



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Warmest greetings from SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN), Malaysia.

It is our pleasure to inform you that SEAMEO SEN, Malaysia is calling for research proposals under its Research and Innovation Division activities.

Interested applicants are invited to submit your research proposal **by 20th July 2023**.

1. Proposed Research Topic

Learning Poverty Among Learners with Disabilities in Southeast Asia

2. Scope

The World Bank has urged global communities to combat and reduce the Learning Poverty global rate in middle- and low-income countries, which is currently at an alarming rate (UNESCO, 2019). Learning Poverty refers to children of age 10 years old who are still unable to read (World Bank, 2019). In contrast to the challenges faced by typical learners, Learners with Disabilities (LWD) often face additional challenges in learning which require different or additional support to meet their learning needs (Department for Education-UK, 2017).

Every country, in its most basic education law, was designed to recognize and protect the rights to education for individuals in a fair and equitable way. These laws are integral elements in introducing education policies, which include policies supporting LWD (Rodriguez and Murawski, 2022). However, in some cases, there are policies that are well-intentioned but ineffective in achieving what is intended (Kauffman et. al., 2021).

It is reported that an estimation of 50% of learners worldwide were affected with the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic (UNESCO, 2020). LWD being the category of learners which requires substantial learning support were also equally affected as typical learners (Cohen and Kupferschmidt, 2020), in some cases LWD are not able to participate at all in remote learning due to accessibility challenges (Garbe, Ogurlu and Logan, 2020).

The problem of learning poverty among LWD escalated during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Not only typical learners were affected but LWD which required even greater support were deprived from participating in remote learning when accessibility to learning remained a greater challenge.

SEAMEO SEN is looking for researchers to undertake a research topic on Learning Poverty Among Learners with Disabilities in Southeast Asia in **at least four (4) SEAMEO Member Countries as follows:**

- i. Any two (2) from Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ii. Any two (2) from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

SEAMEO SEN expects the output of the research will provide a baseline evidence of learning poverty among LWD which will provide better understanding to the center in strategizing and planning its activities and programmes.

3. Objectives

- a. To develop new or adopt any instruments towards learners with disabilities (LWD) in Southeast Asia.
- b. To assess learning poverty among LWD in Southeast Asia.
- c. To identify the current factors that affect learning poverty among LWD in Southeast Asia and their best practices in dealing with the issue.
- d. To include recommendations or modifications that can be done to overcome the issue of learning poverty towards LWD in the Southeast Asia region.
- e. To develop one (1) proposed policy brief to overcome the problem of learning poverty among LWD in the Southeast Asian region.

4. Timeline

This research is expected to take up to a maximum of **18 months**. Specifications of research milestones shall be discussed and agreed during the research proposal review session.

5. Funding

The research will be funded by the SEAMEO SEN research grant award. All research proposals must include detailed expected financial implications, which will be deliberated up to a maximum of **MYR100,000.00**.

6. Eligibility

Submission is limited to researchers from any local and international higher learning institutions from 11 SEAMEO member countries. Each proposal must have a **lead applicant** who will be subjected to the general terms and conditions for granting.

Lead Applicants who are currently engaged with an on-going research project(s) with SEAMEO SEN are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for this Call for Proposal.

The lead applicant is required to have:

- Master or Doctoral Degree in Education or in related fields;
- Degree specialisation in Education, Special Education and Inclusive Education is an advantage;
- Appointment with a local or international higher learning institution for (at least) the duration of the proposed research project;
- Excellent analytical and written skills;
- Good planning and organizational skills;
- Proficient command and comprehension of English.

7. Deliverables

Appointed Researcher is expected to submit:

- a. One (1) complete final research report;
- b. One (1) research financial report;
- c. One (1) instrument that is compatible with LWD;
- d. One (1) Policy Brief;
- e. One (1) article published in an indexed journal.

8. Proposal Submission

Researchers must download and fill in the '**Research Proposal Form**' to submit your proposal for evaluating purposes.

The Research Proposal must be written in **English** and shall be presented clearly and submitted together with the following:

- a. Proposed research financial implications and Gantt chart;
- b. Curriculum vitae of the lead applicant and potential research team member(s);
- c. Other relevant materials to support the proposal.

All submissions must be sent via <https://link.seameosen.org/researchproposalsubmission2023>.

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the Lead Applicant once the proposal has been received by the Research Committee. All applicants are advised to adhere to the submission requirements therein; submissions that do not fulfill the requirements shall be **disqualified**.

For enquiries, kindly email us at research@seameosen.edu.my and copy to natasha@seameosen.edu.my and please write the title "**Enquiry: Research Proposal Learning Poverty Among Learners with Disabilities in Southeast Asia**".