

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

**Convener's name, organisation:**

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**Main issues, questions discussed:**

- Content of the programme is not adapted to the reality. When student comes out of the school, the student is not adapted to the reality. Especially if the student goes abroad. In Haiti, the content is mostly taken from French or Canadian content. It is killing the culture in Haiti. The French is too different from Creole. It is not adapted. Most of the children fail in the exam.
- We need to understand what is culture and we need to understand the purpose of Education. Education was there to serve the culture and identity of the colonizers. The origin of education depends a lot on the principles of the colonizer. The main idea is to say: you must make a tabula rasa of your education in order to become French, through the educational system.
- Purpose of education in reality is to serve the student in their own culture. But it is used for efficiency. The so-called elite in the French speaking African countries is that they were very attached to French language, so they can study abroad.
- The Swiss cooperation use Mother Tongue. Which leads to master better the foreign language. If learning in a foreign language from the beginning, they need much longer to master learning.
- It is key to start education in Mother Tongue. We all know it, but still bilingualism is often preferred. It's tide to economics.
- There is an issue of economics - maybe no resources available. So, it's easier to use the standard old curriculum. Still, in the long run, investing in MT is cheaper. The curriculum of 6 years in French can be covered in 5 years, if MT is needed. We can save a lot of money. Though proper research, teacher training, development of material, engaging communities is needed.
- There is a constant exchange of knowledge and experience between classroom and communities.
- Language does not kill the culture. Ex. Mozambique: there are so many languages. Portuguese does integrate. Other details that are taught in school really kills the culture, like superior and inferior information. National language can integrate different cultures.
- Foreign language facilitates the communication between different language groups. It is not against a national language. But we need to know that our language are vehicles of philosophy etc. During the first 3 years of basic education, MT was medium of education. At the same time, they are learning French. By Grade 4, they use French as media of instruction. At the same time, they continue to work on MT. They master MT and national language at the same time

- Don't limit culture to language. You need sociologists, anthropologists. Culture needs to integrate everything. The importance of proverbs. Instead of spanking, parents used proverbs-it is moralization. how to integrate proverbs into teaching?
- Culture like believe in Mother Earth (Peru) People now live in catholic and indigenous beliefs. Often people have different beliefs.
- We can add environment, health system, knowledge of plants, to treat sickness. Today, the knowledge is disappearing. the spiritual values are also disappearing. Different aspects of cultures are not included in the curriculum.
- Ex. children always visit colonial sites, they learn about the colonial history, but not about their own history. Sometimes people don't value their culture anymore, they forget their own culture.
- Question of alignment of the curricula to the national curricula
- Advocacy on important cultural contents to be taken up in formal education

**Actions points :**

- Various experiences around the world for the use of MT. Collect all this information and disseminate them in the network. Support RECI
- Social justice - action plan - give access to people in the language they speak.
- Train the MT speakers - they need both languages. they are needed for MT curriculum
- Grants needed to localize curricula - or - use local people.
- Cultural exchange. Think globally - act locally. focus on target groups.
- Social and language justice