

Privatisation and public-private partnerships and the right to education: building critical research skills

Working Group 2nd August: Identifying the propositions of privatization, developing research questions, and locating and analysing evidence

Objectives of the session

- a) Identify the propositions that are associated with privatisation and its effects and review the evidence that supports them
- b) Develop research questions to test the validity of the assumptions
- c) Identify sources of data and evidence needed to explore the research questions
- d) Outline proposed research projects to analyze the role of the public and the private sector in our education systems.

Structure of the session

After a 45 minute introduction by Keith M. Lewin and Antoni Verger, the workshop will be structured in the following parts.

- a) In the **first part** (60 minutes), participants will identify and discuss in small groups the propositions that are associated with privatisation in different countries. Each group will focus on one of the impact dimensions of privatisation: access, efficiency, effectiveness, quality and equity. In the first 30 minutes, participants will brainstorm about different propositions and assumptions. In the next 30 minutes they will need to choose the two most relevant propositions they would like to focus on. This discussion will include insights into the quality of the evidence used to justify the propositions and gaps that may exist where there is a need for new research.
- b) In the **second part** (100 minutes), on the basis of the two propositions that have been chosen, the groups will work on critical research questions, the evidence needed to explore them, and outline designs for research on policy and practice to fill gaps in knowledge on privatisation and its effects. The outcome will be:
 1. Specification of critical propositions and assumptions associated with privatisation
 2. Identification of key research questions designed to fill gaps in knowledge and understanding of privatisation and its effects
 3. Location of sources of data and evidence on privatisation and its effects

Participants in each group will be invited to develop a simple matrix indicating the proposition, related research questions, and sources of data and evidence.

- c) **Plenary** (30 minutes)