

RESEARCH TOPIC:

Development of a framework to assist educationists and schools on sharing strategies and application of best practices

This is the era of global competition, where educational performance of schools and education systems can no longer be judged from a national perspective. To be successful in today's world schools and education systems need to be compared and compete against the world's best. International benchmarks for schools have been introduced by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). The aim of these benchmarks is to assess students' performance on an international level. A review of literature reveals that benchmarking initiatives have been undertaken by various schools and school systems for performance improvement and have helped them considerably. Schools and school systems are striving to raise their position on international assessments by coming up with effective improvement strategies. There is a need to provide a common platform for sharing and acknowledging effective benchmarking strategies.

The proposed research will explore high performing and fast improving schools and school systems around the world to identify how they undertake informal and formal benchmarking and the effectiveness of these techniques. From the research a benchmarking framework and set of guidelines will be developed with the intention that it can be used to accelerate performance improvements within schools and school systems. The proposed research is expected to contribute towards uplifting the education level of schools or school systems which will ultimately improve their position on international benchmarks. Research findings will be useful for all countries. The primary audience of this research will be schools, school systems, educationalists and benchmarking experts since the study would enlighten on the effective outcomes of benchmarking for education.