Schools2030 Global Forum
Session Learnings and Recommendations: Roundtable 15

SESSION TITLE: **Designing with Researchers:** *How might we co-create evidence with local and global stakeholders?*

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FOCUS AREAS: Research, evidence creation

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- The stakeholders involved in participatory research designs include educators, government, parents, students and the wider community.
- School leadership matters – if buy-in can be achieved from leadership then this allows teachers to participate more freely.
- Participatory research by nature must take account of culture and context to achieve meaningful results.
- Co-created evidence can inform policy and curriculum development.
- Schools2030 Research Partners aim to co-create evidence on holistic skills with local stakeholders using the lens of culture and context.
- There is a need for capacity building at several levels of the system to ensure systems are open to this kind of evidence generation.
- Projects are concerned with identifying elements of different pedagogical approaches that may lead to improvements in holistic learning outcomes.
- Researchers are using ethnographic research to define locally valued SEL skills that will inform the development of an SEL assessment tool.
- This research is especially concerned with developing research outputs that are accessible and usable by school-level stakeholders, and disseminating results across all levels of the system.
- Research teams are maximising the use of available data by linking datasets that can tell us more about children's learning.
- The positive deviance approach investigates the behaviour, approaches and practices of stakeholders in higher performing schools. Through behavioural science and

country level knowledge these successful approaches may then be scaled to other schools.

- Co-creating evidence with stakeholders facilitates buy-in from different stakeholders for research uptake, and allows contextualised, grass-roots solutions to inform policy, whilst also permitting critical linkages between stakeholders in the education eco-system.
- Focusing on local knowledge, rather than top-down solutions, can help to catalyse locally-rooted education solutions.
- Running through this approach is a focus on equity and inclusion, with some research partners also focusing on technology.
- The feasibility of the methodology in challenging context sometimes presents a challenge to this approach.
- Researchers are exploring how teachers, parents and community members perceive non-academic skills.
- So far, this has found that parents don't know as much about non-academic skills, and demonstrate a lack of involvement in supporting their children in developing such skills.
- It is crucial to engage these stakeholders in shaping research and assessment tools so that they feel part of the process.
- Allowing culture and context to inform our research has posed questions around how we balance traditional values with the skills that are now more frequently associated with healthy child development and learning.

CONCLUSION:

- Evidence co-creation must meaningfully engage with stakeholders across all levels of the system, particularly at the school level.
- This includes building ethical partnerships and adopting participatory research methods that give space for co-development of tools, co-building of research and accessible dissemination of findings for those on the ground.
- Allowing culture and context to inform the research process helps to ensure that findings are relevant, which in turn can aid efforts to develop locally-rooted solutions.

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Co-design (in the conception of the research process and in the research itself), focus on building relationships, and co-share the findings.
- Have assessable and meaningful evidence.
- Support teachers in their journey of learning to learn.
- Ensure that the language of instruction and the language of assessment are the same.

- Understand the gap and that research can be used to address the gap.
- Train communities on how to document best practices.
- Co-create projects with stakeholders to ensure you co-determine outputs.