

Focusing on Community Learning Centres in national development

Central Asia Adult Education Forum

7-9 September 2017, Issyk-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan



A main focus of the Central Asia Education Forum was the role of Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in community and national development.

An analysis of existing education systems of Central Asian countries demonstrates limited opportunities for educational reforms for the adult population. Taking from the lessons in other parts of the Asia Pacific, Community Learning Centre (CLC) can become effective platform for Central Asian countries in support of lifelong learning (LLL). Replication and adaptation of the CLC model has been seen as a potential approach to ensure access to learning and education for different groups of population regardless of age, bringing education/learning “closer to home”, and contribute to economic development. These dimensions were perceived in the Central Asia Adult Education Forum that was organised in Kyrgyzstan with the following objectives -

- Raise awareness of experts, policy and decision makers about current international trends around lifelong learning, non-formal education, and CLCs
- Increase understanding of successful practices in non-formal education
- Advance the development of national CLC networks for sustainable development and in conformity with the SDG4
- Develop recommendations on strengthening non-formal education and CLCs with a long-term goal to reflect them in national education policies

The central focus of the Forum was the role of CLCs in community and national development. International trends and the changing roles of CLCs were presented. The presentations pointed to the varying role of CLCs in addressing the diverse learning needs in communities – with the learning environment and context changing vastly amongst countries of Central Asia.

ASPBAE Executive Council Member representing South and Central Asia, Ehsanur Rahman (Dhaka Ahsania Mission, DAM, Bangladesh), participated in the Central Asia Adult Education Forum. Ehsan’s presentation focused on ‘*Community Engagement in CLCs*’ where he shared DAM’s experience of CLCs (25 years of ‘Ganokendra’ journey in DAM since 1992). The highlights of his presentations focused on CLC services, networking amongst CLCs at the local level, diversity of CLC work and target groups, CLC community management, and considerations for the successful functioning of CLCs. Ehsan also spoke about the roles and functioning with ASPBAE in the Asia Pacific region and sub-regional structure. He mentioned the ASPBAE’s initiative of including representation from Central Asia to its Executive Council.



ASPBAE Executive Council Member, Ehsanur Rahman (L), participated in the Central Asia Forum where he spoke of CLC services, networking amongst CLCs at the local level, CLC community management, and considerations for the successful functioning of CLCs.

At the end of the Forum, Ehsanur Rahman recommended that the strategic issues arising from the Forum can be useful follow-up points for ASPBAE, particularly for Central Asia. Specific focus can be given to - (a) reaching out to priority groups, such as CLC and adult education participants; (b) identifying learning content and formulating a competency-based assessment process; (c) fostering

Focusing on Community Learning Centres in national development

Central Asia Adult Education Forum

7-9 September 2017, Issyk-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan



Participants pointed to the varying role of CLCs in addressing the diverse learning needs in communities – with the learning environment and context changing vastly amongst countries of Central Asia.

Community Learning Centres (CLC) from other countries in the Asia Pacific and Europe, along with UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL), joined the Forum as resource persons.

The Forum was organised by DVV International, UNESCO Almaty (Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), with active contribution of UNESCO Bangkok and in partnership of ASPBAE. The Forum was sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

This write-up is based on a report by ASPBAE Executive Council Member representing South and Central Asia, Ehsanur Rahman.

Photo credits: DVV International, Central Asia.

END

diversity in the delivery of adult education programmes and placing communities in fundamental roles; and (d) revisiting roles of the government, private sector, and civil society. He further suggested that to promote the role of CLCs and make it a part of national systems, a culture of evidence-based research on efficiency and effectiveness of CLCs in Central countries would pave the way for the process.

Policy and decision makers, experts, and practitioners from government and non-governmental sectors in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan participated in the Forum. Experts on adult education and