

# Reaching out

## The Place of Small Multi-Grade Schools in Developing Countries:

### The Case of Ethiopia



In **Reaching out** the authors first clarify why **universal schooling** is essential if social, political and economic development is to occur in poor, predominantly rural, developing countries. The point is made that the **quality of the education** offered is as important as mere provision.

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As part of the **UNESCO/Norwegian** initiative for a large scale development project in sub-Saharan Africa, an outline of high quality multi-grade schools was formulated. The aim was to reach children, especially girls, in the sparsely populated areas of developing countries.

A description of this project is presented, as well as the initial pilot work in Ethiopia. Although the planned large-scale development programme never materialised, the project ideas were nonetheless implemented in several **Ethiopian rural communities**. The experiences gained during a five year period of **multi-grade schooling** are presented.

The evaluation rests mainly on qualitative research, with some additional data of a quantitative nature.

**The findings** strongly indicate that by locating small schools near the pupils' homes, and necessarily employing multi-grade teaching strategies, school enrolment may be greatly boosted, especially for girls, and this, moreover, without any impairment to the quality of the education offered.

The book can be ordered at [nf@nforsk.no](mailto:nf@nforsk.no) or [wannaleka@yahoo.com](mailto:wannaleka@yahoo.com) (Ethiopia) and the price per copy is:

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