Human Development Learning Week: Panel on TIMSS & PIRLS

Ghana’s Participation in TIMSS

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Chair, National Council for Curriculum & Assessment

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Decision to participate in TIMSS

ANTECEDENTS

THE DECISION

Decline of education system
Restoration Efforts
Formulation of national Development plans
MoE initiated reforms
Monitoring learning performance
Potential of international comparisons
Persistent Low Performance
Serious Contextual Disparities
Ghana’s performance in TIMSS

Trends in performance of JHS2 students in TIMSS

Year

Overall achievement scale score (Science)

Overall achievement scale score (Maths)
Trends in Performance on International Benchmarks (Math)

Percentage reaching mathematics international benchmark

International benchmarks

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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Trends in Performance on International Benchmarks (Science)

Percentage reaching science international benchmark

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<th>International benchmarks</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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<td>Advanced</td>
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How is Ghana managing the news in the released results?

TIMSS 2003 Release

Shock! Wake up!

National Report Released

Politicians tried to avoid it

Initial Reaction

Later Reaction

Actions

Identify Shortcomings

Workshops by TIMSS National Centre

Use the comparative data to improve S&M education
How has Ghana used previous TIMSS data to improve education?

• Awareness creation among stakeholders
• Capacity-building workshops
• Creation of new supporting structures
• Instituting aspects of results in policy document
• Changing aspects of the curriculum and mode of questioning.
How Ghana plans to use the data to provide feedback to, and improve, the education system?

1. Strengthen Capacity Building
   - National INSET program

2. Strengthen science/math Teaching & Learning
   - Natural Science is taught at P1-3
   - Emphasize critical thinking
   - Organize STME clinics for girls

3. Strengthen university involvement
   - Postgraduates encouraged to use national data for research

4. Improve literacy
   - Intensify Early Reading program & National Language Program
Any other Large scale assessment?

• TIMSS is the only large scale international assessment
Main challenges for effective use of assessment data

**Attitude of Leadership**
- Political commitment of leadership
- Playing politics with results instead of dealing with implication
- Politicians prefer to build schools and toilets than build pupils

**Funding**
- Lack of funding for proposed activities

**Teachers’ Attitude**
- Attaching financial gain to every activity

Challenges are systemic rather than being peculiar to TIMSS
Lessons For Other Countries

• Appointment of regional math and science coordinators
• MoE- higher education collaboration.
• INSET workshops for teachers- training team includes regional directors of education.
• Inclusion of TIMSS results in national plans.
The Challenge now is to use TIMSS data in a more Creative way to ensure Deeper Learning.......

THANK YOU