

Literacy: Where do we stand today?

Seminar

Literacies matter! Scottish and Global Perspectives

10 September 2010

University of Glasgow

Adama Ouane
Director UNESCO
Institute for Lifelong
learning



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- 796 Million illiterate adults (15 years and older)
- 64% of them are women
- 67.4% million primary school-aged children are out of school



Understanding Literacy

- Literate Societies-Societal Literacy



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The changing and evolving nature of literacy

Dictated and conditioned by socio-economic
circumstances and changes



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Literacy for a literate world

- Literacy as a tool, a right, a foundation of EFA and a key to lifelong learning
- Literacy and languages



From rhetoric to action

World Situation

- The number of children out of school has dropped by 33 million since 1999.
- Adult literacy rate has increased about 8% points globally over the past 20 years. (6% for men and 10% for women)



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From rhetoric to action

- Significant pockets of deprivation in developed countries
 - E.g. England: 1.7million perform below the level expected of 7-years-olds
 - the Netherlands: 1.5 million adults are classified as functionally illiterate



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From rhetoric to action

At the current rate of progress an estimated 710 million adults -13% of the worlds' adults-will lack literacy skills by 2015



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From rhetoric to action

- Current International initiatives promoting literacy
 - Literacy for Empowerment (LIFE) 2005-2015
 - Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) since 2003
 - E-9 Initiative
 - Iberoamerican Plan for Youth and Adult Literacy and Basic Education (PIA) (2007-2015)



From rhetoric to action

■ Belém Framework for Action

“...It is imperative that we redouble efforts to reduce illiteracy by 50% from 2000 levels by 2015 with the ultimate goal of preventing and breaking the cycle of low literacy and creating a fully literate world...”



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Examples of good practice

- Egypt: Pilot training programme on the use of ICTs in literacy (in the context of Cap EFA literacy project).
- Burkina Faso: Bilingual Education Programme (government and NGOs)
- Mali: Strategic plan for a strong and effective programme to promote literacy and national languages (Programme vigoureux d'alphabétisation et de promotion des langues nationales).



- Ethiopia: Integrated Women's Empowerment Programme (IWEPP).

- India:
 - Reading for a billion: Same language subtitling (SLS) since 1999
 - Saakshar Bharat Programme



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Need of:

- Political commitment
- Allocation of sufficient resources
- Stronger partnership with civil society and networks
- Provision of valid and reliable data and evidence
- Systematic professional approach.



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