Methodology and Research Tools

UNESCO Bangkok
Proposed Research Questions:

1. What are the social and cultural factors that create a “culture of testing”?

2. What is the relationship between the “culture of testing” and education policies, education reform, curriculum, teacher pedagogy?

3. How does this “culture of testing” affect learners and learning outcomes?
Suggested Methods and Tools

• Qualitative and Quantitative

• Primary Data Collection
  – Survey/questionnaire
  – Focus Group Discussions
  – Interviews

• Desk Study
  – Review of “high-stakes” exams
  – Literature review of “culture of testing”
Selection Criteria

- # of schools
- # of students
- # of teachers
- # of parents
- Private/public
- Urban/rural
- Large/small schools
- Grade level
Proposed Selection

- 9 or 10 schools (ex: 1/3 – private; 2/3 public)
- 100 students (i.e. min 10-15/school)
- 30 teachers (i.e. min 3-4/school)
- 50 parents
- 5 policy makers or cultural/education experts
Group Discussion

- Selection Criteria for Survey/FGD/Interviews
- Schools
- Students
- Teachers
- Parents
Tools

- Survey
- Focus Group
- Interview
Survey design

• What kind of questions
• Length of survey
• Anticipate potential problems (timing, location, school/governmental permission)
• Planning how to collect and analyze the survey data
Survey Design

• Standardized questionnaire?
• Different questions for different people
  – Students
  – Teachers and Educators
  – Parents
  – Optional: Community Stakeholders; businesses
Types of questions

• Factual (e.g. facts, events, behaviours)
• Non-factual (e.g. attitudes, values, benefits)
• Closed
• Open-ended
• Ranking
• Agree/disagree
• Contingency (i.e. If “yes”, then answer ....)
# Comparison

## Closed

**Pros**
- Easy to manage
- Quick to answer
- Easy to code
- Allow for more variables due to quick response rate

**Cons**
- Introduces bias
- Lack creativity
- Cannot qualify responses

## Open

**Pros**
- Spontaneous
- Own language
- Allows for new data and information when it is not apparent

**Cons**
- Time
- Difficult to answer
- Difficult to analyse – need to develop coded categories
Common wording problems

• Complex and/or long questions
• Complex terms, concepts, acronyms, or jargon words
• Complex tasks
• Using examples to clarify a term
• Beware of “leading” language
Focus Group/Interview design

• Semi-structured
  – Allows for some level of control and guidance
  – Follow some standardized set of questions and content/topics
  – But also allows for “unstructured” responses,
  – Be consistent with questions and content across all interviews – but sequence can change
  – Allows to ask spontaneous “probing” or follow-up questions
Group Work

• Survey questions
  – Student
  – Teachers
  – Parents

• Focus Group/Interview questions
Data Collection

• Survey completion
  – Who will complete the survey?
  – Who will monitor?

• Interviewing
  – Face-to-face (personal)
Helpful Interview tips

• Introduction to Interview/FGD
  – Explain who you are
  – What you are doing
  – Why we want to hear from them
  – Anonymity and confidentiality
Drafting Case Study

• Proposed outline
• Drafting guidelines
• Presenting information
  – Data tables
  – Charts, graphs, etc.
# Suggested Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>2-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Methodology</td>
<td>2-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Background/Literature Review</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Key Findings</td>
<td>10-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Analysis of culture of testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Implications for education policy and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Effects on learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Implications for quality of education and learning outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Achievements and Challenges</td>
<td>2-4</td>
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<td>6. Conclusion</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Recommendations</td>
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<td>• Way forward</td>
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<td>References and Appendix</td>
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## Suggested Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 22-23, 2016</td>
<td>Orientation Meeting – finalize research questions, methodology, tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2, 2016</td>
<td>Share Questionnaire with Researchers for feedback</td>
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<td>December 15, 2016</td>
<td>Final Questionnaire</td>
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<tr>
<td>December-March</td>
<td>Country research</td>
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<td>March 31, 2017</td>
<td>1st Draft Country Case Study</td>
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<td>April 30, 2017</td>
<td>Final Draft Country Case Study</td>
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<td>April-June 2017</td>
<td>Regional Synthesis Report</td>
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<td>June-July 2017</td>
<td>Peer review</td>
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<td>July-August 2017</td>
<td>Publication</td>
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Action Plan

• When can you start?
• When can you collect data?
• How long will it take to collect?
• How long will it take to analyze?
• How long will it take to draft case study?
Final Review

• Final research questions
• Final Methodology
• Tools (survey and interview questions)
• Case Study Outline
• Timeline
• Final Research Framework
thank you