

**Workshop Title: How to avoid ‘killing the culture through education’ in formal education**

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**Main issues, questions discussed:**

- Language of teaching, if only allowed teaching in the national language, the language (skills) of mother tongue will eventually be lost, with it its culture.  
The school calendar does not follow the cultural calendar. Children miss many opportunities to join cultural celebrations.
- It’s not only school, which is killing the culture, other inputs (phones....) are coming extremely fast. Could education actually act as a cultural ‘preserver’?
- In other countries (Thailand, South America) Mother Tongue Learning is possible (slowly bridging to the national language. Also cultural contextualisation.
- If you want to put culture in formal education, then you need to bring culture into schools (language, knowledge that can be taught in schools). Cooperation with the government (example Tchad).
- How damaging to a culture is the lack of opportunity to learn the local culture in a formal setting? Ex. Ireland: Irish was not allowed in school for a long time. Now still 20% speak Irish, the culture is not lost.
- In countries with many ethnolinguistic minorities, the situation is different.
- In India, local languages are taught in schools. Not in international schools. Students from international schools have more opportunities. Many regional schools close down now.
- Solutions could be multilingual education. But speaking English needs to be professional. Nowadays in India cultural loss is a very big concern.
- Big question: what is education for? HR: Right to develop your potential.
- It’s a dilemma: economic reasons to have economic opportunities. Economy is driving peoples’ educational decisions.
- What can we do to ensure its possibilities to grow.
- Sometimes we also have different cultures in our body.
- Add cultural subject to school.
- What’s the role of education?
- Reverse the idea: Multiculturalism is a threat.
- Sensibilisation with the government.

**Conclusions:**

- Awareness/advocacy to the government on diverse cultures/languages
- We are all multicultural
- What is normal? Being it culture, a handicap, language....
- Importance of recognising the danger of not teaching MT in school and its impact on culture.
- Diversity is not a threat – a potential (convince the government)

**Do you have any concrete recommendations? (to yourself, to participants, to RECI, to other actors?)**

- Advocacy for/support Mother Tongue Multilingual Education MTBMLE