

International Summer Course

Research methods for planning the quality of education

EDUCATION systems in most countries of the world are increasingly being seen as providing pathways to national economic development. This trend, coupled with the enormous public expenditure devoted to education, has precipitated demands by governments and the public for higher levels of scrutiny and accountability concerning the quality of education. Such demands can only be met by educational planners who can use modern research methodologies to monitor the general conditions of education and evaluate the educational achievements of students.

Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the quality of education have already been set up by a number of developed countries and in recent years, developing countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa

have also turned their attention towards improving the capacity of educational planners to establish similar mechanisms as part of an overall strategy for planning the quality of education. Unfortunately, however, the worldwide growth of interest in planning the quality of education has not always been accompanied by a major expansion of training opportunities in the advanced methodologies needed

In order to address this need, IIEP has decided to organize in Paris from 11 to 29 August 1997, an International Summer Course on *Quantitative Research Methods for Planning the Quality of Education* targeted towards educational planners and researchers involved in collecting information on a large-scale to be used for planning policy decisions.

The course will cover nine topics which form the basic building blocks for all sound educational research projects concerned with planning the quality of education, including: basic research concepts and terminology, identifying important educational policy research issues, computer-based sampling procedures, classical and modern item analysis techniques, constructing student tests, computer-based data entry/cleaning, computer-based data analysis, and planning national studies of the quality of education.

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