



## The Evolving School- Teacher Research

Celebrating 25 years of education, Mallya Aditi International School in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management Bangalore organized- ***The Evolving School: Connections and Resilience***, a national education conference in December 2009.

The themes of the conference were:

- Thought leadership in education - challenges and future perspectives
- Sensitivity to factors impacting on teaching and learning
- Social ethics and responsibility of education- community initiatives, inclusive thinking and practice
- Reflections- experiences and strategies in teaching, including the meaningful use of technology

An important outcome of the conference was to carry some of what we began forward, in ways that would contribute to and enrich education research in India. The commitment to reflection, innovation and renewal in the area of classroom practice frames the context for the **Aditi Teacher Research Initiative (ATRI)**. **ATRI** seeks to support meaningful research by practicing teachers and announces the call for proposals towards research grants for the year June 2010-2011.

Please read details for proposal submission carefully. Do send in queries to [aditiconf@gmail.com](mailto:aditiconf@gmail.com) with 'ATRI Query' as the subject.

**Deadline for proposal submission- June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

List of accepted proposals will be announced on **July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. The ATRI selection committee's decisions will be final.

## **PROPOSALS FOR TEACHER RESEARCH**

Details for the submission of a research proposal towards receiving an ATRI grant are as follow. The word limit for proposals is 2000-2500 words.

Please submit proposals to [aditiconf@gmail.com](mailto:aditiconf@gmail.com) and type in *ATRI Proposal* as the subject.

### **Eligibility criteria**

1. Teachers who are currently teaching in India in grades K-12.
2. Teachers who have a minimum of 2 years full time teaching experience.
3. Teachers who are not receiving funding for any other ongoing research activity.
4. The proposal submitted does not constitute a part of other ongoing institutional or academic research.
5. Teacher/s conducting the research have obtained a no objection certificate from the institution currently employed in.

### **Grant Amount**

A limited number of grants ranging from 50,000 to 1.5 lakhs INR are available. One third of the grant amount will be released as bi-monthly stipend and the remainder will be paid against bills towards expenses incurred for conducting the research. Funds released are subject to progress reports provided by the research supervisor.

### ***What is expected of a Research Proposal?***

The proposal detailing an inquiry into innovations in teaching is expected to reflect the interest of the teacher-practitioner. While no knowledge of research skills is expected the proposal will convey a clear understanding of the desired

*outcomes* or what the research will achieve, the *scope* or what areas it will cover and the *methodology* it will use.

Please indicate clearly what the *contribution* of the project is intended to be and its importance for contemporary schools.

A research project proposal is expected to make a contribution to one or more of the following areas in keeping with the themes of the conference:

- teaching practice
- curriculum development
- assessment methods
- pastoral care within schools
- further understanding of the lives, careers and challenges of teachers

### ***How will Proposals be assessed?***

Assessment will consider elements detailed in the following section.

The likelihood of success of the proposal is increased by the depth of the planning and detailing that have gone into the plan. This does not preclude the possibility that the plan might undergo some modifications in the course of the work.

### ***What goes into writing a Proposal for a Research Project?***

Some guidelines on what might go into the proposal and suggestions for sub-sections are given below. While every proposal may not use identical sub-section headings, all the topics detailed below should be considered.

#### **1. The Title Page**

- The Working Title of the Project
- Name (s) of the Teacher-Researcher
- Institutional Affiliation (the school where you are currently teaching)
- Contact details (postal address, work, home and cell phone numbers and email address)

#### **2. Abstract**

The abstract is a summary of the entire proposal in one paragraph. It clarifies the subject of the project, the desired outcomes, the key research questions, the methodology to be used and the contribution of the project. The following questions may be useful to keep in mind while writing an abstract.

- What is the research about?
- Why is this important?
- What methodology to be used and why?

- What is the expected contribution to teaching and learning through this project?

### 3. Background

- What are the reasons to choose this research project?
- What need gap will it fill?
- What is the personal interest of the researcher in this subject?
- A brief summary of previous research (the *conclusions and implications* of the research rather than attempts to simply say what the research was about) and indications of how the project will be different from previous ones.

### 4. Aim and Scope of the Research

- What is the research about?
- What are the objectives of this research?
- Who will benefit from the research project (e.g. parents, students-including a specific student group, other teachers, school management or other stakeholders)?
- How will they benefit?

### 5. Methodology

- Intended research methods. Methods include qualitative and quantitative methods.  
If people's interpretations and perspectives are important, the preferred method may be interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation or covert observation, case studies, journaling, Internet based methods such as blogs, discussion groups and wikis) or visual methods (photographs, videos).  
If numerical data is to be used, consider quantitative methods such as statistical analysis.  
You may also find it relevant to use artifacts (in an educational context artifacts could include reports, notebooks, project work, and assessment sheets).
- Who the research is about (*the universe*)
- The approximate number studied (people, item, etc., : the *sample*)
- The rationale of using these particular methods with regard to the topic and the group being studied; for instance young children may respond better to more playful methods, busy parents may prefer brief telephonic interviews or filling out surveys; some subjects require more detailed conversations and may require you to negotiate with your interviewees for more time.

## **6. Ethical Issues**

- This section needs to show a consideration of the ethical implications of the research and how these may be addressed or how this may emerge during the course of the research. The research ethics section needs to consider the possibility of harm to the participants in the research, the stakeholders and the researcher herself. Harm could be physical, psychological or social (in terms of reputation for instance?). What steps does the proposal take to prevent this?  
For instance research on bullying amongst victims of the bullying behavior may require them to relive painful situations in the interviews. Is there still value in doing the research? Could it be argued that such interviews may provide a voice to students who are otherwise unable to speak out? Could the interviews with the students be conducted with the help of the school counselor?
- The process to maintain the confidentiality of research participants and in the steps to prevent them from being identifiable to users of the research.
- Mitigation of physical, psychological and social risk through the research. For instance, risk may arise from going for interviews to unknown locations or visiting strangers; will someone know the researcher's location or will a colleague accompany the researcher.

Please indicate that you have given due consideration to issues of ethics and what you will do to carry out ethical research. If you have identified an ethical issue but are unsure at this stage about how you will handle it, indicate as much and we will attempt to support you in dealing with it.

## **7. Possible Methods of Publicizing the Research**

- How will stakeholders know the research outcomes in a manner that is interesting, usable and accessible? For instance if the research is of value to children consider a format that is accessible to them such as a video, workbook or a picture book rather than a research paper.
- Multiple dissemination methods for multiple stakeholders may be required. In some cases posters or videos may work as well as textual methods. Out-of-the-box thinking is welcome.

## **8. Time scales**

- Describe the various stages of the project and give a fairly realistic estimation of the time required to complete each. The overall timeframe is one year from acceptance of the research proposal. We will require a

bimonthly quality report on the progress of research. This is to ensure compliance with various elements of the proposal and to ensure accountability.

- The release of further funds germane to the research will be contingent on demonstration of satisfactory progress within the agreed timeframe

## **9. Resources Required and Budget**

Insert a table detailing

- Resources required
- How these will be obtained and an estimate of how much they are likely to cost
- Estimate of the frequency and cost of face-to-face, online and other interactions, including those with the monitoring group and other people relevant to your research.

## **10. References**

List the references used in the proposal using Harvard Referencing. The following link may be useful <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>

## **11. Selected Bibliography**

List the articles, books, videos and other materials that will be accessed in the course of the research using Harvard Referencing. While this list is not necessarily exhaustive it indicates the process of identifying resources and reading around the subject.

## **12. A Profile of the Teacher-Researcher**

Please attach a two-paragraph profile of the researcher. Include details of academic or professional qualifications, teaching experience, academic interests and teaching philosophy. Indicate how these relate to the reasons for undertaking this particular research project.