



Education Water and Sanitation
Health



Awardee Booklet - Round 1,2 & 3

Agriculture Climate Change
Food Security Clean Energy

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RIVER MGML Dissemination

Organisation: Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources, RVEC (Krishnamurti Foundation India)

Challenge

In most developing countries, there are a large number of mixed age/multi-level primary schools wherein there is no co-relation between student's age and competency levels. Restricted to age-specific textbooks, it is nearly impossible for teachers to address the literacy requirements of a roomful of students belonging to different levels of learning; hence eventually students become alienated and teachers demoralized. Ultimately millions of children suffer in these joyless schools leading to low levels of learning & high dropout rates.

Solution

The RIVER model offers an Activity Based, Joyful Learning Approach that allows teachers to handle multigrade primary schools in a creative way. Government curricula are adapted for local context, and organised into smaller meaningful modules called 'RIVER LEARNING LADDERS' so learning is aligned with each student's ability. These ladders are linked with a series of graded fun activities such as language games, math's puzzles, science riddles, folk tales, theatre games etc., which enable students to learn from local examples, from things around them and from real life experiences. While students, working in groups and individually set their own pace for advancing through various levels of a subject learning ladder, the teacher facilitates the learning process. RIVER has a digital component also wherein the current material is made available through low cost tablet-based tools in an interactive format for students. The system has data storage and feedback tools, which will be used to continually monitor progress of students and test the efficacy of learning materials. In addition, the system includes collaboration tools that will enable teachers to communicate with each other, their coaches and the RIVER community.

Impact

RIVER model covers 'over 250,000 primary schools and more than 10 million children in over 13 states' (UNICEF Desk Report 2013). Evaluation of MGML's implementation in the state of Tamil Nadu revealed an increase of 25% to 29% in class II and IV students' proficiency with Mathematics, Tamil and English. A UNESCO – 2003 Report states "Offshoot programs of RIVER with the highest learning scores in language and math in the country"

Potential to Scale

RIVER had been awarded the first prize of the Global Development Network Award for the "Most Innovative Development Project 2004". This Award is given to the institution that holds the greatest degree of innovation and the potential for broad application of the project in other countries. According to 2006 UN ILO report, "No school improvement initiative has as successfully designed an operational model for scaling up its innovations, as RIVER".

