

Research Bulletin

Mauritius Institute of Education

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Research Policy

A research policy, which aimed at establishing a framework for the conduct, funding and promotion of research at the MIE, was developed in 2015. The policy highlights a number of strategies to achieve the goals pertaining to research, one of the three mandates of the Institute. The policy emphasizes two types of research: strategic research that would produce a broad knowledge base likely to address current or future education-related problems and/or offer opportunities for solving them; and applied research that contributes to produce new knowledge in specific fields.

*For good ideas and true innovation,
you need human interaction, conflict,
argument, debate. Margaret Heffernan*

Furthermore, the policy classifies projects in three categories, namely short term [3-6 months], medium term [7-12 months] and long term [13-24 months]. This policy has been instrumental in the approval of MIE research-funded projects. From 2016 to date, five MIE-funded projects have been completed and three ongoing projects will be completed next year.

Additionally, three independent teams are working on three research projects, funded by the Mauritius Research Council (MRC).

Message from Dr. O. N. Varma, Director

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Research being one of the most important pillars of any tertiary institution, is one of the three mandates of the MIE. The Research Unit has been active on many fronts to promote research both within the institute and collaboratively with other tertiary institutions. Research projects are currently sponsored by the MIE, Mauritius Research Council and, in the near future, will be sponsored by the Tertiary Education Commission. Research projects are undertaken in diverse areas to improve practice at the MIE and in schools, to guide curriculum development, and to inform policy. The increase in staff and students engaging in doctoral studies also contributes to reinforcing the research culture at the institute.

I welcome this laudable initiative of issuing a Research Bulletin to keep us updated with research endeavours at the MIE and inform the academia of our research interests and practices.

Academic Integrity on Plagiarism

Integrity Policy on Plagiarism

Academic integrity in any tertiary institution is at the base of the institute's success in upholding quality output. The policy highlights honesty, respect, value and transparency as the core dimensions in academia to which staff should adhere.

Research Projects

In 2015, MIE started a new phase in its endeavour to promote educational research by funding research projects. Staff are also involved in MRC funded-research.

MIE-funded projects – Completed in 2017

Developing ICT resources for the teaching and learning of vectors at 'A' level.

Principal Investigator: Dr K. S. Angateeah; **Member:** S. Thapermall-Ramasawmy

Problem-based Learning (PBL) in Teacher Education: an Action Research.

Principal Investigator: Dr S. Payneandy; **Member:** A. Mosaheb

Vers un modèle éco-complexe des pratiques (socio) langagières dans les écoles pré-primaires à Maurice: pistes, perspectives et implications épistémologico-théoriques, didactiques, pédagogiques et politiques.

Principal Investigator: Dr S. Oozeerally; **Members:** H. Hookoomsing, K. Peedoly & C. Thondee

Exploring the relevance of Social Sciences Teacher Education (PGCE) programme in preparing effective Educators.

Principal Investigator: Dr S. Goburdhun; **Members:** J. Ramsaha, P. A. Boullé, C. Padaruth & N. Pillay

Message from Chair, Research, Prof. Y. Ramma

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The desire to know, to understand, to give meaning to new events and phenomena foster one's engagement in research. In the very first instance, for academics, research should be at the forefront of all undertakings and should guide our thinking processes and actions. Our engagement in teaching and curriculum development should be research-oriented and supported by research findings rather than *hearsay*. It is therefore important that academic staff work on research projects, preferably, team research, to develop the appropriate research skills. In academia, to become full-fledged researchers and to hone research skills, staff members should participate in research seminars, workshops and conferences.

Last but not the least, academics have the moral and professional obligation to disseminate their findings as a matter of accountability and for networking.

Addressing underachievement in Mathematics at Form III level through a community of practice approach.

Principal Investigator: Dr A. Ramful; **Member:** Dr. A. Bholoa; **Co-Team members:** S. Thapermall-Ramasawmy & A. Salehmohamed

MIE-funded projects – Ongoing

Exploring the content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge of pre-service PGCE trainees towards a research-based teacher education model.

Principal Investigator: Prof. Y. Ramma; **Members:** Dr. B. Oogarah-Pratap, Dr A. Ankiah-Gangadeen, Dr A. Bholoa; **Co-Team members:** R. Bungaree, Dr N. Sheik Abbass, W. Udhin, J. Ramsaha, P. Auckloo, V. Shibdoyal, A. Engutsamy-Borthosow, S. Jhugroo, K. Rajiah, Dr F. Narod, M. Jawaheer, A. Gungadeen, Dr S. Goburdhun, S. Purdasseea, S. Thapermall-Ramasawmy, M. Veerapen & C. Jahangeer

Investigating trainees' coping experiences during the first year of the Teachers' Diploma Secondary programme.

Principal Investigator: S. Purdasseea; **Members:** Dr R. Nenduradu, Dr K. S. Angateeah, D. Ramroop, S. Jhugroo, C. Jahangeer & C. Li Luen Ching

The use of a *Lesson Learnt Knowledge Management System* to foster collaborative practice among lower secondary educators of English: Case-studying a pilot project.

Principal Investigator: M. Jawaheer; **Member:** A. Gungadeen

MRC-funded Projects – Ongoing

School violence and indiscipline in Primary Schools: A case for creating safer schools in Mauritius through an intervention programme.

Principal Investigator: Professor Y. Ramma; **Members:** I. Koodoruth (University of Mauritius), Dr B. Oogarah-Pratap, Dr A. Bholoa, Dr S. Payneeandy & Dr. P. Nadal; **Co-team members:** Dr A. Ankiah-Gangadeen, Dr V. Bissonauth, C. Thondee & A. Gungadeen

Students' (& graduates) difficulties in science, technology, engineering and mathematics during transitions from secondary to tertiary levels, and to teacher training.

Principal Investigator: Professor Y. Ramma; **Members:** Dr S. Jawaheer (University of Mauritius), S. Gunness (University of Mauritius), Dr A. Bholoa, Dr A. Rumjaun & N. Hurreeram; **Co-team member:** Dr T. Mohabeer

Design and experimentation of digital classroom for 21st century in secondary schools.

Principal Investigator: V. A. Ojorah; *Members* (Educators - Secondary): Dr A. Pultoo, K. Sheoraj, M. Ujoodha, P. Naseeven, V. Roocha, S. Panchoo, H. Rajcoomar, A. Bullee & N. Meunier

Globalization, national development, and poverty in Mauritius.

Principal Investigator: Dr T. Mohabeer

Research Week

Research in Education is central to knowledge production and is at the core of innovative practices that are relevant to curricular aims and to meeting the needs of learners. Research in education acquires deeper significance when it serves to inform policy and ensures that the educational system meets geopolitical educational pointers and global development frameworks. The Research week, which was organised from 12-14 July 2017 provided a platform for the community of researchers to showcase education-related research initiatives and outcomes, and, additionally, to encourage more academics at the local level to engage in research for knowledge advancement and quality teaching.

Presentations were made along the following strands:

- Teaching and Learning
- Curriculum Development
- Assessment
- Methodological Issues in Educational Research

A keynote address was delivered by Professor S. Nair, Executive Director, Tertiary Education Commission.

The following institutions participated in the paper presentations, seminar (Rector's voice in education) and workshop (Qualitative data analysis using NVivo software):

Mauritius Institute of Education
Charles Telfair Institute
Mahatma Gandhi Institute
Middlesex University
Université des Mascareignes
University of Mauritius

MIE Journal of Education

The MIE Journal of Education is currently in the editing phase, following a vigorous peer-review process, and will soon be issued. Professor Mike Watts from Brunel University, London is the Editor-in-Chief, while Dr O. Oogarah-Pratap is the Editor.

Proceedings of Research Week

A special issue (electronic version) of the MIE Journal of Education, in the form of a proceeding, capturing the presentations made during the Research Week will soon be issued.

Staff Development, 2017

Staff development is at the cornerstone of institutional growth and development. It is most effective when it is directly related to the mission of the Institute. Research in the area of staff development recognises that Departments and Schools should be directly involved, in a collective effort, in identifying relevant fields for quality teaching and learning.

The following staff members have benefited from the Staff Development Programme in 2017:

Dr N. Rughoonundun-Chellapermal	Seminar - Linguistic Institute of the University of Kentucky, USA
M. C. Thondee	International Conference on Education, Canada
W. Udhin; F. Goolamhossen; Dr N. Sheik Abbass	3rd International Conference on Education - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
R. Korlapu-Bungaree; S. Beedassy; R. Bhurtun	Seminar, China
M. Jawaheer	Training Course, Malaysia
S. Dhunoo; S. Jhugroo; P. Ramsaha; Dr N. Rughoonundun-Chellapermal; R. R. Baichoo; J. Thaunoo; S. Rajiah	Memory Training by Dana Steinova, University of Mauritius, Réduit
Dr K. S. Angateeah	Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA) Conference, Melbourne, Australia
K. S. Peedoly	4ème Congrès CAP-FIPF Kyoto 2017, Tokyo, Japan
M. S. Sohawon	19th Annual Global Conference Leadership in Turbulent Times, Belgium

M. Cyparsade	5th Annual Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education Conference, South Africa
K. Goodoory	Innovation Africa 2017, Mozambique
M. Beeharry-Konglar	10th Annual International Conference on Education, Research and Innovation (ICER12017), Spain
Prof. Y. Ramma	Capacity Enhancement Workshop on “Academies Science-based Advice to Policymakers and the Public”, Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), German Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) and Inter-academy Partnership (IAP), Nairobi, Kenya
Dr H. Bessoondyal	9th Higher Education International Conference on the New Developments of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education, China

Publications, 2017

- Angateeah, K.S. (2017), An investigation of students' difficulties in solving non-routine word problem at lower secondary, *International Journal of Learning and Teaching*, 3(1), 46-50, <http://www.ijlt.org/uploadfile/2017/0306/20170306044436375.pdf>
- Ankiah-Gangadeen, A. & Nadal, P. (2017). Curriculum responsiveness in teacher professional development programmes: A case study of language education in Mauritius. *Alternation*, 24(2), 119 - 138
- Bholoa A., Walshe G. & Ramma Y. (2017). Curriculum Implications of the Integration of Mathematics into Science. In: Taber K. S., Akpan B. (Eds) Science Education. New Directions in Mathematics and Science Education. Sense Publishers, Rotterdam, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6300-749-8_16
- Gowreesunkar, V. G. B., Naqvi, M. & Séraphin, H. (2017). Impacts and Implications of Islet Tourism Development: Ilot Bernaches, (Mauritius) as a Case Study. *Island Studies Journal*, <https://doi.org/10.24043/isj.26>
- Nadal, P., Ankiah-Gangadeen, A. & Kee Mew, E. (2017). Navigating Between Outward-Looking Socioeconomic Aspirations and Inward-Looking International Education Drives for SIDS: Can Mauritius Sail Out of Cross-Currents? In Jules Tavis & Ressler, Patrick (Eds). Is 'small' always small and 'big' always big? Re-reading educational policy and practice in small states. Berlin: Peter Lang.
- Payneeandy, S., Auckloo, P. & Ramani-Mosaheb, A. (2017) 'Problem-Based Learning in Teacher Education: An Action Research Project' in Aluko, F.R. (Eds), Proceedings of the 6th biennial International Conference on Distance Education and Teachers' Training in Africa (DETA), Mauritius Institute of Education, Réduit, Mauritius July 2015. Pp. 18-42, <http://www.deta.up.ac.za>
- Ramma Y., Bholoa A. & Oogarah-Pratap B. (2017). Research Perspectives and Skills for Science Education. In: Taber K. S., Akpan B. (Eds) Science Education. New Directions in Mathematics and Science Education. Sense Publishers, Rotterdam, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6300-749-8_39
- Ramma, Y., Bholoa, A., Watts, M. & Nadal P. S. (2017). Teaching and learning of physics using technology: Making a case for the affective domain. *Education Inquiry*, 1-27, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/20004508.2017.1343606>

- S raphin, H. & Gowreesunkar, V. G. B. (2017). Conclusion: what marketing strategy for destinations with a negative image? *Worldwide Hospitality and Tourism Themes*, 9(5), 570-576, <https://doi.org/10.1108/WHATT-07-2017-0036>
- S raphin, H. & Gowreesunkar, V. G. B. (2017). Introduction: what marketing strategy for destinations with a negative image? *Worldwide Hospitality and Tourism Themes*, 9(5), 496-503, <https://doi.org/10.1108/WHATT-07-2017-0035>
- S raphin, H. & Gowreesunkar, V. G. B. (2017).Unlocking changes for sport tourism products using the Blakeley-Visser model. Application to sport events in small islands: The case of Martinique. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism*, 15 (1), 60-81
- Tirvassen, R. & Ramasawmy, S. J. (2017). Deconstructing and reinventing the concept of multilingualism: A case study of the Mauritian sociolinguistic landscape, *Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics Plus*, 51, 41-59
- Wolfenden, F., Auckloo, P., Buckler, A. & Cullen, J. (2017). ‘Teacher educators and OER in East Africa: Interrogating pedagogic change’ in C. Hodgkinson-Williams & P. B. Arinto (Eds.), *Adoption and impact of OER in the Global South*. Chapter 8 advance publication online, <http://roer4d.org/>

The Way Forward

The Mauritius Institute of Education has set research high on its agenda to potentially inform policy and aims at driving teacher education and curriculum development initiatives. The Research Unit will continue to provide opportunities for capacity building for academics through seminars and workshops led by reputed international scholars. The Unit will also ensure the dissemination of research publications through its journal, the Research Week, conferences and the MIE website, with the aim of fostering a resilient research ambience at the MIE. Our research horizon is expected to expand through inter-institutional collaboration and interdisciplinary research.

Research Unit

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