

ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

Seminar arrangements

BACKGROUND

Commonwealth Ministers of Education at the Seventh Commonwealth Education Conference held in Accra, 1977, recommended that the Commonwealth Secretariat should conduct a survey on progress towards Universal Primary Education and organize a series of regional meetings to help countries striving to achieve UPE. Particular attention was to be given to countries that were farthest from achieving it.

The survey was carried out in 1978 by Mr R L Smith of the Department of Education in Developing Countries of the Institute of Education, University of London and published by the Secretariat as a book in 1979. In mid 1979, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, at the request of the Commonwealth Secretariat, agreed to host the first of the regional meetings and plans were quickly made for the seminar to be held in Dacca in December. The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation made funds available to enable delegates from both the Asia and Pacific regions to attend.

PROGRAMME

Theme

The theme chosen for the seminar was "Problems and solutions in the implementation of UPE".

Objectives

The objectives set for the seminar were as follows:

- to gain an overview of current and planned action related to UPE in member countries.
- to analyse the findings of the Commonwealth survey on progress towards UPE with respect to what countries mean by UPE and to examine constraints in its implementation.
- to determine what preparatory steps are essential to the successful implementation of UPE.
- to investigate alternative strategies for implementing UPE.
- to examine how Commonwealth regional co-operation might assist progress towards UPE in Asia and the Pacific.

Agenda

In order to achieve these objectives, the following agenda was drawn up:

- Country reports providing an overview of action related to UPE in member countries.
- Progress towards UPE: What the survey reveals about UPE in Asia and the Pacific.
- Educational and administrative implications of UPE.
- Strategies for UPE and a consideration of alternatives.
- Commonwealth co-operation in relation to UPE.

Groups

So that the differences of scale between different countries working towards UPE could be taken into consideration, it was decided that discussion should be conducted in two groups representing:

- small states.
- large states.

Timetable

Monday 3 December

1000-1200	Opening ceremony
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Tuesday 4 December

0900-1015	Plenary session for country reports.
1045-1200	Plenary session for country reports.
1400-1500	Plenary session for country reports.
1530-1630	Plenary session for country reports.

Wednesday 5 December

0900-1015	Plenary session to introduce lead paper 1: 'Progress towards UPE: What the survey reveals about UPE in Asia and the Pacific'.
1045-1200	Group session on agenda item 2.
1400-1500	Group session on agenda item 2.
1530-1630	Group session to draw conclusions on agenda item 2.

Thursday 6 December

0915-1025	Visit Primary Training Institute and primary school at Manikganj.
1100-1130	Wreath laying at National Monument, Savar.
1130-1230	Gana Shastha Kendra, Savar
1230-1430	Jahangir Nagar University.
1500-1630	Village Education Resource Centre (VERC), Savar.

Friday 7 December

0900-1015	Plenary session to introduce lead paper 2: 'Educational and administrative implications of UPE'.
1045-1200	Group session on agenda item 3.
1400-1500	Group session on agenda item 3.
1530-1630	Group session to draw conclusions on agenda item 3.
1915-2200	Cultural programme and dinner at Hotel Inter-Continental given by the Chairman of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca.

Saturday 8 December

0630-2000	Visit to Meher Panchagram, Comilla.
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Sunday 9 December

1400-1530	Visit to the National Museum, Dacca.
1545-1700	Visit to the Science Museum, Dacca.

Monday 10 December

0900-1015	Plenary session to consider group reports on agenda item 2.
1045-1200	Plenary session to consider group reports on agenda item 3.
1400-1500	Plenary session to introduce a paper submitted by the African regional representative.
1530-1630	Viewing of films related to the seminar.
1900-2100	Dinner at Hotel Purbani International, Dacca, given by the Prime Minister.

Tuesday 11 December

0900-1015	Plenary session to introduce agenda item 4. 'Strategies for UPE and a consideration of alternatives'.
1045-1200	Group session on agenda item 4.
1400-1500	Group session on agenda item 4.
1530-1630	Group session to draw conclusions on agenda item 4.

Wednesday 12 December

0900-105	Plenary session to introduce lead paper 4: 'Commonwealth co-operation and UPE'.
1045-1200	Group session to draw conclusions on agenda item 5.
1400-1500	Plenary session to consider group reports on agenda item 4.
1530-1630	Plenary session to consider group reports on agenda item 5.
1930-2100	Dinner reception by Commonwealth Secretariat at BEERI.

Thursday 13 December

0900-1015	Plenary session to consider recommendations.
1045-1200	Plenary session to consider recommendations.
1400-1630	Free

Friday 14 December

1045-1200	Adoption of draft report and closing ceremony.
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