



# From insight to action: Teachers leading change

**Action Research Mentoring Scheme 2024-25**

Dissemination event  
11 August 2025, Chennai



## Event Details

ARMS dissemination event is scheduled for 11 August 2025 at British Council Chennai office.

This will be a full-day event designed to showcase the impactful work carried out through the ARMS initiative and to celebrate the meaningful collaboration between our mentors and mentees.

## Event Highlights

- **Mentee Presentations:** Selected mentees will present their action research projects through poster sessions and PowerPoint presentations. This platform will allow them to share their findings and experiences with a broader audience.
- **E-Launch of Case Stories Compilation:** We will be launching an e-compilation of case stories highlighting some of the remarkable journeys and outcomes achieved by our mentees during the ARMS project.
- **Panel discussion:** This panel discussion will explore how coaching systems grounded in research can transform teaching and learning, and how evidence—from impact evaluations to classroom-based inquiry—can drive reforms. The conversation also engages with Multilingual Education (MLE), a critical dimension of inclusive and equitable foundational learning.

## Event Details:

**Date:** 11 August 2025

**Time:** 09:30 to 16:00 hrs

**Venue:** British Council Chennai office, located at 737, Anna Salai, Chennai

# Programme

Time	Activity
9.30 – 10.00 am	Arrival of guests & Registration
10.00 am – 10.30am	<p>Inauguration</p> <p>Welcome and introduction of guests</p> <p>Plenary Keynote – Dr Harry Kuchah Kuchah, University of Birmingham</p> <p>E-launch of ARMS Report - official digital unveiling and overview of the report</p>
11.15 am – 11.30 am	Tea break
11.30 am – 1.00 pm	<p>Parallel Presentations by mentors and mentees.</p> <p>Participants will showcase their action research projects through PowerPoint presentations. This platform offers them an opportunity to share their insights, findings, and classroom experiences with a wider audience.</p>
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch break
1.45 pm – 2.30 pm	<p>Poster presentations</p> <p>Participants will showcase their action research projects through Posters presentations. This platform offers them an opportunity to share their insights, findings, and classroom experiences with a wider audience.</p>
2.45 pm – 4.00 pm	<p>Overview of What Works Hub for Global Education – British Council</p> <p>Overview of evidence around Coaching Models – <i>Madhi Foundation</i></p> <p>Panel Discussion: Teaching, Mentoring, Learning: What Coaching Brings to FLN Classrooms.</p> <p>Panellist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Merlia Shaukath, Chief Executive Officer, Madhi Foundation</li> <li>▪ Dr R. Meganathan, Acting Head, International Relations Division, NCERT</li> <li>▪ Dr Ravinarayan Chakrakodi, Professor and Academic Head, RIESI</li> <li>▪ Moderator: Nikunj Agarwal, Strategic Stakeholder Country Lead – India, WWHGE</li> </ul>
4.00 onwards	Tea and networking

# Speakers and Guests

**Dr R. Meganathan, Acting Head, International Relations Division, NCERT**



postgraduate degrees, and an MA in TESOL from Lancaster University, UK.

Prof. Ramanujam Meganathan is a Professor of English (Language Education) at NCERT and Head of the International Relations Division. His expertise spans language policy, multilingual education, English language teaching, curriculum development, and teacher training. He played a key role in developing the NCF-2005 and led textbook and curriculum reforms in Rajasthan and other states. A prolific researcher and author, he has published extensively on language education and policy, including recent books *Language Across the Curriculum* (2019) and *Knowledge, Education and Curriculum* (2022). He has also produced 200+ English language videos for NCERT. A Hornby Scholar, he holds a Ph.D. in ELT, multiple

**Dr Harry Kuchah Kuchah, Associate Professor of Language, Social Justice, and Education, University of Birmingham**



Dr. Harry Kuchah Kuchah is an Associate Professor of Language, Social Justice, and Education at the University of Birmingham. With over 15 years of experience, he has worked extensively in English language education, applied linguistics, and policy across Africa, Europe, and beyond.

His research focuses on social and epistemic justice in TESOL and English Medium Education (EME), advocating for decolonized, context-sensitive classroom practices and examining the role of language policy in achieving SDG 4 & 5 in multilingual African contexts.

Harry currently chairs the British Council English Language Advisory Group and has consulted for major organisations including the British Council, Council of Europe, and Windle Trust International. He has led and contributed to key research projects on multilingual education and girls' education in sub-Saharan Africa.

He has co-edited influential volumes on English teaching and language learner research, and previously held academic roles at Warwick, Sheffield, Bath, and Leeds. Recognised by TESOL International as one of "30 up-and-coming global leaders," Harry also serves in leadership roles with IATEFL, TELCNet, and Africa ELTA

**Rama Mathew, ELT Consultant**



language assessment, teaching English to young learners, continuing professional development (CPD) of teachers, and multilingual education. She won the British Council's South Asia ELTON award for Outstanding Achievement in 2024.

**Rama Mathew** is an English Language Teaching (ELT) consultant and retired as Professor of Education from the University of Delhi where she was also Dean of the Faculty of Education. She taught at the English and Foreign Languages University (formerly CIEFL), Hyderabad for over 23 years. She was Head of the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of English in Action project in Bangladesh. She has been involved in several teacher development and assessment projects, and published articles and books in the area. She was a lead mentor for ARMS (Action Research Mentoring Scheme) and for ELTRMS (ELT Research Mentoring Scheme), both British Council funded schemes. Her research interests include

### Dr Ravinarayan Chakrakodi, Professor and Academic Head, RIESI



**Ravinarayan Chakrakodi**, is Professor and Academic Head at the Regional Institute of English South India (RIESI), Bengaluru. He has an MA in TESOL with distinction, from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom and a vast experience of more than 20 years in the field of teacher training and teacher education.

He is one of the Lead mentors for the Teacher Research Mentoring workshop series organised by MenTRnet. He was the Lead Coordinator for the British Council India's Action Research Mentoring Scheme (ARMS) for the 2019-20 cohort. He has been leading a project on 'Developing Multilingual Curriculum and Materials for Classrooms' at RIESI Bengaluru.

### Ms. Merlia Shaukath, Chief Executive Officer, Madhi Foundation



Merlia Shaukath is the Founder and CEO of Madhi Foundation, driven by the belief that *"to whom much is given, much is expected."* Inspired by the opportunities in her own academic and professional journey, Merlia champions equity in foundational education, leading Madhi with the vision of *putting foundational learning first so every child can thrive.*

She holds degrees from Stella Maris College, the University of Oxford, and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where her commitment to education equity has also been recognised. A vocal advocate for measured edtech use, she has written for platforms like *The Bastion* and shared her insights on leadership and systems change.

Merlia's work has earned her recognition through the Rainer Arnhold Fellowship, the Ashoka Fellowship, the Nudge Accelerator, and as a Global Finalist for the UK Alumni Award by the British Council.

With over 15 years in the development sector, she has held key roles at Teach For India and Athena Infonomics, leading projects with governments and NGOs. Her experiences shaped Madhi's mission: to transform India's public schools into schools of choice for every family.