Lifelong Learning Strategies: A Cross-country Analysis

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• To conduct a cross-country survey and analysis of recent progress on lifelong learning, primarily in countries represented by RN4 members
Overview

• Definition of Lifelong Learning Strategies
• An Analytical Framework
  • National strategies
  • Legislation
  • Governance
  • System
  • Funding
  • Good practice for promoting lifelong learning
  • ICT and distance education
  • Professionalization of teachers and trainers
  • Evaluation
• Challenges and Issues
• References
Lifelong Learning Strategies

• Lifelong Learning Strategies are “political decisions to turn the components of lifelong learning into an integrated and coherent system”.
• Within this framework it should be “possible to assess the outcomes (quality assurance) while the individual should draw a maximum benefit from his/her learning, which would be accredited and certified”.
• Aiming at “ensuring the effectiveness of lifelong learning”.
• A key determinant of sustainable success in the field of lifelong learning.
• Addressing issues of equality of opportunity to ensure that lifelong learning opportunities are available to all.

Lifelong Learning Strategies

• Many European countries formulated national lifelong learning strategies a decade ago
  • An EU report (2002) indicates 15 EU member states had specific lifelong learning strategies in place

• EU
  • 2020 Education and Training: lifelong learning as the fundamental principle for this strategic framework:
  • Urging the member states to complete the process of national lifelong strategies, esp. on the validation of non-formal education

• OECD
  • Skills Strategy

• Developing countries have started developing their national lifelong learning strategies and policies in the past decade
  • China, Vietnam, Malaysia, etc.
Recent National Lifelong Learning Strategies in Selected Countries

• **China:** The Outline of China’s National Plan for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)

• **Vietnam:** The National Scheme on Building a Learning Society (2011-2020)

• **Malaysia:** The Blueprint on the Enculturation of Lifelong Learning in Malaysia (2011-2020)

• **Thailand:** The National Education Act (1999) states that lifelong education is the principle of education system of the country.

• **Latvia:** Lifelong Learning Policy (2007-2013)

• **Korea:** The Lifelong Education Act

• **Canada:** Learn Canada 2020: Joint Declaration Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Education
Lifelong Learning Legislation

• Countries with supporting legislation: Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Russia, Slovenia, UK, Korea

• China
  • Shanghai Lifelong Education Promotion Regulation stipulates that government at various levels provide financial support for lifelong learning and ensure the steady increase of budget on lifelong learning.
  • A national legislation on lifelong learning currently under discussion.
Governance

• In most of the countries, such as China, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Latvia, the Ministry of Education is responsible for lifelong learning.
  • In some countries, a specific agency has been created within the Ministry of Education in charge of lifelong education. For example, National Institute of Lifelong Education in Korea
• Other national ministries other than the Ministry of Education as an active part of lifelong education
  • For example, Korea, China, Vietnam, etc.
• However, a cross-sectoral agency exists at the national level to coordinate lifelong learning activities conducted by multiple branches of the government.
  • For example:
    • Malaysia: National Council for LLL in Malaysia
    • Vietnam National Steering Committee on Building A Learning Society for 2011-2020
    • China: National Leadership Panel for Education Reform
• Many countries have recognized formal education, informal education, and non-formal education
• Mechanisms set up to integrate learning in various forms
  • European: European Qualification Framework
  • European countries: National Qualification Framework
  • UK: lifelong learning account
  • Philippines: equivalency and accreditation program
  • Thailand: National Lifelong Education Promotion Plan
  • Malaysia: Recognition center and credit bank system
  • Korea: credit bank system, lifelong learning account
  • China: advocacy of a “overpass” and pilot system for credit bank in Shanghai, lifelong learning account
Funding

• Few countries have funding available for the development of lifelong learning: Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Korea

• A cost-sharing scheme exists
  • Public expenditure, corporate involvement, and individual contributions
  • Ministry of Education versus other ministries
  • National government versus local government

• Many countries are increasing public investment in lifelong learning
  • China: to reach 4% of GDP on education overall
  • Germany: federal funds made available to strengthen lifelong learning increased by 44% in 2010 than the previous year
  • Korea: increasing budget on lifelong learning by the Ministry of Education
Good Practice for Promoting Lifelong Learning

• Different approaches to moving from a blueprint to reality
• China & Vietnam: a learning society
• Korea: lifelong learning city
• Japan: community center
• Thailand: community learning center
• Latvia: early school-leavers
• EU & OECD: skills
ICT and Distance Education

• The role of ICT in broadening access to education and decreasing education inequity
• China: Open universities, Chinese OpenCourseWare Consortium, “web colleges”, service platforms for lifelong learning
• Japan: The Open University of Japan, Japan OpenCourseWare Consortium,
• Korea: Korea National Open University, Cyber University, Distance Graduate School, e-Learning in training, etc.
• Thailand: OpenSource Initiatives

Professionalization of Teachers and Trainers

• An intensified focus on the quality of initial education and sustaining professional development opportunities

• Korea
  • Developed “Lifelong Learning Facilitators” to enhance the teaching force in lifelong learning
  • Strengthening the qualification for teachers and trainers in lifelong education
    • Increasing the credit hours from 20 credits (210 hours) to 30 credits (450 hours)
    • Extending the internship from 2 weeks to 4 weeks
    • Specific requirements about the mandatory hiring of instructors by lifelong education institutes

• China: Shanghai Lifelong Education Promotion Regulation (2011)
  • Stipulating that instructors for lifelong education need to have relevant qualifications
Evaluation

• More attention switching to the impact of strategies and policies
• Various instruments designed to measure the progress and/or outcome of lifelong learning
• European Lifelong Learning Index: 2010
  • Adapted from Canada’s Composite Learning Index (2006)
  • 17 indicators and 36 specific measures
  • Generating lifelong learning scores for 23 countries in 2010, including Denmark, Austria, Germany, France, and the UK
• Europe Union: Five benchmarks to reach by 2020
  • Early school leavers from education and training (10%), tertiary-level attainment (40%), adult participation in lifelong learning (15%), low achievers in basic skills (15), early childhood education (95%)
• OECD: PIACC
• China: Indicators of a full-fledged Learning Society
• Korea: Indicators of a Lifelong Learning City
Challenges and Issues

- For developing country
  - To transform from strategy design and development to strategy implementation
- For developed countries
  - To transform from strategy implementation to strategy evaluation
- Call for evidence-based research
- Call for empirical research on the benefit of learning in multiple dimensions

www.dpu.dk/asem
References

3. Country-specific reports on lifelong learning in Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Latvia (Manuscript)
Comments?

Thank You!