

# Observation Tools & Techniques for Administrators and Teachers: Practices in International Development

## Practices in International Development



**Observation Tools & Techniques for Administrators and Teachers**  
Janet Orr at TESOL Boston 2010

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## Focus

1. Education for All / Literacy
2. Research in Developing Nations
3. Observation Tools and Process
4. School Performance

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## Education Goals in Developing Nations

- **Education for All Goals by 2015 :**
  1. Expand early childhood care and education
  2. Provide free and compulsory primary education for all
  3. Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults
  4. Increase adult literacy by 50 per cent
  5. Achieve gender parity by 2005, gender equality by 2015
  6. **Improve the quality of education**
- **Literacy in L1 and LWC**
  - L1 Literacy and/or National Language
  - In Africa, Literacy in LWC – English or French



In Maldives Primary Schools Divehi is used for instruction in early grades with a shift to English

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## Role of Principals/Head Teachers

- **Principal as School Administrator**
  - Collect school fees, and other accounting
  - Distribute textbooks and other materials
  - Community Liaison
  - Promoted without training
  - May not speak the LWC taught
  - Liaison with MOE and other entities
- **Links to the Classroom**
  - Assign teachers and students to classes
  - Little or no budget for in-service training
- **Ministry of Education Inspectorate**
  - Monitors the delivery of instruction based on the syllabus/curriculum
  - Rarely visits especially rural schools

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## Research on School Improvement In the US

- **Summary of features of schools that perform well on academic measures:**
  - a clear school mission;
  - effective instructional leadership and practices;
  - high expectations;
  - a safe, orderly, and positive environment;
  - ongoing curriculum development;
  - maximum use of instructional time;
  - frequent monitoring of student progress and
  - a positive home-school relationship.

(Hoffman and Rutherford, 1984)

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## In Developing Nations

- **Ghana Complementary Education Program**
  - Local volunteers, para-educators, receive professional development as CEP facilitators in order to administer and teach the course successfully.
- **US Department of State's Access Program Review**
  - The instrument was created to observe a variety of program models for comparison. Some informal coaching occurred following observations.

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### Snapshot of School Management Effectiveness

- A tool developed by RTI and USAID to collect needed education data. (Jamaica, Kenya, Peru, Nigeria and Nicaragua)
  - More systematic than “walkabout” collection
  - One person, 1 day of data collection
- Data Collector uses fixed protocol
  - School
  - Principal
  - 2 classrooms
  - 2 teachers
  - 8 children
  - 1-2 parents



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### SSME

Data Collection Tools	Uses for Data Collected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapted for each country.</li> <li>• Distinguish between effective and ineffective behavior</li> <li>• Confirms relationship between behavior and student performance</li> <li>• Critique – its too long need a short form.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision making by stakeholders and policy makers to guide efforts to improve learning</li> <li>• Can principals / head teachers benefit from results?</li> <li>• Needs a process for creating a school improvement plan.</li> </ul>

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