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Report of the study tour to Thailand on Teacher Education and Teacher Training in Thailand

Duration: 24 April 2016 – 30 April 2016

In compliance with the provisions of the Teacher Education and Development (TED) plan of PEDP3, DPE organized overseas study tours and training programs with the approval from the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) in order to improve the professional capacity of the primary school teachers, teacher educators, academic supervisors, educational managers, policy-planners at the field and central levels including the MoPME. This study tour is a part of the TED plan designed for Thailand. This is a seven days study tour begins from 24 April 2016 and ended on 30 April 2016.

The team consisted of 13 members with 11 teachers (9 head teachers and 2 assistant teachers) and 2 officers (1 from MoPME and 1 from DPE). The lists of the participants are as follows:

- Dr. Md. Mahfuzul Islam, Deputy Director, Directorate of Primary Education.
 - Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.
 - Ms. Momtaz Begum, Head Teacher, Bandarban Model Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Bandarban.
 - Ms. Sakila Nasrin, Assistant Teacher, Jurain Model Govt. Primary School, Demra, Dhaka.
 - Ms. Shamima Akhtar, Head Teacher, Shahipara Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Nilfamarai.
 - Mst. Alema Jahan, Head Teacher, Lalmonirhat Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Lalmonirhat.
 - Mst. Shahnaj Sultana, Head Teacher, Purbo Polashbari Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Kurigram.
 - Ms. Lalithangul Bawam, Head Teacher, Shualok Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Bandarban.
 - Mr. Md. Abu Zaher, Head Teacher, Baderhut Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Noakhali.
 - Mr. Md. Abul Basar Sarkar, Head Teacher, Machiganga Model Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Comilla.
 - Mr. Md. Fozlur Rahman, Head Teacher, U. Chandra Prashad Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Bhoia.
 - Mrs. Raihana Haque, Head Teacher, Molikpur Govt. Primary School, Sadar, Sunarnganj.
 - Ms. Afroza Parvin, Assistant Teacher, Ibrahimpur Govt. Primary School, Dhaka.
- The program schedule mentioned in the PSI (Program Specification Information) booklet (attached in Annex-A) booklet was followed and findings at the day's activities are being stated below:

Day 1 (24 April 2016):

Arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Dhaka at the 06:30 hours. After observing all formalities we proceeded for boarding the aircraft (Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Flight No. GB-088) which started for Bangkok at 08:45 Ms. Mai, one of the guides of the local agent hours. The air craft arrived at the Suvarnabhumi Airport at 12:15 hours (Local time). After observing airport formalities, representative of local agent (TLMC), Ms. Mai received the team and led the team to the Ambassador Hotel in Bangkok where team members got their accommodation confirmed. A representative of IPTM Mr. Jiue was present

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at the hotel and helped in confirming hotel accommodation. It was weekly holiday in Thailand and there was no official activity for the day and all the participants enjoyed free time for the rest of the day. Ms. Mai, representative of the local agent, TLMC briefed the team about the next day's (25 April 2016) program.

Day – 2 (25 April 2016):

The team began its day with breakfast at 07:00 hours and then started for SuanSunandhaRajabhat University at 08:00 hours and reached the university at 09:00 hours. Dr. SuttipongBoomphadung, Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Education of the University received the team and the joined a session on "Teacher Training in Thailand" followed by lunch at 12:30 hours. The session was conducted by Dr. SuttipongBoomphadung followed by open discussion where the team members actively participated and they came to know all about teacher education, teacher deployment, monitoring and mentoring system for teachers capacity development including research in education for gradual development in education sector etc. Dr. Suttipong conducted his session through power point presentation and the session was participatory.

After lunch break Dr. Araya Lee, Dean of the Faculty of Education of the SuanSunandhaRajabhat University started her session on "Teacher Education" at the university at 13:30 hours. She briefly described the teacher education program at the university including course curriculum, course duration, delivery modalities, assessment and certification, teachers deployment including criterion for renewal of certificates and community participation in school development. Dr. Araya closed her session at 16:00 hours followed by open discussion where teacher education and teacher preparation programme in Thailand and Bangladesh were shared. Finally Dr. Araya led the team while they observed the classroom activities of the teacher education programme in the university. She conducted her session through power point presentation circulated hand outs among the participants. The team left the University at 17:00 hours and reached the hotel at 19:00 hours which ends in the schedule of the day.

Day – 3 (26 April 2016):

Having breakfast at) 07:00 hours in the morning the team started for Demonstration School runs by the SuanSunandhaRajabhat University to know about school management and administration. The team members were received by the Vice Director of the demonstration school at 09:30 hours. The vice Director along with his management team held a briefing session at the school conference room. He clearly stated the school management of this school, teaching learning process, assessment system and parent's participation in school management followed by open discussion where all participants took part actively. After the briefing session the team went around the school premises to see the classroom environment, class room activities and mid-day meal programme. It was lunch time and the team practically observed the mid-day meal management of the school. After that the team again returned back to the faculty of education of the university at 12:30 hours and enjoyed lunch hoisted by the University.




Soon after lunch at the university, the entourage joined the lecture on "Effective Teaching Methodology" conducted by Ms. Abigail MeladEssien, senior lecturer of English language of the faculty of education of the university. She delivered her lecture through power point presentation. Her lecture was totally participatory, interesting and effective. She demonstrated a model teaching in the session where content knowledge (CK), pedagogical knowledge (PK) and pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) including various domains and higher order of thinking skills were systematically reflected. She concluded her lecture (session) with a brain storming activity of telling story out of some images. She followed CLA (communicative language approach followed by PPP (presentation, practice and production) which is same in our country and which we call CLT (communicative language teaching) followed by IPT(input, practice, and task). The team left the university campus at 16:30 hours and reached the hotel at 18:15 hours which ends in day 3.

Day- 4 (27 April 2016):

After having breakfast at 07:00 hours the team started for RajavinitProthomBangkeaeschool and duly arrived there at 09:30 hours. Director of the school, Ms. MettaSirirat received the team members and a group of young children along with the teachers gave warm reception at the entrance of the school. The school organized a discussion meeting where every features of the school management were highlighted and presented through power point. The school authority also organized a beautiful cultural programme demonstrated by the students. The school management and all participants exchanged views and ideas how schools in Bangladesh and Thailand are managed in terms of curriculum, curriculum delivery and assessment modalities including in-service teachers' professional development and role of community in school management etc. A lunch party has been hoisted by the school Director in honour of the delegates from Bangladesh. The team members went around the school premises, classrooms, ICT lab, etc. They also observed the teaching learning activities in school including classroom settings, water and sanitation facilities, use of ICT in teaching and learning and total school environment and school management. The programme finishes at 13:00 hours and the team bounds for "AnubanSamsen School" and reached there at 14:39 hours.

After being received by the Director of AnubanSamsen School (ASS), Dr. NathananPanlainark the team members attended a discussion meeting. The school Authority briefed through power point presentation followed by open discussion. The team went around the school and see classroom settings, teaching and learning activities, physical facilities including innovative interventions like establishing science museum and planetarium in school. The team saw for itself the beautification of school environment, well maintenance of all physical resources of school, co-curricular activities undertaken by the school and finally parental participation in activities like mid-day meals, infrastructural development, deployment of additional teachers, social connectivity in improvement etc. The programme finished at 16:30 hours and the entourage reached the hotel at 18:00 hours.



Day – 5 (28 April 2016):

As part of the study tour the team members visited “Safary World” of Thailand in Bangkok and saw many living beings including many wild animals, birds etc. and know about the conservation of bio-diversity in Thailand. The team observed how this **SAFARY WORLD** makes contribution to the national economy including its management issues.

Day – 6 (29 April 2016):

It was a free day in the programme schedule. The team members sat together after breakfast in the morning to review the study tour where learning and outcomes were thoroughly discussed. Each and every members actively participated in framing the draft report which is to be submitted to the Director General, DPE after returning home. The team members were at freedom to enjoy free time and make necessary shopping in the evening.

Day – 7 (30 April 2016):

The team took preparation for departure after breakfast. Everybody gets early lunch and checked out the hotel at 11:30 hours and started for the Suvarnabhumi International Airport and reached there at 12:45 hours. We checked in the airport, observed all formalities in the airport and board the air craft (Bangladesh Biman, Flight No. BG-089). The flight was one hour late and flew for Bangladesh at 17:15 hours (local time) and the team arrived Shah Jalal International Airport, Dhaka at 19:15 hours. After arrival the team members observed airport formalities and left airport for their home and that is the end of the study tour.

Lesson learned from the Study Tour to Thailand:

A. About Teacher Education:

University runs 5 years bachelor degree (inclusive one year Internship) course. This is a mandatory pre-service teacher education in Thailand. The students get certificate after successful completion of the course and face competitive examination for getting employment as teachers in schools. Individuals must have this certificate to apply for employment as teacher. After recruitment teachers get license that needs renewal each year based on their performance. The renewal and continuation of the job of teacher depends on satisfaction and recommendation by school authority as well as bycommunity.

Each public university has its catchment area to mentor and support improving professional capacity and skills of school teachers. Moreover, each university has a demonstration school under its direct supervision to experiment educational research findings for overcoming challenges and improving teacher professional development.

B. About school and school management :

- Schools are very neat and clean with smart management settings;
- Schools are well protected with boundary walls;
- Schools have well equipped conference rooms;
- Classrooms are well decorated and furniture are student friendly;



- Teacher student ratio strictly maintained at 1:40;
- Multimedia classrooms and emphasis on ICT in education;
- Schools have computer labs. ;
- Provision for indoor and outdoor games;
- School feeding is a mandatory element supported by government;
- Schools get fund directly from the government with authority for expenditure;
- Separate rooms and teachers for special need and autistic children education;
- Extra teachers for co-curricular activities;
- Additional teacher deployment by school authority through subscription from community;
- Teacher must come to schools during vacation and they conduct special coaching to the poor performing students;
- Teacher develops worksheet for the students against each lesson;
- Residential facilities for teachers who need accommodation within the school premises;
- School supervision by higher authority twice in a year;
- 18 working hours for teachers in a week;
- Length of a period is 2 hours;
- Not every subject every day in the class routine;
- Teachers attend school as per their schedule of occupancy in the routine and all teacher do not come at the same time every day;
- Each school has its own Website;


Recommendations:

- Pre-service teacher education may be introduced to create future teacher with professional zeal and aptitude;
- Recruitment rule may revised incorporating pre-service teacher education degree as a mandatory pre-requisite;
- Student friendly furniture and boundary walls for all schools;
- Enforce co-curricular activities through recruitment of subject specialized teachers;
- School feeding or mid-day meals to all schools;
- Computer lab and well equipped conference rooms for all schools;
- Direct funding and authority to school for expenditure against need;
- Minimize frequency of visit by higher authority;
- Each school may develop its own website;
- School routine may reform with the provision of increasing duration of the period and eliminating the provision of every subject every day;



Conclusion:

This was a successful tour in respect of management and usefulness. The team members particularly the head teachers are mostly benefited out to this study tour as they have experienced some practical interventions in school improvement including best practices in school in the field of teacher education, teaching and learning, teachers' involvement and initiatives, community participation, digital class and record keeping both in school management and student's performance. It is expected that teachers will be encouraged to adopt some of the best practices and interventions to improve their schools leading to transform them into child friendly effective schools.


22-02-2011
Dr. Mohammad Mahfuzul Islam

Deputy Director, DPE
and
Team Leader of the Thailand bound
Team

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Director General
Directorate of Primary Education
[(Attention: Director (Training))]