Education For All beyond 2015: Towards a New Education Policy Agenda

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NUEPA: Who we are?

• Began five decades ago as a UNESCO institution

• Actively engaged in Research and Building Capacities for Policy, Planning and Management of Education

• Have been contributing, in particular, in shaping educational agenda in India and South Asia
Addressing the unfinished agenda of EFA and MDG goals

• The Asian Paradox – Pretty close to achieving quantitative targets but not yet there – have come along way

• The task is to concentrate in limited areas and countries – consecutive GMRs have identified

• Needs targeted action – but have to look beyond simultaneously
Orchestrating a Policy Agenda for the Future

• Move beyond counting numbers – getting children to school is not enough – what do we do in the school- to focus on the phenomenon of “silent exclusion”

• Education in harmony with changing demands and expectations of the Globalized knowledge society

• Pursuing a Transformative Goal – not mere expansion
Orchestrating a Policy Agenda for the Future

- Towards creating a New Generation School
  - Schools as Inclusive Spaces
  - Longer duration of compulsory general education?
  - Developing 'learning to learn' skills - adaptive to fast changing demands of the Work Place
  - Integrate Work Place Skills in School Curriculum?

- Move towards life-long learning? - new framework for youth literacy and adult education?
Elements of the New Agenda for Policy and Action

• Teacher Holds the Key - invest in improving the quality of the teacher - shortage of good teachers is a global problem - new paradigm for Teacher Preparation

• Need for a Global Mission on Teachers - Teaching and Teacher Education
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

• Return to the Drawing Board on Reforming Curriculum and Teaching
• Has there been an overdose of National Testing undermining initiatives for change and innovation?
• It is time that we move beyond and look at learning in a more holistic manner than simply as test scores
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

- Expand the meaning and scope of girls education to women empowerment and gender equality
- An unfinished Agenda that has to be brought to central focus - failed to come to central focus despite efforts like UNGEI
- Focus on Young Women Leadership development
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

• For the Marginalised Typical Primary School may be too late to begin
  • **ECCE, Nutrition, Health and School Participation** - emerging as critical factors - The current level of emphasis on preschool education and child care is not adequate

  . Recognize vast Linguistic diversity that characterize Asia-Pacific Region - let that be an asset not a handicap - need fresh thinking on language of learning
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

• **Revisiting the Framework of Educational Planning**

• Replace Project based supply and input orientation with Child Rights and Entitlements Perspective

• Evolve benchmarks and local norms - strengthen decentralised action - involve the community
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

• Crafting a dynamic framework for Public – Private Partnership
  - Need to learn new ways of relating - mobilising/investing private resources for public cause
  - Value addition is the focus - not replacement for public investment
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

- South-South collaboration has remained rhetorical
- This has left tremendous human resource potential within Asia-Pacific region untapped
- Have failed to benefit from the fast growing economy
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

- Need for a new paradigm of intra-regional cooperation in Education - Three Elements
  - Create regional platforms of learning and sharing
  - Strengthening Professional Networks
  - Combining the Social and Cultural Capital with Financial Resources

Make the vast diversity in the Asian Region an Asset
Elements of the new Agenda for Policy and Action

• Build Institutional capacities who can envision and strategize action – has to happen in every country

• Emphasis on building empirical knowledge base on education

• Invest in developing High End Human Resources who can lead and take on new challenges
Tackling the Technology juggernaut

“Exclusion from technology places those concerned at a disadvantage in the coming “information society.” It creates an ever larger rift between high society, between high technology and the modernization of the elite on the one hand, and the marginalization of the majority of the population on the other. The swift pace of high-tech advances drives another wedge between youngsters. The haves will be able to communicate around the globe. The have-nots will be consigned to the rural backwater of the information society.” (UNESCO Commission on Culture)
Growing up in a pluralistic world

• Capability and right attitude to 'live together' in a world underscored by cohabitation of multiple perspectives of religion, culture, language and ideology

• In the shrinking world with high migration and urbanization, pluralism and multi-culturalism will be the rule not an exception

• Learning to live together is not just a contingency goal for meeting the emergent political, social and economic situation in the world
There is a new sense of optimism that we will reach the EFA Goals .... And move beyond ...

- There is a groundswell in favour of universal education - those who seek education, those who provide, and those who promote
- Demographic dividend - the demand for additional school places is shrinking in several countries of Asia
- Will the countries make use of this positive setting?