2018 CIES Annual Conference

South-South and North-South Collaboration in Evidence-Based Education Policymaking: Sharing Lessons on Connecting Rigorous Evidence to Education Policy

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Outline

Sharing Lessons on Connecting Rigorous Evidence to Education Policy

1. About IPA
2. Policy Influence Beyond Research
3. Lessons on Scaling Up Efforts
   • A case study on TCAI Follow on Study (STARS)
4. Conclusion
About IPA
IPA: An international non-profit research & policy organization founded in 2002 by Dean Karlan, a Professor of Economics at Yale

Our Mission:
To discover and promote effective solutions to global poverty problems

Our Vision:
More Evidence, Less Poverty
12.7% of the world, 896 million people, live in extreme poverty (less than $1.90 a day)

$134 billion spent on poverty alleviation in 2014 by OECD countries
The Problem

Wasted money. Enduring poverty

Our Solution

Ineffective Programs & Policies

Limited Evidence of what works best to help the poor
Limited Use of available evidence

Design & Evaluate potential solutions to poverty problems
Mobilize & Support decisionmakers to use evidence

Better Programs & Policies

More evidence, less poverty
Collaborations

Academics
- e.g. MIT, Harvard, Yale, University of Ghana

Service Providers
- e.g. CARE, Oxfam, local nonprofits & businesses

Government Agencies
- e.g. Ministry of Education, Ghana & Ministry of Health, Zambia

Funders
- e.g. Gates, USAID, Hewlett, Family Foundations, Individuals
Policy Influence Beyond Research
Moving Evidence Into Action
Policy Influence
Moving Evidence Into Action

- Policy influence is a complex process
- Desire to scale up projects with high impact
- Danger that partners might not have been fully engaged
- Hinders efforts to explore paths to scale
Make it useful, accessible, and build buy-in

1. Proactive sharing of effective solutions
2. Advocacy and technical assistance
3. Strategic partner engagement and training
Policy Influence
Working With Governments To Move Evidence Into Action

- Understand the business of government (interests and priorities)
- Learn to see through their lens
- Identify key influencers
- Have a champion!
- Produce tailor-made solutions
- Timing matters!
Policy Influence
Relationships to Move Evidence Into Action

• Build brand recognition, visibility and credibility in the space
• Develop solid relationship
  • Be a thought partner
  • Be seen as a solution
  • Offer technical assistance
• Be patient! Meaningful engagement takes time
Scaling Up Proven Solutions
A Case Study on TCAI Scaling Efforts
Scaling Up Proven Solutions
The Case Study of the TCAI follow up (STARS Project)

• Start with the evidence and its implications?
• Identify who can take the evidence to scale – partner(s)
• Think of scaling approaches
  • Analyze the contextual differences
  • What options are available
Scaling Up Proven Solutions

The Case Study of the TCAI follow up (STARS Project)

• Agree objectives with partner(s)
• Plan for implementation at Scale
  • Are there outstanding questions that need to be answered before scale up?
  • What timelines or roadmap can you work with
  • Make room for broad consultations
About STARS
Strengthening Teacher Accountabilities to Reach All Students

A partnership between MoE, UNICEF and IPA
Builds on the teacher-led model under the TCAI study
Intended to test different ways to encourage fidelity of implementing TI approach
It focuses on equipping teachers to teach at the level of the child
A catch up programme targeting P4 – P6 pupils in 20 UNICEF focused districts.
About STARS
Research Questions

- How can teachers be motivated and empowered to implement new approaches that have the potential to improve learning levels?

- How can supervision be strengthened to provide coaching and monitoring support for teachers in order to implement new pedagogical approaches?
## About STARS
### Activities in the works!

### The Partnership
- UNICEF as Development Partner
- MoE (4 divisions) as Implementing Partner
- IPA and Evaluation Partner
- Core Team to steer the project

### Preparatory Phase
- Broad Stakeholder Consultations
- Fine-tuning research design
- Developing materials for all treatment arms

### Intervention Pilot
- Full Pilot in 2 districts

### Implementation Phase
- Implementation starts in September 2018
Conclusion
Conclusion

Working With Government To Influence Policy Requires ...

- Be there all the time!
- Engage the Donors – they have the power and connections
- Cast the Broadnet (frequent staff turnover)
- Remain neutral
- Be mindful of your brand and visibility in the space
- Media may be a waste of time!
- Scale ups are only a small portion of the policy influence we could have.
Thank you

poverty-action.org