TED did it its way

Hideo Nakata
Chief Adviser of STESE Project
University of Tsukuba

A follow-up seminar supported by JICA took place at Sayed jamul din Teacher Training College (STTC) in Kabul from 9-14 October. There were 68 participants from 34 provinces who had enthusiasm for becoming good lecturers at Teacher Training.

Program

Lecture 1
Abdul Fatah Khan Hamidi and Mohammad Ehsan Fayaz (Vocational Blind School)
Everyday practice at the school for the blind

Lecture 2
Siawash Payab and Akhtar Mohammad (Family Welfare Focus)
Everyday practice at the school for the deaf

Lecture 3
M. Alam Bayan (Kabul Education University)
Education for children with intellectual disabilities

Lecture 4
Razia Hadi (Ferdawsi Inclusive School)
Everyday practice at the Firdausi inclusive school

Forum
Panelists: Sadruddin Ashrafi (TED), Abdul Fatah Hamidi, Siawash Payab, Akhtar Mohammad and Razia Hadi.

The lectures with the support of staff members at each school were well-organized and consisted of teaching learning processes, utilization of teaching materials, problems and issues at real school settings. Participants were quite intrigued by those good practices and examples. They took an active part in the group discussion followed by the lectures. We demonstrated that it is possible for TED, or Afghan people to hold a regular teacher training meeting if funding could be provided.

We want to thank Mr. Ashrafi and Mr. Bahar of TED, especially the latter has served as moderator during this seminar. We are absolutely delighted that we have worked with them for development and improvement of special education in Afghanistan.
Follow-Up seminar successful
Yukio Isaka
Osaka Kyoiku University

It is our pleasure that we have had this follow-up seminar hosted by TED and JICA. In this seminar, all participants have learned daily learning practices at the school for the Blind, Family Welfare Focus, Ferdawsi Inclusive School, and concept of intellectual disability. We shared problems and issues in Special Needs Education with participants through a group discussion. We hope that education for all children with disabilities will be developed by Afghan people.

Improvement of the quality of TTC teachers
Sadruddin Ashrafi
Director of TTI

This seminar started in 9th October and ended in 14th October. It has been done for TTC teachers who are responsible for special education curriculum. The purpose of this seminar was to provide a better understanding of disabilities, learning everyday practices through lectures given by teachers at the schools for the blind and the deaf, and the inclusive school. If the related officials could take an action in establishing special education centers and experimental schools in the frame work of General Teacher Education Directorate, disabled children would have receive schooling there. We must mention that the seminar was significant and useful for us and we should have regular meetings for TTC teachers in places across the country.

Special Education
Al-Haj Mohammad Wali Bahar
Academic Board of TED

A special education subject has been adopted in the curriculum of teacher training colleges (TTC). As the new curriculum has started in 34 provinces, the government has stepped forward to the goal of Education for All. I am unable to summarize the importance of education within few lines because real education as a spiritual part of human provides a light to us and clearly determines the way of living and prevents them from falling down from the pits. Education for all children with disabilities is not for only the ethical and Islamic rights, but for Afghan children with disabilities. Japan is one of the major economically well developed countries which is supporting Afghanistan government in different parts of reconstruction and has a longstanding relation with Afghanistan government. For instance, STESE project of JICA, the implementer of this seminar on capacity building of teacher training college teachers on special, was an excellent work.

We Need More Seminar
Razia Hadi
Abul Qasem Ferdawsi High School and master trainer of Inclusive Education in Ministry of Education

If this seminar could be held continuously in each place, it would be more useful and effective for improvement and enhancement of the quality of TTC teachers. It is expected from the voices of seminar participants that this seminar was more useful and effective for teaching special education at TTCs and
the latest knowledge and practices at special schools should be shared with their colleagues. We want to hold regular seminars on special education by ourselves in the near future. There is a sign of hope in the field of special education.

Good Seminar
Seyawash Payab
Executive Director of Family Welfare Focus

This seminar will be a basis of development of special needs education in Afghanistan, particularly development of teaching methods for education of disabled children and people with disabilities in Afghanistan. What was shared with participants in the frame of educational department of Ministry of Education in Afghanistan? It was discussed how we provide the new and useful ways with children with disabilities in ordinary schools and special schools. Continuation of this seminar will be very useful and beneficial for development of special education curriculum and specific policy making and strategy for involvement of children with disabilities in Afghanistan, and this seminar must be supported more by donors and the government and a forum for sharing the knowledge and information with participants from TTC teachers and the government officials. In fact this seminar had clear and specific responses to many unanswered questions of the TTC teachers and officials. The proper guidelines and directions that shared during the group discussion were necessity for improvement of quality of special needs education for disabled children. I think that the participants became to pay much attention to the schooling of disabled children in the same education process as children without disabilities of the country. Participants should know that receiving the schooling is the rights of disabled children and special education is one of education system. The participants must apply what they have learned from this seminar to their lecture, they should practice the achieved methods in the workshop every day and should solve the challenges and problems by collaboration and consultation of their department head and special education experts and should try to make an appropriate environment for improving the quality of education in this regard. The value of this seminar is that the teaching topics were in a special way prepared by experts of schools. In these lectures some details about teaching methods of children with disabilities and reorganization of psychology were considered in order that participants could easily. The expressed experiences in the lectures show that special education teachers must determine whether or not teaching methods are effective and acceptable for the disabled children during everyday lesson at schools. More supportive programmes are needed for improvement of the quality of competency of TTC teachers.

One More Seminar for Us
Ehsan Fayez
Technical and Vocational School for the Blind
Acting Director of National Association of the Blind
This seminar was good news for us, because we hoped that technical and vocational school for the blind could present academic lecture regarding education of blind students. And also different types of education for disabled children in the country were discussed in this seminar. Good results came out from the discussions. I have a positive idea regarding seminar participants, because we could meet the representatives of TTCs and somehow we could discuss and exchange our ideas with each other. The lectures and issues that were presented by the teachers of related organization were much beneficial and could cover every area because there were lots of problems in different types of disabilities that could be solved after discussion. We really hope that we will have more opportunities to discuss special education in Afghanistan.

Sharing Real Practices with Participants
Abdul Fatah Hamidi
Principal of Technical and Vocational School for the Blind

One week seminar that was supported by JICA on special was educational and very good for us. For improvement of the situation, it is better that separated seminar should be held in the near future and equipments and materials for teaching should be provided with the teachers. All the participants of the seminar had interest and were paying more attention to learn different issues from the seminar so that they can use from their experience and their thoughts for the teaching of special students in their related school could use better. The lectures that were presented by KEU, FWF, Blind and Inclusive schools were useful and beneficial for all participants and teachers from provinces whom participated in the seminar could get lots of experiences from lectures on practices of the blind school, FWF and the inclusive school. And they could learn that how they could reach in a better way to teaching of special students in their schools. And also the teachers had suggestions of possible establishment of center for teaching of special children.

Problems and Issues
Akhtar Mohammad
Education Deputy Director of Family Welfare Focus

Six days seminar under the name of Strengthening of Teacher Education on Special Education project was completely well designed. This seminar will be the first step of learning of TTC teachers of centers and provinces of Afghanistan in the field of special education. In the history of Afghanistan education until now schools and higher education sector didn’t have learning programs for disabled people, however, NGOs and non-governmental organizations have experienced and done specific activities since 1985 in the field of special education in cooperation with International Organization. This seminar could be a good guide for the TTC teachers of center and provinces of Afghanistan through the education of TTC students and school teachers could take the first stride of learning for the different group’s children and children with disabilities. This seminar provides coordination of related schools and special needs education centers with TTC of Afghanistan Ministry of Education to work together for strengthening of capacity and development of special education in Afghanistan. Participants must realize the importance of disabled student’s education in Afghanistan and should pay more attention to it and their participation and entry in the process of special education. The participants may think that special education teachers have difficulties but the seminar shows that the teaching methods could remove obstacles and causes from the way of education of students with disabilities.
If the teachers and master trainer of education sector could get well this methods as during the lecture teaching methods for the disabled children, easy and simple methods of using of teaching methods and their methods were practically and repeatedly presented. They should have proper coordination for making teaching curriculum and should provide educational facilities in their TTCs and school and higher education and also they should try to acquire more information and new methods.

Lectures of this seminar could get the consideration of the participants from one side that the contents were prepared by the responsible and teachers of special education and were presented for the participants of workshop in these lessons practical and teaching methods were demonstrated and repeatedly practiced with the participants of workshop.

As most of the topics and contents of the lessons were new and discussable for the participants of workshop in the field of special needs education in Afghanistan, especially for the children with disability from here they presented issues have accompany the new cause and motivations for the participants of workshop.

Lectures expressed for the participants of workshop that how the teachers can make appropriate atmosphere and education for their students in the class and how can determine and involved them in the lesson.

Most of the presented lectures explains psychology and identification of problems of special children and describes the concepts of special education and describe problems and the way of solution of these children.

Hassina, Teacher
Sayed Jamaludin Teacher Training College

The seminar on special needs education that conducted was incredibly useful and valuable, because we could obtained many information regarding special needs education that these all information are very important for us in teaching of special needs education subject and the question that we faced during lectures were solved in correct and Academic way.

The lectures that were presented by the lecturers were appropriate and excellent. If these lectures were prepared with pictures or films from the lessons that would be better.

Nadia Khairandish
Sayed Jamaludin Teacher Training College
Deaf Education Sector

My opinion is positive regarding the seminar which was conducted and I am looking forward to having such seminar in the near future. The lectures were completely useful and the lecturers could present the value and being importance of special students that these lectures were presented by the teachers with the existence examples and good play and performance in scientific way. We believe that these special people have hidden gift that the teachers partly could change the negative attitude of the people to positive toward these special people. My expectation from the participants of seminar is to try hard to change the negative attitude of the community so that these special and disabled people would be treated better and independent same as community and not to be burden to their family and community shoulder.

Ali Khadim
Farah Province

The current seminar was very interesting and useful. Current ideas in the community and country expresses that the people who are disabled like visual impaired, hearing impaired and mentally retarded are not educable, but practically we observed during the seminar that is no obstacle and nothing can stopped them from education beside this we could learn many new interesting and useful words that could be used instead of those words which is using in the community.
Anifullah  
Badgis Province

The seminar which was conducted on special needs education was very useful and scientific seminar. This is the first time that seminar on special needs education is conducted in Afghanistan. Our bearing and tolerance from this seminar is that special and disabled people also can participate to the community like other people.

Ramazan  
Kandahar Province

The seminar was very good and useful for us. We look forward to next seminar next year.

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