

From 31st July to 4th August 2006, CEF and ODI organized “**Policy Analysis, Engagement and Advocacy**” workshop for its member organizations of South Asia and it was held in Civic Inn, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance knowledge and skills among CEF member organizations to provide a deeper understanding of the concept of advocacy, policy and the role of education NGOs in influencing the attainment of Education for All goals.

Naved Chowdhury, from ODI’s Civil Society Partnerships Programme (CSPP), facilitated the whole policy entrepreneurship and advocacy workshop. To meet the objectives, the workshop programme was divided into three parts – Part One focused on Policy influence and tools for Policy Impact where as the second part was concentrated on the Practical Field Experience to CEF partner project which were facilitated by the ActionAid Education Theme. Part Three focused on developing a strategy, monitoring and assessment which was also conducted by Naved. Emily Lungano, CEF Africa Regional Coordinator also enriched the workshop with her experiences from Africa. Participants mostly came from South Asian Countries: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. 26 participants attended the five day long workshop along with the representation from CEF-UK and Africa Regional Coordinator.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- ✚ Enrich advocacy knowledge and skills among CEF member organizations.
- ✚ Enhance the awareness amongst member organizations of the latest theories and practices about policies processes and policy influence.
- ✚ Implement practical knowledge from the field visit to the policy level strategies.
- ✚ Explore the types of policy/advocacy tools and frameworks and their application.
- ✚ Identify opportunities and limitations for influence in the education sector.
- ✚ Design and develop advocacy strategies and key messages, with agreed work plans.

Key elements covered during the workshop included the RAPID Framework, lessons from the Civil Society Partnership Program, Policy Entrepreneur Questionnaire, Group work on different tools and methods, Advocacy rules, Monitoring & Management Knowledge Basics. Also African experience shared by CEF Africa Coordinator helped the participants to get knowledge on CSOs involvement in the other region of the globe. Naved Chowdhury, the facilitator also described Definition, Functions and Types of CSOs and a unique linear logical policy model which identify the problem and stepwise evaluate the result. In the Key Note Speaker Session, one researcher and one policymaker share their experience on producing policy relevant and credible evidence and on the needs and pressure of Policymaking. This is to help workshop participants understand the current role of CSOs in the sector. The field trip to see one project practically for analyzing the project to find out the policy implication of that work which the participants had been doing. The participants were asked to share in a group and identify different strategy for policy implication. The projected area was four and half hour route to Netrokona in the north of Capital Dhaka. The policy entrepreneurship sessions discussed the various theories of practice of policy and policy influencing. This included number of practical frameworks, tools and approaches to maximise policy impact, a range of communication tools and key elements when developing a communication/advocacy strategy. Participants appreciated the various tools and frameworks that can be used for policy advocacy.

On the whole, the workshop was very successful and the participants felt that it was of high quality and value as well as relevant to their work. The challenge remains with the CEFs member organisations to follow through the issues raised and develop an action plan that will yield desirable results in influencing the attainment of CEF Projects in the South Asian countries.

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