

FRP Bulletin

Formative Research Project

Number 1

April 2002

Introduction

The Formative Research Project (FRP) is an agreement between the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), His Majesty's Government (HMG) of Nepal and the Royal Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs, Norway under the scheme of technical assistance.

The major objective of FRP is to provide research-based strategic information on the implementation of BPEP II to MOES on a regular basis.

MOES has contracted CERID to assume administrative and technical responsibilities including reporting of all its activities for the successful execution of the program. Professor Kristin Tornes from College of Molde, Norway is working as the Technical Adviser to Formative Research Project.

The Formative Research Project is an integral part of BPEP II. Therefore, it is an element in HMG educational policy implementation, which will cover the entire period of BPEP II.

The principal goals of the BPEP-II are: (i) expansion of access and retention; (ii) improvement of learning achievement; and (iii) strengthening of capacity at national, district and community level.

FRP will generate suggestions for actions to be taken for the attainment of the aforesaid goals.

FRP Process

The guiding concept of FRP is to bring forth information relevant to MOES concerning planning, implementation and management of BPEP II. This information will provide reference for regular monitoring of the planning and policy implementation as well as insights and details regarding the issues and problems faced in the implementation process. FRP will analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the process of implementation and anticipate the challenges ahead.

FRP will closely monitor the progress of policy implementation with a critical understanding of the problems and issues in the implementation of BPEP II. FRP is thus a facilitation process for reflective planning and actions based on well-founded information.

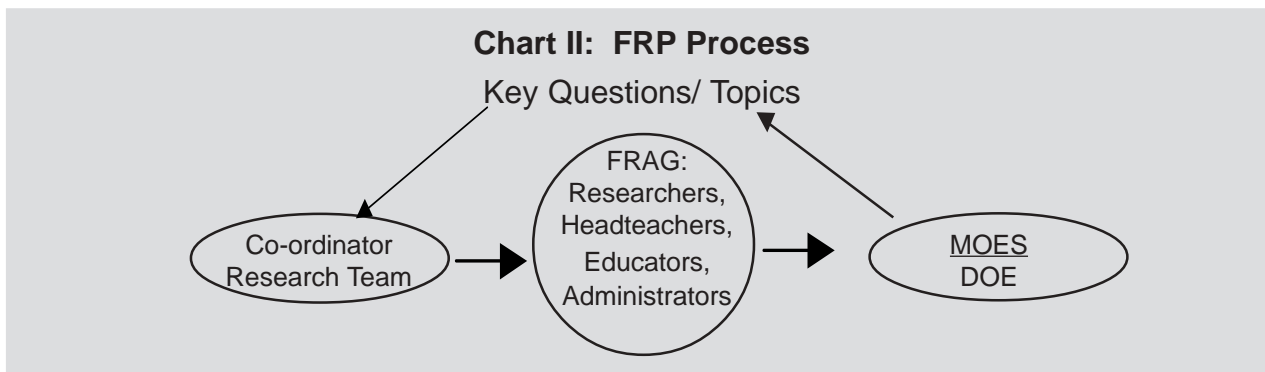
Within the formative research framework a Formative Research Advisory Group (FRAG) has been formed for advice and feedback to researchers and MOES.

FRAG members represent various stakeholder groups such as headteachers, educationists, researchers and administrators. FRAG will act as an advocacy group for



the implementation of FRP findings. In this respect, FRAG formally presents the research findings to MOES for implementation.

FRP process involves initiation of the Ministry of Education and Sports/Department of Education in the form of key research questions conveyed to the Co-ordinator of FRP. The Co-ordinators' Office transforms key questions into research topics and accordingly prepares the terms of reference (TOR) for research studies. After commissioning research studies on the key questions, the Co-ordinators' Office submits research findings to FRAG. After thorough discussions and necessary modifications, research findings will be presented to the government through FRAG for implementation.



Major Activities

FRP activities will take place as follows:

- Research
 - Longitudinal research: periodically evaluates attainment of BPEP II objectives regarding quality, efficiency and capacity building.
 - Medium-term research is granted to individual researcher(s) or research team(s) or research firm(s). These researches could be usually of more than three-month duration.
- Mini researches: to be commissioned in short notice for a shorter period of time (i.e., less than three-months).
- Seminars/workshops
- Regular forum
- Regular publication of FRP activities, findings

Current Status

At present, six research areas concerning BPEP-II have been finalised, which are as follows:

- Quality and reliability of educational data;
- Development and implementation of District Education Plan;
- Access to education for special focus groups and their retention;
- Teacher's classroom practices effectiveness of various inputs of BPEP II in the classroom;
- School effectiveness; and
- Stock-taking of studies undertaken for BPEP activities.

Current research studies will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

For further research activities under FRP there is a need for identifying issues and key questions. Relevant issues and key questions for research will be generated through (i) the mid-term review of BPEP-II, (ii) consultation workshops to be organized by FRP at central and district/local level, and (iii) findings of the stock-taking exercise on research work currently undertaken by FRP. This exercise will be completed by April 2002. Moreover, development of details of a longitudinal study is in progress and it will be finalized by the end of April 2002.

Visit

● Highlights of the visit by Professor Kristin Tornes, Technical Adviser for FRP from February 11 to 21:

- Interactions with individual researchers
- Review of FRP activities

- Visit to field activities in Chitwan

- Joint presentation of FRP to the donors' group.

- Mr. Dankert Vedeler from MOE Norway will visit Kathmandu in the 4th week of April in connection with the finalization of FRP activities and budget for the next fiscal year 2002-03.

A Glimpse of Six Different Research Activities in Progress

Title	Researcher	Draft report expected	Sample districts
Access to education for Special Focus Groups	Mr. Narendra P. Phuyal	4 th week of May, 2002	Chitwan, Siraha, Bara, Dhading, Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, Kailali.
Development and implementation of DEP	Mr. Hari P. Upadhaya	4 th week of May, 2002	Kaski, Rupandehi, Morang, Dolakha, Ilam
Educational data quality and its reliability	Mr. Gyaneswor Amatya	4 th week of April, 2002.	Lalitpur, Dhanusha and Ilam
Effective classroom teaching/learning	Mr. Ganesh B. Singh	4 th week of April, 2002.	Kaski, Morang and Rasuwa
School effectiveness in Nepal: A synthesis of indicators	Mr. Vishnu Karki	4 th week of March, 2002	Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchok, Morang, Dhankuta, Dhading, Chitwan and Rupandehi
Stocktaking of BPEP II Studies	Mr. Tirtha B. Manandhar	4 th week of April, 2002	Desk study

FRAG Members

MOES

1. Mr. Ram Sarovar Dubey, Joint Secretary, Planning Division.
2. Mr. Baikuntha Das Shrestha, Joint Secretary, Educational Administration Division.
3. Mr. Hem Raj Lekhak, Under Secretary, Monitoring and Evaluation Section.

DOE

4. Mr. Chuman Singh Basnet, Director General.
5. Mr. Soviet Ram Bista, Chief, Research and Development Section.

Educationists

6. Professor Dr. Trailokya Nath Upreti, Former Vice Chancellor of T.U.
7. Professor Dr. Bajra Raj Shakya, Former Executive Director of CERID.
8. Professor Dr. Rukmini Bajracharya, CERID.
9. Mr. Bala Ram Poudel, Lecturer, Mahendra Morang Multiple Campus T.U. Biratnagar.

DEO

10. Mr. Balaram K.C., District Education Officer, Kathmandu.
11. Mr. Bali Ram Singh, District Education Officer, Lalitpur

School Headteachers

12. Mr. Buddha Saran Manandhar, Former Headteacher, Kathmandu
13. Ms. Shanti Basnet, Former Headteacher, Kathmandu

CERID

14. Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya, Executive Director.
15. Dr. Bijaya Kumar Thapa, Co-ordinator FRP.

Milestones of FRP

- A Memorandum of Understanding regarding Formative Research was signed by the Royal Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs, Norway and Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), His Majesty's Government, Nepal on April 2000 .
- The Formative Research Project (FRP) was signed between the MOES and Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID) Tribhuvan University on the 2nd of March 2001.
- A 15-member Formative Research Advisory Group (FRAG) was formed on the 27th of August 2001.
- Dr. Bijaya Kumar Thapa was appointed Co-ordinator effective from the 1st of October 2001.
- An advertisement inviting researchers for the research studies was published on the 3rd of November 2001 in a national daily.
- A seminar-cum-workshop was conducted on the 20th of November 2001. Mr. Dankert Vedeler, Assistant Director General, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway and Technical Adviser Dr. Kristin Tornes, Norway visited Nepal and attended the programme.
- Six research studies started in December 2001.



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