

Spectrum of Analytical Activities in South Asia

Michelle Riboud

South Asia Workshop

June 30, 2008



What has driven the program (1)?

- **A huge agenda ahead in the region:**
 - Access
 - Despite substantial progress, still some 20 mill. children out-of-school
 - Gender parity
 - Not yet achieved in all countries at primary level (Afghanistan and Pakistan) and beyond primary
 - Quality: poor learning levels
 - In India, 67% children in grades 3 to 5 could not read a simple text in 2006
 - The “growth pull”
 - The demand for skills clearly exceeds the supply

What has driven the program (2) ?

- **Governments willing to give priority to education**
- **Myriad of initiatives**
 - free textbooks, uniforms, tuition, school feeding, stipends, decentralization of school management etc...
- **Changing landscape of provision with a growing participation of the private sector**
 - 40% of total enrollment in private schools in Punjab at primary level
 - private management of publicly funded secondary schools in Bangladesh

 - **But very little understanding of extent of issues, and little available information about what works and does not**

Dilemma: How to “guide/inform” our policy dialogue ?
What should be the best strategy ?

What have we done so far (1)?

- **Increase awareness about quality issues**
 - Series of studies on learning achievements (Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri L.)
- **Improve understanding of why & where quality is low**
 - Social background vs. school effects
 - Private vs. public schools
 - Teacher's absence, effort and time on task
 - Lack of response to labor market needs

What have we done so far (2)?

- **Monitor better**

- Baselines, 3rd party evaluation, tracer studies
- Develop monitoring systems that provide real-time information

- **Impact evaluation studies**

- Access/Gender
 - Stipends, PPPs, community schools
- Quality
 - Incentives, school-based management, information campaigns, PPPs, ICT
- Employability
 - Training pgms, reforms in higher education institutions

Some 15 Impact Evaluations underway

- **Stipends** (Punjab and Sindh)
- **School-based management** (Sri Lanka with 2 models, Nepal)
- **Information campaigns** (India)
- **Community schools** (Bangladesh, Nepal & Balochistan)
- **PPPs** (3 different models in Balochistan, Punjab & Sindh)
- **Teacher incentives** (India, AP)
- **School choice** (India, AP & Bangladesh)
- **Convergence of ECD, Nutrition, Maternal Health** (India, MP)
- **Training** (India, Afghanistan)
- **ICT** (one laptop per child, Sri Lanka)

What made it possible?

- Clients increasing interest in knowing about impact
- Trust funds availability
- Skill mix (economists/specialists)
- Full integration with operational work