

Education

Improving primary education in Egypt

Education Enhancement Programme (EEP)

"The most outstanding point in the Effective Schools Project is the change of mentality of people in the schools. Parents are now taking an active role in school life and the school has become the focal point where the community interacts with their children."

Barbara Thornton and Amani Mostafa,
Effective Schools Project



EC Partners

Government of Egypt
(Ministry of Education):
USD 635 million

World Bank: USD 75
million

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 100 million
- Project duration: 1998 - 2006
- 148 schools constructed
- 154 schools provided with school furniture
- 1 222 telephone lines supplied
- 300 schools involved in the Effective Schools Project



EUROPEAN
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Context

With a global population of 18.7 million students and 1.7 million ministerial employees, Egypt's education system is the largest in the Middle East and North Africa region and is growing rapidly. Therefore it is crucial to improve it. The Education Enhancement Programme (EEP) was launched in 1998 to support the first wave of reforms in basic education. The programme provided assistance to the Ministry of Education with the aim to increase access and equity, improve the quality of student performance and enhance system efficiency.

Objectives

- To facilitate access to primary education for all children
- To reduce dropout rates
- To improve quality of student performance and learning outcomes
- To strengthen planning and management capacities at all levels of the education system

Impact

- Enrolment rates increased by 12% since 1996 (98% at primary and 82% at preparatory level)
- More than 1000 awareness campaigns conducted in 742 villages
- 79 new schools were constructed to reduce multiple shifts and overcrowding in schools; 69 new schools were constructed in underprivileged areas
- Second-chance education was provided to drop-out children through innovative community-based approach
- Distance learning, pre-service and in-service training was provided to over 200.000 teachers

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The Effective School Project (ESP)

At the end of 2004, the Education Enhancement Programme (EEP) launched a school-based reform pilot project, characterized by new pedagogical and managerial approach and a greater involvement of the local community in school life.

The Effective School Project (ESP) is based on the belief that changing schools and teachers is a subtle process and that a school-based, bottom-up approach is more likely to have long-term sustainable benefits than reforms imposed from the outside. Three hundred schools in 10 underprivileged governorates were involved in the ESP. The school-based model serves as a basis for the ongoing pre-university education reform.

ESP helped to increase community participation in school life. Links involved religious leaders, heads of village councils, as well as parents and other community members. The project also contributed to changes in school culture. School principals and teachers started encouraging creativity and innovation inside and outside the classroom.



Inside the classroom