

Literacy: Objectives

By the end of the track, the participants are able to:

Literacy issues

- Discuss the relationship between literacy and development
- Discuss the place of literacy work in minority language communities in the context of world-wide trends, current debates in literacy and international development strategies

Orthography development

- List factors which influence writing system development
- Explain the challenges involved in developing a written system for a language

Literacy and learning theories

- Discuss various theoretical understandings of literacy
- Identify major theories of learning

Instructional issues and approaches

- Identify various theories and models of the reading process
- Identify appropriate materials and activities enabling learners to progress from reading readiness to full competency
- Evaluate critically the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to reading instruction
- Identify the key features of learner-centred adult education
- Teach a literacy lesson to adults in a competent and professional manner using one of the available instructional approaches, including using a teaching aid or game
- Draft an outline curriculum for an instructional programme
- Develop appropriate ways of teaching numeracy in a literacy programme
- Draft a plan for a teacher training course

Literacy materials

- Explain lucidly the process of writing and publishing literature in minority languages
- Write and publish an original story and use desktop publishing software to create various types of literacy material
- Create a Big Book for use with literacy learners
- Facilitate a writers' workshop
- Develop strategies for marketing and sustainable distribution of literature
- Check literacy materials for publication and evaluate published materials

Literacy programme types

- Discuss the importance of bridging between languages in multilingual settings and draft L2-L1 bridging primers and lessons
- Describe the rationale for and process of bridging from L1 to L2 literacy
- Discuss the main features of mother tongue based multilingual education programmes and the social, educational and political factors likely to influence their implementation
- Discuss participatory literacy and Family Literacy approaches and their relevance to minority language literacy programmes
- Discuss features of literacy programmes in Christian contexts

Programme design and planning

- Identify the component parts of a successful literacy programme
- Understand the principles involved in designing and conducting a literacy survey
- Explain processes for programme evaluation
- Discuss issues surrounding the financing of literacy programmes

Literacy research

- Make use of major literacy resources (such as Lingualinks) available to a language programme fieldworker
- Use appropriate techniques to research contextual factors in literacy programme work.