PAL Network’s common assessments

GAML Meeting

November 23, 2022
Citizen-Led Assessment (CLA) approach innovated in India in 2005

Adopted and adapted in other Global South contexts

People’s Action for Learning (PAL) Network formalized in 2015, now comprising members in 15 countries across 3 continents
PAL’s common assessments offer comparable results while keeping the essence of CLAs

- ICAN (International Common Assessment of Numeracy) was the proof of concept in one district per country.
- It kept all the essential elements of CLAs.
- Is mapped to the GPF.
- Round 1 was in 2019, and Round 2 is ongoing.

Overview of domains and tasks in the ICAN assessment tool

- **NUMBER KNOWLEDGE**
  - Counting, comparing number of objects
  - Number recognition
  - Operations (without and with carry-over, borrow and remainder)
  - Real world problems

- **GEOMETRY**
  - Position and direction
  - Shapes and figures

- **MEASUREMENT**
  - Length and capacity
  - Time and calendar

- **DATA DISPLAY**
  - Retrieving simple information
Sample tasks from the ICAN assessment tool

**Space, shape and measurement tasks**
- Q1: In this picture, which cat is inside the box?
- Q2: In this picture, which is the shortest pencil?
- Q3: Which of these is a straight line?

**Number knowledge tasks**
- Q4: Recognize numbers
  - 3
  - 8
  - 2
  - 0
  - 9
  At least 4 out of 5 numbers must be correct

**Applied tasks**
- Q5: What is the time in this clock?
- Q6: Look at the chart given below carefully.
  - How many apples are there?
  - How many more bananas are there than oranges?
- Q7: Solve the following questions:
  - 4 6
  - 2 1
  - 7 8
  - 2 9

**ICAN assessment tool**
- The ICAN assessment tool is available in 11 languages on the PAL Network website.
After ICAN, we are now developing a new common assessment

- PAL Network’s ELANA (Early Language & Literacy and Numeracy Assessment) is a common effort of PAL, Pratham, and ACER with the support of GPE and IDRC.
- ELANA means to build a bridge between the “educational silos” of preschool and early grades of primary school.
- Items are mapped into the GPF and ACER’s Learning Progressions.
- This new assessment will expand the work previously done with ICAN in different ways:
  - It entails common assessments of early mathematics and language and literacy.
  - It will be implemented using tablets.
  - It will be an adaptive assessment.
Overview of the Numeracy tasks

NUMBERS
- Number-symbol identification, counting
- Number representation using place value
- Solving operations using non-symbolic and symbolic numbers
- Word problems based on real-life contexts
- Fraction representation using objects or pictures

PATTERNS
- Pattern identification, duplication, extension
- Identifying the missing pieces in a pattern
- Identifying the repeating unit of a pattern

MEASUREMENT
- Comparing objects by the attributes of length, weight, volume etc.
- Estimation
- Measuring using standardized units
- Sorting (arranging objects in a certain order of length, quantity etc.)
- Reading time and calendar
- Calculating duration of a task

DATA
- Classification (sorting and grouping objects based on their similarities on one or more dimensions)
- Data management (reading, analysing and solving using tally marks, pictographs etc.)

GEOMETRY
- Shape recognition and description
- Describing position/direction of objects in space
- Spatial visualization

Overview of the Language and Literacy tasks

ORAL LANGUAGE
- Retrieve information at word level (picture identification and naming)
- Listening comprehension (retrieve and infer information at sentence or text level)

SYMBOL KNOWLEDGE
- Symbol identification
- Sound-symbol mapping

WORD DECODING, ENCODING AND COMPREHENSION
- Word reading
- Comprehension (read and match with image)

SENTENCE READING AND COMPREHENSION
- Read and complete a sentence with the appropriate word

TEXT READING AND COMPREHENSION
- Texts aligned to grades 1, 2 and 3 of a country
- Retrieve information at sentence or text level
- Make inferences in a grade-level text
- Identify the meaning of unknown words and expressions in a grade level text
After the development of common assessments, PAL Network is looking to scale-up

• In 2023 we will finish the development and administration of ELANA, which will close an era in which we have...
  • Acquired solid experience in data collection at national level from our CLA programs.
  • Piloted and proved common tools to measure foundational language & literacy and numeracy, mapped to global benchmarks.
  • Built capacity for coordination of multi-country projects.
  • Built capacity on assessment data analysis.

• For our next stage, we want to fill the existing data gap in foundational learning after the pandemic.

• We envision a scale-up of our common assessment to achieve national, regional or state representativity in participating countries.

• GAML to include ICAN as a tool to monitor learning for SDG4 and to accompany last stage of ELANA development for the same purpose.