



LEAD Asia



CHANGE



RELATIONSHIPS



COMMUNICATION



LANGUAGE

Helping communities achieve their education and development goals without sacrificing their language and cultural identity

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Language

is at the heart of communication



Communication

is key to good relationships



Relationships

are essential for relevant and lasting change



Change

brings hope to communities

Introduction

Real lasting transformation is only possible when people are treated with respect; respect for who they are and respect for what matters to them. Language is key to both these aspects. As a central part of people's identity, choices around language have the power to both facilitate good communication and show respect for people's unique identity. Language connects us to people, to places and to time, and facilitates the exchange of values and ideas. Despite being such a strong identity marker, language is frequently overlooked in poverty reduction initiatives, education system reforms, and other community development activities, resulting in the exclusion of millions of people who speak non-dominant languages.

LEAD Asia (Language, Education and Development Asia) works with partners across Asia and beyond to ensure these non-dominant language communities are included in development opportunities, both decision-making and implementation. By integrating language, education and development in creative ways, communities can be active participants in deciding their own future, navigating complex and rapid change with their dignity intact.

Non-dominant languages = non-official languages, often not used in formal education or other government activities. These are often referred to as 'minority languages', however, in some cases the number of speakers may actually be very large.

LEAD Asia also exists to connect development practitioners with one another, and with language and culture experts. While no work with communities can take place without language, expertise in how to navigate complex linguistic and cultural questions is limited. By connecting teams together, LEAD Asia ensures that they are best equipped to assist communities to view and use their languages and culture as assets to realise their own goals.

A young child with a joyful expression, smiling broadly and making hand gestures. The image is overlaid with a green tint. The child is wearing a necklace with a small pendant.

Catalysing change

We exist to serve the needs of communities and the teams that work with them, and as such our activities are flexible and diverse.



Language, Education and Development Community of Practice

Development practitioners working with non-dominant language communities often work in isolated contexts, physically and professionally, making it difficult to take advantage of the latest research and best practices from elsewhere. LEAD Asia facilitates online forums, webinars and in-person events to enable peer learning through sharing of knowledge and experiences, and to introduce new tools and approaches.

LEAD Asia is seeking financial partners who will sponsor development practitioners to attend learning events; financial partners are also needed to further develop online resources.

Participatory Approach Training and Support

Many well-intentioned and well-resourced development efforts fail because the local community and other stakeholders are not involved in the process. In contrast, using a participatory approach creates a safe environment for sharing differing opinions, fostering mutual respect and understanding, and developing a common vision from divergent points of view. LEAD Asia offers training workshops and support in facilitating participatory discussions, enabling teams to increase local ownership in activities, develop more effective and sustainable solutions, and, ultimately, have greater impact through their work.

LEAD Asia is seeking financial partners to assist community-based organisations to access or host participatory approach training.


Multilingual Education Advocacy and Training

Children from non-dominant language communities are the largest percentage of out of school youth, with learners often being pushed out due to the inappropriate or inaccessible language and culture used in education systems. First language-based multilingual education (MLE) helps learners gain literacy in their first languages in addition to developing literacy in dominant languages, enabling them to stay in school longer and gain multiliterate practices. LEAD Asia offers MLE training events for communities, policy makers, education leaders and classroom teachers, improving non-dominant language students' access to quality education.

LEAD Asia is seeking financial partners to help non-dominant communities access multilingual education training and equip staff to carry out effective advocacy in their own contexts.



Working with **LEAD Asia**

A hand-drawn sketch of a village scene, rendered in black and red ink on a white background. The sketch depicts a village with several houses, a person carrying a basket on their head, a person walking, and a person sitting. A hand in a red and white checkered shirt is drawing the sketch with a red marker. The background is a solid red color.

We exist to help you provide a genuinely holistic response to the complex and interrelated challenges facing the communities with which you work.

LEAD Asia provides expert consultant services to programmes, organisations and community groups in the following areas:



Literacy & Education

Advocacy, alphabet design, curriculum and materials development for Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education, non-formal adult literacy and Early Childhood Education programs.



Language Assessment

Language use and materials need assessments, informing decisions around the use of language in community-based interventions.



Participatory Approaches

Training and mentoring in facilitating participatory discussions with language communities, teams or partners around issues such as community development needs and initiatives, and orthography choices.



Sociolinguistics

Training in the principles and methods of non-dominant language development, with an emphasis on sustainable language use and community ownership.



Linguistics

Building local capacity for communities to produce their own linguistic resources (dictionaries, pedagogical grammars, text collections, language documentation, orthographies) and providing linguistic training for translation workers.



Environment

Capacity building for environmental sustainability, connecting teams with relevant external networks and resources.



Transformational Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

Identifying and sharing innovative responses to complex community problems, linking organisations, exploring how to leverage the SDGs to benefit communities.

LEAD Asia facilitates the Language, Education and Development Community of Practice, an international learning network for practitioners working with non-dominant language communities. It is also a founding member of the Asia Pacific Multilingual Education Network and is heavily involved in advocating for policy change across the region.

To find out more, visit leadimpact.org/about.



To find out more about any of the issues raised in this brochure, or to explore how you could support or join LEAD Asia's work:



email
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visit our website
leadimpact.org

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