Education for Minority Language Speakers: Key Indicators and Research Approaches

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Introductory Remarks

- UNESCO and Education for All
- Thai Ministry of Education:
  - 86.3% in primary school (almost 14% not in school!)
  - Approx 400,000 children not in school! 3 out of every 20 children!
  - Who are they? Where are they? Are they speakers of minority languages?
- SEAMEO (South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization)
  - Want statistics on literacy for minority groups
Goals of Today’s Seminar

1. You will receive information about the minority language groups of Thailand
2. You will know something about the problems that children from minority groups face in the schools
3. You will receive some good theoretical information that can help to solve the problems of these children
4. You will receive information from “Case Studies” from many other countries of the world, so that we can see that there are practical solutions to these problems
5. You will have some ideas on how to apply this knowledge in your work—whether it is in doing research to gather information, planning, improving/revising policy, etc.
Language and Human Rights

Linguistic Rights
Documents/MOE International Declarations.doc
Summary: Linguistic Rights

- The right for everyone to use their “mother tongue” is considered a universal human right that should not be violated.
- Showing respect for linguistic rights will help people to live together in harmony and will also help in the development of the entire nation.
“Education for All”

- Video: “Literacy as Freedom”
- UNESCO places importance on literacy for minority peoples, as an important part of economic, cultural and social development