National Survey on the Implementation of Inclusive Education in Sri Lanka

Ministry of Education

Background
- Dakar World Education Forum
  April 2000
- Identification of six EFA Goals
- The second Goal is related to inclusive education
  "Providing Free and Compulsory Primary Education for All"

Scope and framework of the National Study on Inclusive Education
- Inclusion - a developmental approach in education
- Schools accommodate all children regardless of their intellectual, physical, social, emotional,
  linguistic of other conditions, disabled and gifted children,
  street and working children,
  children from remote or nomadic populations, linguistic, ethnic or cultural minorities, other disadvantaged or marginalized areas or groups.

Rationale
- School Census data alone is not sufficient to reveal the situation and identify the gaps in inclusive education.
  E.g. GRE, TPR, Class size
- Above data do not show disparities and inequalities in the system.
  E.g. Low performance in core subject areas at the end of the secondary cycle.
### Objectives of the Study

- To identify existing national policies on the implementation of inclusive education.
- To identify existing practices based on the national policies in implementing inclusive education at the compulsory education level (5-14 yrs).
- To evaluate the contribution of the existing policies and practices in achieving EFA Goal 2.
- To identify the gaps in implementing inclusive education within the national education system.
- To make recommendations to improve policies and practices in inclusive education.

### Research Questions

- What are the national policies available on inclusive education?
- What are the existing practices on inclusive education at the compulsory education level?
  - Are schools aware of the concept of inclusive education?
  - Are schools accessible to all children in terms of physical facilities?
  - Are schools accessible to all children in terms of curriculum?
  - Can all children participate in the teaching learning process?
  - Do teachers have training programmes for inclusive education?
  - Are there any community support programmes?
  - What are the resources available in schools?
  - What is the perception of school community towards inclusive education?

### Research Questions contd.

- How to evaluate the contribution of the existing policies and practices in achieving EFA Goal 2?
- What are the gaps in implementing inclusive education within the national education system?
- What are the possible recommendations to improve policies and practices in inclusive education?
Variables for selecting sample schools

1. School Size
2. Urban / Rural (Urban Council, Semi urban Council, Local Government)
3. Ethnicity: Sinhala / Tamil
4. Medium: Sinhala / Tamil / English
5. Administrative Structure: Province / Zone

Survey on the implementation of policies on inclusive education - Different aspects

- Policies
- Management
- Resources - Physical / Human
- Curriculum - Content / Process / Assessment
- Student Participation and student teacher interaction in the teaching learning process
- Community
- Other

Methodology continued

- Information about schools and the teaching learning process
  - Direct Observations using an observation schedule
  - Physical facilities/ resources available in schools?
  - Observations on the teaching-learning process
  - Content analysis of selected textbooks and teacher guides

- Questionnaires to collect information on the perception of teachers, ISAs and principals on training programmes related to inclusive education?
- Information about the community support programmes?
- Focus groups to collect information on the perception of school community towards inclusive education?
### Activity Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Proposed time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of Data Collection Instruments</td>
<td>Nov - Jan 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training workshops for researchers and Pilot study</td>
<td>Feb- April 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main study and Monitoring data collection</td>
<td>April- Aug 2007</td>
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<td>Content analysis</td>
<td>April - June 2007</td>
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<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>Sep - Nov. 2007</td>
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<td>Report writing</td>
<td>Dec- Feb 2008</td>
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