

The English in Action programme, funded by the UK Government and managed by Mott MacDonald, aims to enable 25 million Bangladeshi adults and school children to improve their English language skills, to help them access better economic and social opportunities.

Trainer in Your Pocket

English in Action (EIA) has launched an innovative new training tool, Trainer in the Pocket, part of a professional school based teacher development programme that helps teachers introduce new English language learning activities into their classroom practice with their students.

Trainer in the Pocket shows authentic videos of classroom practice and is supported by audio materials for use with students in class. Teachers learn by doing the activities in the classroom and having the opportunity to reflect on their practice and to support each other.

Audio-visual materials are provided at low cost, offline, through memory cards accessed on affordable mobile phones.

The phone provided to the teachers are loaded with:

- Classroom audio materials such as songs, rhymes, dialogue and interactive audio developed around pronunciation or vocabulary points which are played through a rechargeable battery powered portable speaker.
- English language audio material for teachers to improve their own English and provide the necessary language for the classroom to ask questions and give instructions boosting teacher confidence by providing a model to follow and practice.
- Audio and video teacher training materials that also show teachers' own reflections on the teaching experience. Clips include examples of real teachers working in real classrooms to encourage everyone to have a go, keep practicing and not to be afraid of making mistakes.

**So far
English in Action
has reached
30,000 teachers and
4.8 million pupils.**

AN INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

TO TEACH ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS IN BANGLADESH



The audio-visual materials are used in class in conjunction with a collection of printed materials such as flash cards and posters which complement the standard government text books.

EIA provides an eight module course of in-service teacher training with teachers over a sixteen month period, which includes listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each module has its own training workshop and accompanying primary and secondary school teacher guides which make extensive use of the audio materials and video clips available on the phone. Workshops are led by trainer facilitators, practicing teachers who are trained separately and provided with their own guide.

Impact in the classroom

Evidence from extensive research¹ shows a great improvement in classroom practice and students' learning outcomes.

Students are more motivated:

Over 95% of students report that English is very important (up from 50% in our baseline)²; And now only 33% report that English is difficult to learn (down from 60% in our baseline).

Teachers feel more confident:

Over 95% of teachers report that EIA helps them to improve their own English; And over 90% report that EIA has an impact on the way they teach.

Teachers are changing their practice and students are experiencing the difference:

From hardly talking at all, students now talk for over 25% of their lesson time; and over 90% of their talk is now in English.

Tested against a standard international framework³, student learning outcomes improved in 12 months:

The number of primary students passing almost doubled after EIA, rising from 36% to 70%; And 40% of secondary students achieved higher levels of competence, than in our baseline study.

EIA in the future

EIA is working to embed its materials and practices into the existing Government institutional infrastructures both at the administrative and field level. By 2017, the Government is expected to take over EIA in schools within its regular education structures and programmes.

1. EIA research reports are available at www.eiabd.com under 'publications'.

2. Studies conducted in 2009 in Bangladeshi schools.

3. Graded Examinations in Spoken English (GESE) (Trinity College London, 2013), which map onto the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages (Trinity College London, 2007).



Assistant Head Teacher, Afroja Akhtar from Nandail Upazila, said
'I am teaching for last 20 years, now with 16 months of Teacher Professional Development training from EIA, I feel that I am an action teacher, who is using the same technology like mobile phones to improve herself as being used in many parts of the world. I am a global teacher now.'

Assistant Teacher, Alam Nashra from Kishoreganj Sadar, said
'Most of the school here now is practicing EIA techniques in the classroom. So here a silent revolution is going on around the primary schools. English in Action is the revolution and I am a part of this revolution. This has not only changed me, but have transformed me into a proactive teacher through use of mobile phones, speakers and print materials that I use in my classrooms as well as English clubs I moderate. This gives me hope for our next generation's success.'

For more details visit: www.eiabd.com

English in Action is implemented by a partner consortium led by Cambridge Education and technical support from the Open University, UK and BBC Media Action.