



Education



Expertise

- Education policy analysis, development, dialogue, and implementation
- Strategic planning and visioning
- Education reform support
- Education and social-sector finance
- Educational governance and decentralization
- Project management
- Design, development, and institutionalization of education management information systems
- Education and social-policy modeling
- Survey and assessment methodologies
- Knowledge management and research management systems

RTI International is improving education around the world by strengthening education system management. From our innovative work in Pakistan and post-apartheid South Africa to our education research in El Salvador and Indonesia, RTI's Education Policy and Systems program is enabling improvements in education quality, relevance, access, and efficiency.

Our goal is to equip education policy makers, leaders, managers, and stakeholders with the skills and knowledge needed to make progress toward the goal of quality education for all. We achieve this goal by

1. Conducting research to inform the education policy process
2. Promoting rational policy making and management
3. Facilitating and enabling stakeholder participation in the management of education and education information for accountability purposes
4. Facilitating decentralization and building the management capacity of education actors, starting at the school level
5. Establishing and using education standards as a research, management, and accountability tool—particularly in teacher training and support



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Conducting research to inform the education policy process

- Analyzing labor markets for teachers, using household surveys to determine compensation optimality
- Developing tools and techniques for analyzing productivity of various inputs in the education sector (e.g., “production function” analysis)
- Carrying out macrolevel efficiency and equity analysis to inform funding and management reforms
- Analyzing schooling and vocational-education costs to develop funding norms for subnational governments, as well as schools and colleges

- Carrying out comparative international analyses to provide countries with information about their relative standing on achievement and equity issues
- Providing assistance to government and nongovernmental research units to build up their own institutional and research capacity

Promoting education reform and policy support

- Building capacity in policy research and analysis, monitoring and evaluation, modeling, and planning

(continued)

Education (*continued*)

- Developing and piloting a valid set of instruments for assessing the extent to which early-grade primary-school children are learning to read with an acceptable degree of comprehension and at an acceptable rate of fluency
- Creating institutional demand for information-based decision making and accountability
- Employing the national accounts methodology, developed in the health sector, to develop a National Education Account methodology that will analyze the flow of funds from financing sources to education inputs
- Supporting dialogue and assessment to create demand for change and improvement while paying explicit attention to the political environment and perceived obstacles to education reform
- With RTI's Information Communication and Technology program, developing education management and geographic information systems and embedding them within education management systems



Students painting murals at the Federal Government Girls Middle Model School in Bhara Kau, Pakistan, supported by the Education Sector Reform Assistance (ESRA) program. [Photo: Sarwat Alam, Education Development Center]

Facilitating and enabling participation

- Increasing stakeholder participation in system management to build analytic capacity and effective demand for information at each level
- Creating opportunities for local assessment and dialogue, embedding them in institutional policies and processes, and demonstrating their value and efficacy in improving education decisions
- Promoting diversification of education provision through public-private partnerships and strategies, including privately funded and administered schools
- Using multimedia tools to educate and empower youth and adults
- Using information systems, media, and other communications tools and processes to respond to demands, inform choices, and support dialogue

Facilitating decentralization

- With RTI's Center for Democratic Governance, analyzing public policy and decision making, assisting in the improvement of governance systems, emphasizing broad participation and accountability
- With RTI's Public Finance and Economic Growth program, supporting the planning and implementation of decentralized finance and administration policies, practices, and mechanisms



Students celebrate inauguration of the scholarship program in Ocos, San Marcos, with partner Edinumi—Educación Integral para el Nuevo Milenio (*Integral Education for the New Millennium*). [Photo: Conchita Aragón]

- Developing planning mechanisms for school grants and school improvements to encourage effective school autonomy and decentralization
- Providing support and training to parental governing bodies

Establishing and using education standards as a research, management, and accountability tool

- Developing standards of input provision to facilitate dialogue about the fairness and efficiency of allocation of schooling inputs
- Developing norms and standards for education funding from national to subnational levels and from subnational to school levels
- Analyzing learning results data to promote better teaching
- Promoting simple standards for reading achievement to support policy dialogue and parental empowerment

RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. With projects in more than 40 countries and a staff of more than 2,600, RTI offers innovative research and technical solutions to governments and businesses worldwide in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, democratic governance, economic and social development, energy, and the environment. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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