Changing the Debate: Successful Approaches to Language of Instruction
Intro session

What is MTB-MLE and what to do to make it successful?

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Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education

- Education program that takes into account the ‘mother tongue’/ home language of the child.
- It helps the child to become bi/multilingual at school, starting with the language the child knows best (or well).
Different approaches to MLE

Early Exit

L1 of child is 1-5 years MOI. Then L2/3 becomes MOI.

Late Exit

L1 of the child is MOI 6 years or longer, then L2/3 becomes MOI.

Dual/Additive

L1 of the child remains a part of education.
Success of different approaches to MLE

- Early Exit: Weak program, hardly successful.
- Late Exit: Starts to become successful
- Dual/Additive: Successful and balanced
When can L2/3 be used as MOI?

Threshold levels
• B1 of CERF
• About 3000 word families

How long does it take:
• Children learn about 3-4 words per session (provided well set up program)
• 400 – 500 words a year
• 6-8 years (late exit or additive program)
Different contexts

Homogeneous (rural settings)
- L1 as MOI
- Learn L2 as subject at least until threshold level

Multilingual mixed (urban settings)
- Language teaching program
- Learn new L2 at least until threshold level before assuming learning through it.

2 or 3 languages (Rural/urban settings)
- 1. MTB-MLE (one L)
- 2. Two streams
- 3. Language teaching
PLANNING FOR MTB-MLE
Planning steps

1. Know the language context
2. L1 Literacy aspects needed to develop MTB-MLE
3. L2/FL curriculum
4. Teachers, schools, community
5. Develop
6. Pilot
7. Implement
8. Monitor/improve
Language context

Language mapping for Education

- Languages are spoken in and around the school
- Languages do the teachers speak? (at what level)
- Literacy skills of the teachers in the languages needed at school
- Attitude of teachers, community, children
- Literacy practises/materials available in L1
L1 Literacy aspects needed to develop MTB-MLE

- orthography - standardised or flexible -> implications
- school/academic vocabulary
- genres and text types
- reading materials
L2 Curriculum

L2/FL curriculum

- linked to L1
- linked to L1 curriculum
- Linked to culture?
- General?
Teachers, schools, and community

- attitudes
- language skills teachers
- literacy skills teachers