

Agenda

Foundational Learning Forum – What's working?

Date: Monday, September 1st. 2025

Time: 2:30 – 6:45 PM India Time

Venue: British Council, 17 KG Marg, New Delhi

Event Summary

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is the cornerstone of all future learning. India, through the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and the **NIPUN Bharat Mission**, has committed to ensuring universal FLN for all children in Grades 1–3 by 2026–27. Progress is being made as reflected in recent **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)** findings, but challenges remain in achieving scale, equity, and sustained learning outcomes.

The forum is a global dialogue to discuss ‘what works’ and how to strengthen assessment systems and improve foundational learning outcomes. This event will convene policymakers, practitioners, and education leaders from India and globally to reflect on lessons from India’s journey and share insights from evidence-based approaches worldwide.

It will also give Indian stakeholders an early insight into the forthcoming report from experts on the **Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP)** on Early Literacy.



GEEAP
Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel



What Works Hub
for Global Education



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Time (IST)	Session	Speakers / Facilitators
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Registration and Refreshments	
3:30 – 3:35 PM	Ceremonial Lamp Lighting	Key guests
3:35 – 3:40 PM	Welcome Address	Alison Barrett, Country Director, British Council India
3:40 – 3:50 PM	Keynote Address: The urgency of Foundational Learning	Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, GoI
3:50 – 4:20 PM	Soft-Launch of GEEAP Literacy Paper & Presentation followed by Q&A	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benjamin Piper, Director of Global Education, Gates Foundation Dhir Jhingran, Founder-Director, Language and Learning Foundation
4:20 – 5:10 PM	Panel Discussion 1 – Evidence Around Foundational Literacy and Numeracy	Facilitator: Dr Rachel Hinton, Global Education Research Lead, FCDO Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albert Nsengiyumva, Executive Secretary, ADEA Luis Benveniste, Director, Global Education Practice, World Bank Dr Obiageli Ezekwesili, Founder & CEO, Human Capital Africa Dr Rukmini Banerji, CEO, Pratham Dr Suniti Sanwal, Head of the Department, Elementary Education, NCERT
5:10 – 6:00 PM	Panel Discussion 2 – Learnings from Large-Scale Assessments	Facilitator: Marguerite Clarke, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank Panelists:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Herbertson, Director of the Education, Gender and Equality Directorate, FCDO • Matt Brossard, Regional Education Advisor & Regional Adolescent Advisor, UNICEF South Asia • Dr. Satya Bhushan, Associate Professor, NCERT • Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja, CEO & MD, Central Square Foundation • Dr Wilima Wadhwa, Director, ASER Centre
6:00 – 6:05 PM	Closing Remarks	Nikunj Agarwal, Strategic Stakeholder Country Lead – WWHGE, British Council
6:05 – 6:45 PM	Networking High Tea and close	Hosted by Alison Barrett, Country Director, British Council