



Primary Education-III

Extending The Concept Of MWTL To Upazila

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In 1996, Government undertook a programme for extending the concept of MWTL in 10 Upazilas of 5 district of Intensive District Approach to Education for All (IDEAL) Project. Instructors and superintendents of PTIs and the Assistant Upazila Education Officers (AUEO) of the selected Upazila and District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) of those districts were trained at district level. NCTB's specialists along with Unicef Consultant worked as facilitators of the training workshops. The training was completed within 3 months. 5 PTI instructors and 5 AUEO were included in the district core team of trainers. These core trainers trained the school teachers on MWTL. NCTB and UNICEF provided supervisory and other technical support to DPE and IDEAL Project in continuing the MWTL activities in the schools of district included. NCTB, this year extended its experiment with the method to class II also. Sample lesson plans for class II were prepared, manual on MWTL was revised and booklet on concept and use of 7 intelligences in classroom were developed. Achievement tests in Bangla, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Study were conducted by NCTB in both

classes I and II of its 5 experimental schools and 5 control (non-experimental school) schools. The gain was in favour of experimental schools. Scope of experimentation was extended to class II in 1997.

In 1997, a National Team of Trainers on MWTL was formed and the members were trained on it. New training manual was prepared incorporating field experiences of the core trainers and teachers. New sample lesson plans for Bangla, Mathematics and Environmental studies were added to ease the job of the facilitators, consultants and trainers. Core trainers were retrained and the programme of teaching with MWTL was extended to the whole of 5 IDEAL districts in classes I and II. Experiment by NCTB-UNICEF with MWTL including class III showed significant results in favour of it. To ease the use of MWTL, NCTB and UNICEF in collaboration with the teachers of 5 experimental schools produced instructional equipment kits for classes I and II. Preparation of sample lesson plans for class II subjects were completed. Year culminated and 1998 made more advances towards expansion, development of materials, experimentation with MWTL for primary schools of Bangladesh.

MWTL activities were expanded to include 12 IDEAL project district and classes I and class II were included in it. Core trainers and teachers were trained accordingly. Formative evaluation of MWTL (for class I and II) activity was conducted by NCTB—UNICEF taking cognizance of the pupils achievement; observation of teaching-learning situation; opinions of teachers, guardians, educational leaders of the school area and community leaders. Teaching by MWTL in classes I and II came out to be effective and acceptable to the community. Three professionals from Bangladesh were sent to Harvard Graduate School of Education for an in-depth orientation to Multiple Intelligences theory vis-a-vis Teaching for Understanding (Tfu) using MWTL. Two MI theory and MWTL experts from the United States, Ms Elizabeth Zinck Rothenberger (Betty) and Ms Launa J Ellison visited Bangladesh to participate in an advocacy seminar on MI and MWTL with top level scholars and policy planners. They also organised a workshop with professionals at NAPE, Myensingh. The outcomes generated much enthusiasm and spirit among the participants. NCTB-UNICEF expanded its scope of

experiment to classes from III to V. Model lesson plans from III-V were completed. Achievement tests from I-V were conducted for both experimental and control group children. Results were in favour of MWTL. Thus, a stage of perpetual motion achieved for MWTL for our primary schools.

In 1999, more 5 district were included for the introduction of MWTL in its primary schools raising the total number of districts to 17. Two professionals and one bureaucrat were sent to Harvard Graduate School of Education for an advanced level training on MI theory and Teaching for understanding (Tfu) organised for teachers and educational leaders round the world. Model lesson plans from class III to class V on Bangla, English, Mathematics, Environmental studies (Social study and science) were published thus completing required sets from class I to V. Achievement tests and Bangla, English, Mathematics, EVS-Science and EVS-Social study were conducted in Experimental and control schools from class I to IV. Classes treated with MWTL showed significant gain over its counterpart with traditional teaching method of our primary schools.

(To be continued)