Capturing the dynamics of change : Teachers' voices from the classrooms



Mentor teachers selected from different divisions participate in the mentors workshop

EIA is going to hear more from teachers in a mega event called the Teachers' Voices conference during mid-2016. Through this event teachers will be able to share their experience of working with EIA in their own words. To be able to do this they will carry out a small study in their own classrooms, each supported by a mentor; the mentors are a group of advanced teachers selected from different divisions, supported by the EIA team.

The preparation for this mega event started with an orientation workshop for the forty five mentors held on 13th and 14th December in CAMPE (Campaign for Popular Education) in Dhaka. The journey of these mentors will culminate in four different conferences in four regions all over the country. Each region consists of two nearby divisions such as Dhaka and Mymensing has one region, Rajshahi and Rangpur

another, Chittagong & Sylhet and Barisal, and Khulna.

The Teachers' voices conference is significant in many ways. This will help EIA teachers to take ownership of their learning, to articulate it in their own words and in sustaining the learning even after the life span of the project. In addition, it will also enrich the project by showcasing the experience of teachers.

EIA team at different international conferences

Recently EIA has participated in UKFIET conference organised by the Education and Development Forum (UK) on 15-17th September and on 18-20th November in Language and Development conference organized by British Council India. Three papers were presented in these conferences.

The paper presented in UKFIET were:

- 'How underprivileged graduates use English in real life contexts and how these uses have may led to economic benefit', Suggested that the underprivileged school leavers felt English is beneficial for their career and economic development.

- 'Changes in teaching and learning: what counts, who to, how is it counted?' focuses on and contributes to the evidence that links teacher development programmes and educational technology programmes in low-to-middle income countries, to improvements in quality.

The paper presented in Language and Development was:

- 'Empowering marginalised professionals through digital media'. The focus of this paper was on how the government teachers, who are one of the marginalised professional groups are benefitting themselves through EIA.

Major findings are EIA is creating opportunity for the teachers to develop professionally, socially and also economically by increasing capacity and confidence through its easy accessible professional development materials.

Tom Power, Dr. Rama Mathew, Claire Hedges, Dr. Ian Eyres, Md. Shajedur Rahman, Md. Ashraf Siddique, Tania Islam, Yeasmin Ali and Zakia Sultana from EIA represented the project in these conferences.

EIA teachers across Bangladesh celebrate World Teachers' Day 2015

Teachers are the center of English in Action. All the activities are for the professional development of our teachers. Thus EIA didn't fall behind in celebrating the World Teachers Day. In celebrating the teacher's day, EIA intervention teachers across the country shared their selfies through social media, Facebook.

Inaugurated by UNESCO (United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Operation) in 1994, World Teachers day is celebrating around the world in 5th October each year. The slogan of this year is aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals- 'Empowering Teachers, building sustainable development'.

This is a day to show the gratitude and appreciation towards teachers who are working to shape up our future generations. EIA Team Leader, Sue Williamson and Project Director, Md. Siddiqur Rahman has delivered different messages to congratulate our teachers in this day.

In her message Sue Williamson thanked the teachers in their commitments by saying, "Teachers often work in challenging circumstances but still they remain committed to ensure a better future for their children in class." (Watch Sue's Message)

Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman in his message has addressed the hard work of teachers by saying- "You are experimenting different activities and materials with your students at different times and I really appreciate your hard work". (Watch the PD's message)

EIA is now working with over 30,000 teachers across Bangladesh. Teachers are making a difference in teaching English in classes and helping students ahead to the global context.



“After EIA the situation of my English classroom has changed radically.”- Lakshmi, Khagrachari



After being a part of EIA programme, the situation of my English classroom has changed radically. It's really amazing!

Now-a-days conducting English classes is very interesting and also enjoyable for me and my pupils. Most of the students in my class use English to communicate. They are now more interested to use English instead of Bangla. It has made a huge change in the classroom in a remote area like Khagrachari. I am very happy to bring this change. And this is only because of EIA. There are lot of students in my class who don't have any scope to practice English but they are doing great in English now.

They like to give simple answers and communicate with each other's in English. Now I conduct my classes in this way that 'students speak more and teacher speak less'.

Whenever I apply simple but very effective techniques learnt from EIA my students

enjoy and they concentrate more in the lessons. Action songs, greeting songs are very effective for warm up. During assembly session they join more spontaneously and make themselves remain active for whole day, if I play action songs and let them do act with those songs.

But before EIA, like most of the teachers, I was also scared of English. Because as a hill-tracts tribe English is our third language. I thought that English is a very hard as a language for communicating. And I used to conduct classes in more traditional way, just giving lectures and reading our from books without involving students.

After being a member of EIA, I learnt many easier, simple and effective means to help students. By applying those, practicing EL4T and classroom languages, my classroom situation is now totally changed.

Now, I also use digital materials like audios, digital posters provided by EIA. This is the first

time I am working with those materials. They help me very much to practice students' correct pronunciation. And I developed myself by practicing EL4T alongside.

Finally, I want to say that all students are getting chance to practice more and more English. And I wish that every school teachers of Bangladesh can get the facilities of EIA. So that every student can get the chance to learn with the concepts of EIA 'learning by doing'.


Lakshmi Puti Chakma

Assistant teacher
Vai Bon Chara Government Primary School
Khagrachari Sadar Upazilla

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