

Case Study: The Sultanate of Oman

Client	Ministry of Education, the Sultanate of Oman
Project start	April 2017
Status	Phase one is completed with a full 118-page baseline report sent to the client (April-July 2017); Phase two will be undertaken at the beginning of 2018.
Type of project	Monitoring and evaluation of mathematics and science textbooks for Cycle One Schools
Level/grades	Primary (Basic education, Grades 1-4)
Subjects	Mathematics and Science
Education Reform and Innovation involvement	Design of research instruments (qualitative and quantitative) for monitoring and evaluation of textbooks. Participant groups included various stakeholders -students, teachers, school leadership personnel and members of the Ministry of Education, Oman. Conducted fieldwork and provided an online survey in support of a baseline research study. http://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/centres/eri/ Analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to write a baseline report.
Sector	National roll out of new textbooks with a new curriculum embedded therein. The reform of mathematics and science will be implemented as of September 2017 in all Cycle One schools in Oman.
Approach	Field work was undertaken in six primary schools in Oman, including face-to-face semi-structured interviews, and focus groups. The research team met with 106 people (principals, vice-principals, teachers, and parents) and conducted 10 interviews and 12 focus groups. Grade 4 students were also consulted for their views on mathematics and science textbooks by means of another 12 focus groups. The online survey was delivered in Arabic and English, and was intended to be completed across Oman by teachers of Cycle One who taught the Field 2 topics of mathematics and science. Survey responses from 614 teachers in these schools are used in the analysis presented in the final report on baseline data (July 2017).
Details	New textbooks for mathematics and science (Field 2) have been commissioned from Cambridge University Press and are currently in design and production to be in service for Grades 1-4 (Cycle One) from September 2017 throughout Oman. Therefore, the primary aim of the first phase of the baseline research study was to establish the pre-existing situation in order to understand how the introduction of new textbooks to the Sultanate of Oman could be best monitored, evaluated and optimised. During the second phase of monitoring and evaluation exercise attitudes towards and use of new mathematics and sciences textbooks will be examined.



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