Journalists Handbook on Education for All

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Lao PDR Media Training on Education for All

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Book makes ‘ass’ of wives

NEW DELHI: A textbook used at schools in the Indian state of Rajasthan compares housewives to donkeys, and suggests the animals make better companions as they complain less and are more loyal to their “masters”, The Times of India reported yesterday. “A donkey is like a housewife... In fact, the donkey is a shade better, for while the housewife may sometimes complain and walk off to her parents’ home, you'll never catch the donkey being disloyal to his master,” the newspaper reported, quoting a Hindi-language primer meant for 14-year-olds. The book was approved by the state’s Bharatiya Janata Party government but has sparked protests from the party’s women’s wing. REUTERS
Schools to Adopt Gender-Equal Programs

By Kim Rahn
Staff Reporter

A father going to work with a briefcase, and a mother seeing him off in a skirt and apron _ pictures like this, commonly found on school textbooks, are likely to disappear soon, following authorities' effort to provide more gender-equal education programs.

The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education has recently ordered every elementary, middle and high school to come up with plans to enhance education in gender equality.

``We decided to abolish customary practices or rules in educational fields that used to implant stereotypes about male and female roles into students in order to provide a more balanced conception of each gender,`` an official of the educational authority said.

According to the measure, schools have to adopt educational materials that have more gender-equal content and should consider gender equality in supervising and counseling students.

Educational materials that will be avoided include, for example, pictures that show stereotypes of gender roles such as ``men are doctors and women are nurses,`` and history textbooks that focus on describing male figures in history.

Rules about school life will also be improved if they have discriminatory clauses. The educational office will recommend schools change rules that dictate that girls wear skirts at school and will allow girls to choose between skirts and pants.

The authority also plans to offer more education and training to teachers in charge...
Class sizes to increase

EDUCATION: The Basic Education Commission has ordered public secondary schools in Bangkok and its suburbs to increase the size of classes so that no students are left without a school.

Commission deputy secretary-general Manthana Sangkhakrit said yesterday that more than 2,000 students had still to find seats in public schools after the second round of admissions.

Most of the leftover students live in suburban city areas like Lat Phrao, Chatuchak, Don Muang, Bung Kum, Min Buri, Nong Chok and Suan Luang districts.

Earlier, 7,071 students had failed to gain admission to these schools. The office then ordered the schools to increase the number of seats per classroom from 45 to 50, but that was not enough, and only 4,370 of them could be accommodated.

Apart from increasing the seating capacity, the office has also ordered some public secondary schools to build more classrooms. It even ordered Triam Udom Suksa Suwinthawong School to construct a new building so that it could increase its student intake from next year.

Mrs Manthana gave assurances that all secondary school students will have a place to study but they must wait for a decision by the commission.
Journalists Handbook on Education for All

- For working journalists
- Tool to help journalists
- Aims to raise awareness of the wide-range of issues in education
- Highlight the link between education and our every day lives
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- Brief EFA history
- **Story ideas** and suggested follow-up questions and checklists
- Resources (publications, websites, contact persons)
- Calendar of International Events
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- Main reference is the “Education Makes News” publication of UNESCO
- Complements the publication by giving story ideas based on the contexts in Asia
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**Tasks** during the training:
- Use Handbook as reference
- Review existing story ideas
- Overall comments & feedback
- Objective: add new story ideas based on the Lao context
Journalists Handbook

- **Activity:** Identify at least one story you can do in relation to EFA (10 minutes)

- **Group Work:** International Days related to Education/EFA
  - Each group to identify specific stories that can be done in relation to an international day (Ex: 8 Sept. – Literacy Day)
  - Each group to present their suggested stories
“Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends.”
- Benjamin Disraeli

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed” – UNESCO Preamble