



Change agents – the emergence of professional learning leaders at the middle tier of education systems

Wednesday 7th October from 10h00 to 11h30 (GMT +2)

English and French interpretation available

Registration

Context

This session will be co-hosted by IIEP-UNESCO, UNESCO and Education Development Trust. It will examine an interesting new trend in education leadership: the rise of expert practitioners – such as teacher mentors, pedagogical coaches, and head teachers – promoted to leadership roles at district or sub-district level (the so-called ‘middle tier’), working across a number of schools and localities to improve teaching and learning. The session will consider how these middle-tier roles can act as catalysts for change by supporting school leaders and teachers to improve their practice. It will also explore the potential of this middle tier of the education workforce to contribute to teaching and learning reforms at scale, with reference to three case studies. In each of these case studies, explicit attention has been paid to recruitment and professional development for middle-tier postholders.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The aim of the session is to raise awareness of the potential for change in the ways teachers and school leaders are supported as professionals, through innovations at the often-neglected middle tier of the education workforce. This will be accomplished through the use and discussion of three promising case studies, with reference to the following questions: What can we learn from such case studies about the potential for middle-tier roles to make an impact on teaching and learning quality? How can we best recruit for and strengthen these roles to ensure that they can add value as lynchpins in the education delivery chain? How might these roles bring about wider changes – such as shifts in mindset and changes in professional cultures and practices – which contribute to improvements in teaching and learning?

A series of articles on promising practice at the middle tier will be published as part of the session, alongside a new literature review published by IIEP-UNESCO, Education Development Trust and the Education Commission.

The session is intended for all those interested in innovative ways to support teachers and school leaders as professionals. This includes policymakers at central and regional levels, researchers in education management, and personnel from development partner organisations involved in supporting the education sector.

How to register

[To register, click on the 'Registration' link above.](#)

Agenda

Wednesday, 7 October 2020	
10h00 – 10h10	Introductory remarks Tony McAleavy, Education Development Trust
10h10 – 10h50	Panel discussion with practitioners and policymakers from around the world Moderator: Amy Bellinger, Lead Consultant, Education Workforce Initiative (Education Commission) Including presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tegwen Ellis, Chief Executive of the National Academy for Educational Leadership, Wales• Deogratias Tuyisingize, National Leader of Learning, Rwanda• Ms Bhavna Sawnani, Mentor Teacher in Delhi
10h50 – 11h20	Q&A session following the panel discussion Questions to be sent in via the chat function
11h20 – 11h30	Closing remarks Suzanne Grant Lewis, IIEP-UNESCO

Speakers' bios

Tony McAleavy, Research Director, Education Development Trust

Tony McAleavy is Education Development Trust's Research Director with corporate oversight of the educational impact of all Education Development Trust's activities and our public domain research programme. Tony has worked extensively on school reform in many countries, particularly in the Middle East. He has an MA in Modern History from St John's College, University of Oxford.

Amy Bellinger, Lead Consultant, Education Workforce Initiative, Education Commission

Amy has established and is leading the Education Workforce Initiative and the High-Touch, High-Tech Initiatives for The Education Commission. She is also a Strategic Adviser to the DeliverEd Initiative. Amy is an international education consultant working in the areas of innovations in education and portfolio/programme/ organization strategy, design and evaluation. Prior to working independently, Amy was Head of International Education at Ark where she developed and implemented Ark's first international education strategy including the launch of its first education programme in Africa, new education programmes in India and seed funded STIR Education. Prior to that, she was Deputy Chief Executive of Future Leaders, a UK-focused school leadership programme for urban challenging schools. Amy's previous career was as a management consultant for Deloitte, IBM and PwC. She has a BA Hons degree in Geography with European Study from Exeter University, U.K.

Tegwen Ellis, Chief Executive of the National Academy for Educational Leadership, Wales

Tegwen Ellis is Chief Executive of the National Academy for Educational Leadership following 15 months as the Assistant Director for Leadership Development and Quality Assurance with the Leadership Academy. She started her teaching career in 1988 and during that time has taken on various leadership roles including performance management advisor, HLTA assessor and national moderator, peer assessor role with Estyn and more recently held a position on the Academy's shadow Board. In 2015 she set up the Welsh Medium Federation of schools in Central South Consortia and chaired it, from its inception ensuring that professional learning and school-to-school work was integral to its philosophy. Tegwen was headteacher at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant for nearly 20 years and led the school successfully through several inspections where her leadership was noted to be 'progressive and innovative' and ensured 'that her vision and philosophy are shared very successfully with all stakeholders'. (Estyn 2016)

Deogratias Tuyisingize, National Leader of Learning, Rwanda

Deogratias Tuyisingize is a specialist practitioner with 20+ years of experience in different schools within Rwanda. He supports capacity development of other Head Teachers through structured and regular Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Deogratias is certified in Leadership for Learning and in school leadership by the University of Rwanda's College of Education, holds a Master of Education in Leadership and Management, and a bachelor's degree in Pedagogy. Currently a Head Teacher of GS Nkanga and a National Leader of Learning (NLL) in Bugesera district with support from the UK-Aid funded programme in Rwanda – Building Learning Foundation (BLF).

Bhavna Sawnani, Mentor teacher, Delhi, M.Sc(Zoology), M.A (English), B.Ed;

Ms Sawnani is a Trained Graduate Teacher of Natural Science, has been working as Mentor Teacher since 2016, and has worked in education for the past 19 years. She has been awarded the "Dr. Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan" award for consecutive two years for significant contribution in the field of education and has done anchoring for many International and National programs.

Suzanne Grant Lewis, Director, IIEP-UNESCO

Ms Suzanne Grant Lewis is the Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP). She has over 30 years of experience in improving educational opportunities in the developing world, particularly in education policy and planning in Africa. Ms Grant Lewis has designed and managed applied educational research programs and published on participation in school governance, democratic policy-making in education, funding trends in international education, among many other topic. She earned her PhD from Stanford University.

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