Education

Facilities
“...the environment consists of those conditions that promote or hinder, stimulate or inhibit the characteristics of a living being”

John Dewey
Enabling Physical Teaching and Learning Environment for South African public schools
Overview: Enabling Physical Teaching and Learning Environment

- **Background**
  - Investment vs. Outcome
  - Identifying the issue
- **Key features of enabling environment**
- **Learning environment models**
  - Classroom
  - Learning studios
- **21st century schools**
- **Way forward**
Background

- **Education** is the key priority of the South African Government: 2009-2014
- **Education, training and innovation:**
  - are core elements to eliminating poverty and reducing inequality.
  - are Foundations of an equal society
- **Education** gets the largest slice of government spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Budget 2011</th>
<th>R 33.9 billion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department Basic Education</td>
<td>R 8.2 billion (Mostly spent on infrastructure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Busaries</td>
<td>R596 million</td>
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National treasury, 2011; NPC, 2010
Department of Education Strategic objective:

- Ensure that key quality education is provided to all South African schooling systems
- To achieve this objective the department has put policies in place:

1. National Policy for equitable provision of Enabling school physical teaching and learning environment
2. National Minimum uniform Norms & Standards for school infrastructure
3. Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) 2010 - 2014

Not yet adopted
INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION (17 years)

Improved access to education

BUT

No significant OUTCOME

despite massive shift of resources to poorer school

Outcome remains lower than other Southern African countries

Why?

Is this a risk in investment?
Department of Education

Identified 2 INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS that impact on learners’ and teachers’ performance

1. Condition of school facilities

2. Physical environment that does not enable effective implementation of the core policies
Learning environment research (LER)

- Research has shown that school facilities (condition/design) have impact on learning and performance.

However:

Research also states that the effect of school facilities on learners is difficult to measure.
- There are many variables that may relate to performance, e.g. student background.

- Psychosocial environment / organizational climate of classroom and other learning spaces.
- Also has impact on learners.
Enabling environment key features

The Goal
- Quality Learning

Defining characteristics
- Effective
- Connected
- Cohesive

Fundamental principles
- Safety
- Health
- Equity
- Inclusion

UNESCO, 2011
Typical government school design
Learning environment model:
CLASSROOM – Cells and bells model

Based on Philosophy that assumes:
A pre-determined number of students will learn the
- same things
- at the same time
- From the same person
- The same way
- In the same place
For several hours a day
Under CONTROL

- Derived from Henry FORD industrial model
Designing the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century school

- Factors to consider:
  - teachers’ roles have changed dramatically since the last century.
  - rapid social and cultural changes,
  - advances in communication and information technologies, the introduction of the Internet within schools.

- These factors have contributed to:
  - shape of teaching
  - operating cultures of schools and
  - physical learning environment.

- These factors affected educators, researchers and communities the world over.
  - This is an International issues

- We have OLD facilities catering for the PAST
- NEED to cater for 21\textsuperscript{st} century teaching and learning.
21st Century schools

- Learner focused
  - Physical learning environments must be supportive of learning

Kuuskorpi, et al., 2011.
Enabling design concept

Kuuskorpi, et al., 2011.
Way forward

- CSIR continuing studies on School facilities for the next 3 years.
- Aim of improving our school
- Providing a scientific base for the design and construction of schools that are enabling and suitable for change
‘We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us’

Winston Churchill
References


• Kuuskorpi, et al., 2011. *The future of the physical learning environment: school facilities that support the user*. OECD, CELE Exchange 2011/11


• National treasury, 2011. The estimates of National expenditure 2011

Thank you

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