National Assessment of Learning Outcomes

By
Ahmed Riyaz
Quality Assurance Department
Ministry of Education/ Maldives
Objectives of NALO project

- To conduct National Assessment for grade 4 & 7 in consultation with experts from the field.
- To develop the capacity of the country to design and implement national assessment of learning outcomes to a regular cycle for key subjects, English, Maths and Dhivehi.
- Identifying the factors that could contribute to the results of the study, via self-reported questionnaires.
- To use the results and findings of National Assessment for education policy decisions.
Examples of Policy Questions

- How well are students learning in our educational system?
- Are there learning disparities in subgroups? (males vs females, urban vs rural, reginal differences, etc.)
- What factors are affecting learning? (type of school, teacher preparation, school/home resources, etc.)
- Is achievement improving over time?
NALO updates

Completed

- Piloting of test items achievement tests for English and Maths, and questionnaire items completed.
- Items for Dhivehi have been developed.
- Data entry for English and Maths and questionnaire items.
- Pilot data entered checked and cleaned.
- Data analysis for the pilot completed
- Items for the achievement tests and questionnaires finalized
- Sample selected and schools identified.

-112 schools, 2765 students from Gr4, 2840 from Gr.7
Analysis of the pilot study

- ConQuest used for the item analysis of the achievement tests
- SPSS used for the questionnaire items
- Item difficulty, item discrimination and reliability checked for the items.
- Both quantitative and qualitative analysis done to finalize the items for the achievement tests
Ongoing tasks

- Negotiate with Maldives National University to find out the technical help required for Pgrad Diploma in National Assessment course.
- Preparing course materials for the diploma program.
- Packing of the test papers and questionnaires for the schools
- Training invigilators
Next step

• Administering NA on Sept 29th and 30th 2015.
• Piloting Dhivehi test items on 1st Oct 2015.
• Data entry for both the assessments (Oct-Nov 2015).
• Data analysis for the NA(Dec – Jan 2016).
• Dissemination of the NALO results (March-April 2016).
Challenges

- Lack of staff
- Lack of expertise in the field
- Transport cost very high due to isolation
- Training opportunities are less in the country
Thank you!