



South-South Learning Symposium

7 May 2026

South-South Learning Symposium

Date: 7 May 2026

Convened by: British Council in partnership with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Venue: British Council/NCERT

Collaborators:

1. Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
 - Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom
 - Learning Generation Initiative (LGI)
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - World Bank
 - University of Oxford
 - University of Cambridge
 - United Kingdom International Development (UK International Development)
 - What Works Hub for Global Education (WWHGE)

Target Audience: Senior officials from Ministries of Education, education policy leaders, and reform champions from countries across Africa and South Asia, alongside Indian national and state-level education leaders and global education partners.

Objectives:

2. **Facilitate joint learning** through structured exchanges and learning opportunities with the delegations from Africa and South Asia
3. **Showcase best practices** on foundational learning from India and partner countries
4. **Showcase India's school education ecosystem** including foundational learning mission, multilingual education initiatives, curriculum reforms, assessments systems, teacher capacity-building, and digital dashboards
5. **Provide exposure to India's implementation models** through direct engagement with schools, early-childhood learning centres and digital platforms
6. **Build on the momentum** generated from the Global Coalition for Foundational Learning (GCFL) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) visit to NCERT.
7. **Strengthen long-term South-South partnerships** through dialogue on shared challenges like teacher support, linguistic diversity, assessment systems, and system governance

Programme

| Time | Programme | Lead |
|---------------|---|---|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Registration for external participants | British Council |
| 10:00 – 10:05 | Lamp Lighting | British Council |
| 10:05 – 10:10 | Welcome Address and setting the context Alison Barrett MBE, Country Director, British Council India | British Council |
| 10:10 – 10:15 | Special Address Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India | British Council |
| 10:15 – 10:25 | Keynote Address Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (TBC) | Ministry of Education |
| 10:25 – 10:30 | Special Address Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director, NCERT | NCERT |
| 10:30 – 11:40 | Panel Discussion 1: Evidence on Scaling Foundational Learning Reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy design to implementation • Federal systems and delivery at scale • Evidence, financing, and political commitment | Moderator: UNICEF Panellists: India, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, NCERT |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | Tea/Coffee Break | |
| 12.00 – 12.50 | Global Goods Exchange – Session 1 (Breakout rooms, max 20 participants each) Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilingual Education • Middle-Tier systems strengthening • Foundational Learning • Teacher Coaching | Parallel sessions Facilitated Breakouts Presenters: UNESCO, Language Learning Foundation (LLF), Madhi Foundation, Pratham Education Foundation, Learning Generation Initiative (LGI), Blavatnik School of Government (BSG) |
| 12.50 – 14.20 | Lunch | British Council |
| 14.20 – 15.10 | Global Goods Exchange – Session 2 | Breakout Sessions |

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| | Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed-tech & AI • Data for decision-making & Evidence Uptake • Assessment Reforms • Early Childhood Education | Presenters: Central Square Foundation, Education Initiatives (EI) Language Learning Foundation, JPAL, UNICEF, NCERT, Kenya, Ghana |
| 15:10 – 15:40 | Coffee/Tea Break | |
| 15.40 – 16.30 | Dissemination Session MultiEd Report – Prof. Ianthi Tsimpli (University of Cambridge) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research design and methodology • Key findings • Implications for teaching, teacher education, and policy • Interactive Q&A | University of Cambridge |
| 16:30 – 17:40 | Panel Discussion 2: Use of evidence in decision making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Ecosystem and Decision-making • Global public goods • Assessment reforms and feedback loops | Moderator: World Bank Panellists: Tanzania, Kenya, Nepal, Ghana, NCERT, India |
| 17:40 – 17:50 | Closing | British Council |
| 17:50 onwards | Networking Reception Hosted by British Council | British Council |