

707/F

Research database for an effective research network at the National Institute of Education

Godwin Kodituwakku

Department of Research and Development, National Institute of Education, Maharagama,

The objective of the National Institute of Education (NIE) is to advise the Minister of Education regarding plans, programmes and activities for the development of education in Sri Lanka. To facilitate this process NIE conducts and promotes research on the education system including its performance, goals, structures, content and methodology and on the social, economic and other aspects of education. To facilitate this process the Department of Research and Development (DRD) one of the 26 departments of the NIE is developing and maintaining a 'research database' on its research and research related activities and theses on education submitted to education faculties/departments in Sri Lanka. Based on the departmental activities, A bibliography of 'Research and research related documents' of the Department of Research and Development (1986 - 2006)' was compiled and upgraded. The purpose of the present research was to analyze the content of the 400 documents in the bibliography to identify the multifaceted role of the department and its history and suggest an effective implementation research body for the NIE. Quantitative content analysis research technique was used to categorize and quantify the research and research related activities of the department. Findings show four fold roles of DRD and related activities i.e. meta analysis of research (links with local and foreign research institutes; prepare bibliographies, digests, monographs, occasional papers, reviews, policy / lead papers, data syntheses and glossaries; conduct guest lectures and need surveys; organize memorial lectures and colloquia; Indigenous knowledge), conduct research (in-house national level policy research; collaborative research with local and foreign institutes; provide grants for policy and practitioner research) facilitate research (conduct workshops, courses, lectures, thematic courses on research methods, provide consultancy to research students, publish books on research methodology, facilitating other departments of the NIE) and disseminate research (Refereed Journals and Magazine for general public; Newsletters; Abstracts; Executive summaries; Extended abstracts; Consumer versions; Conduct National Seminars). Necessity of publication of research in peer review journals locally and internationally and strengthening links between NIE and Ministry of Education was suggested. The officers of the DRD should perform the four fold roles identified, for effective implementation of the departmental role as a well-organized research network.

Keywords: National Institute of Education, database, meta-analysis, bibliography, dissemination