

## Report

## Research Design Workshop

Salim Akoojee  
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**Design meeting for DFID-funded project: The Contribution of Post-Basic Education and Training (PBET) to Poverty Reduction: evidence from South Asia and Sub - Saharan Africa**

**Venue:** Held at the Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh

**Period:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (4pm) to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May (4pm)

**Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To ensure that the research design responds to concerns expressed by education and development agents at sub-national and national as well as international levels;
- To bring together the main researchers in the project representatives, for face-to-face interaction and discussion;
- To outline a plan of action for all the researchers.

**Specific Purpose**

The detailed purpose of the design workshop were to:

1. To allow for a critical analysis of the main project objectives and conceptual framework, and to ensure that they represent the concerns of all parties.
2. To allow for preliminary designs of the DFID project to be presented and discussed at the individual country level, for South Africa, India, Lesotho, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ghana by our colleagues in those countries. It was clearly not the intention that there be identical work carried out in all countries. Rather, the aim is that a certain set of core issues be addressed by all teams, but within a broader compatible research framework. Individuals will be asked to outline their preliminary country-specific research designs (see below).
3. To allow for some of the team to outline additional framing issues of PBET and poverty reduction.

The following papers were presented by other members of the team:

- Prof. Kenneth King: The role of Knowledge-for-Development and Capacity Development: Implications for formal education;
- Prof. Jandhyala Tilak: The research project from the perspective of the economics of education literature;
- Prof. Molapi Sebatane: The multiple roles of tertiary education in relation to poverty reduction;

- Rob Palmer: The multiple roles of skills development in relation to poverty reduction;
- Ruth Wedgwood: The multiple roles of secondary education in relation to poverty reduction;
- Dr. Neil Thin: Analysing different pathways to poverty reduction.

4. To lay out the proposed work plan, including field research and interviews, for all members of the team, as well as for country fieldwork in South Africa, India, Lesotho and Rwanda. In addition, the methodological framework and logistics of the project were also to be finalised in each of the countries.

### **Papers presented**

The two papers prepared for this workshop included:

1. Preliminary Research Design
2. The multiple role of skills development in the formal sector in relation to poverty reduction.

Both of these, together with a powerpoint presentation is attached. In addition, a short conceptual piece identifying the global and national context for poverty alleviation is also provided to the group. As a result of the deliberations and consequent political developments in South Africa, the roll out of the South African project plan was redefined